

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIX.—No. 218. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.  
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FEBRUARY 1, 1888.

PRICE ONE PENNY.  
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### PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

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

THE ANNUAL MEETING  
will be held

On the Afternoon of Saturday, February 11th,  
at the VICTORIA ROOMS, CLIFTON.

Mrs. FAWCETT,  
LEWIS FRY, Esq., M.P.,  
Miss AMELIA B. EDWARDS,  
Mrs. M'ILQUHAM,

And others are expected to take part.

The Chair will be taken by Mrs. BEDDOE.

The attendance of members and friends cordially invited.

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**BECAUSE.** Collected and Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN. Being reasons from Fifty Women Workers why it is of national importance that the Parliamentary Franchise be no longer denied to Women as Women.

Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith. London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co.

**ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.**—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum.

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Foreign Notes and News.

Paragraphs.

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

**GLoucester.**—A Public Meeting in support of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill will be held in the Corn Exchange, Gloucester, on Tuesday evening, February 7th. An Address will be given by Mrs. FAWCETT. Sir Wm. Wedderburn, Bart., Mrs. M'Ilquham, and others will take part in the proceedings. The chair to be taken at eight p.m., by R. VASSAR SMITH, Esq., J.P.

**BURY ST. EDMUNDS.**—A Public Meeting will be held on Monday, February 6th, in the Athenæum, when an Address will be delivered by Miss BAlgarnie. Chair to be taken at 8 p.m., by the Worshipful the MAYOR.

**YARMOOUTH.**—A Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7th, in the Minor Hall of the Aquarium, when Miss BAlgarnie will deliver an Address. Chair to be taken at eight p.m., by the Worshipful the MAYOR.

**LOWESTOFT.**—A Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8th, in the Public Hall, when an Address will be delivered by Miss BAlgarnie. Chair to be taken at eight p.m., by the Worshipful the MAYOR.

**NORWICH.**—A Public Meeting will be held on Friday, February 10th, in the Prince's-street Lecture Hall, when an Address will be delivered by Miss BAlgarnie. Chair to be taken at eight p.m., by Alderman GEORGE WHITE.

**MADAME BROWNJOHN,** Court Dress-maker, of 48, Elizabeth-street, Chester Square, Belgravia, S.W., guarantees to give a Course of LESSONS in thorough practical High-class DRESSMAKING. Each lady is allowed to make a dress for herself, and is presented with her own pattern. Terms very moderate. No agents.

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**HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.**  
Vol. III. Edited by ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, and MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE. Paris: G. Fischbacher, 33, Rue de Seine.

**MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION TRACTS.**—Vol. 1, third edition, containing Tracts 1 to 43; also Historical Preface. Cloth, 2s. 6d., post free 3s., at the Office, 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross, S.W.; Messrs. SMITH AND SON'S Railway Bookstalls; or E. W. ALLEN, 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C.

**UGHT WOMEN TO LEARN THE ALPHABET?** By T. W. HIGGINSON. Reprinted from "Atlantic Essays." Price 3d. A. Ireland & Co., Manchester.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.



DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

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

Write out the form given below on a sheet of foolscap or other large paper.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned SHEWETH, That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes should have the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament. Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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

Petitions to the House of Lords should run as follows:—

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned SHEWETH, That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes ought to have votes for members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure which may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

This form to be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and some signatures must be on the same piece of paper as the heading. If more room is required, more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions should be forwarded with a letter to the member who is to present it, addressed to him at the House of Commons, or they may be sent to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded at the proper time.

A correspondent of the Western Morning News writes: "One of the greatest women I ever met was an aged serf of a Countess Tolstoy, named Irene. She did not know how to read or write, but she had a wonderfully shrewd and solid intellect, an incorruptible conscience, dignity, gentleness, and a tender and generous heart. She was a Santa Claus to every child whom she came across. Her mistress felt so sure that Irene would be an influential personage in the next world as almost to stand in awe of her in this, and quite seriously hoped for her protection hereafter."

DUBLIN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED UP TO DEC. 31st, 1887.

Table listing names and subscription amounts for the Dublin Women's Suffrage Association, including Mrs. M. Brooks, Mrs. R. Hamilton, Miss Shannon, etc.

