

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XII.—No. 133. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

FEBRUARY 1, 1881.

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

**THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT** of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held in the Town Hall, Manchester, December 8th, 1880. In coloured cover, price 6d., to be had of the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

THE NEW VOLUME.

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.**—Volume XI. January to December, 1880. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London : Trübner and Co.

**PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!**—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for petitions to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution during the present session of Parliament. Written petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raebury Place, Edinbrough; or to Miss THORNBURY, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

## PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

BIRMINGHAM.

A GREAT

## DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN

WILL BE HELD IN THE

TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM,

ON FEBRUARY 22ND, 1881,

In support of the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

Mrs. George Dixon,  
Mrs. William Kenrich,  
Mrs. Middlemore,  
Mrs. William Taylor,  
Miss Becker,  
Mrs. Oliver Scatterd,  
Miss Martineau,  
Miss Clark, M.D.

Mrs. R. W. Dale,  
Mrs. Crosskey,  
Miss Chamberlain,  
Mrs. A. C. Osler,  
Miss Barker, M.D.,  
Miss Craigen,  
Miss Downing,  
Mrs. C. E. Mathews,

And other ladies are expected to be present.

Chair to be occupied by

MRS. CROSSKEY.

For the particulars see local announcements.

**TO ADVERTISING AGENTS.**—An Advertising Exchange is now established, where there can be seen the largest Collection of Local and country Newspapers in London. Valuable assistance rendered free of extra expense. See Prospectus of the London and County Club, Victoria House, Catherine-street, Strand, W.C.

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Invalids should read Crosby's Prize Treatise on "DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND AIR VESSELS," a copy of which can be had GRATIS of all Chemists

## THE CALENDAR.—FEBRUARY, 1881.

MOON.		SUN.		MOON.		SUN.	
6th First Quar., 0h 54m morn.		Rises.	Sets.	21st Last Quar., 7h 30m aft.		Rises.	Sets.
14th Full Moon, 9h 24m morn.		7 32	4 57	28th New Moon, 11h 32m morn.		7 4	5 24
		7 18	5 11			6 49	4 36
1	T	Miss Eleanor Smith elected on Oxford School Board, 1871. Meeting, Bury, 1872. Meeting, Lewes, 1875. Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 1877.					
2	W	Annual Meeting, Bristol, Lady Amberley in chair, 1872. Meeting, Oldham, 1872. Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1874. Meeting, Aberystwith, 1874. Meeting, Canterbury, 1875. Lecture, Truro, Miss Orme, 1880. (Women, Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 1880. [Biggs, 1879.]					
3	Th	Meeting, Haddington, 1873. Meeting, Bala, 1874. Meeting, Rochester, 1875. Lady Anna Goss Langton died, 1879. Grand Demonstration of Meeting, Athenaeum, Bristol, 1870. Meeting, Llangollen, 1874. Lecture, Wigston, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1879. [Biggs, 1879.]					
4	F	Meeting, Assembly Rooms, Leith, 1874. Meeting, Horsham, 1875. Lecture, Bedlington, Miss Craigen, 1875. Lecture, Loughborough, Miss C. A. [Leicester, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1879. Lecture, Hinckley, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1879.]					
5	S	Meeting, Belfast, 1873. Meeting, Newcastle, 1870. Lecture, Newcastle, Miss Taylor, 1870. Lecture, Miss Burton Kennay, 1877. Lecture, Miss Craigen, [Leicester, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1879. Lecture, Middlesbrough, Miss Tod, 1879. Lecture, Miss Craigen, 1879.]					
6	S	Meeting, Helston, Mrs. Ronniger, 1871. Meeting, Pontefract, 1872. Meeting, Carrickfergus, 1873. Lecture, Middleton, Miss Tod, 1879. Lecture, [Leicester, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1879. Lecture, Miss Burton Kennay, 1877. Lecture, Miss Craigen, 1879.]					
7	M	Meeting, Corn Exchange, Crewe, 1870. Lecture, Newcastle, Miss Taylor, 1870. Lecture, Miss Burton Kennay, 1877. Lecture, Miss Craigen, [Leicester, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1879. Lecture, Middlesbrough, Miss Tod, 1879. Lecture, Miss Craigen, 1879.]					
8	T	Meeting, Burslem, 1871. Lecture, Dumbarton, Miss Taylor, 1871. Lecture, Podmin, Mrs. Ronniger, 1871. Lecture, Wakefield, Mrs. Ronniger, [Leicester, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1879. Lecture, Middlesbrough, Miss Tod, 1879. Lecture, Miss Craigen, 1879.]					
9	W	1872. Lecture, Stockton, Miss Craigen, 1873. Annual Meeting, Belfast, 1875. Meeting, Dudley, 1875. Meeting, Derby, 1875. Discussion, Windsor Reform Association, 1871. Lecture, Greenock, Miss Taylor, 1871. Meeting, Downpatrick, 1875. Meeting, Derby, 1875. [Mr. J. H. Campbell, 1880.]					
10	Th	Meeting, Trowbridge, 1875. Meeting, Limerick, 1876. Lecture, Finsbury, Miss Downing, 1879. Meeting, Coleraine, 1873. Meeting, Bridgnorth, 1875. Lecture, Dublin, [Mr. J. H. Campbell, 1880.]					
11	F	Lecture, Llannecon, Mrs. Ronniger, 1871. Meeting, Dewsbury, 1873. Meeting, Coleraine, 1873. Meeting, Bridgnorth, 1875. Lecture, Dublin, [Mr. J. H. Campbell, 1880.]					
12	S	Meeting, Huddersfield, 1873. Meeting, Glasgow, 1875. Annual Meeting, Belfast, 1875. Meeting, Coleraine, 1873. Meeting, Bridgnorth, 1875. Lecture, Dublin, [Mr. J. H. Campbell, 1880.]					
13	S	Meeting, Halifax, 1873. Meeting, Armagh, 1873. Meeting, Enniskillen, 1875. Meeting, Coleraine, 1873. Meeting, Bridgnorth, 1875. Lecture, Dublin, [Mr. J. H. Campbell, 1880.]					
14	M	Lecture, Miss Craigen, Kildhouse, 1871. Meeting, Limhouse, 1873. Meeting, Lynnington, 1877. Lecture, Southwark, Mr. E. O. Greening, 1878. Death of Mr. Sidebottom, M.P., 1871. Lecture, Leicester, Rev. A. F. Macdonald, 1871. Meeting, Dungannon, 1873. Meeting, Bradford, 1873. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
15	T	Meeting, Andover, 1877. Meeting, West Hartlepool, 1878. Meeting, Heckmondwike, 1878. Meeting, Dublin, 1879. Meeting, Guisborough, 1879. Lecture, Falmouth, Mrs. Ronniger, 1871. Lecture, Commercial Road, London, Mr. McDonall, 1872. Lecture, Skegby, 1875. Meeting, Stockton, [on-Tees, 1878.]					
16	W	Lecture, Liskeard, Mrs. Ronniger, 1871. Lecture, Paisley, Professor Sheppard, 1872. Meeting, Cropton, 1875. Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 1876. Meeting, Guisborough, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
17	Th	Lecture, Inverurie, Miss Burton, 1877. Meeting, Poole, 1877. Lecture, Lincoln, Rev. A. F. Macdonald, 1870. Lecture, Rothsay, Miss Taylor, 1871. Lecture, Glasgow, Miss Craigen, 1873. Annual Meeting, [on-Tees, 1878.]					
18	F	Bristol, 1876. Lecture, South London, Miss C. A. Biggs, 1878. Meeting, Romley, 1879. Lecture, Kettering, Miss Biggs, 1880. Meeting, Lincoln, 1873. Lecture, Bridlington Quay, Miss Craigen, 1878. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
19	S	Lecture, Nottingham, Miss Becker, 1872. Lecture, Crief, Miss Taylor, 1872. Lecture, Portsea, Mrs. Ronniger, 1872. Meeting, Guisboro', 1879. Meeting, Dunse, 1873. Lecture, Walworth, Miss Raisin, 1878. Lecture, Leeds, Mrs. O. Scatterd, 1879. Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1880. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
20	S	Lecture, Islington, Rev. G. Calthorp, 1872. Lecture, Perth, Miss Taylor, 1872. Meeting, Boston, 1873. Meeting, Leeds, 1874. Meeting of Women, Dalkeith, 1880. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
21	M	Lecture, Ipswich, Miss Couperthwaite, 1870. Lecture, Marylebone, Miss Blind, 1872. Lecture, Dover, Mrs. Ronniger, 1872. Meeting, Grimsby, 1873. Annual Meeting, Bath, 1873. Meeting, Glasgow, 1873. Meeting, Hanley, 1876. Meeting, Quebec Institute, London, 1877. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
22	T	Meeting, Rochdale, 1872. Lecture, Canterbury, Mrs. Ronniger, 1872. Lecture, Montrose, Miss Taylor, 1872. Meeting, Stafford, 1876. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
23	W	Lecture, Stonehaven, Miss Taylor, 1872. Meeting, Stafford, 1876. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
24	Th	Meeting, Grantham, 1873. Great Meeting in Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 1874. Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1879. Meeting, Stafford, 1876. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
25	F	Great Meeting at Huddersfield, 1874. Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 1874. Meeting, Stafford, 1876. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
26	S	Lecture, Laurencekirk, Miss Taylor, 1872. Meeting, Kings Lynn, 1873. Meeting, York, 1874. Meeting, Stafford, 1876. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
27	S	Meeting, Stamford, 1873. Meeting, Ealing, 1873. Meeting, Stafford, 1876. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					
28	M	Lecture, Leicester, Rev. A. F. Macdonald, 1870. Lecture, Cheltenham, Miss Becker, 1871. Meeting, Peterborough, 1873. Meeting, Stafford, 1876. Meeting, Lowestoft, 1879. [on-Tees, 1878.]					

