

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 148. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MAY 1, 1882.

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BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

Leading Articles:—The Resolution in the House of Commons; Meetings during April; Parliamentary Election Expenses Bill; Physical Force at Camborne; Ladies Elected as Guardians of the Poor; The Married Women's Property Bill; The Death of Mr. Darwin. The Recent Escape of Her Majesty the Queen. The Ballot in the House of Commons. Female Education in Ireland.

Public Meetings:—Great Meeting at St. James' Hall, London; Preliminary Meetings—New Cross, Clapham, Islington, Westbourne Hall, Chelsea. Drawing Room Meetings:—Hyde Park Gardens, Shortlands. Debating Societies:—Sutton (Surrey), London, Deal. Scotland:—The Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs; Edinburgh—Municipal Vote for Women; Glasgow.

Ireland:—Dublin, Belfast—Annual Meeting. Drawing Room Meetings—Belfast. Southampton Liberal Associations. Obituary:—Miss Dora Greenwell, Mrs. Daniel Harrison, Mr. Charles Darwin. Petitions. Treasurers' Reports:—Central Committee, Manchester, Bristol and West of England.

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. Written petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 64, Berners-street, London, W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

GLOUCESTER.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Corn Exchange, Gloucester, on Wednesday, May 3rd, in support of the Removal of the Electoral Disabilities of Women. The meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Mrs. M'Ilquham, Miss Emily Sturge, and Miss Helen Blackburn. The following ladies and gentlemen are expected to attend: Mr. Councillor Ashbee, Mrs. Ashbee, Francis T. Bond, Esq., M.D.; Frederick C. Cash, Esq.; Mrs. General Colby, The Misses Colby, Mr. J. W. Hopkins (British School), Frederick Sessions, Esq.; Mr. Councillor Seeking, W. Stafford, Esq., J.P.; Miss Wemyss, J. Wareing, Esq. The Chair will be taken at eight o'clock, by SAMUEL BOWLY, Esq. Admission Free. A few reserved seats 1s. each. Tickets may be obtained at Mrs. Headland's, stationer, Westgate-street.

A LADY can strongly RECOMMEND a LADIES' SCHOOL at St. Leonards-on-Sea.—Apply to Miss MORDAN, 29, Fopstone Road, London, S.W.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

A HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN engaged in Social and Political Work, Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN. Contains an Account of the Public Franchises open to Women—Information as to Educational Resources—A Concise Statement of Statutes affecting Women, and other miscellaneous information. Price One Shilling; postage 1½d.—Orders may be sent to the Editor, 20, Park-street, Bristol; to the Publisher, Mr. J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11, Quay-street, Bristol; and to 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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Paris
Blue
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as bad qualities are
often substituted.

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

CONTENTS FOR APRIL, 1882.

1. Magnanimity.
2. Food Production and Distribution.
3. The Practical Issues of Temperance.
4. The Poor Law Guardian Elections.

Correspondence.

Reviews:—Common Sense about Women. James T. Fields, &c.

Record of Events:—Hall of Residence in London—Cambridge Local Examinations—Edinburgh School Board Election—Poor Law Guardian Elections: Birmingham, Bristol, Bodington, Abergavenny, Elstree—Cheltenham and Cardiff defeated—Nomination in Marazoni and Bridgwater—Meeting at Hastings—London Elections: Lambeth, Woolwich, St. Pancras, Kensington, Paddington—Qualification of Married Women as Ratepayers—A Father's Liability to support Children—Suffrage—Lady Artists—Employment—Birmingham Association for Useful Work—Women's Temperance Association—Belfast—Married Women's Property Bill—Cases affecting Married Women—Women in the Baptist Church—Miss Dora Greenwell—Miscellaneous.

Foreign Notes and News.

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

“LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY.”

A Reply to Mr. Fitzjames Stephen's Strictures on Mr. J. S. Mill's “Subjection of Women,” by LYDIA E. BECKER. Reprinted from the *Women's Suffrage Journal*. Price 2d. To be had at 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 64, Berners-street, London, W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

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(Continued from page 79.)

Mar.		
3017	21	PENZANCE, Attendants at a Meeting held in St. John's Hall, Philip Hadiland, chairman (Sir J. St. Aubyn)
*3018	"	ELLEN J. SNOWDON and others (Mr. Slagg)
*3019	"	C. W. WOODHOUSE and others
*3020	"	EDWIN SNOWDEN and others
*3021	"	MARY GOOSEY and others (Mr. Spencer).....
*3022	"	RATHMINES and neighbourhood (Colonel Taylor)
*3023	"	Attendants at a Meeting held at the M'George Home, Palmerston Park (Col. Taylor)..
*3024	"	NORWICH (Mr. Tillett)
*3025	"	EDWARD ELAM and others (Mr. Charles Wilson).....
*3026	"	JOHN GLOVER and others
*3027	"	JOHN D. SIBREE and others
*3028	"	MAURICE COHEN and others
*3029	22	JAMES BLAKEY and others (Mr. Barran)
*3030	"	S. MORRIS and others
*3031	"	M. NEVILLE and others (Mr. Jackson)
*3032	"	E. B. DAVEY and others
+3033	"	S. GUILFORD and others (Mr. Arnold Morley)
+3034	"	L. SCOTT and others
+3035	"	NOTTINGHAM
+3036	"	W. STUART and others
*3037	23	GODLEY and HYDE (Mr. Cunliffe Brooks)
*3038	"	SUNDERLAND (Mr. Gourley)
*3039	"	ESSEX (Colonel Makins)
*3040	"	CRENCESSTER (Mr. Master).....
*3041	"	PORTISHEAD (Sir Philip Miles)
*3042	"	WEST HARTLEPOOL (Mr. Thomas Richardson)
*3043	"	"
*3044	"	CROYDON (Mr. Watney)
*3045	"	B. WARD and others (Sir H. Drummond Wolff)
*3046	"	CANTERBURY
*3047	"	"
*3048	24	NEWPORT, Monmouth (Mr. Carbutt)
*3049	"	"
*3050	"	CHARLES J. KEETON and others (Lord Claud Hamilton)
*3051	"	HUDDERSFIELD (Mr. Edward Leatham)
*3052	"	SLIGO (Mr. Sexton)
*3053	"	JANE E. CAMPBELL and others (Mr. Thompson)
*3054	27	HARROW (Mr. Coope)
*3055	"	J. MOORE and others (Mr. Daly)
*3056	"	C. W. HOBSON, clerk in holy orders, and others (Lord George Hamilton).....
*3057	"	NORTHAMPTON (Mr. Labouchere)
*3058	"	SOUTHAMPTON, M. Lucas, chairman (Mr. Lee)
*3059	"	BRISTOL (Mr. Samuel Morley)
*3060	28	NORTHALLERTON (Mr. G. W. Elliott)
*3061	"	F. PHILPS and others (Mr. Fenwick-Bisset)
*3062	"	STAFFORD (Mr. Salt)
*3063	"	J. DE LA TOUCHE and others (Mr. Severne)
*3064	"	LEICESTER (Mr. Peter Taylor)
*3065	"	"
*3066	"	"

Total number of Petitions 293—Signatures 9,259

The Petitions marked thus (*) are similar to that from W. P. Snell and others [APP. 6.]
 The Petitions marked thus (†) are similar to that from Dunshaughlin [APP. 33.]
 The Petitions marked thus (©) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

THE CALENDAR.

		MAY, 1882.		
		MOON.	Rises.	SUN. Sets.
3rd		Full Moon, 8h 31m morn.	4 30	7 23
10th		Last Quar., 0h 35m aft.	4 18	7 35
17th		New Moon, 7h 33m morn.	4 7	7 45
25th		First Quar., 0h 41m morn.	3 57	7 56
1	M	Fourth Debate Women's Disabilities Bill, 1872.		
2	T			
3	W	Resolution to admit Women to the Ladies' Gallery, H. of C., 1835. Third Debate Women's Disabilities Bill, 1871.		
4	Th	Second Reading of Women's Disabilities Bill carried in the H. of C., 1870. Dame Dorothy Pakington returned two members to Parliament, 14 Q. Elizabeth. S. Monica, 357.		
5	F			
6	S	Great Demonstration of Women, St. James' Hall, London, 1880.		
7	S	Fourth Sunday after Easter. Catherine I. crowned Empress of Russia (died 1873).		
8	M	Anti-Corn Law Bazaar, Covent Garden, 1845. John Stuart Mill		
9	T	Mdme. Guyon died 1717.		
10	W	11731.		
11	Th	Mary Astell (author of "A Serious Proposal to Ladies," etc) died		
12	F	Laura Bassi created Doctor of Philosophy, Bologna, 1732. Women's Disabilities Bill defeated on Committee in the H. of C., 1870.		
13	S			
14	S	Fifth Sunday after Easter. Rogation Sunday.		
15	M			
16	T	Maria Gaetana Agnesi (Prof. of Law) born Milan, 1718.		
17	W	Heloise died 1164.		
18	Th			
19	F	Mr. J. S. Mill's Motion on Women's Suffrage in H. of C., 1867.		
20	S			
21	S	Sunday after Ascension Day. Maria Edgeworth died 1849. Mrs. Fry born 1810. Julia Ward Howe born 1819.		
22	M			
23	T	Margaret Fuller born, 1810.		
24	W	Queen Victoria born 1819. Admission of Women Students to Durham University.		
25	Th			
26	F			
27	S	Matrimonial Causes Act, 1878 (Wives' Protection Act). Factory and Workshops Act, 1878.		
28	S	White Sunday. Miss C. Herschell and Mrs. Somerville elected Members of Royal Astron. Soc., 1828.		
29	M			
30	T			
31	W	Joan of Arc burnt. Ember Day.		

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As we go to press Mr. MASON has still been unsuccessful in his ballot for a night for his resolution. He may, however, succeed before this sheet reaches the hands of our readers, in which case the fact will be made known at once. Meantime we urge our readers to persevere with petitions until the subject is disposed of for the session.

The series of meetings held during April in London has been the most successful and influential demonstration of the kind that has taken place in the metropolis since the agitation began. Preliminary meetings were held in New Cross, Clapham, Islington, Bayswater, and Chelsea, addressed by Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, Miss BECKER, Mrs. SHEARER, Miss MULLER, Miss CAROLINE BIGGS, Miss BLACKBURN, Miss LILLY STACPOOLE, and Mrs. ARTHUR ARNOLD. Mr. DANIEL GRANT, M.P., Mr. BUSZARD, Q.C., M.P., and many other influential gentlemen also took part in the meetings. A drawing-room meeting was held, by invitation of Mrs. THOS. TAYLOR, in Hyde Park Gardens, over which Miss COBBE presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. H. N. MOZLEY, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, Mr. A. WILLIAMS, Mrs. BOLTON, Mrs. SHEARER, and Mrs. CHARLES M'LAREN.

