

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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Correspondence.
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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures during the recess for petitions, to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution, which is expected to come on for discussion in Parliament at an early date next session. Petitions from women householders who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general 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.

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ADDRESS UPON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN WYOMING, delivered at Association Hall, Philadelphia, by Gov. JOHN W. HOYT, of Wyoming Territory, U.S.A., on April 3, 1882. Price Threepence.—Published by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

NOW READY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Presented at the Annual General Meeting, held July 13th, 1882. Price Sixpence. To be had at the Offices of the Society, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

WOMAN'S CLAIM.—By EMILY PFEIFFER. Reprinted from the "Contemporary Review" for February, 1881. Price 6d. London: 64, Berners-street, W.

ELECTORAL REFORM.—By WILLIAM COUNT, General Secretary of "The National Union of Working Women," and late Member of the "Bristol Trades' Council." Price 2d. London: George Vickers, Angel Court, Strand. Bristol: John Hayward, 1, Corn-street. 1880.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XII. January to December, 1881. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London: Trübner and Co.; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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

BALLOT ACT CONTINUANCE AND AMENDMENT BILL.—For Alteration.

FOURTEENTH REPORT, Petition Number, 8394.

NINETEENTH REPORT, 7—10 July, 1882.

- Brought forward, Petitions 5—Signatures 12
- July
- ©11961 7 LEITH, Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the Burgh of (Mr. Andrew Grant) Seal 2
 - ©11962 10 DUMFRIES, Scotland, Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the Royal Burgh of (Mr. Ernest Noel).. Seal 1
 - ©11963 „ ABERDEEN, Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the City of (Dr. Webster) Seal 1

Total number of Petitions 8—Signatures 16

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT, 13 July, 1882.

- Brought forward, Petitions 8—Signatures 16
- July
- ©14403 13 DUNFERMLINE, Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the City and Royal Burgh of (Mr. Campbell-Bannerman) [APP. 364] Seal 1

Total number of Petitions 9—Signatures 17

The Petitioners pray the House to make certain Alterations in the Ballot Act Continuance and Amendment Bill. These Petitions are substantially similar to that from the Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland [APP. 146].

APPENDIX TO THE NINTH REPORT.

Containing Petitions presented May 1—12, 1882. Delivered May 17.

BALLOT ACT CONTINUANCE AND AMENDMENT BILL.—For Alteration.

App. 146. Dr. Webster. Seal. Sig. 1.

4695. The Petition of the Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland, in convention assembled, Humbly sheweth,

That there is at present pending in your honourable House “A Bill to amend and make perpetual the Ballot Act.”

That the convention has had the said Bill under consideration, and cordially approve of the alterations it proposes upon the law of Parliamentary elections.

That as regards Scotland the convention is of the opinion that the provisions of the Bill, as far as applicable, should be extended to municipal as well as Parliamentary elections.

That another amendment which the convention would suggest is, that the Parliamentary franchise should now, as has been the case with the municipal and school board franchises, be extended to women. It is most inexpedient longer to retain this disability on women in reference to Parliamentary elections. Its removal would accord with the ripe feeling of the large majority of the country upon the subject.

May it therefore please your honourable House to pass the said Bill with the engraftment therein under the branch or part thereof particularly affecting Scotland of the various amendments thereon above proposed, viz. :—

1. That the provisions of the Bill shall apply to municipal as well as to Parliamentary elections.
2. That the Parliamentary franchise be, as well as the municipal and school board franchises, extended to women.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Signed in name and on behalf of the convention of the Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland, and the seal of the convention affixed hereto, on the fourth day of May, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, by

THOMAS J. BOYD,
Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Presse.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES) BILL.—For Alteration.

SEVENTEENTH REPORT, 29 June, 1882.

- Brought forward, Petitions 19—Signatures 61
- June
- ©10397 29 LEICESTER Branch of the National Society for Woman's Suffrage, John Page Hipps, chairman (Mr. Peter Taylor) 1

Total number of Petitions 20—Signatures 63

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT, 14 July, 1882.

- Brought forward, Petitions 20—Signatures 62
- July
- ©14406 14 LEICESTER Trades' Council, members of the, Daniel Merrick, president, and others (Mr. P. Taylor) ... 3

Total number of Petitions, 21—Signatures 65

The Petitioners pray for certain Amendments in the Parliamentary Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Bill.

The Petitions marked thus (©) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

THE CALENDAR.

AUGUST, 1882.

MOON.		SUN.	
	Rises.	Sets.	
6th Last Quar., 4h 13m morn.	4 33	7 38	
13th New Moon, 9h 10m aft.	4 44	7 25	
22nd First Quar., 0h 55m morn.	4 58	7 7	
28th Full Moon, 9h 19m aft.	5 8	6 54	

1	T	Mrs. Inchbald (dramatist) died 1821.
2	W	Municipal Franchise Amendment Act, 1869.
3	Th	Queen Philippa at Calais, 1397. Debate, Married Women's Property Bill, 1870.
4	F	Miss Margaret Sinclair died 1869, aged 86.
5	S	
6	S	Ninth Sunday after Trinity.
7	M	Bank Holiday.
8	T	
9	W	Married Women's Property Act, 1870.
10	Th	Marquise de Chastellat (translator of Sir Isaac Newton's works) died 1799. Bastardy Laws Amendment Act, 1872.
11	F	S. Clara, of Assisi, 1253. Medical Act (Qualifications Act), known as Russell Gurney Act, 1876.
12	S	Mrs. Livermore lectured at Leeds, 1881.
13	S	Tenth Sunday after Trinity.
14	M	
15	T	Irish University Act, 1879.
16	W	Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878.
17	Th	Frederika Bremer born 1801.
18	F	Ladies' Educational Association dissolved 1878.
19	S	
20	S	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.
21	M	Lady Mary Wortley Montague died 1762. S. Jeanne de Chantal (founder of Sisters of Visitation) died 1641.
22	T	
23	W	Debate on Women's Suffrage in the New Zealand Parliament, 1878.
24	Th	
25	F	
26	S	
27	S	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity. Supplemental Charter admitting Women to Examination at London University, 1867.
28	M	Elisabetta Sirani died 1665.
29	T	Act destroying Right to Dower, 1833.
30	W	
31	Th	Act to alter the law as to voidable marriages passed, 1835.

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UP to the last night before the expected debate on Mr. MASON'S Resolution, which stood for discussion on the 21st of July, there was a strong and reasonable expectation that the Arrears of Rent Bill would be disposed of in time to allow of Mr. MASON moving his Resolution at the evening sitting. But when the morning sitting closed while the House was still in Committee on the Arrears of Rent Bill, these hopes began to wane. At nine o'clock, the hour when the Resolution should have come on, the House was still in Committee on the Arrears Bill, and as the evening progressed, Mr. MASON, after taking counsel with his Parliamentary supporters, decided that unless the Arrears Bill were disposed of by eleven o'clock, he would not bring on his motion. The division on the third reading of the Arrears Bill took place about half-past twelve. Even without the previous understanding, it would have been manifestly unwise to have attempted to force the attention of a wearied House to a fresh debate begun after midnight, when justice could not possibly have been done to the subject. As soon, therefore, as the division was over, Mr. MASON, who had remained faithfully at his post watching for his chance all through the evening, and who stood, hat in hand, waiting to hear the numbers announced, retired with a bow to the Speaker, which was understood to signify his withdrawal of his Resolution.

ALTHOUGH it was impossible not to feel great disappointment at the loss of the only opportunity that has occurred during the session for taking the sense of the House of Commons on the question of women's suffrage, the feeling is tempered by the consciousness that the occasion was not a very favourable one for a debate on the subject. The session was far advanced; the House is always more or less wearied after a morning sitting; the troubles in Ireland and the war in Egypt occupy the mind of the Government and the country to an extent that renders it difficult to fix their attention on measures of domestic

reform. The question has lost nothing by being deferred until next session—a fate which has befallen many other important matters which have been excluded from consideration by the pressure of painful and, let us hope, exceptional affairs.

WE desire to express our thanks to those friends throughout the country who have supported the effort that has been made in the House of Commons, by calling the attention of their Parliamentary representatives to the subject through petitions and letters. We have the strongest reason for believing that these efforts have produced a very good effect, and that the demonstrations which have been made in support of Mr. MASON'S Resolution have had the result of awakening the attention of members generally to the importance of the subject to an extent that could not have been attained by any other means.

THE Resolutions placed on the order book of the House of Commons by Mr. MASON and Mr. ANDERSON in Committee on the Parliamentary Elections (Corrupt Practices) Bill and the Ballot Act Continuance and Amendment Bill respectively, still remain on the paper, and they will be brought forward should a favourable opportunity arise for their discussion, but it has been announced that the former Bill is not to be proceeded with this year.

We observe with very great satisfaction that many of the Scotch Town Councils are sending separate petitions to the same effect as that of the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs, namely, among other objects for the extension of the franchise to women in Parliamentary elections. The Councils of Leith, Dumfries, Aberdeen, Dunfermline, Paisley, and North Berwick, have adopted petitions in favour of Mr. ANDERSON'S motion.

