

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XVIII.—No. 215. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
Yearly Subscription, Post Free, 1s. 6d.

NOVEMBER 1, 1887.

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SOUTHPORT.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Cambridge Hall, Southport, Tuesday, November 8th, when addresses will be given by Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Woodall, M.P., Sir Wm. Houldsworth, Bt., M.P., Mr. Walter M'Laren, M.P., and Sir Wm. Forwood. The MAYOR (John Unwin, Esq.) in the chair. Doors open at half-past seven p.m. Admission Free.

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MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN THE
MAYOR'S PARLOUR, TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER,
On TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1887.

The Chair will be taken at Three o'clock, by
W. WOODALL, ESQ., M.P.

Professor ADAMSON, J. W. ADDISON, Esq., Q.C., M.P., Miss BECKER, Alderman BENNETT, Capt. COTTON, M.P., Capt. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE, M.P., Sir WILLIAM H. HOULDSWORTH, Bart., M.P., H. H. HOWORTH, Esq., M.P., Dr. EMRYS JONES, The Hon. GEO. T. KENYON, M.P., W. S. B. M'LAREN, Esq., M.P., J. W. MACLURE, Esq., M.P., Rev. H. A. NOEL, M.A., Mrs. PHILLIPS, N. C. SCHOU, Esq., HENRY SLATTER, Esq., J.P., Rev. ALEX. THOMSON, D.D., and other ladies and gentlemen are expected to take part in the proceedings.

The attendance of Friends is requested. Admission Free. Entrance in Princess-street.

Just Ready.
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CALENDAR for 1888. Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN.
In this third edition of the Calendar, much of the information relating to Classes and Examinations has been re-arranged as a working Calendar. Lists of careers followed by women and public offices held by women have been introduced. The list of Registered Medical Women, Scholarships for Women, and other matter has been brought up to date.
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MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, OCTOBER, 1887.

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, categorized by region (e.g., Liverpool, Chesterfield, Burnley).

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

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM AUGUST 22ND TO OCTOBER 22ND, 1887.

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Bristol and West of England Society.

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

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, OCTOBER, 1887.

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Central Committee, categorized by region (e.g., Blackburn, Hanley and Stoke, Stafford).

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SPECIAL WINTER LECTURE CAMPAIGN.

The following sums have already been received towards the special fund for lectures and meetings to be held during the winter:—

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Special Winter Lecture Campaign.

List of Lectures, etc., already arranged in connection with the Central Committee for the month of November:—

Peckham and Dulwich Radical Club. Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Tuesday, Nov. 1st.

The Primrose Habitation, Solihull, Warwickshire, Miss Florence Baggart; the Primrose Habitation, Northill, Biggleswade, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Thursday, Nov. 3rd.

Ladies' Auxiliary Conference in connection with the Meeting of the Midland Union of Conservative Associations, Birmingham. Friday, Nov. 4th, Miss Florence Baggart. Chairman, Lady Windsor. The Eleusis Club. Mrs. Ashton-Dilke, Nov. 6th.

The Ripon Lodge (Strand) of the Liberal League. Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Monday, Nov. 7th.

Earlsfield Lodge Liberal League, Wandsworth. Miss Florence Baggart, Wednesday, Nov. 9th.

The Peckham Liberal Club, Miss F. Baggart; the Harrow Green Conservative Club, Miss C. A. Biggs, Monday, Nov. 14th.

The Liberal League, Loughborough. Miss Florence Baggart, Thursday, Nov. 17th.

The Liberal League, Northampton. Miss Florence Baggart, Friday, Nov. 18th.

The N. St. Pancras Constitutional Club; the Conservative Association, Ely, Miss Florence Baggart, Monday, Nov. 21st.

The New Town and North West Ham Liberal Club. Miss Florence Baggart, Monday, Nov. 28th.

The Literary Society, Dorking. Miss Baggart, Tuesday, Nov. 29th. The Conservative Association, Gravesend. Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Wednesday, Nov. 30th.