### 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 any kind of paper that may be at hand. A sheet of foolscap or even note paper opened out will do.

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 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.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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

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THE announcements in the public journals will have informed our friends that Mr. HUGH MASON, M.P. for Ashton-under-Lyne, has given notice that he will, on an early day, move the following Resolution in the House of Commons: "That in the opinion of this House 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."

The notice was given on January 20th, but it is quite uncertain as yet when the Resolution will come on for discussion. No member can ballot for a night more than four weeks in advance, and if an early day were now fixed it is highly probable that the discussion of the Government Bills relating to Ireland, which are to take precedence of everything else every day until they are disposed of, might intervene to put off the Resolution. Meantime, as the notice is now formally before the House, it will be well to support it by a good show of petitions. A special form of petition in the terms of the Resolution is given in our column of directions, and is recommended for future use; but those friends who have the old form may continue to use it, as all petitions praying for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women are placed in one list in the Parliamentary Reports.

THE selection of Mr. MASON as the leader of the movement was originally the suggestion of Mr. COURTNEY—a choice approved at once by our most trusted parliamentary friends, and by the various committees as soon as it was presented to them.

A deputation from the Manchester Committee waited on Mr. MASON, at his residence at Ashton-under-Lyne, as soon as it was known that Mr. COURTNEY would be unable to continue his services as leader; but at that time nothing could be definitely arranged. Meantime the various committees had agreed to join in the request, and a deputation representing the whole strength of the society was arranged, which Mr. MASON consented to receive in London on the 20th January.

The deputation which waited on Mr. MASON on that

day, to ask him to accept the leadership of the movement, comprised delegates from all the leading Committees and Branches of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, including several members of Parliament, and was thoroughly representative in character. Some had travelled long distances in order to be present, and others who had set out were arrested on the journey by the block on the railway, caused by the great snowstorm of the previous day.

In acceding to the request of the deputation, Mr. MASON expressed his determination to further the cause to the utmost of his ability, and his hope and belief that the present Parliament would perform this great act of justice, and enfranchise women.

If this act of justice is not conceded by the present Parliament it will certainly not be for want of earnestness and ability on the part of our leader, and it must not be for want of adequate support of his efforts on the part of the friends of the cause.

WEDNESDAY, January the fifth, 1881, will be a day for ever memorable in the annals of the movement for the enfranchisement of women. On that day Her Majesty the QUEEN in Council, by the advice of her responsible Ministers, gave her Royal Assent to a measure which establishes the principle of women's suffrage in parliamentary government within the British Islands, namely, the Electoral Act passed by the Legislature of the Isle of Man. The Act came into force yesterday, when it was formally promulgated on the Tynwald Hill.

It is hardly possible to over estimate the significance and importance of this event. Although the example and precedent of the Insular Legislature may not of itself be held to have much weight in the deliberations of its younger and greater sister assembly, yet the same considerations which moved the House of Keys may be expected to have some influence in the House of Commons; and there can be no doubt that the present Government, in advising the QUEEN to sanction the principle of women's suffrage in parliamentary elections

in the Isle of Man, have committed themselves to a precedent which will be used with great force in urging them to accept the same principle in their proposals for the reform of the representation of the rest of the country.

Our efforts are directed at present to obtain the enfranchisement of women, not as a separate measure but as a part of a general scheme of parliamentary reform. This general scheme will probably not be submitted as a whole, but may be dealt with in separate Bills for separate branches, and will be almost certainly by separate Bills for the three kingdoms. The question may therefore have to be fought inch by inch and bit by bit. No measure dealing with the franchise in any part of the kingdom should be allowed to be discussed in Parliament without raising at some stage of the proceedings the question of the franchise for women on the same conditions as it is, or is proposed to be, given to men. The victory in the Insular Legislature was the result of an effort of this kind; and although the full measure which was asked for has not been granted, the principle has been established, and only needs extension so far as the Island is concerned, while the acceptance of the principle in any part of the QUEEN'S dominions by the responsible advisers of her MAJESTY, may reasonably be considered, in reference to similar proposals in other parts of the kingdom, as the beginning of the end.

WE have, in a recent speech at Liverpool of the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of the Isle of Man, a very significant illustration of the change wrought in the attitude of men's minds with regard to the position of women in the discussion of public questions effected by their political enfranchisement.

At a meeting of the Liverpool Manx Association, held in St. George's Hall on January 13th, a congratulatory address was presented to Sir HENRY BROUGHAM LOCH, K.C.B., Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, on his receiving the honour of Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath at the hands of Her Majesty the QUEEN. In the course of his address, in reply to the congratulations, Sir HENRY LOCH said that when he last addressed them he had referred to various subjects which were at that time occupying the attention of the Insular Legislature. Some of these had been brought to a conclusion, others remained to be settled. He was not going to inflict on them a recapitulation of these subjects, and he should certainly have hesitated in doing so in the presence

of so many ladies to whom such details would be somewhat uninteresting; "although," he went on to say, "I confess had I been addressing ladies resident in the Isle of Man I should have felt no such hesitation, for in that happy country the sexes are now blended together in one political body; for we have seen the error of our way, have admitted the fair sex to the enjoyment of the electoral franchise, and they have therefore earned the somewhat doubtful advantage and right of having the dullest of business details laid before them."

Her MAJESTY'S subjects of her own sex in the Isle of Man are thus informed, through the voice of her LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, that they are henceforward to be treated as persons capable of understanding, and expected to take an interest in, measures concerning the welfare of their country and the community of which they form a part, while the women of Great Britain and Ireland, who are excluded from political rights, are regarded as "ladies," to whom details on such subjects would be "uninteresting."

There may be frivolous women who would object to such a change in their present status—women who say they prefer a diet of polite fiction and complimentary sugar-plums to honest truth and whole meal bread, but this is but the froth that comes to the surface of society. Even beneath the frothy surface there often lies an under-current of deeper feeling, which men might discern if they cared to penetrate the froth, but which makes itself felt in a thousand subtle ways by those engaged among women in the cause of their enfranchisement. Possibly Sir HENRY LOCH himself did not apprehend the full import of his words, which he may have used in a half-serious mood. But many a true word is spoken in jest, and wisdom is not always grave. The words of Sir HENRY LOCH truly indicate the change in the status of women in regard to public questions, and in men's estimate of women's duties respecting matters of business, that instantly occurs when they are admitted to the exercise of political rights; and we are greatly mistaken if this truth, which is now for the first time practically illustrated by this experience, does not tend more to arouse women to a sense of what they lose by the deprivation of political rights, than any amount of painful experience of the effect of unjust laws and unequal rights in any other respect.

A "CURIOUS will suit" was lately tried in the Probate Court. Mr. JOHN FIELD, whose will was the subject of dispute, was a retired leather cutter at Sheffield. He had been twice married. He had no family by his first

wife, but there was issue of his second marriage—a daughter, LILIAN, born 1875. Sometime afterwards Mrs. FIELD became mentally afflicted, and was placed under restraint in an asylum. She was discharged in 1878, and died at the end of that year. Previously to this date, a young woman, named MARY JACKSON, became house-keeper to the testator. An intimacy arose between them, and a child was born. The testator acknowledged the child, and promised to marry the mother as soon as he decently (!) could—having regard to the recent death of his wife. He did not live to fulfil the promise. He was attacked by sudden illness on the 11th October, 1879, and died the following afternoon at the age of sixty. He left a will dated 12th October, the morning of the day on which he died. Some if not all of the property appears to have been the property of his second wife, the mother of his legitimate child LILIAN. The will devised property to the value of £1,020 to the testator's brother, £260 to MARY JACKSON, and the residue of his property, amounting to £100, to his reputed daughter, POLLY FIELD JACKSON. Nothing was left to his legitimate daughter LILIAN.

The will was disputed by the infant legitimate daughter LILIAN, approaching through her guardian. On behalf of the will it was asserted by the medical attendant and the solicitor who prepared the will that it was the pure emanation of the testator's mind, that he was fully conscious of what he was doing, and that he declined to leave his daughter LILIAN anything on the ground that she had an income of £30 a year derived from her mother.

The evidence of the testator's mental capacity to make his will seemed irresistible to the court, and the matter would have been settled but for the incident of an "obstinate juryman," who resolutely declined to concur with his fellows in upholding the will. The reasons for this refusal were stated in a letter to the President, who, in his address, discharging the jury, said that they were "in the highest degree discreditable, for he says: 'Perhaps I ought to have objected to sit on this jury after I felt so strongly on the subject of the property of the legitimate child's mother being given to the illegitimate child to the detriment of the legitimate child.' Opinion on such subjects ought not to influence the mind of any juryman, and any man who allows himself to be influenced by such opinions evades his duty. The effect will be the ruin of one, perhaps of both the unhappy children. A second trial must be had."

At this second trial the will of the testator was con-

firmed, and the property of the dead wife passed therefore to the illegitimate child of her husband, her own child being disinherited.