THE annual meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage took place on July 13th, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, West-

minster. There was a crowded and influential attendance. Mr. HUGH MASON, M.P., occupied the chair; and Miss TOD, Mr. BALDWIN, M.P., Mr. LEVY, Mr. J. A. BLAKE, M.P., Miss BECKER, the Rev. J. KINNEAR, D.D., M.P., Miss C. A. BIGGS, the Rev. E. WYATT EDGELL, Mrs. CHAPLIN AYRTON, M.D., and Mrs. SHEARER took part in the proceedings. The report and statement of accounts were adopted, and a resolution pledging the meeting to support the action of the Parliamentary leader was carried unanimously.

Drawing-room meetings have been held at Sydenham, by invitation of Dr. and Mrs. BLECKLEY, and at Fopstone Road, Kensington, by invitation from Mr. JOHNSON and Miss MORDAN, when resolutions supporting the principle, and petitions to the House of Commons in favour of women's suffrage, were unanimously adopted.

AMONG the few legislative achievements of the session we count with great satisfaction a fresh extension of the operation of Women's Suffrage in Scotland. Last year Dr. CAMERON obtained the passing of an Act giving the municipal franchise to women in Scotland, but this Act extended only to Royal and Parliamentary burghs; it did not affect police burghs, which are analogous to non-corporate districts in England. These police burghs are populous places, endowed with powers of local self-government, under the General Police and Improvement Act. A demand for the extension of the franchise to women in these burghs reached Dr. CAMERON, and he brought in and carried a measure, entitled The General Police and Improvement Act (Scotland), 1882, which received the Royal assent on the 12th of May. This Act gives to women ratepayers in such districts, not only the right of voting for the election of burgh commissioners, but also of voting, along with other inhabitants, as to whether a populous place shall be constituted a police burgh or not.

The Act contains a clause which declares women ineligible for election as commissioners or trustees of police. Thus the sanction of the Legislature has been given to the principle of recognising the right of women to vote in the election of councils on which women are not eligible for election, and thereby the fallacy of the contention of some Parliamentary opponents, that the concession of votes to women must needs be accompanied by a measure making them eligible for election as members of Parliament, is conclusively demonstrated.

THERE is a remarkable and instructive difference between

the stages through which the rights of women ratepayers to vote in local elections have been established in England and Scotland respectively. In England women have always had the same rights as men in local elections, with the single exception of the municipal elections instituted by the Act of 1835. That Act limited the franchise in municipal or corporate districts to male persons who were ratepayers. Consequently, whenever a non-corporate district received a Charter of Incorporation, the electoral rights of all the women ratepayers were summarily extinguished. Notable instances of this occurred in Darlington and Southport, where many hundreds of women ratepayers in each town were disfranchised, to their great indignation, by the introduction of the Municipal Corporation Act into those districts. The measure for amending the Municipal Corporation Act, passed in 1869, in extending the franchise to women ratepayers, simply restored to them the franchise of which they had been deprived in 1835, and removed the anomaly caused by the distinction between corporate and non-corporate districts as to the electoral rights of women.

In Scotland, on the contrary, women seem not to have had any rights whatever in local government, therefore Dr. CAMERON'S Act of last year, which applied only to municipal districts, created instead of removing an anomaly. The logical Scottish mind immediately demanded and obtained the removal of this anomaly by the extension to women in other districts of the same rights as are given to women in municipal districts.

Already symptoms are apparent of impatience at the existence of the further and newly-created anomaly of a large proportion of ratepayers and taxpayers having electoral rights in local government, while denied electoral rights in Parliamentary government; and as the people of Scotland have not got used to the spectacle of this illogical difference of rights, there is good reason to hope that they may continue to protest against it until it shall at no very distant date be numbered with the things of the past.

WE have much satisfaction in recording the establishment of women's suffrage in municipal government in Iceland. By an Act which passed the Althing this year, and which received the assent of the KING of DENMARK, by a strange coincidence, on the 12th of May, the day on which the assent of the QUEEN of SCOTLAND was given to Dr. CAMERON'S Act, widows and unmarried women who are householders, or in any other manner occupy an independent

position, are invested with the vote for the election of magistrates and town councillors, and also at parochial meetings, if they are twenty-five years of age, and if they have fulfilled all legal conditions for the exercise of such rights.

ICELAND has been in existence as a nation for more than a thousand years. It was formerly an independent Republic, but in the year 1261 it became an appanage of the Norwegian crown, and now forms part of the kingdom of Denmark. It is governed by the KING, with the co-operation of a legislative assembly known as the Althing. The ancient privileges of the island had fallen into abeyance, but at the millennial celebration of the independence of Iceland, in 1874, additional powers were granted to the Althing by a constitution which secured to it the right to make its own laws, and assured the islanders a general independence which virtually makes them free of the home Government. The Althing meets for legislation every other year. It is divided into two Houses. Thirty representatives are chosen by the people, and these again choose six out of their number, who, with six members appointed by the KING, form the second Chamber. The remaining twenty-four members form the first Chamber. Every Bill must, as with us, be read three times in each House, and upon occasions when the two Houses cannot agree they meet together in conference. Every Act must receive the Royal assent.

Iceland is administratively divided into fjordungar or four parts, which are subdivided into twenty-two "sysler," districts, with nineteen "sysselmaend" or magistrates, each syssel being again subdivided into "hrappar" or rapes, under "hrappstjori" or sheriffs. The new law gives women who are householders the right to vote for these magistrates.

An additional law has also been passed giving to men and women, on the same conditions, the right of choosing some priest, other than their parish priest, to perform the usual church offices for them. The conditions are being householders, and having been confirmed. The new law in this respect appears to be perfectly equal for women and men.

QUEEN VICTORIA has sent a message to her faithful Commons to the effect that the present state of public affairs in Egypt, and the necessity in connection therewith of taking steps for the restoration of order and tranquillity in that country, and for the protection of the interests of

the Empire, having constituted, in the opinion of Her MAJESTY, a case of great emergency within the meaning of the Act of Parliament in that behalf, Her MAJESTY deems it proper to furnish additional means to her military service, therefore Her MAJESTY is about to cause her Reserve forces to be forthwith called out for permanent service.

This generation has travelled far from the days when a return of arms was required to ascertain the strength of the people. But if we go back in history three hundred years we find that in the reign of Queen ELIZABETH there arose a "great emergency," when it was necessary to provide additional means for military service. The year before the coming of the Spanish Armada the Lords of Her MAJESTY'S Privy Council ordered a return of the arms in possession of the people. In the return, made in accordance with this order for the parishes of the hundred of Wirral, in the county of Chester, we find that next to one RAFFE HULME, who has a "bowe, arrowes, sworde, daggar, jacke and scull," comes Widowe DOBBE with "a bylle, sworde, daggar, jacke and sallet," and a little lower down Widowe GARRETT has "a bowe, haulfe sheaffe of arrowes, scull, and byll."

This was in days when all people who were freeholders could choose the knights of the shire, and "male person" was a description of a voter as yet unthought of. If they were freeholders, the vote of Widowe DOBBE or Widowe GARRETT would, if tendered, have been probably as unchallenged as that of Dame DOROTHY PACKINGTON herself. But in these days, though widows and other women who are freeholders and householders will have to bear their full share of the taxation imposed to defray the expenses of calling out the army reserves in this time of great emergency, they are, by the decision of the Court of Common Pleas, arbitrarily and unjustly deprived of the vote which is allowed to men who contribute no more than they to the defence of the interests of their country, and are debarred from all voice in directing the policy of those advisers of Her MAJESTY who determine the course to be pursued when such great emergencies arise.

DURING the past fortnight, electors have been reminded on all sides that this is the season when they should be careful to see that their names are duly entered on the registers as claiming to be voters in Parliamentary elections. Unless by some accidental confusion about the name, as in the well-remembered case of LILY MAXWELL, it is scarcely likely that any woman's name will have

found its place on those registers, notwithstanding the conviction of numbers that their exclusion is not only unjust in itself, but contrary to the earlier practice of the country.

"What's in a name?" If rates were reckoned in these days, not as so many pence to the pound, but as so many knight's fees, or so many men for the Queen's wars, it might be easier to those who tell us that physical force is an indispensable attribute for the election of representatives to realise that there may be a connection between the material force which underlies government and the rates of the peaceable woman householder. To read (as in old records constantly occurs) that a lady holds her manor by the service of one knight's fee, and that another is responsible for the fourth part of a knight's fee, and another charged with providing a hundred men for the King's wars, sounds more imposing, more as if there was the sanction of power at her hand, than to hear she pays fourpence or sixpence in the pound; yet by another name we speak of the same thing. H. B.

In the "Records of my Later Days," recently published by Mrs. FANNY KEMBLE, we find the following story and commentary: "Mrs. WENTWORTH BEAUMONT, mother of my brother JOHN's friend, must have been a woman of very decided political opinions and very liberal views of the value of her convictions—in hard cash. Left the widowed mistress of a princely estate in Yorkshire, on the occasion when the most passionate contest recorded in modern electioneering made it doubtful whether the Government candidate or the one whose politics were more in accordance with her own would be returned to Parliament, she, then a very old lady, drove in her travelling carriage with four horses to Downing-street, and demanding to see the PRIME MINISTER, with whom she was well acquainted, accosted him thus: 'Well, my lord, are you quite determined to make your man stand for our seat?' 'Yes, Mrs. BEAUMONT, I think, quite determined.' 'Very well, replied the lady; I am on my way down to Yorkshire with eighty thousand pounds in the carriage for my man. Try and do better than that.'" "I am afraid," says Mrs. KEMBLE, "the *pros* and *cons* for women's suffrage would alike have thought that very expensive female partisan politician hardly to be trusted with the franchise. Lord DACRE, who told me that anecdote, told me also that on one occasion forty thousand pounds, to his knowledge, had been spent by Government on a contested election. I think he said at Norwich."