ANNA M. HASLAM, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JANUARY, 1888.

Table listing names and subscription amounts for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including Miss Edith Brooke, Mrs. Stephenson Hunter, Miss Jessie Boucherett, etc.

ROBERT ADAMSON, Treasurer, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JANUARY, 1888.

Table listing names and subscription amounts for the Central Committee, including Miss Williams, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Miss Eccles, etc.

SPECIAL WINTER LECTURE CAMPAIGN.

Table listing names and subscription amounts for the Special Winter Lecture Campaign, including Mr. Frank Morrison, Mrs. Beddard, Mrs. Tebb, etc.

HARRIET MORRISON, Treasurer, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

LUTON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE.

SECOND LIST.

Table listing names and subscription amounts for the Luton Women's Suffrage Committee, including Mrs. Lye, Mrs. Mayles, Mrs. Cawdell, etc.

LOUISA BIGG, Hon. Sec.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM DEC. 22nd, 1887, TO JAN. 23rd, 1888.

Table listing names and subscription amounts for the Bristol and West of England Society, including Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Mills Baker, Mr. C. N. Radford, etc.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, Treasurer, 69, Park-street, Bristol.

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PARLIAMENT opens on the ninth of the present month, and the announcement of the date of the commencement of the session has been taken as the note of preparation for active measures to promote the success of the Women's Franchise Bill.

Mr. WOODALL has announced his intention to move for the re-introduction of the Bill of last session immediately on the re-assembling of the Legislature, and a meeting of the members of the Parliamentary Committee has been summoned by the honorary secretaries to meet on the same day, to consider the best means of securing the success of the measure during the coming session.

We have full confidence in the energy and ability of our Parliamentary leaders to press the question by every practicable method inside the House of Commons, and we call upon the supporters of the cause throughout the country to use every effort to support the action in Parliament by numerous and influential petitions and other demonstrations in favour of the Bill.

AN act of restoration of electoral rights to women has just been accomplished by the Legislature of Washington Territory. In 1883 an Act for the enfranchisement of women was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor WILLIAM A. NEWALL on the 19th of November in that year, when it became law. The working of the Act gave general satisfaction, and it continued in operation without question for three years. But last year a judicial decision of the Supreme Court annulled the Act on a purely technical ground, and thereby disfranchised the women. The question was raised on this wise.

A convicted criminal appealed to the Supreme Court on the ground that the jury was illegal, it being composed in part of women, and the Court decided in his favour. The question was on the merits of the Acts of the Legislature which conferred the franchise on women, because if they were legal voters they were legal jurors. The reasons given for the decision related to the form of the Code. It mattered not that the Code was accepted as

the law of the territory, and was in undisputed use; nor that a large part of the legislation of the law session rested on the same basis. In 1885 a similar case had been appealed, and the same claim made, but the decision at that time was that women were legal voters. The reason for the different result in 1887 is to be found in the different composition of the Court, which was held in another district and by different judges.

It was not to be supposed that either the women or the men of Washington territory would calmly submit to the loss, by a technical decision in the Supreme Court, of the right which had been deliberately affirmed by the Legislature, and at the opening of the session in December last no time was lost. Before the clerk had ceased reading the message that the House was organised, Mr. KEANE, of King's County, was on his feet, eager to have the Woman Suffrage Bill stand number one. He got it in as number two. Another Woman Suffrage Bill was introduced by Mr. WALTER J. THOMPSON, of Tacoma; and yet another by Mr. HELM, of Klickitat. The morning of December 17th was devoted to a sharp discussion as to the committee to which the House Bills for women's suffrage should be referred. The opposition carried their point by a vote of 13 to 11, and the Bills were referred to the Judiciary Committee, the chairman of which was an opponent of woman suffrage; and it was also ordered that petitions should be referred to this committee without reading. Notwithstanding this adverse influence the Bill prospered, and was adopted by the Legislature. In January last the Act was signed by the Governor, and thereby the question of the enfranchisement of women in the territory was finally and irrevocably set at rest.