The obstinate juryman was doubtless quite wrong in point of law, but in point of equity it is hard to maintain the justice of the award.

THE past month has witnessed the retirement from parliamentary life of one of the earliest and staunchest of friends of the enfranchisement of women in the veteran senior member for Edinburgh, Mr. DUNCAN M'LAREN. In the address in which he announced his acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds, Mr. M'LAREN explained that circumstances had occurred which made it seem right to place his seat unreservedly at the disposal of his constituents, and we are certain that all who read that announcement would receive it with a sense of extreme regret.

Mr. M'LAREN, even at his advanced age of eighty-one, was most assiduous in the performance of his parliamentary duties, more so than many younger men; and, besides his general devotion to business, his especial attention and unfailing support of all measures for the advancement of women merit our warmest recognition and earnest thanks. His name was on the back of many Bills designed for this purpose. He voted with Mr. MILL in the first division on women's suffrage, which took place in 1867, and his name was recorded in every succeeding division on the question up to the latest in 1879. His retirement leaves a blank in the ranks of the few remaining members who voted with Mr. MILL, and who have never missed a division since then. Not many of these are now left, but the ranks are re-inforced by a crowd of younger supporters who will doubtless emulate their constancy to principle.

Mr. M'LAREN is succeeded in the representation of Edinburgh by his son, the LORD ADVOCATE, and as he has another son in Parliament in the person of the member for Stafford, he will retain in his retirement a strong personal connection with the House of Commons. His sons are happy in the knowledge that for an example of public spirit and public duties honourably and faithfully performed, they need not look beyond the career of their venerated father, nor entertain a more worthy ambition than to pursue the path which he trod.

Miss E. Yule, daughter of Col. Yule, is, the *Athenaeum* says, engaged in investigations regarding the physical geography of some parts of Greece and Turkey.

## DEPUTATION TO MR. MASON, M.P.

On Thursday, January 20th, a deputation of members representing the various branches of the National Society for Women's Suffrage waited upon Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P. for Ashton-under-Lyne, at his apartments in Fenton's Hotel, to ask him to accept the leadership of the movement in the House of Commons, in the place of Mr. Leonard Courtney, who has accepted office in the Government. Representatives were present from the various committees in all parts of the kingdom, and amongst the ladies who met Mr. Hugh Mason at Fenton's Hotel, St. James's-street, London, were Miss Becker, Mrs. Duncan M'Laren, Miss Davenport Hill, Mrs. Hoggan, M.D., Miss C. A. Biggs, Mrs. Lindsay from Belfast, Mrs. Cameron from Glasgow, Mrs. Edward Parker of Dundee, Mrs. Lucas, Miss Downing, the Viscountess Harberton, Miss Babb, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Charles M'Laren, Miss Thornbury, Mrs. M'Donald, &c. Amongst the gentlemen present interested in the movement were Mr. Thomasson, M.P. for Bolton, Dr. Cameron, M.P. for Glasgow, Mr. S. Morley, M.P. for Bristol, and Sir David Wedderburn, M.P.

Mr. THOMASSON, M.P., who introduced the deputation, said that no doubt many of those present were already well known to Mr. Mason. He did not think that under the circumstances he need say anything beyond that he heartily concurred in the object which the deputation had in view. (Applause.)

Miss BECKER said that on behalf of the Manchester Committee she had been unanimously deputed to formally invite Mr. Mason to accept the leadership of the women's suffrage movement. She had had an opportunity of explaining the views of the association to Mr. Mason, and she would, therefore, leave it with the representatives of the other branches connected with the society to lay their views before him. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN next rose, and read the following letter from the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage:—"Sir,—Having been deprived of the leadership of Mr. Courtney in the House of Commons, by his acceptance of office under the Government, we beg leave to express to you our hearty desire that you should introduce a resolution in the House during this session in favour of extending the parliamentary franchise to women householders and ratepayers. We, the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage, wish to assure you of our gratitude to yourself if you accept this responsibility; and of our confidence that under your earnest and judicious leadership the question will receive the consideration and ultimate success which it deserves." Whilst I myself feel it an honour to present this letter from my committee in Edinburgh, I cannot help saying that, although we must esteem it a favour when anyone accedes to a request urgently and respectfully made, I do, at the same time, consider we are conferring upon you a privilege in placing our Bill, or rather, our question, into your hands. (Applause.) You have, by your great integrity of principle, by your consistent liberalism and your talents, made for yourself a position in your own county which will, I feel sure, be established in Parliament. Still it is no mean position to have your name in history associated with those men who have previously had the conduct of this question in Parliament—viz., John Stuart Mill, Jacob Bright, and, lastly, Leonard Courtney—men whose names, for intellectual worth and moral principle, stand so high. I believe their names and some others who have strongly supported them will stand out in bold relief in the future as having led a cause which more than any other is in accordance with those principles which Christ came to establish on earth, viz., a higher spiritual dispensation than that of

bloodshed, and the power of gentleness rather than that of brute force. (Applause.)

Mrs. LUCAS said the Central Society, stationed in London, and which she had the pleasure of representing, were exceedingly gratified to learn that Mr. Mason was willing to receive that deputation. When they learned that he was also willing to undertake the leadership of the movement in the House, and that the question would receive his warm advocacy, they would be doubly gratified. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SAMUEL MORLEY, M.P., said he had been requested by the Bristol and West of England Branch of the Society to assure Mr. Mason that they heartily co-operated with the other branches of the organisation in their desire to secure his services as the leader of this important movement. He had had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Mason for a number of years, and he was sure that with his active aid the movement was bound to succeed.

Miss DOWNING said she was present on behalf of a society which represented not only Nottingham, but also a good portion of the county of Nottingham. Their branch had held a largely-attended meeting a few weeks ago, and delegates from Newark and other places were present. This important gathering was unanimously of opinion that they would feel it a very great honour if Mr. Mason would only take charge of the movement in the House of Commons. There was a general impression that under his leadership there was a good prospect of the movement being carried to a successful issue. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. CAMERON, M.P., said that although he had received no formal request from the Glasgow Committee, he felt no diffidence in speaking on their behalf, and assuring Mr. Mason that if he would undertake the leadership of the movement he would be sure of not only the approval but the active co-operation of all the members.

Lady HARBERTON, representing the North of Ireland Committee, said: Owing to the severity of the weather, which had prevented so many people coming to-day, this committee asked her, as a fellow-countrywoman, to represent them on this occasion. Certainly no part of the country more needed the calming and moderating influence of women at the present time than Ireland. It was probably hardly necessary to point out to Mr. Mason the extreme hardship to women, that they were always obliged to agitate for anything in which their interests were concerned in an unusual and extraordinary way, not being allowed to give weight to their opinions quietly and privately by voting as men could. She sincerely begged Mr. Mason to help them by bringing this injustice to the notice of the House, and to assure him of all possible support from the North of Ireland Committee.

Mrs. LINDSAY also appeared on behalf of the North of Ireland Committee, and brought a formal resolution requesting Mr. Mason to take charge of the measure.

Mr. M'DONALD, speaking on behalf of Mrs. M'Donald, who represented the Dublin society, wished to bear testimony to the fact that the question of women's suffrage was increasing in popularity in Dublin, where a great many large meetings had been held. He was sure that if Mr. Hugh Mason complied with the request which had been made, it would be looked upon as a most gratifying event by all the members of the Dublin branch.

Miss THORNBURY then read two letters, one from Birmingham and the other from Luton. In the former a regret was expressed that owing to railway interruption, caused by the recent severe weather, no one could attend the deputation on behalf of the Birmingham Committee. The Luton letter was as follows: "Dear Miss Thornbury,—I am sorry to say that I shall not

be able to form one of your deputation on Thursday, as delegate from the Luton Committee, for I have an engagement of long standing for that day, and fear that I shall be forced to give up that owing to the severity of the weather. Will you be so kind, therefore, as to convey to Mr. Mason the expression of our warm desire that he will take charge of the cause of women's suffrage in the House, and our hope that he will introduce a resolution for granting the franchise to duly qualified women as early as it shall seem to him desirable for the true interests of the movement. (Hear, hear.) The towns of Luton and Bedford would be especially affected by a revision of the law on this point, owing to the great number of women householders in both places, the trade of the former town enabling them to become bread-winners for their families, while the latter attracts them by its educational advantages. In Luton we have 579 women burgesses, and their manner of voting in local elections is often commended. In Bedford it is said that there are 600. (Applause.) The rapid progress which the women's suffrage movement has made in our own neighbourhood leads us to hope that, should Mr. Mason see fit to undertake our cause, his generous efforts would before long be rewarded with success.—I am, dear Miss Thornbury, yours faithfully, LOUISA BIGG, hon. sec., on behalf of the Luton Branch of the National Women's Suffrage Association." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HUGH MASON, M.P., in reply, said: Miss Becker, ladies, and gentlemen,—Since my name has been mentioned as a member of Parliament who is likely to take up this question which Mr. Leonard Courtney had in hand during the last two or three years, I have received from one or more of my intelligent constituents at Ashton-under-Lyne what I may call a slap in the face for having ventured to give any kind of promise that I would take up this question. I have been told that, judging from what has hitherto taken place in Ashton-under-Lyne, I would lose my seat if women were admitted to the franchise. In that town, I am informed, there have been hundreds of women on the municipal burgess list, and it has been found that they mainly vote for the Tories; therefore, I am further informed, they would not vote for me if they were enfranchised parliamentarily. My answer was very prompt and very decided to a remonstrance of that kind, and I simply said that women had a right to the franchise, and however they might use their vote it was nothing at all to do with me. I said they were quite as capable as men of forming a judgment upon political questions, and that I had just as much confidence in the women as I had in the men. I added—"whether the result should be that the women will vote against me and turn me out of Parliament or not, it is a matter of perfect indifference to me so long as they exercised the franchise honestly, as I believe they would." (Hear, hear.) If I have any misgivings about acceding to your request, and I say it without any false modesty, it arises entirely from a doubt as to my ability to do justice to this important question, and justify the application which you are so unanimously making to me. (Hear, hear.) You know that I am a new man in Parliament, and have a great deal to learn. Yet I am not new to political matters of various kinds. I told my friend Mr. Leonard Courtney a few days ago, when I was talking to him on this question, that if I was an intellectual giant like him I should feel very much greater confidence in venturing to become the leader of this important question and doing my best with it; but although I am so much inferior a man in intellectual and mental capacity, I now say, and I told Mr. Courtney, I yield neither to him nor any other man in showing an earnestness in promoting this question to the utmost of my ability. (Applause.) I intend to prove my honesty of purpose by