We think the "*pros* and *cons* for women's suffrage"

might reasonably ask, why were the Government officials who spent £40,000 at a contested election more to be trusted with the franchise than the lady who spent £80,000? We should have imagined that the people who had legal rights, and yet chose to make use of illegal ones, were more blamable than the lady whose legal rights being withheld from her made use of the undue influence her property had given her. C. A. B.

THE hideous category of horrible assaults on wives goes on extending unceasingly. Last month we gave two cases which appeared in the Manchester courts on the same day, June 9th. This month we cite two more cases in which it seems to us there has been a failure of justice, in one case to afford adequate protection, and in the other to deal out adequate punishment, for in the latter the victim was beyond the reach of further outrage. The *Blackpool Herald*, of July 21st, reports that THOMAS CUNDILL, of South Shore, was charged with assaulting his wife on the 17th July. On the day in question the husband was very tipsy, and asked for his food. When his dinner was brought he threw it in the fire, and at tea-time he flung the tea over her, and threatened to cut her throat. That sort of thing had been going on for years. She had taken several summonses out against him, but had never prosecuted him on his promising to behave better. On the 17th he struck her on the arm, shoulder, and legs; she had black and blue marks on her body, and her eyes had just got better of bruises. They had a very nice house, and were independent, but kept lodgers for something to do.

The Bench merely inflicted a fine of twenty shillings and costs, and bound the man over to keep the peace in £10.

Mrs. CUNDILL, with tears in her eyes, begged for some further protection. She said a fine would afford her no protection against her husband, and that she now expected as the result of her application to the Court that her husband would sell all the furniture out of the house and leave her destitute.

The second case occurred at the Chester Assizes, on July 25th, when a labouring man named HESFORD was charged with having murdered his wife, on May 1st, at Hyde. The *Manchester Guardian*, in noticing the case, says:—"The prisoner, who is a 'very respectable man,' quarrelled with his wife, and killed her with a blow from a poker. A sympathetic jury found him guilty of manslaughter, and 'strongly' recommended him to mercy,

for no conceivable apparent reason. Possibly they were of opinion that the woman was very much to blame for permitting her spine to be dislocated by the violence which her husband used."

Sentence was deferred till next day, when Mr. Justice MANISTY commented on the seriousness of the prisoner's crime in striking his wife whilst she had a child in her arms. It was mere luck that he had not also been responsible for the death of the child. The judges were determined to do all that they possibly could to stamp out such offences as that of which the prisoner had been found guilty. *However he was disposed on the present occasion to pass a comparatively light sentence.* The prisoner would have to go into penal servitude for five years.

THE scandalous state of the law which allows a wife no direct claim for maintenance on a husband who has deserted her was conspicuously shown by an application made last month at the Thames Police Court. A well-dressed young woman about nineteen years of age applied to the magistrate for his advice. She said she was married a short time ago; at first she was very happy, but now her husband had deserted her, and eloped with her own mother. She said her mother had money and she had none, and that, she believed, was the bait that had allured her husband. The magistrate told her that he was sorry he could not assist her. If she wanted her husband to support her she must go to the parish authorities, and they—if he was within reach—would find her husband and compel him to maintain her. The applicant declared she would starve first, and left the court.

Shame upon the laws, we say, which impose on an innocent wife, placed in so cruel a position, the additional degradation and ignominy of being reduced to pauperism and entering a workhouse before the husband could be compelled to contribute one penny towards her support.

In a message recently delivered by Governor HOYT, he gives the following testimony to the results of women's suffrage in Wyoming:—"Elsewhere objectors persist in calling this honourable statute of ours 'an experiment!' We know it is not—that under it we have better laws, better officers, better institutions, better morals, and a higher social condition in general than otherwise exist; that not one of the predicted evils, such as loss of native delicacy and disturbance of home relations has followed in its train—that the great body of our women, and the

best of them, have accepted the elective franchise as a precious boon, and exercise it as a patriotic duty—in a word, that after twelve years of happy experience, woman suffrage is so thoroughly rooted and established in the minds and hearts of this people that among them all no voice is ever published in protest against or in question of it."

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The annual general meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria-street, London, on Thursday, the 13th July. Mr. HUGH MASON, M.P., presided, and among those present were Mr. Blake, M.P., Mr. Baldwin, M.P., Mr. A. O'Connor, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Kinnear, M.P., the Rev. E. Wyatt Edgell, Miss Tod, Miss C. A. Biggs, Mrs. Chaplin Ayrton, M.D., Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Thomasson, Mrs. Maclure, Mrs. Pennington, Mrs. J. B. Firth, Mrs. C. M'Laren, Miss Sharman Crawford, Miss Jenner, Miss Becker, Lady M'Clure, Lady Wilde, the Dowager Countess of Buchan, Mrs. Hullah, Mrs. Mason, Miss Hill, Dr. Frances Hoggan, the Misses Boucherett, Alderman Pochin, Mrs. Lynch, the Misses Staurope, Mrs. and Mrs. Wates, Mr. Levy, Mrs. Savile, Mrs. Streatfield, &c. The body of the large room was packed with an audience of influential ladies and gentlemen. At the outset the chairman called upon Miss BECKER, the secretary, who said the committee had received letters of sympathy from the Bishop of Exeter, Mr. Woodall, M.P., Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., Mr. H. E. Samuelson, M.P., Mr. Hopwood, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Rylands, M.P., Mr. C. B. M'Laren, M.P., Mr. Pennington, M.P., Mr. Caine, M.P., Mr. James N. Richardson, M.P., Sir Louis Mallet, C.B., Sir Robert Wilson, Sir Robert and Lady Anstruther, Professor Liveing, Mr. J. Allanson Picton, Mr. W. M. Rossetti, Lady Jane Moore, Misses Stevenson, Alderman Hawke, Rev. and Mrs. George Butler, Mr. W. Shaen, Mr. and Mrs. Kitchener, Rev. Mark Wilks, Rev. R. Suffield, Mrs. R. Sharp, Mr. W. Malleison. Miss BECKER then read the report, which has been published separately, and the statement of accounts, from which it appeared that the receipts, including a balance from last year of £56. 2s. 11d., amounted to £1,043, and the expenditure to £976. 2s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £67. 9s. 7d.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause, said he was exceedingly pleased to meet so large and influential a gathering. He thought it was one of the largest, and certainly not the least influential, of all the annual meetings that that society had held. To himself, and, he had no doubt, to his honourable friends on the platform, the occasion was an extremely refreshing one. It was refreshing to forget for a few moments at least, those grave and anxious and exciting political events which were taking place, not only within the bounds of our own United Kingdom, but also in distant parts of the world. For the many years that he had had the honour of being connected with the society, he had never attended a meeting where he could say that his convictions, in regard to the end they had in view were stronger than they were that day. (Hear, hear, and applause.) His reading in connection with the agitation, if he might use a word which sounded sometimes a little harsh of women's suffrage, and his association with those ladies who had been for a number of years so honourably distinguished for the efforts they had put forward on behalf of this question, had certainly induced him not to relax in the least degree in any humble effort which it was in his power to put forward for the accomplishment of their object. (Applause.) On the other hand, they had stimulated him to persevere and associate himself more closely and directly with those excellent women upon whom the burden of the work fell. (Hear, hear.) He thought the report which had been read by their secretary, Miss Becker, was of a very encouraging character, and the events which had been accomplished from day to day afforded every encouragement to the committee and the friends to persevere in their agitation. (Hear, hear.) He had on his mind at that special moment,