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PRICE ONE PENNY. BY POST THREE HALFPENNY.

THE annual meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage is fixed for Tuesday, November 8th, in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Manchester. Mr. WOODALL, M.P., will preside, and a large number of members of Parliament and other friends are expected to be present.

Invitations have been issued to a social gathering in the offices of the Society on the conclusion of the annual meeting, in order to afford an opportunity of meeting the speakers at the annual meeting and of promoting social intercourse among the members of the Society.

THE Earl of DERBY, in a recent letter to a Welsh correspondent respecting the question of the disestablishment of the Church of England, wrote that in his opinion, if a majority of the electors were in favour of disestablishment, it must follow. He goes on to say: "You ask whether I would determine the fate of the English Church by a plebiscite. I answer that with our present franchise an appeal to the constituencies at the dissolution constitutes what is virtually a plebiscite. No other is either necessary or desirable."

NEWS of fresh efforts for the enfranchisement of women comes to us from Denmark.

On October 7th, Mr. BAJER, member of the Danish Parliament or Folketing for the division of Skauderborg, introduced a Bill for the extension of the municipal franchise to women. The words of the Bill are as follows:—

"The right of voting and the power of being elected in the communal representation shall belong to widows and other unmarried women who have hitherto been excluded by reason of sex alone from these rights in question, but who fulfil all other legal conditions for the practice of the same.

Everything in the law which is contrary to this regulation is repealed.

"This law is to come into force as soon after its passing as the new electoral lists in each place can be drawn up."

The editor of Kvinden og Samfundet says: "As a matter of course we are deeply gratified at the terms of the Bill. The introducer has made it as comprehensive as possible, so that it will include municipal representation, town council, county boards, county school boards, the children, and requested that they might be sent out to him. Will it be believed that the guardians packed the children off to America without consulting the mother? The woman actually visited her children two days before they left, and was never told that they were going. Will the day ever come when Boards of Guardians will consider people in receipt of parish relief to be within the pale of humanity?"

We believe that the guardians acted strictly within their legal rights, and that they were in no way bound to recognise the existence of the mother in disposing of her children, notwithstanding the recent alteration in the law as to the custody and guardianship of infants. The promoters of that Bill could only obtain the sanction of the House of Commons to the measure on condition of striking out of it all provision which gave mothers any legal power over their children during the lifetime of the father.

Surely the Earl of DERBY here overlooks the fact that the Church of England is the Church of the women as well as of the men, and that women are, to say the least, as vitally interested as men in any question affecting the Church. If the fate of the Church as the National Church is to be determined by an appeal to a plebiscite, that plebiscite must consist of the women as well as the men, if it is to be an expression of the mind of the whole people.

The following paragraph appeared in a recent issue of Truth:—

"The guardians of Headington, in Oxfordshire, appear to be a nice, tender-hearted set of gentlemen. A man having gone to America, leaving his wife and family chargeable to the parish, his two children were placed by the guardians in the industrial school. Shortly afterwards the father forwarded from America the passage money for

local boards, school commissioners, and so forth. The only doubt is whether it includes the poor-law boards. We are equally rejoiced that the Bill includes the right of being elected, which is as important as the right of election."
C. A. B.

It is just a year since the Legislative Assembly of South Australia passed the second reading of the Women's Franchise Bill, introduced by Dr. STIRLING, further advance being, however, stayed for the time by the necessity for an absolute majority of the House in any amendment to the constitution.

In May last, the House of Representatives of New Zealand also passed the second reading of a Women's Suffrage Bill, introduced by the Colonial Treasurer, Sir JULIUS VOGEL. The wide scope of the measure—practically universal women's suffrage—raised a difficulty in going through Committee, and the further development of the question was relegated to the new Parliament to be elected for the coming year.

Again, in June last, the Premier of Victoria received a deputation from the Melbourne Women's Suffrage Society, and gave the favourable reply which appeared in the August number of this journal.