The great meeting at St. James' Hall took place on April 24th, under the presidency of Mrs. FAWCETT. There was a very large attendance, and an opinion was expressed by some of the members of Parliament present that such a meeting would have great weight with the House of Commons. The meeting was addressed by Dr. CAMERON, M.P., Miss MULLER, Mrs. SHEARER, Mr. JOSEPH ARCH, Miss TOD, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, Mr. EVANS WILLIAMS, M.P., and Miss BIGGS. A perfect forest of hands was held up for the resolutions; only three dissentients were observed on the first resolution, and none at all voted against the second.

In Ireland meetings have been held in Dublin and Belfast. The Annual Meeting of the North of Ireland Society for Women's Suffrage took place at Belfast, under the presidency of Mr. M. C. DALWAY, and a series of

meetings of ladies interested in the work was held by invitation in many drawing-rooms. In the discussion, Miss TOD, Miss BIGGS, Mrs. KNOX, Mrs. BLACKWOOD, Mrs. BYERS, Mrs. M'LWAINE, Mrs. LINDSAY, and many other ladies and gentlemen took part.

In Scotland, the first of a series of district meetings on the subject of the municipal vote for women was held in Edinburgh, under the presidency of Councillor SOMERVILLE. Miss KIRKLAND, secretary of the Edinburgh Society, delivered an address. The meetings are intended to serve as a preparation for the exercise of the municipal vote by women, which will come into force on November next.

THE Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland has, by a large majority, adopted a petition to the House of Commons in favour of the extension of the provisions of the second section of the Municipal Elections Amendment (Scotland) Act to Parliamentary elections, in order thereby to confer the Parliamentary as well as the municipal suffrage on women.

Hitherto in Scotch burghs there has been one identical list of burgesses for imperial and local elections; it is, therefore, not surprising that the addition to the roll of a number of burgesses whose qualifications are indistinguishable from the others, but who are to have the municipal vote only, should appear to the authorities so great an anomaly as to move them to petition for its removal.

A BILL, introduced by Mr. ASHTON DILKE, the second reading of which was carried in the House of Commons on April 19th, has a very direct and special bearing on the question of the Parliamentary franchise for women-ratepayers. Mr. DILKE, in moving the second reading of the Bill, stated that it was divided into two parts. The first part provided for the payment of the necessary expenses of a Parliamentary election out of the rates.

Mr. J. R. YORKE moved as an amendment that it was not expedient to charge any portion of the expenses of

Parliamentary candidates upon the ratepayers. After citing other objections to the measure, he said that in connection with the recent Bribery Commissions, he had thought it unjust that women ratepayers who had never had even an opportunity of being bribed should be required to pay for the misconduct of their male neighbours; but under this Bill, instead of such occasional hardships, women ratepayers, who were deprived of the franchise, would suffer the permanent injustice of always bearing a proportion of the costs of election.

Mr. Serjeant SIMON said that if it was the privilege of the ratepayers of any borough to be represented in the House of Commons, they ought to pay for the legal machinery which was necessary to conduct the election.

Mr. HIBBERT supported the Bill on behalf of the Government, and on a division the second reading was carried by a majority of two votes.

It appears to be understood that the Parliamentary Election Expenses Bill will not be proceeded with further in its present shape, but that the clause providing for the payment of these expenses out of the rates will be embodied in the Bill for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections, introduced by the HOME SECRETARY, and in that case it may become law during the present session.

Women ratepayers will, therefore, have their concern with Parliamentary elections impressed upon them in a very practical manner the next time one takes place in the district in which they are rated. This tax will be laid upon them in accordance with the principle enunciated by Serjeant SIMON, that if it is the privilege of the ratepayers of any borough to be represented in the House of Commons, they ought to pay for the legal machinery which was necessary to conduct the election. But if this principle is accepted as the basis of legislation on the subject, the converse of the proposition is a logical necessity, and we have a right to demand that those who have to pay for the legal machinery necessary to conduct a Parliamentary election should have the privilege of being represented in the House of Commons.

A REPLY given by the HOME SECRETARY to a question from Mr. LEAMY whether there was any truth in the report that the Roman Catholic Chapel at Camborne had been completely wrecked during the recent riots offers an amusing commentary on some of the assertions used in disparagement of the powers of women. Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT said the report was not true, and proceeded

to say, "Some of the windows were broken, but I see that a very gallant lady routed the mob with a candlestick. (Laughter, and cries of 'Read.') It appears she was carrying out a pair of large candlesticks, when she saw a man trying to 'unship' the altar rail. She put down one candlestick, clutched the other, and 'went for him.' (Laughter and cheers.) He ran away, leaving his pocket-handkerchief behind him—(laughter)—and 'every soul in the place scuttled off to hide their faces in the coal cellars.'" (Much laughter.) "The force of the community is male," says Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH. Quite so—especially at Camborne.

WE called the attention of our readers last month to the elections which were about to take place of Guardians of the Poor for the ensuing year, and to the increased number of ladies who had offered themselves for election. We are glad to record a substantial victory in this direction. The experience of the past year showed the ratepayers of those districts where ladies were already members of the Boards that there was distinct work to be done, in which womanly tact and training, when combined with leisure and energy, were invaluable, and many new parishes have availed themselves of the chance offered them for the first time of placing ladies in this responsible position. In St. Pancras, Miss FLORENCE DAVENPORT HILL, Miss LIDGETT, and Miss S. W. ANDREWS; in Paddington, Mrs. CHARLES; and in Kensington, Miss DONKIN have been re-elected. Lambeth for the first time has three ladies—Miss EVA MULLER, Miss LORD, and Miss WHITEHEAD. Plumstead has returned Miss EVINS; St. Giles, Bloomsbury, Miss GARRETT; Holborn, Miss BAKER; and Islington, Miss VARLEY. In Bristol four ladies have been elected—Miss CLIFFORD, Miss ALICE WINKWORTH, Miss WOOLLAM, and Mrs. MANNING PRENTICE. In Bridgwater Mrs. HAMMILL and Miss SPILLER have been returned; and Mrs. ASHFORD and Mrs. BRACEY PERRY have been elected in Birmingham. Mrs. FIELDER has been re-elected in Abergavenny, Mrs. M'ILQUHAM in Boddington, and Mrs. SHAW in Elstree. Miss SPOTTISWOODE has been elected in Shere near Guildford.

Among unsuccessful candidates, we regret to find many ladies who would have done good service, if elected. Miss REES was defeated in Hampstead, Mrs. RYDER in Cheltenham, Mrs. HAYCRAFT in Brighton, and Miss JENNER in Cardiff.

On the whole the result of the elections shows that the movement is spreading so rapidly that we may hope by

this time next year to see a much larger number of ladies returned to this responsible public office, to the incalculable benefit of their poorer fellow parishioners.

THE Married Women's Property Bill has passed through committee of the House of Lords, and the LORD CHANCELLOR has fixed the Report for May 2nd. It is not probable that there will be any considerable delay in completing the remaining stages in the Lords; the Bill may therefore be expected to make its appearance in the Commons some time during May. Petitions in its favour may then be sent in, and the friends of the measure are earnestly exhorted to aid the measure in this way to the utmost of their power.

ONE of the lights of the age has been quenched during the past month. CHARLES DARWIN died on April 19th, at the age of seventy-three, in the fulness of his intellectual powers, and while the world was still hoping for more fruit from the ripeness of his mind's matured growth. This is not the place for any lengthened notice of his life's great work. But all the world knows that he has caused a revolution in the whole tide of scientific thought, and in the conception of the laws which govern the universe. This revolution has not been limited to the domain of science strictly so called; it has influenced every department of human energy, and enters into every field of social and political development.

Mr. DARWIN took no active part in politics, but he occasionally gave the support of his adhesion to some political and social movements. He was one of the first to sign the petitions in favour of the enfranchisement of women, and he also supported the Married Women's Property Bill.

He has lived down the scorn and ridicule which his views excited when they were first promulgated, and he was laid to his rest in England's most glorious fane, among the dust of her noblest sons, mourned and honoured by the whole nation, and loved best by those who knew him best.

Mr. DARWIN died on the anniversary of the death of Lord BEACONSFIELD, which anniversary was marked by the admirers of the late Earl by wearing his favourite flower—primroses. But primroses are intimately associated with the fame of Mr. DARWIN, because it was by observation of the primrose that one of his most striking and fruitful discoveries was made. When the anniversary next comes round, those who remember this circumstance

may wear their primroses with a difference, and may associate with their floral tribute to departed greatness the everlasting memory of CHARLES DARWIN.

THE RECENT ESCAPE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

The following letter has been received by the editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*:—

"Windsor Castle, April 17, 1882.

"Dear Miss Becker,—I have laid before the Queen the paper forwarded by you which contains an expression of thankfulness for Her Majesty's escape from the recent peril, and I am commanded by the Queen to assure you that she is very sensible of the kind and loyal wishes for her safety which are repeated in the paper you enclose.—Believe me, yours faithfully,
"HENRY PONSONBY.
"Miss L. Becker."

CANADIAN WOMEN AND THE QUEEN.

Montreal, April 13.

The Marquess of Lorne gave a grand ball to-night. His Excellency has been presented with an address for transmission to the Queen, signed by fifty thousand Canadian women, congratulating her Majesty upon her escape from assassination.

THE BALLOT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Many diligent readers of the Parliamentary debates may not be aware of the fact that, after prayers are over and petitions have been presented and private business has been done, the next transaction in which the House of Commons engages is a lottery conducted in solemn form by the Speaker and one of the clerks. One of the institutions of the House as sacred as the brass-bound boxes on the table which contain the rolls of Parliament and the oath is a little box which is placed before the Junior Clerk, and is opened by him the moment the clock indicates half-past four. It is then shown that the contents of the box are little bits of paper, more or less numerous according to the number of members who have placed their names on the Speaker's figured list. The opening of the first paper fished from the box is watched with feverish interest, as this ballot, as it is called, decrees whether the next night open to private members is to be appropriated by a bore, or devoted to the discussion of some question in which the House is interested.—London Correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner*.

FEMALE EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Mr. Gladstone has replied to the memorial from the meeting presided over by the Archbishop of Dublin in favour of the advancement of female education in Ireland:—

"10, Downing-street, April 5th.