in making a remark of that kind, proceedings which were taking place in Parliament, and which would have taken place the day before if the exigencies of Parliamentary work had permitted Mr. Stevenson to move the second reading of the Sunday Closing Bill. Those who had followed the agitation of that question would acknowledge that on no former occasion had the petitions on that measure been so many and so numerous signed, and that question now occupied a place—to use a well-known and somewhat hackneyed phrase—which brought it within the range of practical politics. (Laughter and applause.) Now, other questions of a social character were also making way in the country, and they had no reason whatever to be anxious about their question. The time would come, perhaps sooner than many of them had lately thought, when the rights and privileges of women in regard to the exercise of the electoral franchise would be acknowledged and granted by Parliament. (Applause.) He was more than amused when he sometimes heard the arguments which were put forward by those who were opposed to them. Their opponents and friends sat on both sides of the House of Commons. On the Liberal side they had opponents and warm friends, and equally so on the Tory side of the House. That was, perhaps, one reason why their question should in the course of a very short time succeed. (Applause.) But he must prepare his friends on the committee for a very active opposition in the House of Commons for the motion which it would be his duty to bring forward at a very early date. (Applause.) His friends must not relax in their efforts—(hear, hear)—for they all knew the amount of indifference which existed amongst the various members of the House of Commons, and how obstinate they sometimes became without the stimulus of an active whip was applied just before a question was prominently brought forward. He could well understand that there were many members of the House of Commons—indeed he was sure there were—who had given comparatively little attention to the consideration of the justice of the claims of women to exercise the franchise. (Hear, hear.) They had put the consideration of that question off to a more convenient season. (Laughter.) The days of the present Parliament were fast running out; perhaps earlier than some of them imagined—(hear, hear)—there would be an appeal to the country, and they all knew that on those occasions candidates for the suffrages of the electors were not indifferent to the claims which were put forward by the women for themselves in regard to this question. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, as they did not know how soon an appeal might be made to the country, it behoved them and the committees throughout the country in connection with their question, to be on the alert and to be ready to put forth their united strength at the right time. (Applause.) With regard to the opposition to this question, when an opponent came into the domain of logic he began to be amused as to what he was going to say. Sometimes the argument was put forth: “Do you intend to ballot for women in the militia? Do you intend to make soldiers of women?” His answer had always been a very ready one to that particular question. It was: “The highest political functions of the State were wisely and ably discharged by the illustrious and gracious head of the State of these realms”—(applause)—and if these logicians would be only consistent with themselves they must say that no woman was competent to exercise those important political functions connected with the wielding of the sceptre of these realms, and if they would consider for a moment they must come to the conclusion that beyond that they could not go, and less than that they were not prepared to acknowledge. (Applause.) They said to him, “Do you want women members in the House of Commons?” He refused to discuss an argument of that kind. He was not aware that such an argument had ever been put forward; and if their opponents were driven to resort to statements of that kind, he thought they were very hard up for something to say against the claims of the women to exercise their political privileges in voting for members of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) He told them that women at the present time did exercise very important voting powers. (Hear, hear.) They not only exercised very important voting powers in voting for school boards, boards of guardians, and other similar offices, but, so far as he could see, they ably discharged the duties in connection with our school boards in various parts of the United Kingdom. (Applause.) Then they say, “Would you withdraw women from those domestic duties in the discharge of which they shine so conspicuously?” His reply was that women had their rights and privileges as well as men; and he never failed to

use one argument which he had never yet heard answered, and it was an argument which he thought might be fairly used in regard to anything that might be said by their opponents. Now, he came from a very populous county—as industrious and as moral as any county in the United Kingdom—the county of Lancaster, and in that county, where his property lay, where his life had been spent, and where his political and social work had been done, he had many times seen questions of this character: He had seen the brute of a man—if he might call him a man—who had been the head of a family, having a wife and children, and who was in receipt of good wages—he had seen in, sadly to say, too many cases that man become a wild drunkard, neglecting the necessities of those dependent upon him—starve, ill-clothe, and brutally beat his wife, and starve and totally neglect the education of his children, and yet be allowed by the law of the country to exercise the franchise and vote for members of Parliament. (“Shame.”) He had seen men of this kind ruin their health and shorten their lives by a course of dissipation, and the poor widow women left in the most distressing circumstances. He had also seen these women—he was going to say manfully, but he would say womanfully—struggling with the surroundings in which they had been left, doing their best to keep themselves and their children from the parish. (Applause.) He had, moreover, had the pleasure of seeing these noble though poor women plodding and paying their way honestly, clothing neatly their children, educating them—(hear, hear)—and paying their taxes with regularity—(applause)—but because they were women they were not allowed to have those political rights and privileges which were exercised by their husbands, who paid no rates except under compulsion, who made no effort to keep their families from the parish, who disregarded everything that was respectable and honest. (Loud applause.) Now, surely circumstances of that kind must have weight on those who reflected for a moment on this question. (Hear, hear.) There might be many other arguments of a like character brought forward, but that was not the time nor the hour to detain that meeting by going into special details. He would turn for a moment to what lay before them, and he would ask for their sympathy, not for what was to come, but what had gone by, when he told them that certainly he had balloted for a place during the present session of Parliament five-and-twenty times, and five-and-twenty times had failed to get a place. It was only through the kindness of his friend (Mr. Arthur Arnold, member for Salford) that he had been enabled to have the day which he had so kindly placed at his (the chairman's) disposal. (Applause.) Now, what lay before them in bringing forward that motion? He had already alluded to opposition, and it would be a strong and determined opposition they might depend upon it which would face them; but they had in the House of Commons many warm and true-hearted friends, and they must ask them to take their places on that occasion and not allow themselves to be beaten in argument, because he thought they could not be beaten in justice. (Applause.) With regard to the amendment which, at the suggestion of his friend Miss Becker, who was much sharper on these questions than he was—(applause)—had advised him to put down in order to see if they could not, supposing they failed—which he would not suppose for a single moment in the present House of Commons—by some chance carry a new clause in the Corrupt Practices Bill which would confer the franchise upon all tax payers who were liable to be taxed. (Applause.) The borough of Macclesfield had not been disfranchised, but it had not yet been granted since the displacement of its members permission to replace them. It was a very corrupt borough; certainly one-half of its electors had received bribes, and one-third had received bribes from both sides. (Laughter.) Many hundreds of witnesses were examined at the trial of the petition and before the commission, and the cost was many thousands of pounds. Who had had to pay the expenses? The borough of Macclesfield had been assessed for those expenses. Had the women householders been exonerated? (Hear, hear, and applause.) They had nothing to do with the corrupt practices, and in justice they ought to have been exonerated. (Applause.) But they had been compelled to pay their quota for practices of which they were perfectly innocent. Now, either give them power to vote or give them justice and say they must not be taxed for evil practices in which they had had no hand. (Applause.) They had got in Parliament two strings to their bow, and if they failed in regard to one there might be a chance in regard to the other. Their opponents, he knew, would

tell them, “We object to achieve or carry out a great political revolution by means of a side-wind. If you wish to confer the franchise upon women bring in a bill to do it. That is the direct way to do it.” His answer to that was—“We must use all the means at our disposal.” It was not a dishonourable mode to revert to such an attempt of obtaining the franchise for women householders. He believed it was fair Parliamentary practice to do what he was going to do; and it was their bounden duty to avail themselves of every opportunity in Parliament to accomplish the aims and obtain the rights which the Women's Suffrage Society had in view. (Loud applause.)

Miss Ton moved: “That this meeting adopt the report and financial statement read by Miss Becker, and direct that they be circulated.” She quite agreed with the chairman that the report was a highly encouraging one. Those who were busy in this movement, and who had to watch from day to day and year to year for opportunities to make some progress, who had to constantly endeavour to influence members of Parliament and others to use their powers, were apt to look at a success in their own particular locality as synonymous with success all over the country. The movement had made more headway in her district of Ulster during the past twelve months than it had done for the previous ten years. (Loud applause.) She was not certain whether she could congratulate other districts, and it was a very great satisfaction, therefore, to hear the good account given in the report of the Central Committee. (Applause.) It was all the more interesting because there had been nothing at all in public affairs either to direct public attention to women or the movement, or to give any special encouragement in the matter. It was simply the growth of public opinion and the sense of justice which was gradually deepening in the public mind. (Applause.) The claims of women to a fair share of representation in a country which boasted that it was self-governing rested upon a double basis. There was the natural and laudable desire in all classes to have a broader, freer, and safer life to carry out and develop the faculties and powers with which God had endowed them—(applause)—and there was, on the other hand, the strong desire to benefit one's fellow-creatures, which characterised a large portion—and that portion the best portion—of society, and which was almost, she believed, more characteristic of women than of men. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Upon these two bases their claims rested. (Hear, hear.) They believed that women would be in all respects the better for these direct privileges; that by her many things that were now wrong could by her be put right; that woman would have to lead a freer and more useful life; and that the change would conduce to the welfare of the whole of the country, as the influence of women would be good as promoting all sorts of wise reforms, social and moral. (Applause.) Besides that a just claim had been constituted, it would go very far to elevate the public conscience, and to make justice to other classes easier to effect by all who were concerned in public affairs. (Hear, hear.) There was absolutely no class which would be so emphatically benefited by the change as members of Parliament—(laughter, and hear, hear)—and they would feel that having done a right thing when women were with them, that every other right thing would be easier to master at the proper time. (Applause.) In short, they would be strengthened in their course, and they would care more for justice than expediency. (Applause.) She could not but feel, too, that the reflex influence upon all women would be very great. They all knew that there were many uneducated men whose ideas as to what they owed to their near relations were, to put it mildly, coarse and low. There were also many working men, who were respectable enough in other matters, who did not feel the same kind of responsibility towards their wives and their daughters that they expected those relatives should have for them. (Hear, hear.) These men did not care for the education of their daughters, although they looked well after the schooling of their sons. At all points they were careless about their daughters, and what was more painful, they were not conscious of any wrong and injustice. (Hear, hear.) Such men were not very easily influenced by lectures or newspaper articles, but women's franchise would be a lesson so strong that they would not overlook it. (Applause.) The position, therefore, of every woman, even in the lowest ranks of life, would be benefited by the granting of women suffrage. It was therefore with the greatest pleasure that she moved the adoption of the report; and she just wished to add that in the pressure of public business their cause might have to

stand still for a while. But their claim would still go on increasing, and “Justice makes a punctual claim, and the interest of her debt is heavy.” (Loud applause.)