This threefold effort in Oceania is worth more attention than it has perhaps as yet received amongst ourselves. There is much to reflect upon in the fact that during the past twelve months, in three out of the six self-governing colonies of Australasia, simultaneous steps have been taken, with the result that now in the colony which is largest in area of these self-governing dependencies—South Australia—the Legislature, after having previously passed a resolution in 1886 without a division, in 1887 carry a Bill to second reading. The representatives of the colony which was the earliest to receive an independent constitution—New Zealand—after having in 1878 rejected a measure by an adverse majority of ten, have in 1887 carried the principle by a majority of nineteen, appealing to the constituencies for further instruction as to the exact scope which the measure should embrace.

And lastly, in the colony which has the densest population—Victoria—a Women's Suffrage Society of indigenous growth has received an assurance from the Premier that full consideration shall be given to the question when the Electoral Law is before the attention of the Legislature in 1888.

Passing from Australasia to the Dominion of Canada, we find that although women's suffrage has not yet attained

to a favourable division, it has nevertheless made part of the Government Electoral Bill introduced in the Parliament at Ottawa by the Premier, Sir JOHN MACDONALD, in 1885, and is supported by a society centred in Toronto.

When the same reform is thus sought in an old country with a population of something like 300 to the square mile, and in new countries with populations of from four to ten to the square mile, it is plain that it springs from some deep-seated need of human society as constituted under the representative form of government, and it is not due to mere local or temporary changes of economic conditions. That the mother country and her far off dependencies are thus moving on together towards the recognition of the citizenship of women is at once an encouragement to perseverance and an earnest of the inherent force of the claim.
H. B.

THE death of Mr. BERESFORD HOPE last month removes a prominent figure from Parliamentary life. Mr. BERESFORD HOPE has been a member of Parliament during the whole time the women's suffrage movement has been before the country, and he was an active and formidable opponent on every occasion when the measure was discussed in the House of Commons. But he was not an unfair opponent, and he helped other objects for which some women care much. He was a devoted husband. The death of his wife, Lady MILDRED BERESFORD HOPE, six years ago, inflicted a blow upon him from which he never recovered. In his novels, "Strictly Tied Up" and "The Brandreths," his heroines were by no means of the abject type affected by some novelists, and his hero is proud of his title and vocation as "Lucy's Husband."

WOMEN AND POLITICS.

THE WOMEN'S LIBERAL FEDERATION IN NOTTINGHAM.

On October 18th a meeting was held in the large hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Nottingham. Mrs. COWEN presided, and among those present were Mrs. Gladstone, Mr. A. Morley, M.P., Mr. Broadhurst, M.P., Mr. Woodall, M.P., Mr. Moulton, Q.C., Ald. Gripper, Countess Tolstoi, Lady Sandhurst, Mrs. Turney (the Mayoress), Mrs. Bateson, Lady Plowden, Lady Stevenson, Miss Mander, Mrs. Byles, Mrs. Gorle, Mrs. Joseph Smith, Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Hind, Mrs. W. Mallit, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Jacoby, Mrs. Orchard, Miss Cubley, Mrs. Sudbury, Mrs. W. Sully, Miss Slack, Mrs. Lindley, Mrs. H. G. Reid, Mrs. Theodore Fry, Miss Macdonell, Miss Renals, Mrs. Higginbottom, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Lees, Mrs. Short, Mrs. W. Manlove, Mrs. H. Ashwell, Miss R. P. Hutchinson, &c.

The business of the meeting was to promote the success of the Liberal party, but many of the speeches contained reference to the question of women's suffrage.

Mrs. COWEN, in her opening remarks, said the experience which they had gained during the many years they had fought for women's suffrage had fitted them for the work of the organisation they had in hand. She was glad to welcome Mr. Woodall, who had been,

and now was, the leader of their cause in Parliament. She hoped that it would not be long before the work for women's suffrage would be rewarded with success.