WE learn from the Woman's Tribune, from which our information on the history of this subject is derived, that during the period when the former Act was in operation the effect of women on the juries was so marked in clearing Seattle of criminals that the Secretary of British Columbia presented a Bill to enfranchise the women of the province in self-defence, as the gamblers and blacklegs



were all being driven out of the territory into Victoria. We have received no information as to such a Bill, but we trust that the re-establishment of women's suffrage in the neighbouring territory, and the experience of its good effects, may lead to similar legislation over the border, and that at no distant date we may be able to record the establishment of the political rights of women under the flag of the Dominion of Canada.

THE movement for the admission of women to the degrees of the University of Cambridge has been met by a counter demonstration in the form of memorials against the proposal, which have been signed by many members of the Senate of the University. One of these memorials, which is stated to have been signed by no fewer than 180 resident members of the Senate, contains the surprising proposition, "That to tie permanently the higher education of women to the higher education of men, by granting the membership and degrees of the University of Cambridge to women, would be detrimental to the interests of the education of women."

It appears to us that a case must be desperate indeed which needs to be bolstered up with inconsequential asseverations, in the sincerity and good faith of which it is hard to believe. We can readily understand that there may exist, even among many good friends of the higher education of women, a strong dislike to change the character of the University of Cambridge from a men's to a mixed university, and an honest opinion that any benefit which the women students of Cambridge might derive from admission as members of the University, would be outweighed by some supposed disadvantage, either to the men students or to the University itself, which might result from their admission. This view, frankly avowed and honestly maintained, would deserve full and fair consideration. But when the opposition to the proposal to admit women to university degrees takes the form of a benevolent interest in their welfare, the doubt naturally arises whether any sane man can seriously believe that it can be at the same time an advantage to the education of women to admit them to precisely the same course of instruction and training as men, and a detriment to admit them to the status and the privileges which are the natural reward of the successful accomplishment of that course.

WE have often before now had occasion to notice the healthy activity shown by the friends of the women's cause in the Danish Parliament. This winter's session is

no exception to the general rule. Two Bills having reference to elections are now before the Landsting. The first, which was introduced on December 22nd by Mr. C. NIELSON, Mr. L. SCHRÖDER, and Mr. TH. NIELSEN, is to extend the right of voting and of being elected on Poor Law Boards to married and unmarried women, in the same degree as men have it now. The second Bill, brought in by the same gentlemen, is to the effect that "Women may be chosen as members of School Commissions under the same conditions as men."

These two Bills, however, do not exhaust the activity of the reformers. In the Folketing (or Lower House), Mr. F. BAJER brought forward on December 15th a Bill for securing a married woman's property to herself. The principal articles are that what each party possesses before marriage, or inherits or acquires afterwards, belongs to him or herself, and that both are responsible for the maintenance of children and the housekeeping. Another Bill defines the position of female apprentices, and its provisions as regards domicile, &c., are drawn up with a view to the interests of morality. On the whole we may congratulate our Danish friends on the liberal spirit and generous temper with which these reforms are carried out. C. A. B.

#### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

##### MR. HALLEY STEWART, M.P., AT SPALDING.

On January 4th meetings were held at Spalding to inaugurate the Women's Liberal Association which has been formed in the division. In the afternoon there was a large meeting at the Liberal Club, presided over by Miss Macdonell, of London, at which Mr. Halley Stewart, the member for the division, was present. Officers were appointed, Mrs. Stewart, wife of the member, agreeing to act as president. In the course of an address, Mr. Stewart said he resented with scorn and indignation the idea that it was degrading for a woman to take part in political matters. No doubt it was degrading to become a mere partisan, but if it was degrading for a woman to take an intelligent part in the political affairs of a country, it was equally degrading for men to do so. Whatever was manly enough for a man to take part in, was womanly enough for a woman to take part in with regard to the up-lifting of our national and social life. In this country we had a Queen who is at the head of our affairs, so it was absurd to say a woman should not be a politician.