"Rev. Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Gladstone to acquaint you that he is in receipt of the resolution relating to the Intermediate Education Act, which you have done him the honour to forward in behalf of those persons specially interested in female education in Ireland who held a meeting at the Alexandra College last month. Mr. Gladstone is sorry to learn that the fund provided by the Act is found to be inadequate to meet all the demands which are made upon it. He is afraid that fresh legislation, if desirable, must in a great degree depend upon the general state of Parliamentary business, which is now so seriously hampered.—I am, &c.,
"E. HAMILTON."

WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL RIGHTS IN CROATIA.—A Commission of the Diet of Croatia has decided that women are eligible as members of Municipal Councils.—*La Donna*.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

GREAT MEETING AT ST. JAMES' HALL,
LONDON

A public meeting was held in St. James' Hall, Piccadilly, London, on Monday evening, April 24th, in support of Mr. Mason's resolution to extend 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. There was a very large attendance of both ladies and gentlemen. Mrs. FAWCETT presided, and among those present were Dr. Cameron, M.P., Mr. Theodore Fry, M.P., Mr. Chas. M'Laren, M.P., Mrs. Chas. M'Laren, Mr. Evans Williams, M.P., Mrs. Evans Williams, Mr. Cheetham, M.P., Sir John Bennett, Mr. Joseph Arch, Mrs. Thomasson, Mrs. Arthur Arnold, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Pochin, Misses Davenport Hill, Misses Stauropele, Miss Tod, Miss Becker, Miss J. E. Cobden, Miss K. Hill, Mrs. Shearer, Viscountess Harberton, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Müller (London School Board), Miss Eva Müller, Miss F. Lord, Miss Ward Andrews, Dr. Bennett, Mrs. Thos. Taylor, Count Metaxa, Mrs. John Hullah, Mrs. Savile, Mr. F. H. A. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wates, Mrs. F. W. Chesson, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Hamley, Miss Owens Blackburn, Miss J. Boucherett, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. R. R. Moore, Miss Helen Blackburn, &c.

Mrs. FAWCETT said that in coming before them that night, and asking again what they had asked for a hundred times before, political justice and political freedom for women, their position was rather like that of the importunate widow, and she feared lest by their continual coming they wearied them. There was this reason, however, for coming before them once again with their request. As year by year passed by she thought the reasons for granting their request became stronger, and experience of movements similar to their own, both in this country and in countries far distant, enabled them to say, with a very great amount of positiveness, that the fears at one time entertained of the result of granting their request were completely imaginative and illusory. Allow her to explain what they were asking for. They were asking that those women who possessed all the qualifications which the law demanded of the male electors should be admitted to the Parliamentary franchise. (Hear, hear.) They were now able to ask this, and to base their request on experience which had been before the public now for a very considerable number of years. For ten years women in this country had had the municipal and school board franchise with nothing but good results. In Wyoming, and other territories of the United States, women had had the Parliamentary franchise; and in that little island near to them—the Isle of Man—the Parliamentary suffrage had also been extended to women. (Cheers.) Now, they knew when that proposition of women's suffrage was first brought forward, several years ago, very strange and curious fears were expressed of what the consequences of granting it would be. Members of Parliament and other opponents of the movement said that if once women were allowed to vote, all kinds of revolutionary terrors would take place, that women would cease to care for their homes and their children, and so forth. These fears would astonish them very much indeed, if they had not learned that there was nothing in which men and women were so foolish as in their fears. For instance, when the new Houses of Parliament were being built, a discussion took place in Parliament as to whether or not any space should be set aside for the accommodation of ladies to hear the debates; and if they turned to the old volumes of Hansard, and looked at the debate, they would see that the arguments used by those who wished to keep women away from hearing the debates were almost exactly analogous to those now used against allowing women to exercise the Parliamentary franchise. There was hardly any folly so preposterous that people could not be betrayed into it by fear. But now there was no excuse for such fears in regard to women's suffrage. Again, to refer to Wyoming, they found the Governor, who had had several years' experience of women's suffrage in his territory, speaking in the strongest way in support of it, although he had formerly been an opponent. He had confessed none of his fears had been realised. He said women's suffrage had worked well, and been productive of much good to the territory, with no evil that he had discerned. The women in Wyoming were less influenced by party considerations, and more by moral con-

siderations, than the men of Wyoming. And he attributes a distinct improvement in the personal character of the men selected as candidates, on both sides, owing to the desire to conciliate the women voters. In England they had now had ten years' experience of women voting in school board and municipal elections, and as in the case of Wyoming with a great deal of good and with no evil that she had been able to discern. They must remember that these school board and municipal elections were of much more frequent recurrence than Parliamentary elections, and if there were any truth at all in the fear that women would be taken away unduly from their other duties, they should have had time before now to find it out. So far from domestic duties being neglected, she believed domestic duties were now better attended to than they were ten years ago in the average English household. (Cheers.) Mr. Henley, who unfortunately had had to resign his seat in Parliament on account of his advanced age, came to the conclusion nine years ago that there was no reason to be afraid of allowing women to vote. Although a strong Conservative, the experience he had gained of the result of women voting in municipal and school board elections had convinced him there was no danger in women taking part in elections, and he thought the principle ought to be extended to the Parliamentary suffrage. Was there no hope the fears entertained of women's suffrage would be laid aside? They had been shown to be completely illusory. Even the birds, the most timid of their fellow creatures, grow bold at last and lose their fears when they see that the scarecrow, put up to frighten them, never fires off the gun, never throws the stick, never stirs a finger. Was it too much to hope that the other bipeds would become as courageous as the birds when they saw the very things happening with none but beneficent effects from which they had predicted ten years ago a social revolution would result. Lord Derby made a very interesting speech in the winter, in which he said that one of the chief results which had been produced in his own mind by his experience of life was that he was now less disposed to fear his fellow men than he had formerly been. He was less disposed to fear that they would abuse and misuse the power entrusted to them. In a word, he had discovered that the scarecrow was stuffed with straw. She wondered if he would be able to screw his courage to the sticking place, and to apply the newly-found courage he had gained to the case of women. She almost feared not, but if it was so she wished he would tell the other birds. (Laughter.) She wished to appeal to them very earnestly and very seriously to say whether they thought it right and just that the women of England should be for ever denied the badge of citizenship of this great country. In these days of Democratic government it appeared to her only in consonance with common sense and justice to give the Parliamentary franchise to all those who were not disqualified either by personal unfitness or public danger to the community. They contended that neither of these two disqualifications applied to the women they were seeking to enfranchise; and that while practically all men were enfranchised, it was an insult to women to class them, so far as representation was concerned, with children, felons, and lunatics, *i.e.*, those classes who were excluded on the grounds of personal unfitness and public danger. Among some of the Liberals who opposed the extension of the suffrage to women she thought there was a very considerable amount of moral inconsistency. She wished to refer very briefly to one who had taken a prominent part in opposing women's suffrage. She referred to Mr. Goldwin Smith, and she wished to do him full justice. He was not among the ranks of those who insulted women by telling them they were too noble, too pure, too elevated, too angelic to mingle in the rough strife of politics. He had the courage to say what he really meant, and he told women of their faults with the most engaging frankness. According to him there was hardly any crime or blunder which had defaced history for which women were not responsible. A true son of Adam, he was always ready on all these occasions to say, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she tempted me;" but the inconsistency for which she could not help blaming Mr. Goldwin Smith was that he railed at women for not possessing the virtues of free citizens, at the same time proclaiming that so far as he was concerned, and so far as he was able to control the course of politics, they should remain for ever bound. If it was true that the influence of women in politics was so bad as he would have them believe, was not that the strongest condemnation of the present system? If women were always on the

side of tyranny and wrong, would it not be prudent to change their political education and perhaps even try the effect of freedom? If the condition of the patient is so desperate, would not a wise physician change the treatment? There was another class of politicians, with whom she had much more sympathy, but who on this question showed, she believed, another kind of inconsistency. They were those who held aloof from women's suffrage, neither opposing nor supporting it, but who still claimed from women their help and sympathy in the political movements in which they were interested. These politicians often appealed to women for sympathy and help in matters pertaining to politics, and she thought among them, and the most distinguished among them, must be enrolled the name of Mr. Gladstone. (Cheers.) It was many years now since he had spoken on women's suffrage, and for many years he had not voted against it, but still he had thought it right to withhold his active support from their movement. (Hear, hear.) At the same time he had appealed to women very earnestly in the political campaigns which he from time to time carried on. For instance, in the course of the Midlothian election, Mr. Gladstone appealed not only to the women of Midlothian, but to the women of England for their active co-operation. He asked them to exert themselves, and each one of them to do what she could to help him in that great battle. Such activity, he said, far from being unwomanly, was a duty, "the fulfilment of which would gild their future years with sweet remembrances and warrant them in thinking that each in her own place and sphere had raised her voice for justice, and had striven to mitigate the sorrows and misfortunes of mankind." In these words Mr. Gladstone appealed to the women to help him in the great battle he was fighting, and he asked them not only to sympathise with him in matters pertaining to the welfare of this realm, but also in the struggles other nations were making for freedom. But how could they sympathise with other nations struggling for freedom if they were not worthy to be entrusted with freedom themselves? Do not they virtually say to women, "You whose aid and sympathy we require, you whom we ask to help us, you yourselves are not fit to be entrusted with freedom." Was not that asking them to make bricks without straw? Was not that to exact "day labour, light denied?" Few, only very few, in the world were noble and unselfish enough for this. If the women of England, as a body, were to throw their weight into the scale for human freedom, they must be made free citizens. (Loud cheers.) Mrs. Fawcett concluded by calling on Dr. Cameron, M.P., to move the first resolution.