Mr. ARNOLD MORLEY, M.P., who was cordially received, said he did not come here to speak; he only came to express sympathy with the movement that was taking place, not only in Nottingham but in the whole country, in the direction of the women of England taking a greater interest in political questions. No one who had watched the steady growth of that question could fail to see that the political questions which had to be settled in the future would be influenced much more largely than they had ever been in the past, by the union of working men and the energies of the women of England. (Applause.)

Mrs. GLADSTONE said she knew they were hardly expecting that she should make a speech that afternoon. But she took this advantage of the enthusiastic gathering, and it was not possible that she should be silent. She must express her deep sympathy with the objects of the meeting, and she rejoiced to think that women were ready to come forward and support them in their great undertaking. (Cheers.)

Mr. MOULTON, Q.C., the adopted Liberal candidate for the Southern Division of Nottingham, who met with a warm reception, said that it was the first time in his political experience that he had attended such a magnificent gathering, a meeting formed of ladies who had met to testify that they not only took an intelligent interest in, but also felt deeply about, political questions.

Mrs. BATESON said it gave her very great pleasure to attend at such a meeting as that, because she thought that with regard to Ireland no one took more hearty interest than the women of that country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WOODALL, M.P., observed that they had heard very much in recent years of woman's sphere in religion and practical politics. There were some who honestly held that women could not concern themselves in these affairs without detriment. There were others who, holding that view, were less willing to employ women for the furtherance of party ends, and he was sorry to say that there were some others who, while they recognised the right and duty of women to take their part in public affairs, were timid and concerned lest they should exercise that influence on the wrong side in party politics. He only wished such could have been present to see such a magnificent demonstration, and the evidence which it gave of the earnestness of Liberal women throughout the country. (Applause.) In truth, there was no greater fact in modern history than the way in which women were working out and solving that problem for themselves. (Applause.) Their achievements in such walks as those of educational work, the position they had attained in the learned professions, their services in philanthropy, and their admirable works on public boards were great facts indeed. (Applause.) They had seen within the last few months the highest distinction attained at Cambridge University by a woman. They rejoiced in the distinction attained by Miss Ramsay. Their excellent educational institutions, such as Girton and Newnham, had turned out numbers of women, cultivated, intellectual and public spirited, not only to adorn but able to guide in domestic affairs, and of playing a very valuable part in the government and guidance of their country. Amongst the most useful and distinguished of these women, they had to record the name of Helen Gladstone. (Applause.) It appeared to him that women's movement was essentially and inherently a Liberal movement. (Applause.) In some minds there would be suggested a contrast of women engaged in unwomanlike work, and in practising arts and cajolery over voters, by the distribution of blankets and broth in such a manner that it was dishonest on the part of the donors and demoralising to the recipients. He was sure they would all give a very wide berth to such practices. (Hear, hear.) Their aim would rather be to study and promote that truer benevolence which would appeal to the self-respect of every man and woman, and while offering counsel and guidance, would constantly endeavour to do all they could to elevate and improve the condition of others. (Applause.)

Mrs. THEODORE FRY also supported the motion, and congratulated the Women's Association on their enthusiastic gathering. It was arranged that the first meeting of the United Federation of the Women's Association should be held in February of this year, and while eighteen months ago the number of the Association was twenty-four now they numbered forty-six—(cheers)—and the membership was 12,000. (Cheers.)

Lady SANDHURST moved, and Mrs. RACHEL HUTCHINSON seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Gladstone for her presence, and the meeting terminated with a similar compliment to Mrs. Cowen for presiding.

THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, M.P., AT NEWTON HEATH.