Mr. BALDWIN, M.P., seconded the adoption of the report, and remarked that the influential character of the meeting must be an augury of the success of the cause which they were advocating. The advocacy of women's rights he had not had the privilege of taking up publicly, but he had long had strong feelings on the point, and as he had not been a member of Parliament very long he had not had an opportunity of recording his vote in favour of the principles of that society. (Hear, hear.) He was looking forward to the pleasure of doing so on Mr. Mason's motion when it was brought before the House. (Applause.) He felt very strongly in favour of the motion, as it was just in principle, and could be advocated on such strong grounds; and followed up with a persistency such as that meeting was capable of showing, he felt sure the movement must ultimately be crowned with success. (Applause.) The opposition which had been foreshadowed by Mr. Mason was not so strong as he appeared to think. (Hear.) A cause which not only appealed to the good sense of the country because it was just, but which also appealed to the gallantry of Englishmen, would be sure to meet with the success which it deserved. (Applause.)

Mr. LEVY supported the resolution. If they find it laid down in the very foundation of their laws that men were to have it all their own way, and that women were to be governed by laws made for them and not by them—then, he said, it was the very consecration of injustice at the fountain head. (Hear, hear.) To get rid of it, therefore, they must attack it in its very centre. Persons who, he would not say put justice above expediency, but who put it above minor expedients, were very unpopular amongst practical politicians. (Hear, hear.) He could not help thinking that if they looked into political history it was those nations who had been true to political principles and justice that had succeeded, and had succeeded just in such a measure as they had been true to those principles. (Hear, hear.) It was therefore as a fundamental point with regard to our national welfare and worthiness—(hear, hear)—that he supported women's suffrage. He did not know any subject upon which he felt more earnestly, because he felt if they wanted to get rid of all other injustices in society that was the way to do it. (Applause.) As Mr. Mill had said in his “Representative Government,” the chief consideration would be the effect that this change would have upon the character of the people. (Hear, hear.) The effect that this change would have on the people was, he considered, its chief recommendation. (Hear, hear.) At present every little boy was taught that he was something superior to his mother; that he could grow up and make his voice heard in the country, but that his mother could not. If that was miseducation, then he said it was the duty of everybody to do his very utmost to see that that good cause should prevail. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Mr. BLAKE, M.P., moved the second resolution, which was as follows:—“That this meeting has learned with great satisfaction that Mr. Mason has obtained a place on July 21st for the discussion on his original resolution, also that he has placed notices of amendment in Committee on the Parliamentary Elections (Corrupt Practices) Bill, and that Mr. Anderson has taken similar action, as regards Scotland, in Committee on the Ballot Act Continuance and Amendment Bill, and this meeting pledges itself to support the action of the Parliamentary leaders by every means in its power.” He would not address the meeting at any length, because in speaking on the question of women's suffrage it was like preaching to the converted. (Laughter.) There was one part of the resolution in which he felt sure that the meeting would heartily concur—the expression with reference to supporting their Parliamentary leader in this question. (Applause.) He hoped no one would take offence if he likened Mr. Mason to a spider—(laughter)—a certain historic spider. Mr. Mason had balloted for a place twenty-five times. That was the number of times that Bruce's great historic spider tried to reach a certain point, and at length succeeded. Bruce was about to throw up the sponge when he saw the feats of this spider; and the great warrior went into battle again, and he won that battle which placed him securely on the Scottish throne. (Applause.) Mr. Mason must do what Bruce did; for they had in that room means which, if properly used, would be certain to succeed; he meant that if the many ladies whom he saw before him only

used their powers as propagandists, he thought his colleagues in Parliament must have hearts as impregnable as Gibraltar if they did not succeed in winning them over to so just a cause. He had had extensive experience of two countries where women occupied very different positions. In Asia they occupied the most degraded position. Instead of being the help-mates and companions of men, they were the drudges and slaves; and he supposed there was no quarter of the globe where that existed where the places were more degraded. (Hear, hear.) In America, woman—save in the one particular that she was not admitted to the franchise—occupied the position which she ought to occupy; and it was there where she certainly exercised upon the male portion of the creation the most beneficent influence. (Applause.) He was very glad to know that America, too, was forward in the march of admitting women to the rights which they were seeking in England. (Hear, hear.) In a recently published report the Governor of Wyoming said that the example which they had set there had been attended with the very best results—(applause)—and that the effect on the population had been everything that could be desired. (Renewed applause.)

Miss BECKER, who was received with applause, said she rose with great pleasure to second the resolution. Mr. Blake was a gentleman who had a good right to move it, inasmuch as he was one of the original band who had the courage, when the franchise of women was first brought forward in the House of Commons, to support Mr. Mill. (Loud applause.) Since that time the question had gained ground; and, although the question had made progress, it had dragged what some might consider its slow length along. They had heard many and varied voices as to what would be the ultimate outcome of their agitation, and she was sometimes reminded of what was said by the witty brothers Smith about the re-erection of Drury Lane Theatre. People saw a quantity of scaffolding about for a long time, and "while some believed it never would be finished, some, on the contrary, believed it would." (Laughter.) She was one of those who believed that the women's suffrage question would be finished, and that they would not have to wait very long before they witnessed the completion of the edifice. (Applause.) They had worked very hard—(hear, hear)—for it; there had been a great deal of scaffolding. (Hear, hear.) Since the beginning of the year 1880 there had been no less than 421 meetings held in support of that question, and at almost all of those meetings resolutions in favour of the movement had been carried with unanimity and enthusiasm. Seven of these meetings had been among the most remarkable meetings held in the country, because they were immense gatherings of women in large districts. (Applause.) Three or four years ago she saw a splendid meeting in St. James's Hall—a meeting of agricultural labourers—the actual men who claimed the franchise. It was an impressive sight; but the Women's Suffrage Society could match that sight seven times over. (Loud applause.) The great Free Trade Hall, Manchester, had been crammed with women, the very women who ought to have the right of voting—ratepayers and householders. (Applause.) Similar spectacles had been witnessed in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Nottingham, Bradford, and Sheffield; and all these meetings were unexampled, except as compared with the meetings held in the anti-corn law days. They had given a complete and conclusive refutation to the idea that women did not care for the Parliamentary vote. Would they have met together in that way to demand it if they had not cared for it? ("No," and applause.) The workers in the movement had had great difficulties to contend with. It was more difficult for women to combine for political action than it was for men, just as it was more difficult for women to prepare for university honours. It was more creditable for women to carry honours in examinations than it was for men, because they had not the same facilities of perfecting their education; so she thought their meetings should count for more than the meetings of men, who could more easily organise, as they could more easily obtain the sinews of war. (Applause.) One of the difficulties of the women's suffrage movement was the smallness of the funds; in fact, if they had not been great economisers only a tenth part of the work could have been done. (Hear, hear.) Then they had their critics to contend with. The sort of criticism they met with was—"I am in favour of your movement, but I don't see that the object can be gained by intemperate assertions of women's rights;" while another would say, "Oh! yes; your cause is very good, but you are not going the right way to promote it; you have asked so-and-so to speak. If you

allow such a person to address your meeting you will keep away a large number of your supporters." These critics little knew the difficulties of their agitation. They had to conciliate the Conservatives without displeasing the Radicals, and to court the Liberals without offending the Tories. (Laughter.) Miss Becker quoted other instances of criticism and "croakings," and proceeded to say that a great deal of this sort of thing had to be disregarded. They had a goal, which might be close within their reach, but which might be some distance off; but they had to make an attempt to get straight to it. Their position was similar to that of the Arabian princess who had to win a great prize at the top of a high mountain. While she was contending against the difficulties of ascent, she was urged to stop; there were cries of "Don't go on, it is no use trying it," but she disregarded the voices that gave utterance to these discouraging remarks, and went straight up to the top of the hill and brought down her prize in triumph. (Applause.) Therefore she asked all earnest supporters of the women's suffrage meeting to disregard the croakings of critics; and if they found certain failings, to assist them in putting things right. (Applause.) She was looking forward to a good debate on Mr. Mason's motion on the 21st July. In recently looking over the old division lists it was really cheering to see whole troops of the old opponents swept out of the House of Commons. (Loud laughter.) About one hundred of the most determined opponents of the women's suffrage question had been swept away by the last general election. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) She wanted to get a really good debate and a division while those men were still out of the House—(applause)—because at the general election some of them might come in again. (Laughter.) She wanted to get the question settled by the present Parliament, which, she believed, was the most favourably disposed towards them since the agitation of the question began. (Hear, hear.) On all hands they heard that the question was growing. She had observed with pleasure a little story which appeared in the current number of *Blackwood's Magazine*. The whole tone of it was upon the lines of their society, and it furnished them with a prophecy, namely, that women's suffrage was to be given in the year 1886. (Hear, hear.) Now, that was the extreme limit of the present Parliament, and she accepted that augury, and hoped—(applause)—that by that time, if not before, the women's franchise would be gained. (Loud applause.) That meeting would have had some influence in promoting that end; and she hoped that all present would make an earnest endeavour to promote the cause, and support it by every means in their power. (Loud applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Dr. KINNEAR, M.P., moved the appointment of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year. Dr. Kinnear went on to remark that he was sure that there was hardly a town or village in Ireland in which there was not a large proportion of ladies and gentlemen who thoroughly coincided in the views that had been expressed on that platform. In his experience of life he had come to the conclusion that not only was intelligence requisite in order to succeed, but there was also a measure of courage and vitality required; and he felt sure if they would only work during the present year in a way commensurate with the year that had passed, they would do very much to advance onward the success of that society. (Applause.) They ought to be up and doing, because a crisis was really at hand. Measures for the amendment of the law affecting the representation of the people were to be introduced into the House of Commons, and therefore they should use every legitimate effort to secure for women a participation in those benefits which they had good reason to believe that the present Legislature would allow to them. (Applause.)

