

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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BEFORE the lapse of many days, the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill will have been read a first time in the House of Commons. It will be introduced by Mr. FORSYTH, Q.C., with whom are associated the Right Hon. JAMES STANSFELD, the Right Hon. RUSSELL GURNEY, Recorder of the City of London, and Sir ROBERT ANSTRUTHER. The names of the gentlemen who are responsible for its introduction, and the unprecedentedly large amount of Parliamentary support which has been promised for the Bill, afford reasonable grounds for expecting a substantial measure of progress, if not actual success, during the forthcoming session; provided always that adequate means are adopted by those interested in the matter to strengthen the hands of their Parliamentary leaders. We can but reiterate the demand for petitions, and again exhort all friends who are able to aid in the collection of signatures to communicate with one or other of the secretaries of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, or with the office of this *Journal*, in order that they may receive materials and information respecting the mode of procedure.

The changes that are continually going on in the House of Commons, and the additional information that reaches us regarding the views of members, cause alteration from time to time in our estimate of the amount of support we are likely to receive. Up to the present time these changes have been of a favourable character, although there are enough of doubtful members to render it unwise to indulge in too confident expectations. But while making due allowances for the uncertainties of the future, it is a matter of reasonable satisfaction for the present to find that as the contingent of doubtful members is lessened, the majority in our favour tends to increase. The latest calculation is as follows:—For the Bill, 245; against, 225; neutral or unknown, 182; majority of those whose sentiments are known, 20 in favour of the Bill.

In the last Parliament Mr. JACOB BRIGHT had to face a body of opponents numbering 328, an actual majority of the House. It is true that Mr. BOUVERIE could never muster more than 222 to vote against the Bill; but there seems no reason to doubt that as Parliament was then

constituted he would have been able to prevent Mr. JACOB BRIGHT from carrying his measure through the House of Commons. In fact, there was a tolerably well settled belief that the Parliament of 1868 had done all that it was likely to do, and perhaps more than might have been expected from it, for the enfranchisement of women.

At the time of the election of the last Parliament, the question could scarcely be said even to be in its infancy, for it had hardly begun to live. The amendment moved by Mr. MILL in 1867 was the first attempt made in the legislature of this, or, we believe, in that of any other state, to obtain representation for women, and it was not until the succeeding year that women appeared on the platform to advocate their right to vote in the election of members of Parliament. The first public meeting in support of the franchise for women in which ladies took part was held in April, 1868, in the small room of the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, under the presidency of Mr. HENRY DAVIS POCHIN—then Mayor of Salford. At this meeting Mrs. POCHIN, whose able and exhaustive pamphlet, published in 1855, was considered by Mr. JOHN STUART MILL to be one of the best treatises that had ever appeared on the question; Miss ANNE ISABELLA ROBERTSON; and Miss BECKER; with a number of influential gentlemen, including members of Parliament, barristers, and a venerable dignitary of the Church, supported resolutions affirming the exclusion of women from the exercise of the franchise to be unjust in principle and injurious in practice, and pledging themselves to support the efforts of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. The meeting was well attended, and the speeches were received with favour, but it appeared at that time as if curiosity and novelty had more to do with the interest manifested than any serious apprehension of the practical importance of the question. Nothing is more striking to those who have taken an active part in the agitation, since its commencement seven years ago, than the change in the manner in which the subject is received at public meetings, a change which may be attributed to the educating process which has gone on without intermission since that time.

The meeting at Manchester was followed in the succeed-

ing month by a similar gathering at Birmingham, and these two were the only meetings held prior to the general election of 1868. Mr. MILL lost his seat for Westminster, and two years elapsed before any other member of Parliament consented to take up the question. Under these circumstances the large measure of support accorded to Mr. JACOB BRIGHT on his introduction of the Bill was almost as much a matter for surprise as for congratulation, and the continually increasing number of adherents in each successive year, afforded evidence that the arguments for the justice of the claim and the earnest efforts of its supporters were bearing good fruit. The discussions and divisions that took place in the Parliament of 1868, have served to establish the question in the field of practical politics, and to prepare the way for the success which appears to be looming in the future.