showing a determination to further the interests of this society. (Applause.) If sincerity, honesty, and earnestness will accomplish what the ladies wish to accomplish, I can only say that I most sincerely hope and believe that the present Parliament will perform this great act of justice and enfranchise women. (Applause.) You are aware, ladies, that there is a great block in the House of Commons owing to Irish questions occupying so much time. Now I am doing what I can, by standing steadily by the Government, to enable them to bring the Irish questions before the House. Sir Wilfrid Lawson has an important amendment to bring before the House, and though I am entirely with him, as I am with one or two of the amendments brought forward by the Irish members, abstractedly—for I yield to no one in the desire to do justice to Ireland—still, seeing that the Irish questions are blocking the way to the consideration of most important English questions, I can only see one course for myself to take, and that is to support the Government, and thus get rid of the present block to public business. That is the course I have decided to take. I may inform you that I am not unacquainted with the question which you wish me to take in hand. I have been connected with the association, and also a subscriber to it almost since the day it was formed; and I think Miss Becker will do me the justice to say that not only have I subscribed to this particular association, but that there are two other associations in which I take an interest. I am, of course, new to parliamentary work, and I shall have to bespeak your indulgence, and ask you to give me all the assistance you possibly can in the duty which now lies before me. I accede to this public request with great pleasure indeed. (Applause.) I esteem it a great honour to have been asked to undertake the duty, and to have been waited upon by a deputation so large, so influential, and so representative; and if anything could encourage me in the work, it is the fact that so many ladies in this inclement weather have travelled so long a distance to ask me earnestly to undertake the duty. I do not think I can say anything more beyond reading the resolution which the ladies desire I should put on the parliamentary paper immediately, so that friends in the country may know that the work is not resting. That resolution is: "That in the opinion of this House 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." I will do my best with this resolution, and if I fail in persuading this new House of Commons—I do not think the House is going against us at all, I have great confidence in it—to accept it, it will not be for want of earnest devotion to the duty I have undertaken. I feel the great responsibility of it, and I will do my best to bring the work to a successful issue. (Applause.)

Mr. THOMASSON, M.P., in cordially thanking Mr. Mason for having acceded to the request of the deputation, said that he was certain that they had not made a wrong choice, and that the result would justify the selection they had made. He personally thanked Mr. Mason for having consented to become the leader of the movement in the House of Commons.

Mr. MASON, M.P., intimated to the deputation that Mr. Lewis Fry, a colleague of Mr. S. Morley in the representation of Bristol, had written stating how sorry he was that he could not be present on that occasion. He had also received a letter from Mrs. Henry Fawcett regretting that she was unable to join the deputation.

The proceedings then terminated.

The University of Barcelona has admitted a young woman, Mlle. Dolores Alen, to the medical degree.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

January 22, 1881.

## THE FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

## NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. H. MASON: On an early day to move a resolution in favour of the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which enable men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

January 13, 1881.

## MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

On the order of the day for the second reading of this Bill, Mr. G. ANDERSON said: I beg leave to move the second reading of this measure, which, I may inform the House, is identical with the one which passed a similar stage last session.

Mr. HEALY: I object to this measure being proceeded with. ("Oh!") I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether it does not come under the half-past twelve o'clock rule? If it does, I oppose it.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no notice of opposition on the paper, therefore the hon. member for Glasgow is quite in order.

Mr. ANDERSON: As I have said, the Bill was read a second time last year, on the understanding that amendments to be proposed by the Government should be inserted at a future stage. If the present stage is acceded to, I shall have no objection to the reference of the measure to a Select Committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The measure is similar to the English Bill promoted by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Hinde Palmer). In the case of either Bill I think it would be inexpedient to raise a discussion on the second reading. They will come before the House in detail later on, and the discussion of their provisions should be reserved till then. It seems to me that the best course would be to read the Bill before the House a second time and then refer it to a Select Committee.

Sir R. A. CROSS: For my part I should have no objection to the Bill being read a second time, on the understanding that it will be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. E. D. GRAY: I was under the impression that the second reading of a Bill was, usually, the stage at which its principles are explained and a discussion on them taken. I do not see any reason, as an individual, why, because the hon. member for Glasgow did not avail himself of his right to have the measure discussed yesterday, he should bring it forward to-night at this hour and expect to carry it through a stage. I am a married man myself, and am therefore interested in this matter. How do I know that it may not at some future time be sought to apply the law of Scotland, if this Bill passes, to Ireland? The hon. member for Glasgow ought to afford hon. gentlemen who are not so wise as himself on this subject some information as to what the Bill means. It is true I am only a young member of the House, still I always thought that the second reading was a time when some explanation of the principles of a measure, in contradistinction to its details, was afforded by its introducer. I must say I very much deprecate the unusual course adopted on this occasion.

Mr. HOPWOOD: I trust the hon. member will not pursue quite so vexatious a course as to oppose a very useful measure like this, merely because the hon. member for Glasgow does not stand well in their eyes. (No, no.) I cannot understand how hon. gentlemen who desire that legislation should be fair towards all classes in the empire can act in that way. This measure has already received the approval of Parliament. It is desired by the Scotch members, and it seems to me unworthy of the position of any hon. member opposite to oppose it merely on the ground of personal animosity to its introducer.

Dr. WEBSTER: I am gratified at the concession made by the hon. member for Glasgow in agreeing to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. There is now some prospect of having this most important question brought to a satisfactory issue during an over-

burdened session. When so much time must of necessity be devoted to the Irish question, it is but fair that the way should be smoothed towards doing justice to Scotland in this matter. The Bill admits of very great discussion and considerable improvement, but, having before our eyes the experience of last session as to the great benefit of referring a Bill to a Select Committee—when the Fraudulent Debtors' Bill of the hon. member for Glasgow (Dr. Cameron) was turned out of hand in admirable style—we cannot, I think, do better than follow the same course with this Bill.

Mr. DALY: I am not one of those animated by vexatious opposition or by feelings of animosity or hostility to the hon. member for Glasgow (Mr. Anderson); but in every measure introduced to the House and put on the books each member has a direct personal responsibility, and I therefore do not agree with passing a measure the provisions of which I am ignorant of. I am an unmarried man—(laughter)—but I do not know how much my future welfare may not be affected by the measure. I agree with what has been said on this side of the House, that the hon. member for Glasgow has only himself to blame. He had his opportunity yesterday and did not avail himself of it. For my own part I claim a right to hear what the Bill is before I vote for it.

Mr. DICK PADDIE: The hon. member for Glasgow got the measure very fully discussed last session, and after that discussion it passed a second reading. If he has refrained from addressing the House at length to-night it has been merely for the sake of saving the time of the House, and it therefore seems to me that, instead of there being a charge brought against him, he ought to receive every consideration at the hands of hon. members.

Mr. HEALY: One point seems to have been overlooked in this discussion, namely, that the hon. member for Glasgow had a favourable opportunity of passing the Bill through last session. The Government may give him a day, therefore, as it must be very inconvenient to discuss a measure of this kind at such a late hour. I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. O'SHEA seconded the motion.

Mr. ANDERSON: I have no wish except to save the time of the House on account of the lateness of the hour, and because the Bill was so abundantly discussed last session, now only a few months back. The hon. gentleman opposite who says he is ignorant of the provisions of the Bill has only himself to thank for that, as the measure has been printed and distributed, and any number of copies can be had. It is his own fault if he has not read the Bill, and if he did not see in the orders of the day that it was down for second reading to-day. If he wished to master the provisions of the measure to form a judgment to enable him to vote upon it, it was his business to read it. I am quite ready, if it is thought desirable, to go into a discussion of the Bill, but it certainly would seem to me unnecessary, and that I should only be wearying the House if I did. In order, however, to show the House the extreme necessity of some measure for the protection of the property of married women, I would refer to a case that came before the courts the other day, viz., that of Mr. Birchall. This person, it seems, had a wife who possessed £45,000 in her own right. She had no ante-nuptial settlement, consequently the money went to the husband; but to make her safe the husband made a will in her favour, and gave her that will. Mr. Birchall died in the home of a mistress, and it was then discovered that he had actually made a subsequent will to the first, by which the whole of his wife's property was conveyed away to his children by a former mistress, with the exception of a small annuity to the mistress in whose house he died. That is the sort of thing that bad husbands are able to do under the existing law. Bad husbands, I believe are the exception, but still there are such, and women are to be protected against them. I merely mention the Birchall case to show the necessity that exists for some greater protection for the property of married women than married women have at present. I do hope the House will allow the Bill to go to a second reading on the condition I have referred to, viz., that it shall then be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. CALLAN: I make a point of never reading a Scotch Bill until I hear it explained, because as a rule they are so abstruse and mystifying that they require considerable elucidation. It eases my mind to hear some explanation of them. When I heard this rigmorale about a former mistress, a present mistress, and a deceased mistress I might, had I not known the circumstances, have naturally concluded that the case occurred in Scotland, and that it could only occur there; but, although it has been seriously addressed to

the House as an argument in favour of the second reading of a Bill for Scotland, the circumstance never occurred in Scotland at all.