Miss CAROLINE BIGGS seconded the resolution. That was the last meeting which they would have before the world of London separated to go into the country; and she strongly urged those present, who would be going, some to one place and others to another place, to take with them the principles of the Women's Suffrage Society, and carry on the good work which had been begun by the executive committee. This could be done effectually in the country if only sufficient efforts were made. For instance, in some places pamphlets might be freely distributed, and in others discussion meetings might be held. (Applause.) It was a great work which lay before them—a work which needed far more hands than were at present helping to carry it to a successful issue. (Hear, hear.) She felt sure that all those who helped in it would ultimately reap their reward. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and agreed to.

The Rev. E. WYATT EDGELL was then asked to take the chair, which was vacated by Mr. Hugh Mason.

Mrs. CHAPLIN AYRTON, M.D., then rose and moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the chairman. Great encouragement had been given by Mr. Mason in his arduous struggle on their behalf, and she would add another encouragement.

Mrs. SHEARER seconded the motion, and made an earnest appeal for increased funds to aid the movement. The anti-corn law and anti-slavery movements were not carried on without the sinews of war; and they wanted the sinews of war with which to carry on the women's suffrage movement. She had recently occupied some time in reading over the accounts of men's societies—(laughter)—and she thought the accounts of the women's suffrage movement would bear a very favourable comparison in the shape of economy. (Applause.) But they must have their funds augmented if they were to do the work well in large towns. In deference to their friend, Dr. Cameron, they intended to invade Scotland in the course of the autumn, and they would have to hold a great demonstration of women to show that the sister country of Scotland was not behindhand in this question. (Applause.) They hoped to have the demonstration in November.

The resolution was carried with loud applause.

The CHAIRMAN said the vote would stimulate him very much indeed to go on and do more if possible, in order that they might achieve the results for which they were working. (Applause.)

The meeting then separated.

LONDON.

Miss Craigen has held nine meetings in the open air in various parts of eastern London, most of them in West Ham, Stratford, and Bow. They were well attended, and resolutions in behalf of adult suffrage were passed by acclamation at all the meetings.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.

A district meeting in furtherance of the movement for extending the franchise to women was held June 14, in Mary's Chapel, Burnet's Close, High-street, Edinburgh. Rev. A. D. Robertson presided. Mrs. Kirk moved the first resolution, expressing satisfaction with the fact that the municipal vote has been extended to all women householders and ratepayers in Scotland, and desiring to press upon the new voters of the city the importance of using that responsibility freely, conscientiously, and intelligently for the good of the community. Dr. Agnes McLaren seconded the resolution, after which Miss Simpson moved: "That, in the opinion of the meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should also be extended to women, who, in all matters of local government, pay rates, and who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote; and that a petition to this effect be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to the House of Commons for presentation." Mrs. Lewis seconded the resolution, which, like the foregoing, was adopted.

LEITH.

A meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms, on July 5th, in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. Provost PRINGLE occupied the chair, and was accompanied to the platform by Councillors Heddle and Clark, and Mr. M. C. Rendall, Mrs. Pringle, Misses Burton, Kirk, and E. Kirkland.

The CHAIRMAN said the purpose of their meeting that night was perfectly plain, definite, and precise. It was called at the instance of the Ladies' Society for promoting the Parliamentary franchise to women who from their position in society were proper subjects of it, and they came there to hear what might be said on that subject, and give the benefit of their countenance and support to the movement. He took it that their presence there that night indicated that they were in favour of it. He could not dismiss from his mind that the subject for which they were met was really a branch of a much larger subject which had occupied the public mind for a good many years past, namely, the position appropriated to women in the social, educational, and even professional arrangements of the country. They all admitted that the contest that had been somewhat fiercely and keenly waged for a good many years on behalf of the ladies, who claimed the right to receive for themselves the highest classical training and the highest intellectual culture, and

even the highest professional instruction that the colleges of the country afforded, had occupied a great deal of public attention; that on the one side there was a very deep sympathy manifested in the cause of the ladies, and on the other a kind of unhesitating reluctance to acknowledge these claims. He thought they might take it, however, that in the contest the ladies had been victorious all along the line. He could not admit that substantial or well-founded reasons had been brought forward against their rights in this respect. No impartial mind could be convinced of the soundness of the arguments adduced against their admission into the professional spheres to which he had referred. It had been said that the matter was an agitation raised by a discontented few. That was not the case. As to the privileges which females enjoyed in the way of voting in school board and municipal elections, he was persuaded that they had exercised it wisely, discriminately, and conscientiously, and under a strong sense of responsibility. They had ladies in many of their largest school boards throughout the country, and he was convinced that it was the general concurrence of sentiment that the services they had been able to render to the community in relation to these school boards had been such as to entitle them to the warmest thanks of all classes. The municipal franchise, he had no doubt, had also, like that of the school board been exercised with discrimination and conscientiousness. They now came to the consideration of the question of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise. He thought it was a question which the ladies were fairly well entitled to keep before the public, and he had no doubt that the issue would be that the franchise would be conferred upon them. (Applause.) He had not heard an argument against it. He believed the introduction of women into the Parliamentary franchise would have a purifying influence, inasmuch as it would never occur that they would be guilty of deliberately selling their rights as some of the opposite sex did in an English town some time ago. (Applause.)

Councillor HEDDLE moved: "That this meeting has great satisfaction in the fact that the municipal vote has been extended to the women householders and ratepayers of Scotland, and desires to press upon the new voters of the burgh the importance of exercising this responsibility freely, conscientiously, and intelligently to the good of the community." Miss Burton, Liberton, seconded the motion, and, along with Mrs. Kirk, spoke in support of it.

Miss E. KIRKLAND then proposed: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should also be extended to women, who in all matters of local government have a right to vote, and who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote; and, further, that a petition to this effect be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to the House of Commons by this meeting." She said that, as would be seen by the resolution, the object of the meeting was twofold. It was not only to discuss the exercise of the municipal vote, which by the passing of Dr. Cameron's Municipal (Scotland) Bill last session had been conceded to all women householders and ratepayers in Scotland, and which had been so ably advocated by the previous speakers, but also to point out the necessity for still pressing on to the great object of all their efforts, and which was embodied in the resolution which she had been asked to propose. She referred to the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to all qualified women. She need scarcely point out to them that however important the municipal vote was, and however grateful they were for its concession, the granting of the imperial franchise was by far the most valuable and momentous gain that could be conferred on any class or section of the people. It was in Parliament that all the laws they were bound to obey were enacted. It was to their Parliamentary representatives they had to look for every measure of good—she was sorry to say sometimes of evil—that regulated their lives, their homes, and their nation, and therefore a voice in the choice of their legislators was, and should ever be, an object to work for, to struggle for, and to petition for, by all unrepresented classes. But as far as they could see, the enlargement of the imperial vote had not fulfilled those prophesies of evil, but had, she believed, in a great measure contributed to give them a loyal, contented, enlightened, and, on the whole, prosperous people. But all those reforms had been conceded to different classes of men. Women had been, she thought, both overlooked and not considered in that matter; but now that large and important section of the community were being stirred up to demand that recognition of citizenship, they were beginning to be roused up from lethargy and indifference, and to feel as the working

man did before the passing of the last Reform Bill, that until they had direct representation they would never have just representation, that their wrongs would remain unredressed, and their injustices unremoved until they had the power the ballot-box gave the voter of helping to return the representative who would best consult his or her special interests, and help to amend his or her special wrongs. (Applause.) And just as the working man nobly fought his battle for enfranchisement through many a long weary year, so would women fight their battle, quietly, earnestly, but persistently on, in spite, it might be, of much scorn and derision, in the face of many difficulties and numerous obstacles, through good report and through bad report, until their efforts were also crowned with success. (Great applause.) They were told over and over again that women had nothing to complain of, that their interests were well enough looked to in the general good, that that agitation was only the outcome of a few discontented women who wished to court publicity, that women had quite enough to occupy them without entering the arena of politics, that it was out of a woman's sphere, and a host of other such superfluous platitudes. Unfortunately, the facts of the case did not bear out the testimony of the first objection, viz., that women's interests were not overlooked. They had only to glance at some of the laws that affected women specially, such as the marriage laws, the custody of children, the unequal laws of property, the disabilities in regard to educational endowments, the recent one-sided legislation in regard to morality, the restrictions of labour, the unequal remuneration of work, and many other injustices—all testifying to the fact that no unrepresented class could have that full, free, and impartial legislation which was so necessary for its wellbeing. As to the second objection, that that was merely an agitation of the few, and these not the most happily situated, they ventured to affirm that such was not the case—that it was a large and ever-increasing army that was fighting this battle for enfranchisement, that there were some of the best and noblest men and women in the land that were leading the van, and that its ranks would never be disbanded until victory crowned its efforts. But even if that were not the case, had any reform, she would ask, been the work of the many or the few? Had not every revolution at the first been the outcome of a few brave hearts, who were moved to act and labour for the cause of liberty and conscience? The true justice of a measure did not depend on the numerical number of its supporters, but on the righteousness of its cause. Then again, as to the argument that politics did not come within the range of woman's sphere, that woman's duties and responsibilities ought to lie entirely in the purely domestic element that surrounds them, she would just like to say that she had never been able to arrive at the conclusion whereby that deduction was made. She did not see how any one sex or class could define the sphere or orbit of another class. Men had no more right to say that woman should only walk in one groove than women had the right to arrange the mode of men's actions. She took it that the sphere of both men and women was to do their duty in the position of life in which God had placed them, to exercise to the full the talents and abilities He had endowed them with—not contented to wrap them up in a napkin, but to fulfil earnestly, heartily, and conscientiously all the duties and responsibilities laid upon them for the good of their fellow-men and for the glory of God. Therefore, as politics permeated all the duties of life, as there was scarcely a patriotic, philanthropic, social, or religious movement which had not its political side, she said women had a right—nay, it was a duty incumbent upon them—to interest themselves in all that concerned their homes, their friends, their country, and their nation. (Applause.)