Nearly the whole of the work in promotion of the movement has been done since the late Parliament was elected. Since that time about 800 public meetings have been held in various parts of the United Kingdom, at all of which women have spoken in support of their claim. Petitions with about a million and a half of signatures have been presented to the House of Commons in favour of the measure, and none against it, save about half a dozen from as many Scotch Town Councils. These represent men only, as the municipal franchise does not extend to women in Scotland. There is no other subject of petitions to Parliament in which petitions are not sent on both sides of the question; and the fact that the petitions respecting women are, so to speak, all on one side, for the exceptions are so insignificant that they merely serve to prove the rule, affords a strong presumption that all who think earnestly and seriously on the subject, find themselves unable to resist the arguments for the claim.

The boon must be granted sooner or later. There is every encouragement to persevere with the demand, and we cannot doubt that the movement so energetically begun and so earnestly carried on will be continued with unflinching zeal until it shall be crowned with success.

In a recent trial respecting the alleged fabrication of a voting paper at an election for the local board of Aberdare, an incident occurred which illustrated the opinion held by one voter of his wife's judgment in election affairs. A friend of one of the candidates called on the voter and saw his wife, who consented that her husband should vote for the candidate, and put her mark to the voting paper which the

witness attested as the husband's signature. The voter was aware that his wife had so signed the paper, and he said, "I leave such matters to her; I did so this time, and many times before, because I think she is wise and capable to do it." We believe that there are many women besides the lady in Aberdare who are wise and capable to do it, and we trust that ere long the ability to exercise their powers will be conferred upon them.

AT the soirée held last month in connection with the Manchester Athenæum, presided over by the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE of England, his Lordship, in returning thanks for his reception, said:—

"A great deal has been eloquently said upon the subject of education, and of social intercourse, and of the advantages resulting from the friendly and social communication which such an institution as the present is likely to afford. In one respect, nevertheless, I confess that it seems to me defective. It may be filled with young men, but where are the young women? (Laughter.) I am one of those who rejoice in the spread of education, but nowhere and in no quarter do I so cordially and so enthusiastically rejoice in its spread as amongst the fair and, allow me to add, the better sex. (Cheers.) I have long been satisfied of one thing, and that is that educated women and clever women are sure to produce educated and clever offspring. (Laughter.) Depend upon it, if you hear a very clever fellow, you may infer almost to a certainty that he had a very clever mother. (Laughter.) It is not the fathers who make the clever children, but the mothers. (Renewed laughter.) I can assure you I am speaking as seriously and as earnestly as ever I spoke in my life. (Laughter.) And you who laugh, go and search the pages of biographical history and see whether I do not speak the truth. At all events we know that by the culture and early cultivation of the mother, the first dawn of intelligence—of mind in the child—is assuredly developed. Female education not only promotes the best interests of the husbands, but the education of the children of the future, the development of the mind, and the intelligence of this great community most materially depend upon it."

We think that Sir ALEXANDER COCKBURN must have been puzzled to understand where was the joke which his audience appeared to find in his observations. The more pains he took to assure them that he was speaking seriously, the more persistently they laughed in his face. The incident illustrates the difficulty which men feel in regarding with seriousness questions affecting women. How they reconcile this levity of treatment with the respect which they profess for the sex, or with the chivalry which they so loudly vaunt, is a problem hopelessly beyond the range of the feminine intellect.

In "Dombey and Son," Cousin FEENIX relates that in his Parliamentary time the members of his party were under orders to cheer most excessively whenever Mr. PITT's name was mentioned; and they carried their zeal

to such a point that it was remarked that if a man had risen in his place and said that there was an honourable member in convulsions in the lobby, and that the honourable member's name was PITT, the applause would have been vociferous. In the same way it appears as if there were a general impression among men that whenever women are mentioned at a public meeting they are bound to laugh, and neither the respect due to the speaker, nor the magnitude of the social interests involved, can restrain this senseless mirth, which is truly of the kind that has been compared with the crackling of thorns under a pot.