Dr. CAMERON, M.P., moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting." After the very cogent and eloquent speech they had heard from the President, he should not be called upon to detain the meeting but a short time in supporting this resolution. It required no explanation, for its meaning was self-evident; and, it appeared to him, it put forward the claims of women to the suffrage in this country in a manner so moderate and out-spoken as to leave very little room for argument. As a matter of fact, they would have but little room for argument if the opponents of this movement would only confine themselves to the matter in point. It was their custom to conjure up a host of phantasms which they were pleased to call "women's rights," and to direct the shafts of their eloquence against the ghosts they had thus conjured up. He did not know anything about women's rights, nor did he care to inquire. This was not a meeting for women's rights but for women's suffrage, and it would be as absurd to term a meeting for the assimilation of the county and borough franchise a meeting for the promotion of the rights of men, as it would be to designate this meeting in favour of women's suffrage a meeting for the support of women's rights. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) But when they got their opponents pinned to the question, their arguments and objections were as little to the point as in many other cases. They told them this was a step in the great movement in the course of which women would demand seats in Parliament. (Hear, hear.) The gentleman who interposed that interjection surely knew that there were a number of persons at the present moment who could vote but who were not entitled to sit in Parliament, while a man who could not vote might be perfectly entitled to represent any constituency in the House of Commons. They were told that politics did not constitute woman's sphere; but it seemed to him that if a few women

could do mischief by frittering away their time on politics, men also existed who devoted themselves too exclusively to politics—pot-house or otherwise—for the good of themselves, their families, or the State. (Hear, hear.) His experience had convinced him that it was not those men who had the franchise that manifested the greatest and most intelligent interest in politics. In attending a great many meetings he had been convinced of this—that they would find among the non-electors of the country men who entertained as lively an interest in politics—men who worked with the same zeal on behalf of their own parties, as they found amongst the ranks for the electors of the country. As a matter of fact, he believed that they would find the same thing amongst women were they entrusted with the franchise. As their education went forward, as they took a greater interest in the State, of which they formed so important a part, they would devote more time to the study of politics. If they had conferred upon them the franchise the only additional inroad upon their time would be in the shape of the time occupied in walking to the polling-booth and there recording their votes. They were told by those Liberals who objected to this extension of the franchise that if the power were granted to women they would be all Tories, and that they would have the Tories in power for ever. (Laughter.) As one who was very much the opposite of a Tory, he could not see that women should be excluded from the right of voting, even assuming that to be correct. But he did not believe it was. Human nature was very much the same in both sexes, and he was persuaded that were women granted the franchise they would incline to this party or that, as men did, by their early training, or by the influences by which they were surrounded, and the interests of those who were near and dear to them. For many years, as had been said, women had enjoyed the municipal and school board franchise, and the elections which took place in our municipalities and school boards were more frequent than Parliamentary. There was a municipal election every year, and a school board election every three years, and yet had any of these elections worked such havoc amongst the fair sex as they had been told would result from their being introduced into the Parliamentary arena? He said not, and argued that the only unanswerable and logical objection against the extension of the franchise to women was the objection of those who said, "We have the power, and we are determined not to share it with other people." It might be logical, but it was mean and selfish. (Applause.) He had no sympathy with such objections, which had equal validity in the matter of the extension of the franchise to every other class. He believed in the old French proverb, which told them there was somebody that was wiser than anybody, and that was everybody. (Laughter and applause.) And he believed, if they wished for just laws, they must have every class represented. (Renewed applause.) A Liberal statesman, a member of the present Administration, whose generous feeling and sympathy with humanity nobody could deny, had said women were not a class; they were our sisters, our wives, our widows, and our mothers. Their interests are dearer to us than our own. He did not believe in this delicate delegation in Parliament. He believed in the doctrine that taxation without representation was robbery, and that legislation without representation was despotism. (Cheers.) Taxation was laid by Parliament equally on women with men, and there was no principle that was applicable in the granting of the franchise to men which was not equally applicable to the other sex. All ratepayers, he contended, should participate in the electoral privilege; and he believed if women were admitted to the Parliamentary franchise, they would bring to bear upon it a pure influence that would do much to mitigate those scandals with which we were familiar in our Parliamentary elections. (Cheers.) He was convinced that the larger the constituency the greater the purity of election; and feeling that justice demanded the extension aimed at in the resolution which had been proposed, he supported it with all his heart. (Applause.)

Miss MULLER, a member of the London School Board, had much pleasure in seconding the resolution which had been read by Dr. Cameron, and she felt she could speak with some point on the subject with regard to her own feelings, because of the reference made in the resolution to the power of voting given to women in the municipal and school board elections. As the representative of a very large number of electors in the south of London, she very naturally felt herself somewhat sore that she could not by any single vote of her own obtain representation for her interests in the House

of Commons. She had never heard any argument in favour of the extension of the franchise to men which was not applicable to the extension of the franchise to women. If such an argument existed, it had still to be brought forward. Even Mr. Goldwin Smith, when he indulged in what she might call a shriek against women, did not bring forward in that shriek anything like an argument against their cause. During the debate last month on Mr. Arnold's resolution, Mr. Gladstone made the following remark, which she thought came home to them with peculiar force: "That the admission of properly qualified people was not a weakening but a strengthening of the constitution; this," he added, "was a triumph of truth over venerable and ancient prejudice." Was it possible to imagine words more apt and true to their own case than these? She believed that the constitution of England would gain in every way by the admission of women to the franchise. The sense of justice of the people would be rendered more profound and true. And what they wanted, and what indeed they must in the course of a few years have, was a reform bill that should be established on such a basis as should meet and satisfy, with some promise of endurance, the desire for the further enfranchisement of the people, and by the people she meant the men and the women. (Applause.) They had had a practical illustration, no doubt many, but they had had one practical illustration of great force, in the United States, of the immense power that a Government derives from establishing its basis upon the widest possible foundation. At the time when America was torn asunder by her civil war, everyone remarked that the Government derived immense strength from the wide basis upon which it was founded, and from the fact that the Government really was the nation and the people. If this was true where the nation and the people meant half the nation and half the people, how much more true would it be when it meant the whole of the nation and the whole of the people, the men and the women. (Applause.) Such a basis as that had never, as far as she was aware, been adopted in any constitution, but she looked forward to the time when it would be adopted, and she believed that the most unexpected benefits and the most unforeseen advantages would flow to the nation when once we had seen that which history has never yet seen, the political unity of the people. Now was the time for them to come forward. Now was the time for the women to speak. They must strike while the iron was hot. There was no time to be lost. They must strain every nerve to show that their exclusion from the suffrage was a grievance to themselves, that they desired to be and to be treated as citizens of this country. It was in her mind sufficient to make that desire known, and to prove that they were worthy of the right. No one could be interested in denying the franchise to any class. If anyone, actuated by self-interest, denied the franchise to any class, he was actuated by what was not a reason, not an argument, not a fact; it was a prejudice which time alone could remove. She repeated that what they had to do was to make known to the public what were their grievances, and how their grievances affected them. They knew that a reform bill was always based upon population. It was justified only by the increase which had taken place in the population. This was the case with the Reform Bill of 1832; it was the case with the Reform Bill of 1867; and it would be the case with the coming Reform Bill which they anticipated. The population was the basis of the franchise and of reform. Women were a part of the population, and they were not a part of the population; and she would show how. Women were accounted part of the population when there was the hardest, roughest, most ill-paid work to be done. (Applause.) Women acted as nurses in the hospitals at home, in the hospitals of India and Africa, following the army wherever nurses were required. Women were to be found in the public service. Women were more and more giving their time to the public as members of school boards, poor law guardians, and so on. The State took from them their work, their energy, their best thought, and the best years of their life; and what did it give them in return? It gave them very little back. Again, women were part of the population when it came to obedience to the law, and the obedience which the law required of women was greater than that which it required of men. Special legislation was brought to bear upon women which was not brought to bear upon men. Again, when it came to the payment of taxes women were indeed counted part of the population. (Applause.) When it came to a bribery commission, because corruption and bribery had taken

place, though they had been prevented by the law from exercising their direct influence to prevent corruption, they were not excluded when the time came to pay—they were then counted part of the population. And now we were going to have a Reform Bill, were women to be counted part of the population? No; and they would not be so counted until they showed that it must be so, that the time had come when they should either not be counted at all or else counted as human beings. Bills of every sort were brought into the House of Commons and discussed, which affected the interest of women, and women had nothing to say to them; they became law, and they affected what was supposed to be the special sphere of women, and women must not speak a word. Women had nothing to do with the taxation of the country except to pay it; they had nothing to do with the legislation of the laws except to obey them. She hoped a very different time was coming before long, when that right which they demanded would be granted to them. What possible argument could be urged against the extension of the franchise to women? She had never heard one. And the extension of the franchise would benefit every class in England. By extending the franchise to certain classes of men a rather unexpected result had been found. It was mentioned in the debate in the House of Commons last March that there was an increase of thrift among those who had had the franchise extended to them. Now if there was a part of the population whom habits of thrift and whose tendencies towards industry ought to be protected by law, surely it was the women of the country. If there was a part of the population for whom it was important and necessary that all their resources should be made the most of, and that they should understand the fullest meaning of the word thrift, surely it was the women of the country. She believed that the extension of the franchise to women would, in the first place, have a direct effect upon the production of the country. The want of the suffrage affected the women farmers of England unfavourably. And these women farmers numbered 20,000. A short time ago, before the ballot was passed, women were turned out of their farms because they had no vote. Now although that was no longer so, yet their productive power was diminished, because they were unable to get their farms on anything like long leases. She knew that for a fact. A landowner would let a farm to a woman, but not on a long lease. He would say: "We don't know what may happen; you are not a political unit, and have no political power; therefore, I cannot let you this farm on a long lease." And so the woman's chance of making her farm productive was diminished. That was what she might call a direct effect of the want of the suffrage. (Applause.) Now was there any class that could possibly be injured by the enfranchisement of women? She thought there were certain classes in England that believed they would be injured, especially the professional classes. Lawyers thought there was only a certain amount of law to be done in the country—there were already a great many more lawyers than were wanted—(hear, hear)—and if, said the lawyers, there are more of us, we shall all be starved out. So with doctors. Now it was a law of political economy that where the power of production was increased it carried with it an increased demand. So if women were in circumstances to afford to pay for the law, they would create a demand for more lawyers. And so with medicine. Increased production on the one hand always carried with it increased demand on the other; therefore, she thought that even the lawyers and doctors need not be so much afraid. Dr. Cameron had referred to the fact that women were sometimes regarded as a class, and she thought there was a great fear in the minds of some people that women when they had a vote would be actuated by class feeling. Now let us be consistent here. As far as special legislation made women a class women were a class, but once remove those artificial barriers that the law created between man and woman, and women would fall back upon their common humanity, their common love of this land, and all those interests which bind the unity together. The natural divisions between man and woman were not such as were created by law. Therefore, this charge that women were actuated by class feeling was true, and would be true until the legislative barriers were removed. The last point to which she wished to refer was the following, that this claim which they made was not a new one. The system of representation in England was not one that could be injured by readjustment and rearrangement. It had been readjusted and altered again and again to meet the needs of a growing population, and of our changed

habits. She and they, those women, and those men who claimed the franchise for them, stood there in no new position. They were one of a series of movements and of struggles from time past to the present. As far back as we could see struggles of this kind had gone on between the people and those in authority for a greater liberty. They held in their hand a link in the chain which bound the present with the past. Time had brought that chain into their hands. It was for them to keep it and grasp it, and, moreover, to keep it so that when the time came they should hand it to those that should come after them. (Applause.)