Councillor CLARK seconded the motion.

Mr. M. C. RENDALL also spoke in support of the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

SCOTCH TOWN COUNCILS.

DUMFRIES.

At a meeting of the Council, held July 7th, the CLERK read a letter from Miss Kirkland, secretary to the Women's Suffrage Association, asking the Council to petition the House of Commons in favour of Mr. Anderson's motion.

Mr. RENNIE moved that the letter lie on the table.
Mr. ASHLEY seconded.

Mr. THOMSON moved that they petition as requested, and assured them he could make a speech on female suffrage, but he would not. (Laughter.) He thought female ratepayers should have the right to vote, on the principle that taxation and representation should go together. He reminded them also that in November they would have the right to elect Town Councillors. (Laughter.)

Mr. ALDER seconded the motion. He did not see with what good reason they could refuse ladies the right to vote for members of Parliament when they exercised the power to elect a school board so well. (Laughter.) He had not heard that they were able to express their opinion on certain points or to keep their tempers so well as men—(laughter)—but he believed they were quite qualified to exercise the suffrage.

Mr. THOMSON: Now, let us see who comes out at November. (Laughter.)

The vote stood: To petition, 11—Provost Lennox, Bailies Allan, Murdoch, and Wright, Treasurer Dykes, Messrs. Wilson, Alder, Hiddleston, Crosbie, Nicholson, and Thomson; not to petition, 7—Dean Currie, Messrs. Ashley, Copland, Dickson, Johnston, Hart, and Rennie. The petition was therefore adopted by a majority of four.

LEITH.

A letter and printed enclosure from the secretary of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, on the subject of Parliamentary franchise for women in Scotland, were submitted.

Mr. MILLAR thought they should take no action in this at all, as a woman's proper sphere was her home. It being moved and seconded that they petition in favour of the Bill, and a counter-motion having been made and seconded, a division was taken, with the result that seven voted for the motion, five for the amendment, and two declined to vote.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

NORWOOD.

On July 14th, a meeting was held by invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Bleckley, at their residence in Upper Norwood. Miss Tod, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Becker, Miss Lillie Stacpoole, Mrs. Shearer, Miss Müller, and others addressed the assembly. The resolution, including a petition to the House of Commons, was carried unanimously. After partaking of tea the party separated.

SOUTH KENSINGTON.

On July 18th, a meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Johnson, in Popstone Road, South Kensington. Mr. Johnson occupied the chair, and a resolution, moved by Miss Becker, and second by Miss Lillie Stacpoole, was carried. Before the next resolution was put to the meeting, speeches were delivered by two gentlemen in which objections were brought forward. After a reply from Miss Biggs, and a few words from Miss Mordan, a petition was adopted. The drawing-room was beautifully decorated with palms and flowering plants with banks of cut roses. Tea and coffee with other refreshments were served, after partaking which the company departed.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

WASHFORD.

The third ordinary meeting of the Washford Debating Society was held in the schoolroom, at Washford, Somerset, on June 20th. There was a good attendance of members, and the visitors included a large number of ladies. The subject for discussion was Women's Suffrage, and was opened by Mr. J. Argyle, who moved the following resolution:—"That it is desirable that the Parliamentary suffrage 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." Mr. J. S. Ingram led off on the other side with the amendment, "That it is undesirable to extend the franchise to women, and especially in the interests of the women themselves." The debate was continued by Messrs. C. Kille, J. R. Davis, T. H. Andrew, J. Oatway, A. Trestrain, and the Rev. J. Cowden Cole, after which Mr. Argyle replied. On a division, the numbers were—For the resolution, 16; for the amendment, 13; and the chairman accordingly declared the resolution to be carried.

HAMBRIDGE.

At a meeting of the Mutual Improvement Association, Hambridge (near Taunton), on June 23rd, Mr. Stanley Priddle moved: "That in the opinion of this association it is but a simple act of justice that those women possessing the qualifications by which men are enabled to vote should, like them, be admitted to the franchise." The resolution was an almost unanimous vote, the opponent to the opener being the sole dissident.

THE HANSOM AMATEUR.

This is the title of an extremely amusing story in the July number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, which, in spite of the extravagant improbability of its incidents, is full of sound sense and "gay wisdom." It is noteworthy from our point of view as being seemingly written in full sympathy with the movement for women's rights, and as concluding with a prophecy as to the approaching victory of the suffrage movement, which, we trust, may be substantially fulfilled.

The story opens with a description of the hero, Mark Forrester, who, although a younger son, "was born afflicted with a fortune a-year; and as he was neither a genius nor a scoundrel, he scarcely knew what to do with himself without the warm stimulus of necessary labour." So he took to driving a private hansom, which he found a temporary refuge. One evening he chanced to rescue with his cab a young lady who was flying from an insolent pursuer, and, after driving her home, a little romance naturally arose out of the circumstances. The three sisters, one of whom he had rescued, were, in fact, girls of good birth and independent fortune, who had renounced the frivolities of the fashionable world, in order to lead independent and useful lives. For the development of the romance we must refer our readers to the pages of the magazine; but the following extract shows the spirit in which the story is conceived. Mr. Forrester having driven home his interesting passenger, with whom he continues to keep up the fiction of being a real cabman, finishes the evening at a brilliant ball, when the weariness of conventionality was especially borne in upon him.

"Are you a Radical?" he asked casually of Miss Mabel Coinless, after a turn in a waltz, during which it struck him that the lady's want of originality was surface-washed rather than ingrained.

"You are making fun of me, Mr. Forrester. Are women ever anything?"

"I have recently had reason to believe that they are human beings, Miss Coinless."

"Really. Well, it is something to be allowed even that dignity." Mr. Forrester looked thoughtfully at the lady's fan, which he held for some moments. She was one of ten daughters; and he knew, and she knew, and everybody knew, that the present object of her being was to secure a man of equal social standing and superior wealth to herself as husband. Then he looked at Miss Coinless, who was pretty and charming after the conventional pattern he abhorred.

"Are you perchance a woman's rights' woman?" he asked.
"Am I devoid of common sense?" she replied, dropping the conventional mask, "or are you?"

"Such women are not devoid of common sense," he objected.

"Did I say that they were? But to confess to such thoughts would be mere folly, particularly when on one's promotion," she added, with a bitter curl of the lip. "In the slave market," she said in her heart.

"I doubt it. Honesty is a good thing—"

"For the free. Really, Mr. Forrester," she added, once more assuming the smiling mask that the Spartan cruelty of society imposes upon women, "what nonsense we are talking! I promised merely to dance with you, not to say my catechism."

"He took the hint and the lady, and whirled agreeably round in silence, musing upon the occult cause of the conventional mask that so vexed him. He made an advance that night in the knowledge of human nature. 'The conventional woman,' he affirmed, 'is a sham. She is a sham because she is not free.'"

In the end, Mark Forrester having previously entered Parliament, wins his bride, Olivia de Wynter, and the story concludes as follows:—

"This occurrence was immediately preceded by the passing of Mr. Forrester's celebrated Woman Emancipation Bill, which, as

the young reader of this present twentieth century may have forgotten, took place in the year 1886, and is justly reckoned as the culminating glory of the glorious period known in history as the nineteenth century. The majority in favour of this bill was overwhelming: there were but three dissentients. Of these, one was a working-man's candidate, who justly feared that the bill might injure one of the most precious privileges of his order—that of wife-beating. The second was an atheist, who, with the hyper-sensitive conscience peculiar to atheists, feared to vote lest this action should be construed into an acquiescence in Christianity, the only religion which insists on the rights of women. The third was a relic of a now extinct class of politicians, then known as Obstructionists, who dissented merely because this class held it a duty to impede all legislation whatsoever.

"How little," said the fortunate legislator on the eve of the wedding—"how little did I dream that my hansom would procure me such a fair!"

ARMED LEVIES IN EXPECTATION OF THE ARMADA.

The year before the coming of the Spanish Armada, in expectation of the invasion, the lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council ordered that all men capable of bearing arms should be assembled in the various counties, and trained so as to be in readiness for the expected attack.