##### COLONEL EYRE, M.P., AT HEMSWELL.

The member for the Gainsborough Division, Colonel Eyre, C.B., has been visiting the whole of the villages—ninety-two in number—throughout his constituency. In the course of his tour he visited the Hemswell polling district on January 16th, at which a large audience, composed of farmers and agricultural labourers, assembled to greet him. Mr. G. A. Coupland presided, and briefly introduced the gallant Colonel, who commenced his speech by expressing himself strongly in favour of women's suffrage. The question had been foring its way to the front, and there was now a majority of thirty-one members in the House, as at present composed, who were absolutely in favour of the movement, so that there was no doubt when the Bill was introduced that it would be carried. He was in favour of it on the principle that taxation and representation should go together, and he felt that those women who paid rates

and taxes should have a voice in their distribution. He congratulated the Government upon having made the first female appointment in the person of Miss Mason, of Retford, who had been made an inspectress of boarded-out children.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### EASTBOURNE.

A meeting was held at the Town Hall, Eastbourne, on January 24th. Councillor STRANGE occupied the chair, and was supported by Mrs. Fawcett, the Rev. C. H. Hickling, the Rev. Irton Smith, the Rev. J. Turner, and Councillors Chambers and Mitchell, and several ladies. There was a very large number of people present, nine-tenths of whom were ladies. A letter was read from Admiral Field, regretting his inability to attend; also one from Alderman Wallis.

Mrs. FAWCETT, in her address, said that women were wanted for guardians, board schools, and inspectors, &c., and gave instances where men were out of place. Passing on to the subject of women's suffrage, she stated that a newspaper in the North had made a plebiscite of fifty women, asking their opinion on the subject. Forty-nine answers were received, and of these thirty-one were in favour of it, thirteen said no, and three refused to reply. Invited to give their reasons for not wishing to have a vote, their replies were that they thought women's sphere was the household and domestic affairs, and that mixing with politics would blunt the feelings. Now, as a matter of fact, the Women's Suffrage Bill was only drawn up on the lines of the Municipal Act, which would only allow the franchise to heads of households—not to wives. But, putting aside this, she thought that women immersed in domestic affairs ought to be good economists, know a great deal about the health and the training of children, and about the forming of character and conduct, and women who had these qualities could certainly decide on matters of politics. It seemed inconsistent and illogical to say that women were graceful and thoughtful, and had other good qualities, and yet to say that all these qualities would disappear if a certain alteration took place in the political institution of the country. Nature was not so ephemeral. It would be the most grotesque infidelity to nature for such a thing to occur. In conclusion, she said that she advocated the extension of the franchise to women because she wished to strengthen womanliness in women. (Applause.)

Speeches were also made by Councillor Chambers, the Rev. J. Turner, the Rev. Hickling, the Rev. Irton Smith, and Miss Florence Baggornie.

##### BRIGHTON.

A public meeting was held in the large room of the Town Hall, Brighton, on January 25th, when Mrs. Henry Fawcett delivered an address entitled "On Home and Politics." The audience, which was large, included many ladies, and a hearty reception was accorded the lecturer as she entered the room. Mr. A. G. HENRIQUES occupied the chair, and amongst those who supported him on the platform were Mrs. and Miss Henriques, Miss White, Mrs. Percy Willett, General Shute, Dr. Ewart, Alderman Lamb, Alderman Manwaring, Councillor Botting, Mr. Benson Clough, Mr. W. D. Savage, and Dr. Summerhayes.

The CHAIRMAN read letters of apology for non-attendance from Dr. Tindal Robertson, M.P., Mr. Marriage Wallis, the Rev. Prebendary Hannah (vicar of Brighton), the Rev. A. D. Spong, and Mr. H. Prince, and before calling upon the lecturer, said he was sure they would give to her, who held the revered name of Fawcett, the kindest reception.

Mrs. FAWCETT, who met with an enthusiastic reception on rising, said that it was now twenty years since she delivered the first lecture, she had ever given in public, on a Brighton platform in support of the very same movement which brought them together that evening. (Applause.) Twenty years was a long time in the life of an individual; it was a very short time in the life of a great movement, and she thought as they looked back over those twenty years, those who had devoted themselves to the cause of the enfranchisement of women had good reason to congratulate themselves on the substantial progress which had been made.

At the conclusion of the lecture, on the motion of General SHUTE, seconded by Mr. C. J. HEAD, it was agreed "That in the opinion of

this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting."