At a social meeting of the Fergusson Habitation of the Primrose League, held on October 25th, in the Conservative Club, Oldham Road, Newton Heath, Sir JAMES FERGUSSON, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and member for the North-East division of Manchester, in the course of his address, said that it was a very happy thought when the Primrose League was associated with the Conservative interest, because it introduced a social element into their political organisation; but still more because it enlisted in their cause, in an active manner, a portion of the community whose power should never be undervalued, and whose assistance he, for one, should be most glad to obtain. (Hear, hear.) The ladies always took up things with an earnestness which men would do well to emulate, and he thought if he could only find out on which side they were he would generally prophesy that that side would be very near winning. (Hear, hear.) He was a convert to the cause of female suffrage. (Hear, hear.) He dared say a great many ladies would choose not to be bothered with votes, but would content themselves with influencing other votes. But when the franchise was so widely extended, without stopping at the limits of responsibility and education, he thought they should not fail to include within the limits of the constituencies those who were of not less sound judgment than themselves, and who were, he thought, for the most part at least, as well educated as the men. In fact, he should hope that when the ladies, who were otherwise qualified on the same terms as the men, were endowed with the franchise, they would have a very civilising element in their constituencies, and perhaps, more attention would be paid to those social subjects which were necessary to be considered for the benefit of the community at large. (Applause.)

MR. T. H. SIDEBOTTOM, M.P., AT STALYBRIDGE.

On October 15th, at a meeting held at the Town Hall, Stalybridge, under the auspices of the Stalybridge Habitation of the Primrose League,

Mr. TOM HARROP SIDEBOTTOM, M.P. for the borough, was called on to move a vote of thanks to the ladies who had presided at the tea tables. He remarked that they owed a deep debt of gratitude to the ladies, and he only wished they had votes for members of Parliament. (Applause.) He might be a little selfish in that, because if they had, no Radical or Home Ruler would ever think of contesting that borough. (Hear, hear.) It was the ladies, and the ladies only, who had made the Primrose League such a brilliant success. It was impossible to exaggerate the benefits conferred on the Conservative party by that organisation, not in Stalybridge alone, but throughout the country, and they would agree with him that it was well performing the great objects for which it had been called into existence. Those objects were first to commemorate, celebrate, and perpetuate the memory of that illustrious statesman, the great Earl of Beaconsfield—(applause)—and secondly, to inculcate, propagate, promote, and spread those great Conservative and Constitutional principles of which during his life he was such a distinguished advocate. (Applause.)

Mr. R. BATES seconded the resolution, and spoke highly of the assistance which the ladies of the Primrose League rendered in the return of Mr. Sidebottom at the last election.

The resolution having been carried, Mrs. SIDEBOTTOM proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which Dr. ROBERTS DUDLEY seconded, and the proceedings terminated.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTTISH LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At a conference held last month in Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire, Mr. J. H. M'GOWAN, Liberal agent for Dumfriesshire, moved a resolution in favour of the principle of one man, one vote. In the course of the discussion,

Mr. JAMES BREMNER, Dumfries, moved an amendment, embodying female representation in the measure proposed. He thought the meeting should give forth no uncertain sound on the question of female suffrage. The leading Liberals of the country were in favour of the principle.

On the suggestion of Professor LINDSAY it was agreed to pass the motion, and to bring up the amendment as a separate motion in the event of time being found.

NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW.
RESOLUTION IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ADOPTED.

The annual conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations for Scotland was held in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on October 27th. There was a large attendance of delegates from the various district associations throughout the country. Sir ARCHIBALD ORR EWING, Bart., M.P., presided. In the course of the proceedings,

Mr. MACFARLANE, Paisley, moved: "That in the opinion of this conference the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to female ratepayers."

Mr. JAMES BRUCE, W.S., Edinburgh, in seconding the resolution, pointed out that out of 670 members of the House of Commons 354 were in favour of conceding the female franchise, and of these 175 were Conservatives and twenty-seven Unionists, so that a considerable majority of those with whom they were associated supported the proposal. Of the electors on the municipal roll about one-fourth were females, and he believed that the proportion on the Parliamentary roll would be about equal. The number of voters on the Parliamentary roll at present was about half a million, so that instead of half a million they would have about 700,000 if women were allowed to vote. On the great question at present before the country he believed that female voters would, as a rule, be in favour of Union. They would also support the maintenance of law and order throughout the country, and generally they would have enormous assistance from the Conservative element in women.