Mr. ANDERSON: It might any day.

Mr. CALLAN: No doubt it might, but then it might not. It is a mere supposititious case as far as Scotland is concerned. It would be an argument if applied to the measure which stands lower down on the paper—"The Married Women's Property Bill," a Bill which has reference to England. No doubt such a case as that referred to by the hon. member did occur in Lancashire within the last few months. It was a most painful case, and I will not further allude to it. There are two classes of property which I, so far as I am concerned, object to see dealt with at this hour of the night; and one is real property—even real property in Ireland—and the other married women's property. Both should be dealt with in a calm mood and at an early hour of the day, such as the hon. member might have availed himself of yesterday, for the consideration of his Bill. As the hon. member did not preface the moving of the second reading with an explanation of the principles of the measure yesterday, we should not be asked to remain any longer out of our beds to consider the Bill. I support the proposal for the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. W. FOWLER: I should be glad to remain out of my bed a little longer in order to enable the hon. member for Glasgow to pass his Bill through this stage, and so do something towards removing a law so abominable as that which applies to married women. I fail to understand how hon. members opposite can expect any good to accrue from their offering opposition to such a valuable measure as this. They will make themselves the enemies of every married woman in England, Scotland, and Ireland if they persistently oppose it.

Mr. GRAY: With reference to the fearful example the hon. member has mentioned—I mean the case of Mr. Birchall—I hope he will not proceed to show that this monster was an Irishman, and that the matter will not be pushed any farther. I have no desire to see a division taken, as I do not think the matter of sufficient importance, but the hon. member might at least have taken the hint that as he is able to purchase the support of the Government, so also he is able to purchase opposition from us. I do not wish to oppose the Bill or stand in its way, but I must say I do not see that because a Bill passed last year it is not to be discussed this session. This doctrine would apply to most Bills if it applied to this. As an argument, however, it does not hold water. I trust the motion for the adjournment of the debate will not be pressed.

Mr. O'CONNOR POWER: I just wish to make one observation on this matter, and it is this: In the first instance I wish to express my strong repugnance to the transaction of any business at all in this House after half-past twelve o'clock. In the last Parliament I persistently opposed every measure, no matter whether it applied to England, Scotland, or Ireland, brought on after half-past twelve; and when Irish members are called on to waive their strong convictions, the appeal should rest on grounds of courtesy, and should come from those who have established a claim to the courtesy of the Irish members. I merely make this observation in the hope that it may convey some instruction in a modest and private form to some members of this House. The hon. member for Glasgow is fighting his side of the question under considerable advantages. He is fighting under the protection of the married women, and I am sure the hon. and gallant gentleman, the member for the borough of Wexford, will take the sweetest revenge he can for the insult offered to the Irish members at an early period of the evening by withdrawing his motion for adjournment.

Dr. COMMINS: I have every desire to see the law relating to the property of married women amended in England, Scotland, and Ireland—if married women have any property in the last-mentioned country—and I know the difficulties of the question as well as the hon. member for Stockport (Mr. Hopwood). I do not think a better illustration of the inexpediency of dealing with the subject in an off-hand way could have been afforded than was given by the hon. member for Glasgow in one argument he used. He said we should allow the measure to pass on account of the lateness of the hour. When he wishes us to correct a wrong of any sort he should give us to understand what that wrong is. I confess I have not had time to read his Bill, but it really will be an extraordinary one if it at all deals with such cases as the one he has quoted. I know something about the Birchall case, and I must say that if ever protection was given by

the law of settlement to the property of any married woman, it was given to that of Mrs. Birchall. Every penny of her money was in trust under the settlement. The husband managed to abstract it from the trust by what was nothing more nor less than embezzlement. Well, I should like to know what there is in this Bill which is not embraced in the criminal law which would have prevented this crime? Mr. Birchall was a man who occupied a considerable position. He was Clerk of the Peace for the county of Lancaster, and was amenable to a court other than any which could be established by this Bill. I refer to the rather inappropriateness of the argument of the hon. member to show how necessary it is that proper opportunity should be given for the discussion of this matter—a matter which has been dealt with over and over again during the past few years, and which every successive judicial decision shows the difficulty of dealing with with satisfaction.

Mr. HEALY: An appeal has been made to me to withdraw the motion, but before I say anything about that I should like to point out that, although no doubt the Bill is printed—(Cries of "Order.") I am speaking on the question of withdrawing the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not entitled to make a second speech. If he desires to explain the ground on which he proposes to withdraw the motion for adjourning the debate, the House no doubt will grant him its indulgence. He is not allowed to make a second speech.

Mr. HEALY: I withdraw the motion in deference to my hon. friend the member for Mayo (Mr. O'Connor Power), and not out of consideration for the hon. member opposite.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Mr. ANDERSON: I now move that it be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. BIGGAR: I object to that.

Mr. CALLAN: I have to ask for my own information, Mr. Speaker, whether it is competent for me to avail myself of the half-past twelve rule, to object to a motion of which no notice has been given, and, by so doing, to prevent its being further proceeded with to-night?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is quite in order in making the motion he has submitted to the House.

Mr. CALLAN: Am I to understand that I am also in order in objecting to it?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not in order in objecting to the motion of the hon. member for Glasgow.

Mr. CALLAN: We have read the Bill a second time—a stage which could have been taken yesterday if the hon. gentleman had cared to take it. The present motion has not appeared on the paper, and I have had no opportunity of putting down notice of opposition to it, to bring it under the half-past twelve rule. I ask if I am not within my privilege, under the circumstances, in objecting to further progress being made at this hour?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already stated that the hon. member is not in order in raising the objection that he now raises to the further progress of this Bill.

Mr. O'CONNOR POWER: I imagine, Mr. Speaker, that in consequence of your decision the only thing the House can do is to leave it to the hon. member for Glasgow himself to say whether he ought not to be content with having advanced his Bill a stage. I confess I have the greatest sympathy with him and with all engaged in the amendment of the law in this direction, and if the hon. member will consider the matter I am sure he will see that it will be to the benefit of the cause he represents that we should have an opportunity of considering the Bill a little further. Some of us may have amendments to propose. I assure him I make this proposal in all sympathy with him.

Mr. ANDERSON: Perhaps I might be allowed to say that I got the stage of second reading only conditionally on my promising to make a motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee immediately afterwards. I was therefore bound to move the reference. The House may object, but I simply fulfilled a pledge. I do trust the House will agree, because if it does not it will interfere with the measure going before a Select Committee, by whom it can be thoroughly discussed. If any Irish member would like to be on the committee, I have no doubt he could be placed on it, and have an opportunity of going into the merits of the case there.

Mr. CALLAN (who rose amidst cries of "Order"): I want to ask a question. As I was not in order in objecting, and as I did not

hear the promise made which has been referred to—a promise which I don't believe was made—"Oh, oh," and "Order"—I do not mean that exactly, but at any rate to end the matter I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will any hon. member second that motion?

Mr. HEALY: I beg to second it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. PARNELL: As the House has allowed the hon. member for Glasgow to take the second reading stage, I think my hon. friends cannot fairly prevent him having it referred to a Select Committee. If they wish to oppose the Bill they can do so by putting down notice of opposition a little later on. I do not think there is much to be gained by prolonging the discussion now.

Mr. CALLAN: Having had it pointed out to me how I can effectually stop the Bill at the next stage equally as well as now, I accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Cork. I withdraw my motion as an act of courtesy to him, and not to the hon. member for Glasgow.

The Bill was then referred to a Select Committee.

The Married Women's Property Bill was also read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

#### THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

##### DEPUTATION TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

The Lord Chancellor received Mr. Hinde Palmer, M.P., Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., Mr. Arthur Arnold, M.P., and Sir Arthur Hobhouse in his room at the House of Lords on January 7th, concerning Mr. Palmer's Married Women's Property Bill; and after listening very attentively to all that was said by the four gentlemen, the Lord Chancellor expressed himself very favourable to an amendment of the law such as would more effectually protect married women, and would enable women to have firmer control over their earnings and greater security for their property. It is understood that when Mr. Palmer's Bill is prepared the Lord Chancellor will consider it favourably, and if he approve its provisions his Lordship will consult as to what facilities can be given for the enactment of the measure.