A resolution "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and be sent to the borough members for presentation in the House of Commons," was carried on the motion of Dr. EWART, seconded by Councillor BOTTING. Votes of thanks closed the meeting.

#### LECTURES.

##### BRIXTON LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

Miss Florence Baggornie addressed a meeting in favour of women's suffrage at the house of Major and Mrs. Gard, 42, Angell Road, on Thursday evening, 19th January. Major Gard occupied the chair. A vote of thanks to Miss Baggornie was moved by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. M'Gee.

##### BIRMINGHAM.

Miss Florence Baggornie addressed a meeting of the Primrose Habitation held in the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on the evening of Thursday, October 6th. The Ruling Councillor occupied the chair, and a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was carried. The attendance was mainly composed of ladies.

##### BERMONDSEY GLADSTONE CLUB.

Mr. Dryhurst delivered a lecture in the Gladstone Club, Bermondsey, on Sunday, October 30th, when a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was carried.

##### ANERLEY.

There was a large congregation at Anerley Congregational Church on January 1st, when the Rev. J. Halsey delivered an address to working men and women on "Women's rights and women's wrongs." After having expressed the opinion that municipal and political privileges should be extended to women, Mr. Halsey dealt with the argument that they would not make proper use of the vote. He thought it very probable that if women possessed the suffrage it would not at first be wisely used, but there was an educational influence in responsibility, and the best way to teach women to use it wisely was to grant it to them. The preacher then referred to several public questions which would, he thought, be improved if women enjoyed the franchise, and, in conclusion, remarked that it was too late to say, "God give us all good mothers," but he would say, give us all good wives, good sweethearts, and good daughters, and send them all a happy new year.

##### EARLSFIELD LIBERAL LEAGUE.

The Earlsfield Lodge of the Liberal League invited the public to come to the Iron Room, Thornsett Road, on November 9th, to listen to a lecture on women's suffrage by Miss Baggornie. At the conclusion of the lecture a discussion took place, and a petition to Parliament was adopted.

#### DEBATING SOCIETIES.

##### PONTYPRIDD.

On 4th January, a debate on the question, "Ought the suffrage to be extended to women?" took place at the St. David's Mutual Improvement and Bible Class, Pontypridd; the president, Rev. John Pugh, in the chair. A paper in the affirmative was read by Mrs. Pugh, who moved a resolution in favour of women's suffrage. An amendment, "That the existing state of things be maintained," was moved by Mr. D. Arnott, who also read a paper in support of his views. The discussion was continued by Mr. Wm. Thomas, who agreed with the resolution as far as the legal requirements but differed on other grounds. The resolution was supported by Mr. H. S. Davies, Mr. Wm. Hill, Mr. Bromage and others, and the amendment by Mr. C. Morgan, Mr. Gaze, Mr. Reed and others. On a division the resolution was lost by three, seventeen against, fourteen for—and several members remaining neutral.

##### CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE.

The essay and discussion class met on January 25th, when Mr. J. G. Bramwell introduced the subject, "Is it advisable to admit



women householders to the franchise?" He took the affirmative view, but was strongly opposed, and a very interesting debate was the result, the voting at the close being fifteen ayes, nine noes. Mr. J. C. Hyde was the chairman.

## BRISTOL.

At a meeting of the Bristol Debating Society, held in the Athenæum, Corn-street, on January 5th, Mr. A. Pottow in the chair, Mr. W. W. Baker moved, "That the present is not an opportune time for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women." This was opposed by Mr. J. L. S. V. Williams, followed on the same side by Mr. J. T. Broad and others. The attendance being small, it was agreed to adjourn the debate to January 19th, when the result was equal voting—five to five—visitors not voting. The chairman then gave his casting vote in favour of the resolution.

The Charing Cross Parliament is said to be the first debating club of its class which had opened its doors to lady members, who take part in its discussions, and vote on equal terms with men.

## SCOTLAND.

## GLASGOW BORDER COUNTIES LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

LETTERS FROM MR. A. L. BROWN, M.P., MR. THORBURN, M.P.,  
AND MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE, M.P.