Women find by experience that any question which specially affects them is usually regarded by men either as a trifle, a joke, or a bore; and we believe that this attitude of mind will continue until women are invested with a share of political power, and become units instead of ciphers in summing up the forces of the nation.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WORK AT KIDDERMINSTER.

During a recent visit to Kidderminster, we took occasion to ascertain by personal inquiry what was the precise nature of the employment which is forbidden to women in that town. Through the courtesy of Messrs. Brinton, we were permitted to see the working of the few remaining tapestry looms which had not yet been taken down in compliance with their agreement with the men. Not satisfied with mere inspection, we desired to try the work ourselves, and at the risk of exposing Messrs. Brinton to the charge of breach of faith we took possession of one of the looms, pushed the lever which set it going, and had the satisfaction of watching it weave apparently quite as well as it would have done under the eyes of a man. We applied the little stick which is used for measuring the pattern as it appears, and though we confess we should not have known what to do if the pattern had come out either too long or too short, we have no doubt that we could have easily learned, and that with a little practice we should have been able to earn our penny a yard—the rate of wages paid to women for the work. From a comparison of these looms with those used in weaving calico, which are mostly worked by women, it appears to us that the tapestry looms are pleasanter and easier to work, and that the superintendence of either of them is less exhausting and difficult than the manipulation of a sewing machine.

Having tried the men's work, we next turned to what is considered women's work in Kidderminster industrial circles. We found women employed in weaving thick chenille hearth rugs. These are made by hand looms, or rather hand and feet looms. No steam power can be used, and the cumbrous machine must be wielded entirely by the muscle and nerve-force of the operative. In pursuance of our experimental comparison we induced one of the weavers to yield her place for a few minutes. Under her direction we pressed one of the huge

pedals which separate the threads of the warp, and arming ourselves with the Brobdignagian shuttle on which the chenille was wound, succeeded after one or two trials in threading it through the interstices of the web. We then with considerable trouble managed to get the twist out of the chenille, to set it properly by means of a kind of comb, and to fix it in its place by jamming it with the heavy reed. Then came more pedal performances, requiring great exertion, and then the shuttle containing the linen foundation for the rug had to be thrown by hand across the warp. We succeeded in accomplishing this feat, and at last by dint of the guidance of the rightful occupant of the loom, who regarded us the while with an air of obvious pity for our incapacity, we were enabled to retire with the proud consciousness of having woven an inch of hearth rug, but with the inward conviction that should fate ever decree that we must earn our living in Kidderminster, we would choose something less laborious than the work assigned to women.

The result of the comparison between the men's and women's looms shows that men reserve for themselves those which are driven by steam power, and assign to women those which have to be worked by the bodily toil of the weaver. We fear, however, that this principle in the division of the work of the world is not confined to the operatives of Kidderminster.

REPLIES OF MEMBERS TO MEMORIALS.

MR. JOHN JONES, M.P.

Blaenos, Llandovery, S.W., Nov. 2, 1874.

Dear Sir,—Will you have the kindness to convey my grateful thanks to those persons assembled at the meeting over which you presided, on the 28th of October, in the Athenæum, Llanelly, for the expressions they use towards me for supporting the Bill for Removing the Electoral Disabilities of Women; and at the same time to assure them that I shall adopt the same course as long as I have a seat in Parliament, for I do so as an act of simple justice, and on the ground that all property should be represented; while my experience has taught me that women are quite as competent as men in exercising a wise discretion on all public matters.—Yours faithfully,

James Buckley, Esq.

JOHN JONES.

SIR CHARLES FORSTER, BART., M.P.

Lysways, Rugeley, 19th January, 1874.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial of the public meeting, in Walsall, over which you presided, and to state, in reply, that, as on former occasions, I shall support, by my vote, the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. I cannot see how, since the concession of it in municipal elections, it can now be logically resisted.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

W. H. Duignan, Esq.

CHARLES FORSTER.