Mrs. SHEARER supported the resolution, and stated that it was terrible, when they took up the newspapers day after day, no matter what their standard or politics, and read the records of wife-beating, wife-murder, and outrages on women, and the little punishments that were awarded the offenders. (Cheers.) It was enough to make one wonder what was the cause of it all, and why the women of the country did not band themselves together, and call upon the Government for a Peace Preservation Act for England. (Cheers.) It was no use for people and members of the House of Commons to be perpetually telling them that their interests were being looked after. They had got eyes and ears and some brains—(laughter)—and they could put two and two together—(cheers)—and if women had the votes they desired many of the social wrongs that now existed would be amended. (Cheers.) How long was that question to go on? They had been agitating for the suffrage for fourteen years, and it depended upon them whether they were to go on agitating for it for another fourteen years. (Laughter.) Depend upon it they would not stop. (Loud cheers.) In future no Reform Bill could be carried that would be in any way satisfactory to the people of the country that did not include the women rate-payers of the country as well as the men rate-payers. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried by acclamation, three dissentients being greeted with ironical laughter.

Mr. JOSEPH ARCH moved: "That the following memorial to Her Majesty's Government be adopted, and signed by the President on behalf of this meeting, and forwarded to Mr. Gladstone:—

"To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury.

"The memorial of the inhabitants of London and others in public meeting assembled on April 24th, 1882, at St. James' Hall, London:

"Sheweth,—

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

"Wherefore, your memorialists earnestly pray that in any measure for the extension of the principle of household suffrage which may be submitted by Her Majesty's Ministers for the consideration of Parliament, provision may be made for enabling women qualified according to the statutory conditions, to be registered as voters and to vote in the election of members of Parliament."

He said that after the very eloquent speeches to which they had listened it would be unwise for him to attempt to inflict a speech on the audience; but the standpoint from which he would view the question would differ somewhat, he thought, from the standpoint taken by previous speakers. The audience was aware that in the rural districts the people were agitating for an extension of the household suffrage for the males, and he might say they had as good as gained their point. (Applause.) He was perfectly satisfied that that measure of justice could not be much longer withheld from the male population who were yet unenfranchised. There was one statement made by Miss Müller with which he fully agreed. Living as he had done in rural districts all his life, he had watched how, when, and where farms, in many instances, had changed hands. He had seen how on many occasions when the husband had died, after putting, probably, the whole of his capital into the farm, the widow had been informed that the squire or his lordship did not like female tenants, and twelve months' notice was given, at the end of which she and her family had to get out and leave her husband's capital behind her. (Cries of "Shame.") Yes, he thought that was a shame; and he was satisfied that any class of Her Majesty's subjects that had to bear the responsibility of a household, whether the subject were male or female; whoever had to pay taxes when called upon would

never, without the franchise, meet with that consideration at the hands of Parliament which they could command with a vote. (Applause.) If what Miss Müller said was true, and they had reason to believe it was true, that there were 20,000 female tenant farmers in this country, he wanted to know, in view of the Land Bill which must be brought forward before long, whether those lady tenant farmers would not have as much interest in the Bill as Mr. Howard of the Farmers' Alliance? Amongst the agricultural labouring population a great amount of tyranny was practised, even upon poor, defenceless widows, and that tyranny would be to a great extent removed if the sufferers had some one to appeal to in the British House of Commons. An Independent minister told him the other day that in a certain union in Gloucestershire there were several widows maintaining themselves, their little ones receiving a very small portion of parochial relief. These women had never on their own account troubled the rates for one penny, but by honest industry and thrift had managed to maintain themselves, and also very largely to add to the comfort of their little ones. A certain gentleman on the board of guardians was going to move a resolution that all pay outside the workhouse should be stopped, and that these children should be sent to the workhouse if any parochial aid was to be given. If those women had votes and their representatives in Parliament, that board of guardians would never have dared to stamp upon the brows of those little innocents the brand of pauperism, while their own hard-working mothers were to a great extent prepared to keep them outside the workhouse. (Applause.) It might be said that such things were never witnessed in large towns. But what was the reason? Because the keen eye of the press was ever closely watching those tyrants. But in the rural districts numberless instances of cruelty, of tyranny, were being perpetrated upon poor widows from week to week, and the press of the district being in accord with the views of the authorities were afraid to speak out upon the practice of oppression. Taxation without representation was tyranny, and legislation without proper representation was despotism. The class to which he had the honour to belong, a useful class, had been under that ban for years and years, but they did not intend to remain under it any longer. He was pleased to hear the distinct statement of Mrs. Shearer that the women did not intend to remain unenfranchised any longer when the household suffrage should be extended to the counties; if the present Government could not see their way to include female suffrage in the measure, there would not be many Governments or Parliaments before the Legislature would be forced to do so. Whenever household suffrage was extended to the entire male population, the Legislature would be compelled by sheer pressure to grant a similar enfranchisement to the other sex. This was not a question out of which political capital could be made. It was said that when the votes were given to the ignorant they would not know how to record them. It was also said that after the Reform Bill of the year 1867 this island was to sink into the sea. It was dangerous to enfranchise females some said; it was a question indeed whether to the minds of some people it would not be dangerous to do anything for the great mass of the people of this country. These fears would have to be cast aside. They would vanish with the enlightenment of the people. Ladies on the school boards had exercised as much discretion as some of the intelligent gentlemen had manifested in the House of Commons, and their behaviour had been fully as decorous. That venerable prejudice, as Mr. Gladstone called it, had grown grey, it was hoary headed and tottering, and to the Legislature he would say: If you want to bury it for ever and for ever beneath the satisfaction of the people of this country, enfranchise them. (Loud applause.)

Miss TOD, in seconding the motion, said that when they asked for the extension of the franchise to women, they felt that they could appeal to every class of the community, to every rank, and to every political party. They had the right to claim the sympathies of every class, whatever their political opinions might be. In addition to that every class was benefited to some extent in the past by the interest which women had taken in upholding this great principle. Whatever made one political party in the country valuable, whatever real principle underlaid that political action would undoubtedly receive more strength from the admission of women to the Parliamentary representation. (Cheers.) They would be able to exercise a larger influence over the community at large than ever it did before. They felt those great principles would not have permeated societies as well as they had done if women had not exercised that amount

of influence; but they felt the difference between irresponsible influence and responsible power. She believed the addition of women to the electorate would bring those things to bear in a higher, surer, and firmer shape than heretofore. They claimed it to be their right, and they looked forward to the day when the whole country would feel that in admitting women to the electorate they were admitting a class which would add greatly to the national power. They hoped that the entrance of women to the electorate would be signalised by a great advance in the moral tone of political life. (Cheers.)

The motion was carried amidst enthusiastic applause.

Miss BECKER moved that Mrs. Ashton Dilke take the chair, which was carried.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE said the resolution she had to submit to the meeting was one which she felt sure would be extremely popular, namely, that the thanks of the meeting be given to Mrs. Fawcett for presiding on the occasion. She did not think she need say a word about their chairwoman, for they all knew how splendidly she had worked in the interests of women, and in the direction of political economy in every form for many years. They must remember that if this question of women's votes were not granted the position of women would not remain as it was at present; it would become worse every day. Only last Wednesday it was proposed in Parliament, and carried by two votes that ratepayers should pay for the election of members of Parliament. In many ways that might be an excellent proposition, but it was extremely hard upon women who were ratepayers and had no votes, that they should have this burden added to those already imposed upon them. (Hear, hear.) If they were standing still they could wait, but they all knew that in politics there was no standing still; it was going either forwards or backwards. That was an additional reason why the resolutions submitted to the meeting that night should be carried. In conclusion she moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fawcett for presiding so gracefully over that meeting. (Loud applause.)

Mr. EVANS WILLIAMS, M.P., in seconding the resolution, referred to Mrs. Fawcett as being the mainstay of this movement from its commencement. The women's suffrage movement had passed into what he might call its third stage, such as that into which all great movements passed. First of all it passed into what he might call the contemptuous stage, in which everybody who spoke of its supporters called them harmless lunatics. (Laughter.) Next it became a matter of ridicule and joke, but now it had passed to the final stage of argument and consideration. Mrs. Dilke had said enough to commend this resolution to the acceptance of the meeting, for they all knew that Mrs. Fawcett had supported this movement from the beginning, both at meetings of this sort and by her pen. (Cheers.) She was, moreover, the wife of a distinguished Minister of the Crown, who, from the time the movement passed into the contemptuous stage until it reached the stage in which it was now, had been perhaps more than any other instrumental in making this movement popular with all men and women of thought. He had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Cheers.)

Miss BIGGS, in supporting the resolution, referred to the great good which had been done to their cause by the exertions of Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett.

Mrs. FAWCETT, in returning thanks, said it was a great pleasure to her to be there to see the resolutions supported by representatives of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, and to meet on the platform the sister of John Bright and the daughter of Richard Cobden made her feel that they were indeed in good company.

The audience then dispersed.

PRELIMINARY MEETINGS.

NEW CROSS.

A public meeting was held on Tuesday, April 18th, in the New Cross Public Hall, in support of Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote. Dr. W. C. BENNETT presided, and there was a numerous attendance, the larger proportion being ladies. Upon the platform were Miss Cobden (daughter of the late Mr. R. Cobden, M.P.), Miss Müller, Mrs. Shearer, Rev. Brooke Lambert, B.A., Rev. J. P. Hutchinson, Count Metaxa, Messrs. Cooke Baines, Gurley Smith, G. Kemp, T. N. Cathrall, Wates, Cropley Phillips, &c.

The CHAIRMAN read letters of apology for non-attendance from Baron de Worms, M.P., and Mr. J. E. Saunders. The former said he could not possibly attend the present meeting, because he had to speak in the country. As to his views, he saw no reason to differ from the opinion which had been expressed by Lord Beaconsfield and Sir Stafford Northcote. (Applause.) Mr. Saunders wrote that he fully supported the right of women ratepayers to vote. It was only common justice. The chairman said there was one vote for them in Baron de Worms, and another possible vote after the next election in Mr. Ebenezer Saunders.

The Rev. BROOKE LAMBERT, B.A., moved the first resolution in support of the principle, which was seconded by Miss JANE E. COBDEN, and supported by Mr. CROPLEY PHILLIPS and Mr. COOKE BAINES. The resolution was carried by a large majority, but few hands being held up against it.