A debate on the question "Should women have the suffrage?" took place in connection with the Glasgow Border Counties Literary Association, on January 11th, in the Waterloo Rooms. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Hutton, president, occupied the chair. The affirmative side of the question was taken up by Mr. P. L. Deans and the negative by Mr. George Deans. After tracing the history of woman from the period when the law of superior strength was the rule of life among our forefathers, the affirmative party passed on to review the justice of the movement on behalf of woman's rights. What he contended for was that all women who fulfilled the statutory obligations of the State—who owned or rented property and paid taxes equivalent to the average male voter—should be admitted within the pale of the franchise. The State had no right to impose disabilities upon these women—whose voting strength would be about 1,000,000—and the popular objections to them having the vote would scarcely stand scrutiny. Some said that if you gave a woman a vote you must make her a legislator, a soldier, and a policeman. But a right to a share in the choice of those by whom one was governed was altogether a distinct thing from aspiring to the functions of governing, and it was quite unfair to set up a military test which was not applied before the passing of the Franchise Act. A British tar, a British dragoon, and an English policeman were by the fact of their enlistment deprived of the vote. Qualified women now voted at School Boards, Town Councils, and other local elections; why should they not go farther? It was nothing short of tyranny to ask women to obey laws when they had no voice in the making of them, or to ask them to bear a proportionate share of the taxation of the country and decline to represent them. Indeed their enfranchisement was a mere question of time. The Women's Suffrage Bill had the direct support of 355 members of the House of Commons—men of all shades of political opinion. It was decidedly a non-party question. In conclusion, he read to the audience the following letters which he had received from two Border M.P.'s and the son of the greatest statesman of the century—Mr. Herbert Gladstone. (Applause and hisses.)

Mr. A. L. Brown, M.P., wrote:—

"Rowantree Butts, Galashiels, N.B.

"Dear Sir,—Surely there can be only one answer to your question, 'Should the political franchise be extended to women who pay taxes equivalent to the average male voter?' and that answer—Yes. Such women have the same stake in the country as male voters. They are equally interested in having the nation's business well managed. Of course, there are those who say that women are inferior beings, and not fit to exercise the franchise; just as, till the passing of the late Franchise Act, there were those who said the same of the agricultural labourer. But surely the people who look in this way on those who have not the same rights at law as they have are rapidly decreasing in influence and number? So far as my own views are concerned, I would give every man and woman

over the age of twenty-one the same equal voting power. Father and mother, husband and wife, brother and sister, I would make them all equal. We might lose in some ways, we would gain in others. It would certainly compel us to be far more considerate and just towards women than we are at present. Apologising for this short letter."

Mr. W. Thorburn, M.P. (Peebles), wrote:—

"In theory I see no objection to women who have the same property qualification as qualifies a man being enfranchised, but I am frequently exercised in mind whether the extension of the franchise to them would not necessarily involve their right to sit in Parliament, and with my present light I am distinctly opposed to that.

"No doubt, so far as municipal and school board elections are concerned, the franchise has been conceded to them, and it is very difficult to assign any reason for withholding the Parliamentary franchise.

"Upon the whole, the balance of my mind is in favour of granting them the Parliamentary franchise."

Mr. Herbert Gladstone wrote:—

"4, Cleveland Square, S.W., Jan. 7, 1888.

"Dear Sir,—I have taken some time to consider the women's suffrage question, and though recently I have expressed myself in favour of it, I have not yet taken a strong line with reference to it.

"I own that I am by no means enthusiastic over it from a political point of view. I don't say that it will, but it may, lead to awkward and undesirable results. If I saw my way to keep the question within a merely political boundary, I should probably oppose it on the ground that men can do political work best, and that women, being unable to perform the full duties of citizenship, are not entitled to political power identical with that possessed by men. Shortly, this view rests on the question of sex.

"But my experience, such as it is, every year leads me to believe more and more strongly that the social and commercial position of women is not what it should be; and that, consciously or unconsciously, men do not give them fair play, speaking generally, where there is, or when they suspect, a danger of competition.

"The evil in London is very great, and I don't think is getting less. Their wages are starvation; the result is obvious and disastrous.