#### DISCUSSION AT THE SOCIAL SCIENCE ROOMS.

A paper on the Bill to amend the Acts relating to the property of married women, which has been introduced this session, was read by Mr. C. B. M'Laren, M.P., on Jan. 22nd, before the Law Amendment Society, at 1, Adam-street, Adelphi. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Hinde Palmer, Q.C., M.P., and among those present were Sir David Wedderburn, M.P., Sir Arthur Hobhouse, Mr. Horace Davey, Q.C., M.P., Mr. G. Palmer, M.P., Mr. H. Lee, M.P., Mr. W. Summers, M.P., Mr. J. F. Cheetham, M.P., Mrs. Duncan M'Laren, and Miss Helen Taylor. Mr. Louis Clifford-Smith, assistant secretary, stated that he had received letters from many gentlemen who were unable to attend, among them being Lord Sherbrooke, Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., Mr. J. T. Hibbert, M.P., Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., and Sir E. J. Reed, C.B., M.P. Mr. M'Laren maintained that the law with respect to the property of married women ought to be fundamentally changed in accordance with the relations of modern society, and that all amendment ought to proceed upon the principle that the labour of each of the partners in matrimony should be for the use of both, and that neither partner should be responsible for the acts of the other. The Bill of 1881 proceeded upon this principle, and at the outset it enacted that the act of marriage should leave the property both of husband and wife unaffected. It secured in the case of a happy marriage the enjoyment of this property to both, while in the case of domestic differences it gave to each the complete dominion over his or

her separate estate. The Bill really secured to all women the advantages now possessed only by the rich, who could afford the luxury of a settlement; and it thus revealed what really amounted to an oppressive and prohibitive tax upon justice to the poor. Out of every 13 wives not more than two could pay for or really understand the need of a marriage settlement; but this Bill would afford protection to all. The Bill might be made a complete code of the law of conjugal property; but this would be too bold an effort. Some of its details, however, were valuable instalments of reform. Sir Arthur Hobhouse, Mr. G. Palmer, M.P., Mr. Horace Davey, M.P., Sir D. Wedderburn, M.P., and some others having spoken in favour of the principle of the Bill, the chairman, in summing up the discussion, said that considering the character of the present Bill, he was not sorry that it would have to undergo the ordeal of examination by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. Referring to a passage of the speech in which Lord Cairns introduced Mr. Russell Gurney's Bill of 1870 in the House of Lords, he said Lord Cairns had there laid down what the promoters of this Bill wished to see carried into effect. The Lord Chancellor had in a private interview had the provisions of the Bill explained to him, and Mr. Palmer said he thought he was justified in saying that his Lordship took a favourable view of the general principles upon which they proceeded.—*Times*.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### BRISTOL.

The annual meeting of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage was held at the Society's office, 20, Park-street, Bristol, on January 27th. There was a fair attendance, though many were prevented from coming owing to the severity of the weather. Mrs. Arthur Tanner, who had been announced to take the chair, being prevented from attending by illness, the Rev. Urijah Thomas was moved into the chair. Letters of regret for absence were announced from Mr. Mark Whitnail, Mrs. Beddoe, Mrs. M'Iqham, Miss Schaw-Protheroe, also from the Rev. W. C. Prideaux, and from Mrs. Thomas Pease. The Secretary having read the report and the statement of accounts, their adoption was moved by Miss Estlin, who congratulated the society on the progress made since the first small beginning in which she had taken part. Mr. Greenwell, seconding the resolution, enumerated various signs of progress, referring especially to the demonstrations of women which had been held in the past year, and which had effectually answered the objection that women are indifferent. He added that when the movement began it used to be objected that it was supported by a few families only; this could no longer be said. When the society last year wished to raise a fund of £1,000, the whole was subscribed in a few days and wholly by ladies. The resolution being carried, Mr. Cox moved and Miss Sturge seconded the following resolution: "That this society deeply regrets the loss the society has suffered by the resignation of Mr. Courtney's leadership of the women's suffrage movement; and whilst congratulating him on his acceptance of office under the Government, desires to record its sincere and grateful sense of his invaluable past services to the society's cause." The resolution having been carried unanimously, the Rev. Urijah Thomas moved: "That this meeting, having learned with much satisfaction that Mr. Hugh Mason has consented to introduce a resolution in favour of women's suffrage during the present session of Parliament, pledges itself to support him by every means in his power." Mr. Thomas said the society was fortunate in having had such a series of

leaders, as first Mr. John Stuart Mill, then Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Forsyth, and Mr. Courtney, and now Mr. Hugh Mason, of whose strength of character and discretion of judgment all who knew him were sure. He reminded the meeting that Mr. Mason had last year been chosen to move the Address to the Throne, which was a sign of the respect with which he is regarded by those who know him. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Ashworth Hallett. She said it was a striking fact that a movement which did not affect electors should have had such men as those just enumerated by Mr. Thomas as leaders. Not only the direct action of the movement itself, such as the demonstrations, showed advance. An influence quite outside had been at work lately, the general election, which had filled the atmosphere with politics; she had been surprised at the numbers of ladies in such a town as Bath who had complained at not being able to vote. Another satisfactory sign was the sympathy shown by working men who had recently been striving for their own enfranchisement. The committee had just received a letter from the secretary of the "Bristol, West of England, and South Wales Trade Operatives' Provident Society," stating that at the general meeting of the society held last week their secretary had been appointed to attend the deputation to Mr. Gladstone in favour of the enfranchisement of women, and instructions had been issued to the various centres in the chief towns of the district to support the movement. This resolution was also carried unanimously. The election of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year was next moved by Miss M. Colby, seconded by Mr. Joseph H. Perry, and carried. A petition was adopted on the motion of Miss Priestman, seconded by the Rev. J. Temperly Greg, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

#### LECTURES.

##### MILLOM.

On January 12th Miss Becker delivered a lecture on the claim of women to the parliamentary franchise, on behalf of the National Reform Union, in the Temperance Hall, Milloom, Cumberland. The chair was occupied by J. S. AINSWORTH, Esq., of Cleator, chairman of the West Cumberland Liberal Association, and brother of D. Ainsworth, Esq., M.P. for West Cumberland. There was a very numerous attendance, consisting largely of Cornish miners, who have come over to work in the iron mines of the district, which abuts on Barrow-in-Furness. Many of these attended the lecture before going down for their night's work in the mines. The hall was quite crowded, and many were unable to get in.

The Chairman introduced the lecturer in a brief and appropriate address.

Miss BECKER then delivered her lecture, which was heard throughout with deep attention and frequent expressions of applause. After explaining the nature of the claim, the lecturer mentioned the disadvantages under which women were often placed with regard to the Property Acts, liabilities for personal injuries, &c., and closed her lecture by suggesting that a petition be adopted in favour of women's suffrage, and forwarded to the member for the district.

The Chairman undertook to sign the memorial and forward it to his brother, who, he was quite sure, would bring it before the House.

Mr. W. GRAHAM moved that the following memorial be forwarded from the meeting to the House of Commons through the member for the district:—"That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principles of just representation, and to that of the laws

now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative government."

Mr. GEORGE SHELDON seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

##### STAMFORD.

On January 18th, Miss Becker gave a lecture on behalf of the National Reform Union to the members of the Stamford Liberal Association in the Oddfellows' Hall, Stamford, on the claim of women to the parliamentary franchise. There was a fair attendance, notwithstanding the violent storm of drifting snow which caused so much disaster that night. The lecture was well received, and a petition was adopted by the meeting, and presented to Mr. Buzard, J.P., member for the borough, for presentation to the House of Commons.

##### EDINBURGH.

On Wednesday, the 26th ultimo, at the request of the Pleasance Temperance Society, at one of their regular meetings, Miss Simpson read a paper entitled "Some aspects of the woman's question," in which she gave interesting details of the progress of the movement in the different European and American countries. Though the evening was so cold as to have frozen the gas, and cold enough to frighten many people from turning out, yet by the light of a good fire and three candles a very creditable meeting assembled. The chairman and others spoke afterwards.

#### DEBATING SOCIETIES.

##### BEDFORD.

On Monday, November 15th, the Bedford Debating Society held its opening meeting, the subject under discussion being "The Political and Social Rights of Women." Mr. Elger presided, and the Assembly Room was well filled with an attractive audience. Mr. J. Hawkins read a paper, which did full justice to the various claims of women; and Mrs. Ransom (Kenyrston), Miss Louisa Bigg (Luton), Mr. Rowland Hill, Mr. Fenlinson, and Mr. Carruthers followed on the same side. The opponents were Mr. G. Flaws and Mr. Lissack, jun. There was no division, owing to a rule of the society forbidding it under any circumstances.

##### SHANKLIN.

The subject for the debate at the Shanklin Literary Institute on Tuesday evening was "Women's Suffrage;" Mr. I. Holling in the chair. Mr. Pike had promised to propound the question, taking the side in opposition to the extension of the franchise to women, but as he was absent through indisposition, Mr. Judd volunteered to open the subject on the other side of the question. For some time the debate was one-sided, the repeated appeals of the chairman for someone to take the adverse side being at first fruitless. At length champions came forward, among them being Dr. Dabbs, who, as he explained, took that side in order to show what might be advanced against the extension of the franchise to the gentler sex. Mr. Judd propounded with the assertion that, all other conditions being equal, the privileges of the franchise, as at present enjoyed by men, should be extended to women. He was followed on the same side by Mr. F. Ball, Mr. Ponder, Mr. W. Wells, Mr. H. Jones, Mr. J. M. Brown, Mr. J. Warder, Mr. D. Rogers, Mr. Steward, Mr. W. A. Allen, and the chairman. Dr. Dabbs, Mr. Grenham, and Mr. Sims spoke on the other side. On the proposition being put to the vote, seventeen declared in favour of women's suffrage and seven against it. Votes of thanks to the chairman and the propounder concluded the proceedings.