Miss MULLER, member of the London School Board, moved the adoption of a petition to the House of Commons and memorials to the local members. Count METAXA seconded the resolution. Mrs. SHEARER supported the resolution, which was put and agreed to.

On the motion of Professor LAMBERT, a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

CLAPHAM.

On the same evening a public meeting was held in the Clapham Hall, Old Town, Clapham, Professor W. A. Hunter presiding. The first resolution was moved by Mr. J. Levy, seconded by Mrs. Ashton Dilke, and on being put to the vote was carried with but one dissentient.—The second resolution, moved by Mr. James Knight, and seconded by Miss Becker, was carried *nem. con.*—After a vote of thanks, spoken to by Miss Wilkinson (of the Upholstresses' Union), to the chairman, the meeting terminated.

ISLINGTON.

On April 19th, a meeting was held in the Myddelton Hall, with the object of supporting Mr. Mason's motion for giving the franchise to properly qualified women. There was a good attendance, amongst whom were many of the representative men, both of Islington and Clerkenwell.

Mr. BENJAMIN LUCRAFT, M.L.S.B., occupied the chair; and, in introducing the subject of the meeting, said he hoped the time would come when men would see the justice of doing what was right to the women of our country in matters political. He felt it to be a great honour to be asked to preside there that evening, and had no doubt the ladies would speak that night in a manner which should lead all to think their cause a just one.

Mr. HAMPSON moved the first resolution, viz.: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualification which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting."

Miss BECKER, member of the School Board for Manchester, seconded the motion, and in doing so spoke in high terms of the mover of the resolution, for his successful endeavours in getting women into the Pharmaceutical Association.

Mr. BENJAMIN CLARKE supported the resolution.

Mr. LANCASTER rose to move an amendment to the following effect: "That this meeting is of opinion that it is undesirable, whilst so many men are deprived of the franchise, to extend the same to women." ("Oh!" and laughter.) Having been invited to the platform, Mr. Lancaster said the chairman had suggested that no one would have the audacity to come forward to propose an amendment—[Voices: "No, no!"]—well, he would modify it, and say "courage." One thing he wanted to know was, why were the women coming forward and asking for a right which was not in the hands of 12,000,000 of men in the country? [A voice: "It is their own fault."] The speaker went on, amid some interruption, to give instances wherein men were not directly represented, notably in West Ham, adding, let them remedy those evils and then come to the women. Had they ever found women so clever, so anxious to come to the front, that they should be enfranchised? Had they ever found women great or notorious for their abilities? [Voices: "Plenty."] They had had clever women in literature, but did they ever know a woman who was a clever architect?—(loud laughter and hisses)—they had never known a Christopher Wren or Inigo Jones amongst women? (Laughter.) Had they ever known great

WESTBOURNE HALL.

A public meeting in aid of the women's suffrage campaign was held at Westbourne Hall, Westbourne Grove, on April 20th. Mr. D. GRANT, M.P., presided, and there were on the platform Mrs. Arthur Arnold, Miss Becker, Mrs. Shearer (Miss Downing), Miss L. Stacpoole, Rev. J. Alex. Jacob, M.A., Mr. Marston C. Buszard, Q.C., M.P., Mr. C. M'Laren, M.P., &c., &c. There was a large audience.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said this was the first time he had appeared in public in connection with the question of women's suffrage, although he had never had any doubt in his own mind on the subject. On what principle were they to proceed if they denied to women who paid imperial taxes the right to express an opinion upon the way those taxes were spent? Why should they thus abridge the rational freedom of women? In England the numerical excess of women over men was 718,778, and in many cases these women were getting their living nobly by their own exertions. In this matter we were still in the bonds and fetters of the past. The right conceded to women in municipal elections should be given to them in Parliamentary elections as well. The argument that women would next want to be returned to Parliament was out of the range of discussion, although he himself could well imagine cases in which he could not hesitate to admit such a claim. This anticipation of some further claim had been the stock argument for ages against all kinds of reform. For himself, he thought they had a good cause, and from that time he should feel himself committed to women's suffrage. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. ALEX. JACOB, M.A., moved the first resolution: "That the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women ratepayers who possess the qualifications that entitle men to vote, and who in all local matters have the right of voting." The resolution was seconded by Mrs. ARTHUR ARNOLD.

Mr. BUSZARD, M.P., said he was like Mr. Grant in appearing that night for the first time in public support of women's suffrage, and he had great pleasure in being there. It was a proper thing to extend the franchise under the limitations of this resolution.

Miss BECKER supported the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN having put the resolution, it was carried with only four dissentients.

Mr. CHARLES M'LAREN, M.P., moved that a petition, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted, and that the members for the borough be asked to support Mr. Mason's resolution.

This was seconded by Mrs. SHEARER.

Miss LILLY STACPOOLE (London), in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, remarked on the intangibility of the objections urged against women's suffrage, and the difficulty of finding weapons for the occasion, a difficulty like that of a certain Indian tribe who went out to war with the south wind. And yet how many questions like the temperance question, which would become a matter of legislation, profoundly affected the welfare of women. (Cheers.)

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. BUSZARD, and acknowledged by the CHAIRMAN, the proceedings terminated.

CHELSEA.

A public meeting was held in the Vestry Hall, Chelsea, on Friday evening, April 21st. The chair was taken by Mrs. Ashton Dilke. Letters of apology for absence, and expressing their sympathy with the object of the meeting, were read from Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. J. B. Firth, members for the borough.—Mr. F. H. A. Hardcastle moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Miss Caroline A. Biggs, supported by Miss Becker; and, on being put, the great body of the meeting held up their hands in favour: three hands were held up against.—The second resolution was moved by the Rev. W. Cuthbertson, seconded by Mr. Aeneas Williams, and supported by Mrs. Shearer.—A vote of thanks, which was supported by Mr. Raper, terminated the proceedings.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

HYDE PARK GARDENS.

A large and fashionable assembly took place by invitation of Mrs. P. Taylor at 1, Hyde Park Gardens, on April 22nd. Miss Cobbe occupied the chair, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Herbert N. Mozley, who gave an account of the state of the laws relating to women; Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mr. Arthur Williams, Mrs. Charles B. M'Laren, Mr. Thicknesse, and Mrs. Bolton. Mr.

painters amongst women? [Voices: "Yes, many!" "Rosa Bonheur," "Miss Thompson."] Yes; he could name dozens; but had they a Rubens? (Hisses.) Yes; they might hiss—[A voice: "We have had enough of that nonsense!"]—but he would tell them they had had illustrious men in all known arts and sciences, but he had yet to learn that they had had any illustrious women. (Laughter.) Then they came to the sciences. Chemistry was a science in which a woman might shine in; but had they found a Liebig, a Davy, a Faraday amongst them? (Cries of "Time!") It would have been far better for woman and her household had she known something of this. And then with regard to music—"Time!"—oh, he would not keep them long—had they known any woman to have shown special ability?—"Yes!"—that was a science in which she could shine; but had they found a Mendelssohn, a Beethoven, a Handel amongst them? (Laughter.) Surely, if woman had those transcendent abilities attributed to her she would have shown them. (Hisses, and "Time!") And then with regard to literature. They never had a Shakspeare—(loud laughter)—a Milton, or other great names he could mention, amongst them. He should like to know, too, looking at the question in the point of view he had taken, was there any woman like Burns, who, although an uneducated man, had shown his natural ability. Had woman ever shown such natural ability? (Hisses.) What, again, had made England what she is? (A voice: "Woman!" laughter and much applause.) In the midst of loud cries of "Time!" the speaker said it was perfectly true that if there had not been women there would not have been men—(laughter)—but it was equally true that men had made the laws which had governed them so well, and he contended that men should continue to do so. (Hisses and laughter.)

Mr. GOUGH came forward to second the amendment.

The amendment was then put to the meeting, and seven hands were shown in favour; and upon the original motion being submitted, it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. ROSTON BOURKE (who was introduced as a member of the Guardian Board, and a future candidate for the School Board) moved the adoption of a petition to the House of Commons, and memorials to the borough members. The resolution was seconded by Miss LILLY STACPOOLE.

Count METAXA supported the motion, expressing his opinion that, with the support already accorded the agitation from both Liberals and Conservatives, and with the continued co-operation of their friends, they were bound, sooner or later, to be triumphant in their results. He thought if men would take the trouble to lay themselves open to conviction from the other side, it would be far better for themselves, and far better for the country at large; and his opinion of the justice of the cause had become so confirmed, that he would rather desert his political party than desert the women's suffrage movement. All they had heard that evening against the movement was utterly devoid of argument. It was unjust, because a woman was a woman, she should not have a vote; and he was sure if the men saw in it a national question, such as they would probably ere long see it, they would at once come forward and say, "Let us have that which shall benefit the country, both in the present and in the future." (Hear, hear.) If they wanted to benefit the House of Commons, as it wanted benefiting—(hear, hear)—why not give the women a fair and open chance of proving they had that common sense attributed to them? They lived in an intelligent age, when men were becoming to see that widows and spinsters who paid rates and taxes were entitled to vote at Parliamentary elections, just the same as the male electors were. The women of England did not ask for a seat in the House of Commons, which was one of the objections raised against them. He was very glad to have seen the opposition which had been displayed, because it would put them on their guard as to what they had to contend against. He hoped they would go on, and let their motto be, "Going on to conquer," and prove to the country that they had not been idle, but true to their colours, to their country, and to their God. (Applause.)

Mrs. SHEARER seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. BLUNDELL proposed the hearty thanks of the meeting to Mr. Lucraft for presiding; and this having been seconded by Mr. LANCASTER, and put by Mrs. SHEARER, it was carried by acclamation.

Mr. LUCRAFT returned thanks, and thought all would agree with him that they had had a thoroughly practical meeting. (Applause.) The meeting then separated.

Humphreys made some remarks in opposition to the previous speakers, and after a reply from Mrs. Shearer the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Miss Cobbe for presiding. After partaking of tea and coffee in the dining-room the company separated.

SHORTLANDS.

A meeting of ladies was held on Tuesday afternoon, April 4th, by invitation of Mrs. Harvey, at 8, Bromley Grove, Shortlands, to consider the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote. Mrs. Chater, who is a householder in the neighbourhood, presided. This lady addressed some pointed and practical observations to her hearers. Mrs. E. Lynch read a paper on women's suffrage. The meeting voted memorials to the local members, and a petition to the House of Commons, praying an extension of the franchise to qualified women. Mrs. Chater read a courteous letter from Sir C. Mills, Bart., M.P., informing Mrs. Harvey, the hon. secretary of the local women's suffrage committee, that he had presented in the House the petition sent up from the committee in support of Mr. Mason's resolution.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

SUTTON, SURREY.