"Further, I don't think women get full justice from the law. Sometimes the law is to blame, but more often the administration of it.

"Now, things won't be remedied without great pressure of some kind, and I fail to see how this pressure can be got except by giving the vote to women. When they have the franchise they will not only have a powerful lever for their own interests, but the possession of it will inevitably lead them to combine. Then they will get full justice from us. I am only giving in a very general and somewhat vague manner my feelings and views on this very great question.

"You will observe that I only consent for myself to extend the suffrage to spinsters and widows. I know the position is illogical and is full of inconsistencies, but I can't help this."

On the negative side, Mr. George Deans argued that "taxation without representation" applied to every non-householder who used tobacco or beer or tea, and if woman was to be freed from it so must those who suffered under the same law. Regarding the property qualification, he observed that at the present day wives could retain their property in their own hands under ante-nuptial contract, and they ought also—if property was to carry the vote—to be enfranchised as well as widows and spinsters. If it was right that women should have the vote, it would always remain their right. This being a democratic country, we were advancing towards manhood suffrage. In that case women would still have the vote, and the result would inevitably be family disagreements and other undesirable complications in social life. In concluding, he maintained that women did not really want the vote—it was a bogus agitation, and only supported by a few of the masculine-minded and some members of Parliament. This was clearly proved by the meagre numbers who had taken part in the voting at School Boards and other elections. (Applause.)

After further discussion, the question was put to the vote—the ladies voted—and the affirmative won by the small majority of 2.

## FREE ST. MARY'S, EDINBURGH, LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of this Association took place on Tuesday evening, the 10th of January, under somewhat novel circumstances. In compliance with a request made by the Young Women's Guild connected with the congregation, the young men conducted a debate in presence of the ladies of the guild on the question of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. The discussion was of a lively character, the fact of ladies being present adding special point and animation to the proceedings. A division, taken at the close of the meeting, resulted in a majority of one against the extension of the franchise to women, the number being for the affirmative eight, negative nine.

## STIRLING.

"Should the franchise be extended to women?" was the subject of debate at a meeting of the literary branch of the Free Church Guild Society, held in the East School on January 17th. There was a good attendance, a large portion of which was lady members. The vice-president (Mr. Wm. Dinwoodie) presided. Mr. Peter Culbert took the affirmative side of the question, expressing the hope that none of the young ladies present would require the franchise, but that all would get well married and comfortably settled down for life. Mr. Jas. Grant, teacher, followed in the negative. On the vote being taken, nine voted against and ten in favour of the franchise being extended to women. A cordial vote of thanks was awarded Messrs. Culbert and Grant, and a similar compliment to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

## REVIEW.

BECAUSE. Collected and edited by Helen Blackburn. Being reasons from Fifty Women Workers why it is of national importance that the Parliamentary Franchise be no longer denied to Women as Women. Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

This dainty booklet contains a series of sentences collected from the writings or utterances of fifty representative ladies eminent for their work in various avenues of literary, philanthropic, and political activity. Besides the more prominent leaders of the women's suffrage movement, the literary world is represented by Mrs. Richmond Ritchie (Miss Thackeray), Mrs. Charles (authoress of "The Schonberg-Cotta Family"), Miss Amelia B. Edwards, Mrs. Emma Marshall, and others; science by Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., Miss Blackwell, M.D., Miss A. W. Buckland, and others; education by Mrs. W. Grey and Miss Clough (Principal of Newnham Hall); and there are many other representative names in other departments of women's work. The plan of the brochure precludes any systematic or exhaustive discussion of the proposition on which it is based, but the sentences are arranged in such order as seems to follow a natural sequence of ideas, and each sentence forms a suggestive text on which a whole disquisition might be based.

## A LADY'S SPEECH IN RESPONSE FOR "THE LADIES."

(From the *Sussex Daily News*.)