## THE PRESENT MAYOR OF MANCHESTER.

Alderman Baker, the present Mayor of Manchester, has throughout his whole public career been a steady friend of the political, social, and industrial rights of women. He has shown his regard for the latter in a very practical way, by using his influence, as chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, to promote the employment of women as assistants in the public free libraries of Manchester. In a paper read at a conference in Manchester of the United Libraries' Association, Mr. Alderman Baker said that for nineteen years after the formation of the Manchester Free Libraries boys and young men *only* were engaged as assistants. Good wages were paid, and no dissatisfaction was expressed with the work, but the younger boys considered it a grievance to have to remain after ordinary office hours, and the elder ones left for better-paid situations. The frequent vacancies that occurred caused much inconvenience in the maintenance of that order and efficiency which were essential to the work. At that time the subject of women's rights, duties, and employment, and particularly their exclusion from certain trades and professions, was engaging the attention of thoughtful people; and Mr. Baker, chairman of the Libraries Committee, suggested that women should be tried as assistants. The branch librarians would have preferred the continuance of the old system, but they did not allow that feeling to interfere with carrying out the wishes of the committee, and now he believed there was not one of them who was not in favour of the change. The experiment answered in every way. At that time, 1879, there were thirty-one or more in the libraries, at wages varying from 10s. to 18s. per week. At the present time the number is thirty-three. They are regular in their attendance, uniformly courteous to borrowers, and contented with their employment. Changes were few, and if a vacancy did occur there were many applicants for it. In the current number of a French Review devoted to libraries, *Le Livre Revue Mensuelle, Janvier*, 1881, there is an interesting notice of this experiment, and a recommendation that it should be adopted in France.

From the beginning of the movement in Manchester for the enfranchisement of women, it received Mr. Baker's active sympathy. When the infant organisation needed a local habitation, and was yet too slender in its resources to afford to pay rent for an office, Mr. Baker generously came to its aid and offered the use of rooms in a building belonging to him in which his own offices, as a solicitor, are situated. In these rooms, No. 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, the Society had a home rent free until its growing resources and magnitude rendered it proper to pay for the accommodation afforded. But the society has never moved from its original location adjoining the professional offices of Mr. Baker, and it may be hoped that he will at no very distant period be a witness of the success of the movement which has been as it were under his roof from the beginning of its public career.

Mr. Baker has on various occasions spoken in support of the claim of women to political rights. He ably supported the petition in the Manchester City Council, and he has also taken part in some of the annual meetings of the society. He was elected Mayor of Manchester last November, and he presided at the annual meeting in the Town Hall on December 8th. This was the first occasion on which a Mayor of Manchester had taken the chair in the large room of the new Town Hall, and the meeting was the greatest, both as regards attendance and influential character, that had ever been held during the course of the movement. The Mayor and Mayoress afterwards gave a brilliant party in their private apartments in the Town Hall to

meet Mr. Courtney and the members of the Executive Committee. The Town Hall bells were rung, and the room beautifully decorated with plants, &c., for the evening. Everything was done which could render the occasion one to be enjoyed by those who were present, and to be regarded as a memorable and highly gratifying incident in the annals of the Women's Suffrage Society of Manchester.

## THE ISLE OF MAN ELECTORAL BILL.

The following is the history of the successive changes in the clauses relating to the franchise in the Electoral Act, which was yesterday promulgated from the Tynwald Hill.

The full text of the franchise clauses in the Bill as submitted by direction of the Lieutenant Governor was given in the *Women's Suffrage Journal* for December, 1880, page 206. They provided for the exercise of the franchise by every male person of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity who was qualified:—1. As the *owner* of real estate within the district of the annual value of not less than £5. 2. As the *occupier* of real estate of not less than £8. 3. As being an inhabitant occupier as owner or tenant of any dwelling-house within the district. 4. As a lodger having occupied the same lodgings but of the annual value of £10 unfurnished for a certain period, persons were required to have paid all rates.

The Acting Speaker having pointed out that under the clause as drawn women could not vote, an amendment to omit the word male was moved and carried by a large majority. Ultimately the franchise clauses were passed by the Keys in the following form:—

5. From and after the promulgation of this Act every person who is of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, when registered, to vote for a member or members to be returned for an electoral district who is qualified as follows (that is to say):—

- (1) Is the owner of real estate within the district of the annual value of not less than four pounds on the twelfth day of May in any year, and has been during the preceding twelve months; or
- (2) Is the occupier of real estate within the district which is rated at the annual value of not less than four pounds, and is rated as such occupier, and has paid all Lunatic Asylum and town rates for which the premises have been rated on or prior to the twelfth day of May then last past: Provided always that no person being only a lessee or sub-lessee or assignee of any lease shall have a right to vote in any election in respect of his interest in any premises unless he shall be in the actual occupation of such premises; or
- (3) As a lodger has occupied in the same district separately and as sole tenant for the twelve months preceding the twelfth day of May in any year the same lodgings, such lodgings being part of one and the same dwelling-house and of a clear yearly value, if let unfurnished, of ten pounds and upwards, and has resided in such lodgings during the twelve months preceding the twelfth day of May, and has claimed to be registered as a voter at the next ensuing registration of voters.
- (4) Is the certificated schoolmaster of any Board School, or school receiving a grant from moneys provided by Tynwald, and as such is an inhabitant occupier of a dwelling-house within the district.

The following statement of the provisions of the Bill as it finally left the Insular Legislature is taken from the *Isle of Man Examiner*:—"By s. 5, votes are conferred on every male person, or spinster, or widow who is the *owner* of real estate of the annual value of four pounds (sub-sec. 1), like annual value (sub-sec. 2), and on every male lodger, subject to the conditions set forth in the section (sub-sec. 3). Sec. 6 confers votes, subject to conditions, on joint owners and occupiers as real estate."

## REVIEW.

*The Duties of Women.* A COURSE OF LECTURES BY FRANCES POWER COBBE. William & Norgate, 14, Henrietta-street, London, and 20, South Frederick-street, Edinburgh, 1881.

We give a cordial welcome to the publication of the course of lectures, which were delivered to ladies some months ago, in London and elsewhere, by Miss Cobbe. They were designed for women in the upper classes of society, and, as the author explains, they were prepared with a view to such *viva voce* use, and not for perusal in a book. Also we are told that the plan of their delivery included many extempore illustrations and lighter remarks, some of which are preserved in the shape of footnotes. Those who have enjoyed the privilege of hearing the accomplished lecturer deliver verbally a speech or address, of which the substance has been written or prepared beforehand for the reporter, will be able to form an idea of the sparkle and telling effect of these extempore illustrations. Those who have not may rest assured that if they can prevail on the lady to repeat the course, they will be rewarded by a wealth of illustration and humour which will give new meaning and vividness to the thoughts expressed on the printed page.

In her preface the author thus explains her position as regards the subject in question:—

"I have been for many years deeply interested in what is called the 'Woman's Movement,' and have taken part in pleading for the higher education of women; for the admission of women to University degrees; for the protection of the property of married women; for the employment of women; for the protection of women from aggravated assaults; for the entrance of women into the medical profession; and, lastly, for extension of the parliamentary suffrage to women possessed of the requisite property qualification. Of the wisdom of many of these demands (so far as they were then formulated) I was not in my earlier life convinced. I was then of opinion that the happy duties of a daughter and mistress of a household which fell to my lot, together with village charities and literary and other pursuits, sufficiently filled up the life of a woman, without adding to them wider social and political aims. It was only after I had laboured for some time with my honoured friend Mary Carpenter, at Bristol, and learned to feel intense interest in the legislation which might possibly mitigate the evils of crime and pauperism, that I seriously asked myself (under the upbraiding of that good old Abolitionist S. J. May) *why* I should not seek for political representation as the direct and natural means of aiding every reform I had at heart? The answer was not long doubtful; and now for nearly a quarter of a century I have, as I have just said, associated myself to the best of my ability more or less with nearly all the movements in England for the advancement of women. Looking back over those years I find I have not lost one jot of faith in the righteousness or expediency of our demands. On the contrary, I have seen every year more reason to regard the part hereafter to be played by women in public affairs, as offering the best hope for the moral, and still more emphatically, for the spiritual, interests of humanity."

"Men, especially Englishmen and Americans, are, as a rule, wonderfully generous to women. Thousands of them labour for their mothers, their wives, or their daughters all their lives long; and the higher-minded are full of chivalrous indulgence for all women. If we count over with speechless indignation the hundreds of men who in our country yearly beat and tramp their wretched wives to death, we must never allow

that hideous fact—or any other of the many wrongs of our sex—to blind us to the counterbalancing truth that the average Englishman means well to women, and will make no small sacrifices for them; and that there exists at least as many noble and high-arted men, genuine champions of our sex, in Parliament and out of it, as there are wife-beating ruffians in the slums of Liverpool and London.

"But with all their kindly feelings, their good intentions, their readiness to labour and sacrifice themselves for women, men give us most rarely that which we really want, not favour, but—*Justice*. Nothing is easier than to coax them to pet us like children; nothing more difficult than to persuade them to treat us like responsible human beings. Only a small number of them, it would seem, can yet be brought to realise that we have not only mouths to be fed and hearts to be comforted by faithful affection, but also brains to be cultivated, and wills seeking also, like their own, for the free use of whatever powers we may inherit. That a woman should really possess *Public Spirit*, and that its exercise should be as ennobling to her as it is to a man, this is a lesson which it takes most men half a life time to learn."