On April 14th, the admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise was the subject of debate by the members of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, the President, the Rev. John Barnes, being in the chair. The following resolution was moved by Mr. Dennis:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting."—It was opposed by Mr. James Bawtree, and in the discussion which followed a number of the members took part.—The resolution was carried by a majority of four-fifths of those present; and a petition to Parliament, in favour of the extension of the franchise in the terms of the resolution, was signed by the Chairman on behalf of the meeting.

LONDON:

At the meeting of the Birkbeck Debating Society, on March 24, Mr. H. Neville Ward moved—"That it is inexpedient to confer the Parliamentary franchise upon women householders." The resolution was supported by Messrs. Pett-Ridge, Kite, and Morrison, and opposed by Messrs. P. J. Descours, Garcké, and J. M. Fells. The discussion was of an animated character, and the resolution on being put from the chair was carried by a majority of two only.

DEAL.

On April 18th the Deal and Walmer Debating Society gave a debate in public, at the Carter Institute, on the question of women's rights. The chair was taken by the Mayor. Mr. W. B. Browne opened the debate for the affirmative on the question "Whether women ought to be placed on a legal, political, and social equality with men." He was followed by Mr. J. H. Steinhardt on the negative and Mr. J. A. Reavell on the affirmative. Mr. Davies moved, as an amendment, "That the question of women's rights is a delusion and a snare—a danger to woman herself and to society at large." Mr. Carterfield followed on the affirmative, Mr. Wise on the negative, and, after a reply from Mr. Browne, the vote was declared in favour of the original resolution.

SCOTLAND.

THE CONVENTION OF ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY BURGHS.

This Convention held its sitting during April, under the presidency of Sir Thomas Jamieson Boyd, Lord Provost of Edinburgh. After a resolution in favour of the assimilation of the burgh and county franchises had been unanimously passed, Provost MACKIE, commissioner for Linlithgow, moved: "That the Convention petition Parliament to extend the provisions of the 2nd section of the Municipal Elections Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1881, to Parliamentary elections, and thereby confer the Parliamentary as well as the municipal franchise on women."

Provost FLEMING, Rutherglen, seconded the motion.

Mr. R. LEES, Galashiels, moved the previous question, as he did not believe nine-tenths of the women of the country desired the franchise.

Ex-Provost CULBARD seconded the amendment.

On a division 33 voted for the motion and 20 against the petition. The result was received with applause.

EDINBURGH.

MUNICIPAL VOTE FOR WOMEN.

The first of a series of district meetings on the subject of the municipal vote for women was held April 25th in M'Laren's Academy, Hamilton Place, Stockbridge. Councillor SOMERVILLE presided.

In opening the proceedings, the CHAIRMAN said that the meeting had two chief objects—(1) to promote the movement for the enfranchisement of women as Parliamentary electors; and (2) to publish locally the fact that women would in November next have a vote for the election of members of the Town Council. This latter privilege had been possessed by the women of England for the last ten years, but it was only within the last year that it had been extended to Scotland. He thought they would agree with him that this was a very reasonable, and would be a very successful franchise. The admission of women householders paying poor-rates to the municipal franchise would add about 30 per cent to the constituency of the city, or 7,712 to the existing constituency of 28,894, raising it to 36,606. A statement which he had got from the office of the Burgh Assessor for the year 1881-82 showed that there were in Calton Ward 1,962 male and 324 female voters; in Broughton Ward, 1,458 male and 477 female voters; in St. Bernard's Ward, 1,608 male and 501 female voters; in St. George's Ward, 1,723 male and 780 female voters; in St. Stephen's Ward, 979 male and 489 female voters; in St. Luke's Ward, 967 male and 288 female voters; in St. Andrew's Ward, 1,090 male and 268 female voters; in Canon-gate Ward, 3,132 male and 430 female voters; in St. Giles' Ward, 2,422 male and 375 female voters; in St. Cuthbert's Ward, 3,868 male and 569 female voters; in George Square Ward, 3,051 male and 978 female voters; in St. Leonard's Ward, 2,825 male and 618 female voters; and in Newington Ward, 3,809 male and 1,615 female voters. Women had now got a considerable instalment of justice, and he believed that in a brief time they would also have the Parliamentary franchise. (Applause.) He believed that in this way they would get a larger and better choice of candidates for municipal service, and he thought he could trust women voters to select those who had given proof of having previously taken interest in the welfare of the people. (Applause.)

Miss KIRKLAND moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have a right to vote; and that a petition based on this resolution be signed by the chairman and forwarded to the House of Commons from this meeting." (Applause.) Speaking of the influence on women of the franchise already given them, she said it had always appeared to her that, as each woman passed out of the polling booth at school board elections, she had gathered dignity in her short sojourn there. (Hear, hear.) But a still more important franchise—viz., the Parliamentary franchise—was yet to be gained. However important the previous ones were, and however grateful they might be for them, this Parliamentary franchise was by far the most important, as it embraced the whole well-being of the nation. So far, in all the extensions of the Parliamentary franchise that had been made, women had been overlooked and not considered. Going on to deal at great length with the arguments for and against the admission of women to this franchise, Miss Kirkland, in answering the objection that women were weak and easily influenced, granted that there were a number of silly women, but thought they would have no great difficulty in finding a complement of equally silly men. (Laughter and applause.) The unfitness of women to exercise the franchise, however, was amply disproved by a consideration of the class of women who constituted female householders. Politics she defined to be nothing more or less than the relations of human beings to one another, and women who did not interest themselves in politics were, she maintained, neglecting half of the ends for which they existed. Instancing the question of Disestablishment, she said that, as a warm adherent of the Church of her fathers, she protested against the ballot boxes being closed against women, either on the one side or the other of this question, the more especially as it had been stated in Parliament that the patronage of the Church was actually in the hands of women, the number of female adherents being far in

advance of that of male adherents of the Church. Then, as to the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, whilst not expressing an opinion on the merits of the question raised by the Bill, she pointed out that it was an entirely one-sided measure, and that it would evidently not be tolerated for one moment in the House of Commons that the wife should be allowed to marry her deceased husband's brother. The reasons were clear why they should have a voice in the framing of laws, with which they were concerned, and which had hitherto been framed from man's point of view alone. (Applause.)

Miss BURTON seconded the motion, and, in doing so, quoted from a number of the provisions of the Municipal Acts in order to show how intimately these were, as she thought, bound up with women's interests and women's work.

The motion was also supported by Miss WIGHAM, and was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Miss FLORA STEVENSON, the usual vote of thanks was awarded to the chairman, and this closed the proceedings.—*Scotsman.*

GLASGOW.

Under the auspices of the Glasgow Women's Suffrage Association, Miss Jennie J. Young, of New York, re-delivered her concert-lecture, "Thoughts about Women," to a highly appreciative audience, in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, on the evening of Friday, the 14th April. It would be difficult to decide whether the lecturer gained most applause for her exquisite singing, or for the ability of her arguments in speaking.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.

A drawing-room meeting of the members of this association was held at Russell's Temperance Hotel, Stephen's Green, Dublin, on April 14th, to hear an address from Miss Caroline Biggs, of London. The Rev. Mr. CARMICHAEL, LL.D., occupied the chair. Mrs. Haslam acted as hon. secretary to the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN briefly stated the object of the meeting. Mr. ABRAHAM SHACKLETON, T.C., J.P., proposed the first resolution as follows: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government in England, have the right of voting." Mr. Shackleton referred to the fact that women had the municipal franchise in England, and said it was hard to understand why they should not enjoy it in Ireland seeing that already they had the poor law franchise. There was another disability—namely, that women were not eligible as poor law guardians in Ireland. They were in England, and he believed that the election of ladies as poor law guardians had already borne very beneficial results. He observed that women were liable just as men were to taxation, and to the same penalties for breaking the law as men were, and it was only fair that they should have a voice in making the laws as men had. The present Parliament seemed to have taken a more advanced view of the subject than previous legislatures. The present Government, at all events, had given women extended rights. They had the right of being arrested under the present Coercion Act in Ireland, and also had a right, as they had recently seen, to be required to give bail, and in default of being committed under an old statute of Edward III., which had latterly been put into operation in this country. (A laugh.)

Mr. HENRY J. ALLEN seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss BIGGS, and carried.

The Rev. C. A. MURPHY moved the adoption of a petition. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. CAROLINE EASON, of Rathgar, and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. HENRY WIGHAM, seconded by Mr. T. W. RUSSELL, the thanks of the meeting were accorded to the chairman for his kindness in presiding, and to Miss Biggs for her able and eloquent address; and the proceedings terminated.

BELFAST.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the North of Ireland Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Lombard Hall, Belfast, on the afternoon of April 18th, Mr. MARRIOTT R.

DALWAY, D.L., ex-M.P. for Carrickfergus, presiding. There was a large attendance, principally of ladies, amongst those present being the Rev. Dr. Johnston, Rev. Mr. McKane, Rev. Thomas Hamilton, Rev. J. Kenny, Rev. Mr. Kinahan, Rev. Mr. Kinghan, Rev. A. Patton, Rev. Dr. Donald, Mr. Vere Foster, Mr. John Greenhill, Mr. W. H. Patterson, Miss Caroline Biggs, Miss Tod (hon. sec.), Mrs. Ewart, Mrs. Byers, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Calder, Mrs. Henry Thomson, Mrs. R. Lindsay, and Mrs. Murphy.

The CHAIRMAN said that anyone who was interested in the question of women's suffrage, and who had observed the progress made, would find that it was a steady progress which had been made. He did not think it would be necessary for him to urge upon them the fairness of admitting women householders who pay qualifying rates the right to exercise the franchise. He was sure they would all feel persuaded that that was merely fair and right, and he believed that the people of these countries were beginning to look upon this as fair and right. He was only sorry that in this new Parliament this question had not yet been debated. A great many things had been urged against women householders who paid taxes being admitted to exercise the franchise, but he had never heard one real substantial reason. He, for his own part, could see no earthly reason why they should be disqualified from exercising the franchise merely because they happened to be women. He thought this Parliament would be one that would be favourable to it, and he believed the people of these countries were beginning to take a greater interest in the question, and that the day was not far distant when this right would be extended to women. As far as he had observed himself, he must say that he thought ladies exercised a very great influence in election times, and there was no doubt if they had the franchise granted to them, they would exercise it in the right way. He would be very pleased to see the day that women householders had the right to vote for members of Parliament. (Applause.)