Mr. MITCHELL, Edinburgh, supported the motion, on the ground that the Conservative party would gain immensely by the proposed extension of the franchise.

Mr. MONRO, Lindertis, also supported the motion.

Captain STEWART considered that, seeing that women had ceased to belong to the order of mammalia, and brought up their children on Swiss cows' milk, they could afford to give more time to public affairs. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting seemed to be unanimously in favour of the resolution.

Lord BALFOUR said he did not feel so strongly upon the subject that he thought it necessary to divide the conference. At the same time, he could not allow it to be said that the conference was unanimous. He put aside as unworthy of consideration the argument that women were in favour of Union and of the Conservative party; but it seemed to him that a proposal to make one of the most tremendous political experiments the world had ever seen had not been adequately discussed in the country, and that it was by no means ripe for decision by Parliament. So far as he knew there was no country with institutions approaching their own which gave women the power which was sought to be conferred upon them by this resolution, and he claimed that the argument, from experience, was entirely against the making of this great change. He deprecated the intrusion of women into public life. Their proper sphere of influence was at home. They could exercise that influence over their male relatives there much better than they would do by voting themselves at the polling-booths.

Captain STEWART wished it to be understood that he was not speaking in favour of the motion. What he wished to be understood was that women only could get the franchise if they ceased to be mammalia. (Laughter.)

Sir H. MAXWELL, M.P., was glad that his noble friend had not allowed the matter to go by default. He was not going to say a word about the principle involved, because he thought the time had not come when it need be discussed at a conference called for mere business purposes. He wished them to consider whether it was expedient to raise it at a time like the present. The electorate of this country had been enlarged from time to time. This had always been done at a considerable interval of years. They had just concluded one of the vastest changes in the electorate that had ever

taken place, and he could not help hoping that, before any further change took place, they would allow themselves to feel their feet under the present condition of the electorate of the country.

Sir CHAS. DALRYMPLE, M.P., said he was entirely opposed to the motion, and had always opposed it. He deprecated some of the reasons that had been urged for the adoption of the proposal, especially that women would be favourable to the interests of the Conservative party. It might or might not be so, but it was at any rate a totally inadequate reason for adopting a motion of that kind. It was possible to exaggerate the importance of having a vote. His own opinion was that the possession of a vote did not necessarily give anyone political influence, and he was of opinion that women should exercise their influence at home rather than in the turmoil of a contested election.

The CHAIRMAN said he could not altogether agree with those who said that the question should not have been brought forward at the conference.

Sir HERBERT MAXWELL, interrupting, said he did not say that it should not have been brought forward. He simply said it was inexpedient that this business conference should commit itself to any further change in the constitution.

The CHAIRMAN said if that was to be the rule then they would never be able to discuss questions of importance to the country. He thought all questions brought forward by any member of the association were worthy of being discussed. If anyone thought they were unworthy they could state their objections. He himself had no such fear of the passing of the resolution; and he thought if women were qualified by the payment of rates they ought to have the right to vote. They had the opinion of Lord Beaconsfield in favour of this motion. Long before his death he supported this measure as a measure of justice, and perhaps although he never spoke in that way he had the belief that they would find in women a substrata of Conservative feeling more than in men.

The meeting then divided, when the motion was carried by a large majority.—*Glasgow Herald.*

LECTURES. DUMFRIES.