The following is a copy of the return made in accordance with this order for the parishes of the Hundred of Wirral, in the county of Chester, showing the arms then in possession of those whose names are appended thereto:—

"These furniture these men hadde the xxijth daye of Marche anno salutis 1587.

Tranmō. Robt. Hulme, a byll, sworde, daggar, jacke and sallet.
Ric. Cowes, a byll, sworde, daggar, jacke and sallet.

Poulton. Raffe Hulme, bowe arrowes, sworde, daggar, jacke and scull.
Widowe Dobbe, a bylle, sworde, daggar, jacke and sallet.

Nestō. Ric. Whitte, a bowe and haulf, a sheaffe of arrowes.
George Hancock, a bowe and haulf, a sheaffe of arrowes.

Walishaye. Ric. Stanton, a byll and a scull.
Will^m. Byrde, a byll, jacke and scull, sworde, and daggar.
Widdowe Annsdayle, a bill, jacke, sallet, sworde, and daggar.

Robt. Annsdayle, a caliver, flask, and tutsche box, a sworde and daggar."

In Thornton amongst twenty names recorded, is Widowe Parre, with a "douson of arrowes."

In Leighton amongst four names, Widow Garrett has "a bowe, haulfe sheaffe of arrowes, scull, and byll."

In Thurston, Widowe Benet, "a pole axe."

There are in all thirty-nine names in this return of whom five are women, the same proportion as we find amongst women landowners now.—From a paper read before the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire by Mr. Joseph Mayer, Nov., 1858.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE WILL OF MR. J. S. MILL.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam,—In reply to a letter of inquiry in your last issue as to legacies said to have been left by the late Mr. J. S. Mill to the first college opening its doors to women, may I say I went yesterday, on having my attention called to the letter in your *Journal*, to the office in Somerset House, and paid two shillings to read the original will of the late Mr. Mill. By the will, dated May, 1853, he bequeaths all his property absolutely without condition to his wife, Harriet Mill; and, should she die before himself, to her daughter, Helen Taylor, for her sole use and benefit. By a codicil, dated February, 1872, he confirms the bequest of all his property, absolutely and unconditionally, to Miss Helen Taylor, for her sole use and benefit; but, in the event of her dying before himself, he

directs that it shall be disposed of in various legacies, amongst which the two bequests of £3,000 each to the first college admitting women are included; but this disposal of the property is only directed in the event of Miss Helen Taylor predeceasing Mr. Mill. If she survives him, all is left for her sole use and benefit absolutely and unconditionally.—I am, yours respectfully, July 23rd. JESSIE CRAIGEN.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN ICELAND.

The following is a translation of an Act which recently received the sanction of the King of Denmark, conferring the right to vote in municipal elections on women in Iceland:—

No. 13. Law of the 12th May, 1882.

LAW UPON THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO VOTE.

We, Christian the Ninth, by God's grace, King of Denmark, the Wends, and the Goths, Duke of Slesvig, Holstein, Stormarn, Ditmarsk, Lauenborg, and Oldenborg

Do proclaim: the Althing has admitted, and we by our consent have confirmed the following law:

Widows and other unmarried women who are householders, or in any other manner occupy an independent position, are invested with the vote for the election of the magistrates for the "sysler" and "hrappar" (districts and sub-districts into which Iceland is divided), town councillors, and at parochial meetings, if they are 25 years of age, and, moreover, have fulfilled all legal conditions for the exercise of the above rights.

And that all concerned may obey this,

Given at Amalienborg, 12th May, 1882, under our royal hand and seal, CHRISTIAN R.

POSITION OF WOMEN IN ALASKA.

The Alaskan women are childish and pleasant, yet quick-witted, and capable of heartless vindictiveness. Their authority in all matters is unquestioned. No bargain is made, no expedition is set on foot, without consulting the women. Their veto is never disregarded. I bought a silver-fox skin from Isa Tate, but his wife made him return the articles of trade and recover the skin. In the same way I was perpetually being annoyed by having to undo bargains, because "his wife said *clek*," that is, "no." I hired a fellow to take me about thirty miles in his canoe, when my own crew was tired. He agreed. I paid him the tobacco, and we were about to start when his wife came to the beach and stopped him. He quietly unloaded the canoe, and handed me back the tobacco.—C. E. S. Wood, in the *Century Magazine*, July, 1882.

Obituary.

MADAME ONASIE GAMBETTA.—This lady, whose death took place last month, was the mother of the great French statesman, who has been plunged in the deepest affliction by her loss. She was the first to detect the signs of the gifts which her son was to display, and the most ready to make any sacrifice for the purpose of giving scope to those capacities. But for her he would have had to follow the trade of a small shopkeeper in a provincial town. Through her determination he obtained the means of higher education. She had from his earliest days stimulated his mental faculties, and encouraged and helped him to persevere in his oratorical work. She died of paralysis, caused by apoplexy.

MRS. LINCOLN.—The Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on July 17th:—"Mary Lincoln, widow of the late President Lincoln, died at Springfield, Illinois, on Sunday night, of paralysis, after a protracted illness. Her son, the Secretary for War, Robert Lincoln, has left Washington in order to attend the funeral."

"PROVERBIAL PHILOSOPHY" ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

It will interest many of our readers to know that Martin F. Tupper has for many years advocated our cause, as quoted below, in his celebrated "Proverbial Philosophy," from the fourth and last series whereof in the Essay on Representation we give the extract following, taken from p. 424 of Ward and Lock's fourfold edition, or p. 391 of Cassell's illustrated edition.

After stating the justice of every citizen having a vote, while many should have more than one from possessions, exploits, position, and so forth, the author goes on to say—

And the like equity contendeth equally for women as for men, Short of nonage, marriage, crime, or lack of mental fitness; Married, the woman, in her husband, speaketh by his voice; But single, as a citizen, her rights can ill be questioned: The wealthy heiress should not stand beneath her humblest tenant, Made incapacitate through sex from patriotic aims: Yet neither should the mother and the wife, immersed in nursery cares, Forsake her private life of home for public strife abroad.

The author goes on to say that he has held this opinion for more than a quarter of a century—

Advocating rights to each and all, to rich men as to poor men, Rights to education, as to manhood, unequal but still just, Rights to woman, as to man, to every freeman citizen. Rights according to degrees, and capable of expansion, So that the humble may win higher, earning more through merits, To every freeman one, but more to more than freemen; Thus giving great achievement, by the pen or by the sword, And wealth in land or gold, and educated wisdom, And any social usefulness, and office, and commission, And rank and worth of every kind their graduated voices.

The essay is a short one, and may be read as a whole with advantage. Our special interest is concerned chiefly with the lines we have indicated by italics.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES.—For Removal.

SIXTEENTH REPORT, 21—26 June, 1882.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Petition details. Includes entries for Bath, London, Glasgow, and other locations with signature counts.

Total number of Petitions 441—Signatures 13,981

EIGHTEENTH REPORT, 30 June—3 July, 1882.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Petition details. Includes entries for Hampstead, Edinburgh, and other locations.

Total number of Petitions 443—Signatures 14,069

NINETEENTH REPORT, 7—10 July, 1882.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Petition details. Includes entries for Waterford, Lewisham, and other locations.

Total number of Petitions 447—Signatures 14,157

TWENTIETH REPORT, 11 July, 1882.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Petition details. Includes entry for Spourbridge.

Total number of Petitions 448—Signatures 14,183

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT, 12—14 July, 1882.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Petition details. Includes entries for Bewdley, Bristol, and Dublin.

Total number of Petitions 451—Signatures 14,351

The Petitions marked thus (*) are similar to that from W. P. Snell and others [APP. 6]. The Petition marked thus (†) is similar to that from Dunshaughlin [APP. 33.]

APPENDIX TO THE SIXTEENTH REPORT.

Containing Petitions presented June 21—26, 1882.

Delivered July 1st.

APP. 304. Mr. WODEHOUSE. Sig. 12.

9465. The humble petition of the undersigned women householders, inhabitants of Bath, Sheweth,

That your petitioners are persons liable to be rated for expenses connected with Parliamentary elections.

That in their opinion all persons so liable should be entitled to be registered as voters, and to vote in such elections.

Wherefore your petitioners, being so liable, humbly pray that your honourable House will pass a measure to secure to them and to other women like them, the right to vote in Parliamentary elections.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

MARY N. JEFFERY. MARY ASHLEY. ANNE COX. &c., &c., &c.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from JUNE 28 to JULY 28.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Lists various donors and their contributions.

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

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from JUNE 21 to JULY 26.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Lists donors from Bristol and West of England.

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

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

GENERAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, JULY, 1882.

Large table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Lists numerous donors and their contributions across various districts like Macclesfield, Leek, Hanley, etc.

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

A young Finnish lady, Miss Irene Åström, passed the examination for a candidate of Philosophy at the University of Helsingfors on May 24th with great honours. The young lady was subsequently, through a deputation of ladies, presented with a gold watch and chain at a festive meeting given in her honour at the Æsthetic Club, Hesperia.—Nature.

COLLARS AND CUFFS

THE
**GEORGE
ELIOT**
SET.

THE
**DUCHESS OF
ALBANY**
SET.

J & J CASH, COVENTRY AND DRAPERS EVERYWHERE

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