Miss TOD read the report, which, after details relating to the Parliamentary position of the main question, reported that a measure which would confer an important local voting power upon women householders in Ireland has, however, passed the critical stage of second reading, and may probably become law before long. The Bill to assimilate the Irish municipal franchise to the English, introduced by Mr. Richard Power, is worded in the same manner as the English Municipal Act of 1869, and would, therefore, confer the right of voting in municipal elections upon all women who are householders rated to the relief of the poor in Irish boroughs. At present there are many anomalies in the statutes which govern these local franchises. Women householders cannot now vote for the municipal authorities in corporate towns; but in those towns which are governed by Town Commissioners under one Act of Parliament, women ratepayers do possess the right of voting, while in a class of generally smaller towns governed by an older Act, they have not that power. The passing of the Bill referred to would, therefore, put an end to a confusing anomaly, as well as do justice to a large body of ratepayers who have hitherto, in the majority of Irish towns, had no voice in the disposal of the local taxes.

Miss TOD also read the financial statement. The Rev. Dr. JOHNSTON moved the adoption of the report, and the re-election of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year. The resolution was seconded by Miss BIGGS and adopted.

Mr. W. H. PATTERSON moved "That this meeting cordially pledges itself to do all in its power to support Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution, and to ensure the admission of women householders to the elective franchise whenever the question of Parliamentary reform comes before the country, and that a petition to the House of Commons praying them to pass a measure to remove the electoral disabilities of women be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting."

Miss TOD seconded the resolution. Dr. MILFORD BARNETT expressed the pleasure which it gave him to support the resolution, which was then passed.

The Rev. John Greenhill was then moved into the second chair, and a vote of thanks was, on the motion of the Rev. A. PATTON, seconded by the Rev. Dr. DONALD, cordially passed to the chairman.

Mr. DALWAY, in acknowledging the compliment, said that the question of giving the franchise to women was only a question that required to be kept well to the front and agitated in order to ultimately succeed. He had always taken an interest in it since, he supposed, its commencement, and he had had the honour of fre-

quently supporting it in Parliament. He was not in the position to aid it very much now, but should he ever get back into Parliament again—which he assured them he was not at all anxious to do—he would support the women's franchise, but he hoped and trusted that before that time it would be carried. The proceedings then terminated.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

BELFAST.

By the kind invitation of Mr. Robert Young, C.E., and Miss Young, a drawing-room meeting was held at Rathvarna, Belfast, on 6th April. Rev. Dr. Johnston, presided and the meeting was addressed by the Chairman, Miss Caroline Biggs, Miss Tod, Mr. Young, Rev. J. Meerey, and others. Several gentlemen intimated that the discussion had convinced them that the claim of women householders to the franchise was just, and that its admission would prove of much advantage to the community.

On Tuesday, 11th April, a large number of ladies, many of whom are actively engaged in temperance and other philanthropic work, assembled at Sans Souci, Belfast, the residence of Mrs. R. Lindsay; Mrs. Knox presided. Addresses were delivered by Miss Caroline Biggs and Miss Tod on the moral and social duties of women, which require for their due fulfilment that those of them who are duly qualified shall have the right of voting for the great representative council of the nation. An animated and valuable discussion ensued, in which Mrs. Byers, Mrs. M'Ilwaine, Mrs. Workman, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Lindsay, and other ladies took part, and a very strong sympathy with the movement was expressed.

On Wednesday, 12th April, Mrs. Blackwood held a drawing-room meeting at 6, College Green, Belfast, to promote the cause of the claim of women householders to the franchise. Robert M'Geagh, Esq., J.P., occupied the chair, and opened the proceedings with a logical and effective speech. The other speakers were Miss Caroline Biggs, Miss Tod, Rev. H. Osborne (Holywood), Rev. Dr. Murphy, and Rev. J. Kingham. The meeting was unanimously in favour of the claims advanced.

A number of ladies interested in education and cognate subjects met at 126, Albion Place, Belfast, on 13th April, by invitation of Miss Tod, to consider the manner in which their special pursuits would be advanced by the success of the women's suffrage movement. Mrs. M'Ilwaine presided; Miss C. Biggs and Miss Tod addressed the meeting; and almost every lady present joined in the subsequent discussion, especially Mrs. Byers, Miss Hardy, Miss Paul, Miss Bruce, and Mrs. Acheson, in a very cordial and practical manner.

A large meeting of ladies and gentlemen, invited by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, met at Crosshill, Belfast, on the evening of the 17th April. Rev. Dr. Applebe (Theological Professor, Methodist College) presided. After addresses by Miss C. Biggs and Miss Tod, Messrs. W. Scott, Silas Evans, William Gray, James Johnston, and Alderman W. J. Johnston, and Mrs. Thompson spoke, various points raised being explained at length, and a warm approval of the women's suffrage cause being expressed by all.

SOUTHAMPTON LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

JUNIOR LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—The fortnightly meeting of this association took place on Thursday, April 13th, at the Reform Hall, Mr. W. H. Purkis presiding.—A discussion on "The Rights of Women" was opened by a very able paper from Mr. Frederick Rayner, who contended that women should enjoy the same privileges as men in all things that affected their well-being, and pointed out that many of the present laws were most unjust towards women. He would also admit women into political associations, believing that it would improve the tone of such societies, as well as tend to develop their political knowledge. He thought it was a pity that the Board of Guardians in this town, as lately constituted, did not possess some lady members, for then, perhaps, it would have been less like a "bear garden" than it had been. Mr. Rayner concluded by moving a resolution to the effect that ladies should be admitted to membership in the association, which, after some discussion, was lost, though all the speakers agreed with the opener in many of his arguments. Mr. Rayner gave notice of

his intention to again open the subject at an early date, for he said he was determined to gain the point; he had brought it forward with that intention. He thought it was time that this absurd prejudice ceased, and women admitted without hesitation.

ST. MARY LIBERAL ASSOCIATION met on Monday evening, April 17th, at the St. Mary's Hotel; the president, Mr. MacLachlin, in the chair. Nine new members were proposed and duly elected, and it being then proposed by Mr. Frederick Rayner and seconded that Mrs. H. Rayner should be elected a member of the association, a long discussion ensued, three or four members strongly objecting to ladies being introduced into the meetings. The hon. secretary, having been appealed to, said it was a ratepayers' association, but non-ratepayers were admitted; there was nothing in the rules preventing Mrs. Rayner from becoming a member. After some further discussion the name was put to the meeting, when twenty-nine voted for and seven against. The result was received with cheers.

Obituary.

MISS DORA GREENWELL.—On March 29th this accomplished lady died at Clifton. A poetess of great accomplishment and exceptional character, she will also be remembered as the authoress of "The Patience of Hope," "A Life of Lacordaire," and other works; and also as one of the earliest and most appreciated contributors to Good Words and the Sunday Magazine. For many years she was a great invalid. Miss Greenwell was an earnest upholder of the women's suffrage movement.

MRS. DANIEL HARRISON.—This lady, who died at Boscombe, Bournemouth, 11th April, aged eighty-four, was sister to Mary Howitt. She was an early supporter of the women's suffrage movement. By her death a great loss is sustained by the Bromley, Beckenham, and Shortlands Women's Suffrage Branch Committee, of which she was a member. She was very cultivated. Botany was one of her chief pursuits. She was anxious to further schemes of benevolence; and was young-hearted even at her advanced age. She was keenly alive to passing events, and was gifted with extraordinary personal influence. She died sincerely mourned by a very large circle of friends.

MR. CHARLES DARWIN.—This illustrious natural philosopher died at his residence at Down, in Kent, on April 19th, after a short illness. Though his health had been extremely weak for many years, he was not sufficiently ill to be confined to the house until about a fortnight before his death. He was born at Shrewsbury on February 12th, 1809. He made his celebrated voyage in the "Beagle" during the years from 1831 to 1836. His sufferings on the voyage undermined his health, which ever after continued delicate. He resided for many years on his estate in Kent, where he died. He leaves a widow and a family of five sons and two daughters.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES—For Removal.

SIXTH REPORT, 15—28 March, 1882.

Table with columns: Mar., Brought forward, Petitions, Signatures, and list of petitioners like Eccles (Mr. Agnew), Hyde (Mr. Cunliffe Brooks), Thomas Brown and others (Mr. Evans), etc.

Table of subscriptions and donations from March 28 to April 28, 1882, listing names and amounts like Billinge and Wigan (Mr. Knowles), Chislehurst and others (Viscount Lewisham), etc.

(Continued on page 66.)

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 28 TO APRIL 28, 1882.

Table of subscriptions and donations from March 28 to April 28, 1882, listing names and amounts like Napier Higgins, Arthur Phillott, Friend, etc.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 64, Berners-street, W.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

GENERAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, APRIL, 1882.

Table of general subscriptions for April 1882, listing names and amounts like Winkworth, William Hargreaves, Messrs. Ireland and Co., etc.

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

SPECIAL FUND.

THREE HUNDRED POUNDS WANTED.

Miss Becker has received the following letter, and earnestly begs that friends who sympathise with the movement will aid her in raising the required amount:—

"Petersfield, Hants, 24th April, 1882.

"Dear Madam,—I will give £50 if you will collect three other fifties, or £100 if you will get three other hundreds in a month.—Yours truly, (Signed) "R. KENNETT."

Contributions may be sent to Miss Becker, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 20 TO APRIL 20, 1882.

Table of subscriptions and donations from March 20 to April 20, 1882, listing names and amounts like Beddoe, Miss Schaw Protheroe, Hall, etc.

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 1, Cecil Road, Clifton.

CASH'S "VICTORIA" FRILLING

FOR TRIMMING

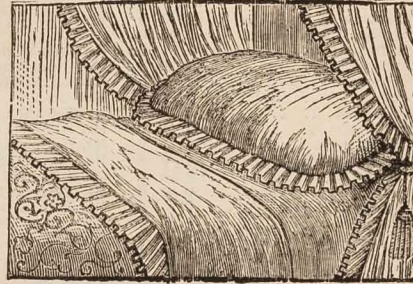
BED LINEN.

Widths 2, 2½, and 3 inches.

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ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.

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For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.

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The numerous well-authenticated Testimonials in disorders of the HEAD, CHEST, BOWELS, LIVER, and KIDNEYS; also in RHEUMATISM, ULCERS, SORES, and all SKIN DISEASES, are sufficient to prove the great value of this most useful Family Medicine, it being A DIRECT PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD and other fluids of the human body.

Many persons have found them of great service both in preventing and relieving SEA SICKNESS; and in warm climates they are very beneficial in all Bilious Complaints.

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