Miss Isabella M'George read a paper on "Female Suffrage" at the meeting of the Effort Lodge of Good Templars, Dumfries, on 21st September. She urged that as a matter of abstract right it was unjust to deprive women possessing the same qualifications as men from exercising the same electoral privileges, and that this injustice was intensified in a community like ours, where women were as highly educated as the stronger sex. After referring to the many disabilities imposed on woman, which the franchise would help her to abolish, Miss M'George pointed out that social questions were now coming to the front in Parliament, and that in these the interest of woman was paramount. A discussion followed, in which Messrs. Alexander Bremner, P. Wilson Raffan, James Hyslop, Walter Millar, and Adam Black took part. All the speakers endorsed the views expressed in the paper, the only difference of opinion being as to whether the suffrage should be extended to married ladies—Messrs. Bremner and Raffan supporting the extension, but the other speakers opposing it. On the motion of Mr. Black, Miss M'George was heartily thanked for her paper, and a report of the proceedings was ordered to be sent to the *Good Templar* and the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

IRELAND.

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE IN BELFAST.

The first of a series of meetings to be held by women ratepayers to promote the moral and social welfare of the town was held on September 30th, in Elmwood Lecture Room, University Road, Belfast, and was numerously and influentially attended. Mrs. Hannay presided, and Miss Tod gave an account of the admission of women to the municipal franchise in England in 1869, Scotland in 1882, and Belfast in the late Session of Parliament. Mrs. Byers, Miss S. B. Thompson, Mrs. Riddel, Mrs. Stelfox, Mrs. Halliday, and several other ladies took part. A ratepayers' association was formed to promote temperance, sanitary reform, the observance of peace and order in the streets, and other objects in which women as citizens have equal interests with men. Women not ratepayers,

but who are workers in such causes, may join as associates. Miss Tod and Miss S. Andrews were appointed secretaries *pro tem.*, and Mrs. Moneyppenny treasurer.

The second meeting took place at the house of Mrs. Moneyppenny, and was of a similar character to the first.

On October 13th the third meeting of women ratepayers and others interested in the franchise recently conferred on the women of Belfast was held in St. Anne's Schoolroom, Donegall-street, which was kindly lent for the occasion by Rev. Dr. Hannay, who presided.

BELFAST MUNICIPAL REVISION.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

MARRIED WOMEN AND THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE.

On October 26th, at the revision of voters' lists in connection with the borough of Belfast, before Mr. J. B. M'Hugh, Mr. Harrison, B.L. (instructed by Mr. W. H. Burke), appeared in support of a claim made by a married woman named Jane Corry, in connection with which the contention had previously arisen as to the right of married women to vote under the Belfast Municipal Franchise Act of 1887.

After hearing the argument, His Honour said that fortunately for the Court, there had been decisions in reference to the matter in the English courts. He then referred to the case of Taylor v. Meads (34 Law Journal Reports, Chancery, page 203), that any woman, although married, was *femme sole* as regards her property, and may be dealt with in every respect as if she was unmarried. Her rights as to property had been largely increased by the several Acts which had succeeded each other from 1870 to 1884, and also the rights she had to sue her husband had been given to her by amendments of the original Acts, but in none of those measures had there been any addition in the way of giving to a married woman as distinguished from a *femme sole* the political right contended for in that case. Having referred to a further decision on the subject in England, he said it seemed, therefore, that the Married Woman's Property Act of 1882 did not increase women's political rights, thereby showing that the law laid down in the Queen against Harrold was still the law in England. He concluded by expressing the pleasure it would afford him to state a case for the Queen's Bench if counsel so desired.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN CHAIN AND NAIL WORKS.

At the recent meeting of the Trades Union Congress, at Swansea, Mr. JUGGINS (South Staffordshire) moved: "That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to introduce such amendments to the Factory and Workshops Act as shall prevent the employment of females in the making of chains, nails, rivets, bolts, or any such articles that are made from iron or steel, such work not being adapted to their physical constitution; at the same time it is demoralising in its tendency, producing the greatest amount of poverty among the operatives employed." He maintained that the employment was a most improper one for women. They were engaged for sixty hours a week, and earned not more than 3s. to 3s. 6d. a week, while they were required to work in almost a nude state, and mixed up with men, in order to earn those miserable wages; and he was sure they would think it high time women were called out from work carried on under such demoralising conditions. He produced specimens of the chains and nails they had to make. These, he showed, necessitated very heavy labour. He exhibited a chain fifteen feet long, which was made for threepence, and another heavy chain for which three-halfpence was paid to the women, though the employer sold it for 4s. He urged the Congress to do something to improve the moral and social condition of the women engaged in this trade by passing this resolution.