The lecturer strikes to the root of the matter when she says:

"The best and healthiest way to view all the huge injustices of the past, all the many lingering injustices of the present under which our sex has suffered, is to consider that men (even good and generous men) have treated women uniformly as *Minors*—sometimes as petted children, sometimes in the harsh and despotic way in which children were commonly treated in former days, but in any case making *obedience* a virtue in a wife of forty as it is in a child at four or fourteen, and compliance with their masterful wishes pretty nearly the be-all and end-all of the virtue of a woman, as it is of a dog or a baby."

This view of womanly duty has been recently propounded with much force and eloquence by a popular divine. The Rev. J. Knox Little says in a Sermon to Women: "Wifehood is the crowning glory of a woman. She brings to it the gifts of the Creator, endurance, loving submission, and intricacy of thought. In it she is bound for all time. To her husband she owes the duty of unqualified obedience. There is no crime which a man can commit which justifies his wife in leaving him. . . . It is her duty to subject herself to him always, and no crime that he can commit can justify her lack of obedience. If he is a bad or wicked man she may gently remonstrate with him, but refuse him, never."

It is well that the theory in virtue of which all women are deprived of political rights, and all wives of civil rights, should be thus plainly stated, for we believe that the doctrine that woman is shorn of all responsibility, is deprived of conscience, intelligent thought, self-respect, every attribute of personality to become a mere subject and appendage to a man, will be as repugnant to most men as to women; and that no true man would willingly hold another human being in a status of slavery so abject as this.

We need hardly say that the view of the status of women taken by Miss Cobbe is based on the recognition of the full rights and responsibilities of humanity in every woman as in every man. "We learn to bear in mind that whatever be the aim and end of the creation of a Man—the end which he ought steadfastly to contemplate and towards which he should guide the whole voyage of his life—that same aim and end is ours, and we too must keep it prominently before our eyes. Women have reason to thank Milton for having so distinctly and lucidly set forth the opposite and prevailing error—the great moral heresy (as I reckon it) on this point, so that we can recognise it in a moment and renounce it distinctly. Milton's doctrine,

as you all know, is that Man only is made directly for God's service—

He for God only—she for God in him;

or, as he elsewhere makes Eve say to Adam,

God is thy law—thou mine!

Now, if we women are to advance one step forward, our very first leap must be over this abominable and ridiculous doctrine! For once in my life I find myself able to avail myself of the words of the Westminster Catechism, and I say that we are made 'to know God and enjoy Him for ever,' to live for Him and advance His kingdom, which means the reign of justice, truth, and love—and all this directly and immediately, and not for God 'in' any man alive."

"Let us take it once for all thoroughly to heart. We women have before us the noblest end to which a finite creature may attain; and our duty is nothing else than the fulfilment of the whole moral law, the attainment of every human virtue."

The several lectures treat first of the personal duties of women or such as they owe to themselves, then of social duties under the following heads: (a) Duties arising from relationship—mothers, daughters, sisters, &c. (b) Duties founded on contract—wives, friends, &c. (c) Duties of women as mistresses of households. (d) Duties of women as members of society. (e) Duties of women as citizens of the State.

These are treated throughout from a high standpoint and in a manner calculated to arouse the conscience and fire the spirit of emulation to noble thoughts and deeds; to incite women to give themselves heart and soul to fulfil all the obligations—personal, social, and religious, which rest upon them—to gain the strength

To think, to feel, to do
Only the holy Right.
To yield no step in the awful race,
No blow in the fearful fight.

A BRAVE WOMAN REWARDED.—The most ardent opponent of women's rights will not grudge to a brave American woman a post given her recently by Mr. Secretary Sherman. Mrs. Wilson, the widow of a Boston sea captain, has a contemporary informs us, been made an inspectress in the New York Custom House. If great gallantry, domestic heroism, and public service count for anything, she certainly won her reward well. She was married at fourteen years of age. She went with her husband on all his voyages, and escaped all the chances and dangers of the sea until 1872, when the ship in which she was sailing was caught in a storm off Northumberland. The captain had his shoulder blade broken, the first mate was severely injured, the second mate was seized with a panic. But the brave woman was equal to the emergency. She took her husband's place, assumed control of the vessel, had the decks cleared, the pumps set to work, jury masts rigged, and finally navigated the ship to England. Nor was this all. The gallant heart which in a moment of emergency was able to cope with adverse circumstances, was strong enough to bear uncomplainingly for seven years the burthen of an invalid husband absolutely. Having got a situation in a dry goods establishment, she supported him and her child until his death. Who shall say that such heroism and devotion did not deserve to be well rewarded?—Irish Times.

A London correspondent of a Manchester paper states that Lady Florence Dixie is going out to the Cape as war correspondent of the Post. She has already seen a great deal of the world, but she has never seen war, and she goes out to tell the story of battle from a woman's point of view.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—Grant me space to invite all your readers to peruse the xi. chapter, 4th section, of Kinglake's just published 6th volume of the "Invasion of the Crimea." The chapter commences under the heading, "The priceless reinforcement of brain power that was brought to the rescue by a woman," and continues through some thirty pages to rehearse the failures and blunders of the male authorities and the brilliant success of the Lady-in-chief, Miss Nightingale; finally balancing the "undesigned trial of brain power and speed between man and woman." The historian sums up his conclusions (p. 445) in this notable paragraph: "Thus sorrowfully lagged the males in their undesigned trial of speed and power with what proved not only the swifter, not only the more agile mind, but also the higher capacity for executive business, and even the more intent will."—Truly yours, FRANCES POWER COBBE.

Byfleet, Weybridge, Jan. 16th.

ARTS EXAMINATION AT THE APOTHECARIES' HALL.

The following ladies have passed the Arts Examination of the Apothecaries' Hall, held January 21st and 22nd, 1881:—First division: Miss Caroline Keith, bracketed second; Miss Josephine Stuart Macdonough, fourth. Second division: Miss Elizabeth S. Collier; Miss Jessie Crosfield; Miss Elise Morgan; Miss Eliza Jane Stacey; Miss Lydia Maria Webb.

FEMALE CLERKSHIPS IN THE SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT.—Now that the Post-office Savings Bank, building in Queen Victoria-street, is about being put in thorough working order with respect to all the departments which deal with the rapidly-increasing business of Post-office Savings Banks, numerous appointments of female clerks are expected to be made; and not alone in the Central Office, but to those of various important provincial towns. Appointments can be secured only by competitive examination conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners; and the subjects for examination are—first, handwriting and orthography; secondly, English grammar and composition; thirdly, arithmetic, including vulgar and decimal fractions; fourthly, geography. Candidates under 17 and over 20 years of age are ineligible. The commencing and maximum salaries are classified thus:—Second-class clerks, £40 per annum, rising annually by £7. 10s. to £75; first-class clerks, £80 a year, rising by £7. 10s. yearly to £100; principal clerks, £110 a year, rising by £10 annually to £150. The number of candidates is expected to be out of all proportion to the number of situations to be filled.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES—For Removal.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE SIXTEENTH REPORT, 27 Sept., 1880. Brought forward, Petitions 256—Signatures 7,660

Sept. 2 LEICESTER (Mr. Peter Taylor) 20
1880 " " " 18

Total No. of Petitions 258—Signatures 7,698

These Petitions are similar to that from Darlington [APP. 121].

BOROUGH FRANCHISE (IRELAND) BILL—For Alteration.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE SIXTEENTH REPORT, 27 Sept., 1881. Brought forward, Petitions 39—Signatures 1,084

Sept. 7 MEATH (Mr. Metge) 41

Total No. of Petitions 40—Signatures 1,125

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES—For Removal.

FIRST REPORT 7—14 January, 1881.

Table listing petitions for women's disabilities removal, including locations like Leeds, Dublin, Stockport, and Manchester, with names of petitioners and counts.

Total No. of Petitions 30—Signatures 734

The Petitions marked thus (\*) are similar to that from Stockport [APP. 3].
The Petitions marked thus (†) are similar to that from Swansea [APP. 2].
The Petitions marked thus (⊙) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

App. 2. Mr. Dillwyn. Sig. 1.

7. The humble Petition of inhabitants of Swansea, in public meeting assembled in the Music Hall, Swansea, on September 3rd, 1881,

Sheweth,—That the franchise attached by law to the occupation or ownership of property liable to imperial and local taxation should be exercised by women in the election of Members of Parliament.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that any measure which may be introduced into your honourable House for the extension of household suffrage in counties or boroughs may include provision for the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women householders in counties and boroughs.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.
Signed on behalf of the meeting,
JNO. JONES JENKINS, Chairman.

App. 3. Mr. Hopwood. Sig. 60.

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

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass a measure to remove the electoral disabilities of women.
And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

ANNE LOMAS.
SARAH MOULT.
JOHN HINDLE.
&c. &c. &c.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, JANUARY, 1881.

Table listing subscribers to the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including names and amounts.

S. A. STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 23, JACKSON'S ROW, MANCHESTER.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

DECEMBER 20 TO JANUARY 20, 1881.

Table listing subscribers to the Central Committee, including names and amounts.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 64, BERNERS-STREET, W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JANUARY, 1881.

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