The Primrose League is responsible for many innovations, but there is one which will come as a very great relief to the sterner sex, who, in future, apparently, will be relieved of the onus of carefully choosing honeyed phrases in response to the toast of "The Ladies." Miss Marryat recently responded to the toast at a gathering at Horley in the following terms: "I believe it is rather unusual for a lady to respond to this toast, but I fancy the custom has arisen somewhat in this way. It is not uncommon, I am told, in London and other great cities, for some 200 or 300 gentlemen to get together and have grand banquets all to themselves, while the ladies are banished to a gallery to look at them through the railings feeding; just like you see the animals at the Zoological Gardens. I have never seen it myself, but it must be a horrid sight. Well, having thus wilfully banished the fair sex from their society, of course when they go through the hollow farce of drinking the health of the banished ladies, they have to put up some unhappy man to reply, but, really on these occasions, when the noble beasts—I beg pardon, the nobler sex—unbend so much as to let us feed with them, I think the least we can do is to release some unhappy man of the task and reply for ourselves. If, too, you will consider for a moment, you will see what an absurdity it is, a man—a

bachelor, too, I believe generally—attempting to reply to a toast on the subject of which he must be woefully ignorant. For, if he is an old bachelor, his life has evidently been passed uncheered by the sunshine of woman. If a young bachelor, he is probably too much taken up with admiration of himself to have had time to study the opposite sex. A married man, now, might know something about us, but I suppose they are never allowed to reply, because I imagine you gentlemen have the vulgar and erroneous notion that if he was to dilate on our charms—as he doubtless would do—he would have a rough time of it when he got home." It is needless to say that the above trenchant remarks promoted loud laughter, but Miss Marryat's concluding sentiments elicited enthusiastic applause: "I can only say this toast is one to which you can never do more than justice, for, after all, where is there a more perfect thing in this world than a good English woman? Look at a good labourer's wife—what a happy comfortable home she can make for her husband! Take a good farmer's wife—what a wonderful, bright useful helpmeet she is in these hard times! Look at a good squire's or parson's wife—what a blessing they are in an English village that has one; and, to go on still higher, where is there a better type of a good English woman than our beloved Queen, who has for the last fifty years, set every English woman—aye and every Englishman—an example of all that is pure and good. It is in the belief that such types of ladies you had in your minds when you drank this toast, that I thank you on behalf of the ladies for the way in which you received it. I will only remark that whatever may be in store for our sex in future—whether you admit us to many branches of science, art, and honours, or even give us woman's suffrage, and many other things from which we are now excluded—you may depend upon it that the higher the scale of duties and responsibilities to which you raise your women—and you will find us fit for them when the time comes—the higher you will raise yourselves in the scale of civilisation, and the greater number of perfect English women you will produce." Miss Marryat's "record" will certainly require a great deal of beating.

## A WOMAN BURIED WITH MILITARY HONOURS.

At Portsmouth, on January 25th, the wife of Quartermaster Fox, 2nd Connaught Rangers, was buried with full military honours. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Maistre, wife of a sergeant of the same regiment, were with their husbands in the Boer war, and were present during the fight at Brouker's Spruit, when Mrs. Fox was wounded. The severe nature of her wounds compelled her to remain at Brouker's Spruit, where, upon her recovery, she worked indefatigably among the sufferers, and was rewarded with the order of the Red Cross. Her health subsequently gave way, and she died at Portsmouth on January 21st. Her funeral was attended by representatives of every regiment in garrison, Colonel Banbury and five other officers being the pall bearers. The coffin, on a gun carriage covered with a Union Jack, was preceded by an escort, and three volleys were fired over the grave. Crowds of people witnessed the remarkable ceremony.

## Obituary.

M. GODIN.—With deep regret we record the death of this remarkable man and social reformer, which occurred at Guise last month. M. Godin was the founder of the co-operative enterprise La Familistère, an institution which aimed at solving the problems of economic and social life on the basis of equitable adjustment of the claims of labour and capital, and perfect equality of rights among its members. One of the cardinal points of the programme was that women had the same civil and political rights as men. M. Godin published a weekly paper, *Le Devoir*, for the propagation of the principles on which La Familistère was founded, and as a chronicle of its affairs. The institution seems to have been thoroughly prosperous under the guidance of its founder and chief. It remains to be seen whether the same peace and prosperity will continue when deprived of the personal influence of the master mind. The experiment will be watched with interest and sympathy by all friends of the principle of co-operation in producing industry and of social progress.



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