Mr. BISSETT (Aberdeen) seconded. Miss BLACK opposed the resolution. She said that all present were doubtless of one mind as to the undesirability of the state of things described by Mr. Juggins. That women did suffer the physical evils of which he complained in the nail and chain trade was no doubt true. But there was not one injury which Mr. Juggins had instanced that could not be capped by a worse story of the sufferings of women employed in trades which no one dreamed of forbidding, such as needlework and match-box making. But

men never proposed to interfere with these trades. Why not? There was no need to ask. Men did not work at these trades and suffered nothing from the competition of women. The real point to be complained of was the low rate of payment earned by the women; and the way to prevent the employment of women in any trade they were unfit for was for men to join in helping them to combine in order that they might receive the same wages for the same work. If employers had to pay women the same prices as men, there would be no temptation to them to employ women to do what they were less fit to do than men. But the women were not represented here to speak for themselves, and she protested against the attempt of one class of workers—especially a class whose interests were concerned—to impose restrictions upon another class of workers. Not all the horrors described by Mr. Juggins could give them the right to pass such a vote.

Mr. KNIGHT (Newcastle) supported Mr. Juggins, and other delegates spoke; but not one protested in the name of the women against interference from outside, and the resolution was carried.

INCIDENTS IN THE REVISION COURTS.

GREENWICH.

Mr. J. Muir Mackenzie again sat at the Greenwich County Court to revise the lists of voters for the borough. During the day a somewhat novel point cropped up in regard to a claim which was objected to by Mr. Donald McCall, who represented the Liberals. The claim was that of a wife for her husband, who was away in the Mediterranean. The claim had been signed by the wife. He contended that as the signature was not that of the claimant himself, the claim was bad. The Revising Barrister said he would hold that in such a case as this the husband and wife were one. He would take the wife's signature and allow the vote.

PRIZE COMPETITION PUZZLE, No. 7.

In response to an expression of opinion we have decided to again offer a prize puzzle competition. In order to enlist a larger circle, we propose to divide the usual amount into two prizes of one guinea each. We therefore offer—

1. A prize of one guinea for the best anagram composed of the letters in the words "National Society for Women's Suffrage."
2. A prize of one guinea for the best list of words made out of letters in the word "European." In forming the words, no letter must be used oftener than it occurs in the original word. The words must be words in common use. Words that are found in dictionaries, but not in current literature, will not help to gain the prize.

RULES.

1. Answers should be sent on or before November 24th, addressed to the Editor, *Women's Suffrage Journal*, Queen's Chambers, John Dalton-street. Answers may be signed by a *nom de plume*, but the real name and address must be sent for registration. Persons who have taken part in former competitions will please not to change their original *noms de plume*. The result of the competition will be announced in the December number of the *Journal*.
2. Every answer must contain the sum of one shilling and sixpence, in return for which the *Women's Suffrage Journal* will be forwarded by post for twelve months to any address indicated by the competitor whether such competitor win the prize or not. Competitors may send more than one sentence in the anagram competition, and they may compete for both prizes.
3. The prize will be given in money, subject only to the condition of the publication of the winner's real name and address in this *Journal*.
4. On the announcement of the prize winner's name or *nom de plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within one month from the announcement of the award will forfeit all claim to the same.
5. Prize winners are not disqualified from any succeeding competition, provided they comply with its conditions.
6. The decision and award once announced must be considered final and irrevocable.

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