COL. DYOTT, M.P.

Freeford, Lichfield, January 18th, 1875.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a memorial from inhabitants of Lichfield, agreed to at a public meeting assembled in St. James's Hall, on the 15th inst., in favour of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women, and to assure you that I will give my best attention to any Bill which may be introduced into the House of Commons with the view to accomplish this object.—I remain, dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

R. Crosskey, Esq.

R. DYOTT.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

EDINBURGH ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Edinburgh Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held last night in the large hall of the Literary Institute. There was a large attendance of both ladies and gentlemen. On and near the platform were Mrs. Duncan McLaren, Newington House; Mrs. Hume-Rothery, Miss Sturge, Birmingham; Miss Eliza Wigham, Miss Stuart, Markinch; Mrs. Wellstood, Miss Sturge, Miss L. Stevenson, Mrs. Wigham, Miss Hunter, Miss Craig, Mrs. Macqueen, Miss Taylour, Mrs. D. O. Hill, Miss Ramsay, Miss Hope, Mrs. Samuel Brown, Miss Ella Burton; Mr. James Cowan, M.P.; Mr. R. A. Macfie, Mr. W. Milne, Bailie Marshall, Councillor Wellstood, Mr. Thomas Robertson, Mr. D. McLaren, jun., ex-Councillor Bladworth, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Hope of Bordlands, &c.

On the motion of Mrs. NICHOL, Mrs. McLaren was called to preside.

Mrs. McLAREN, on taking the chair, said: The energy and ability women have shown in advocating their claim to the suffrage, as well as other questions connected with their welfare, is fast making the phrase, "woman's sphere" a phrase of the past. Whence have they received the energy and the talent for their work? Not even from the schools, for the universities are closed against them. It is a God-given power, and it is beginning to be recognised that what God has given must no longer be kept latent, but brought into use. Changing circumstances are continually throwing fresh light upon this subject. I often remember the words of our Saviour, "I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot hear them now;" for all His words and all His actions towards women, as related in the New Testament, have a wonderful relation to this increasing light. Each century and each generation has much to unlearn as well as to learn. Hitherto men have had the expounding of the Scriptures almost exclusively to themselves; and the condition of the world shows how much more stress has been laid upon the 34th and 35th verses of the 14th chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians, and other passages which show the degraded position of women of that day, than upon the 9th verse of the 11th of Ecclesiastes, and other passages both in the Old and New Testament of even stronger import as to the duties and moral conduct of men. But the Apostle who is always quoted in support of the subjection of women, gladly availed himself of the highest spiritual and intellectual energies of other women, such as were capable of working with him; and I am sure you will agree with me, that whilst the same Apostle's exhortation against much dressing of the hair and the wearing of jewellery is as strong as anything he advised as to the deference women should pay to man's superiority, there has been no great stress laid upon that. St. Paul is quite forgotten when every device is applied to human and manufactured hair for the purpose of adorning or disfiguring the female head; and he is also forgotten when rich men make use of their female friends to display their own wealth by the amount of jewellery they give them to wear. I candidly confess there is much to be done yet to raise in the minds of women a higher standard of what their own position ought to be. From their childhood they are led to believe they have nothing to do with politics. This has arisen a good deal from the idea of politics having been associated with mere electioneering; for in past years the country has generally slumbered quietly on until an election has come, when it has been suddenly awakened by some party cry, accompanied too often by tumultuous

uproar. This state of things is passing away, and questions full of the deepest interest to us all are coming to the front, in which men need the help of women. I had a letter from a young friend of mine a little while ago, in which he says: "I told our foreman about your meeting; he is much against women's suffrage. He says he likes to see a woman, when she has done her work, sit down to read her Bible." I told him I thought men needed to read their Bible just as much as women, and that I also liked to see a woman sit down and read the newspaper; that if women were more conversant with the topics of the day, men would not go so much to public-houses and reading-rooms to seek companionship there. (Hear, hear.) I was much struck the other day by a remark of one of your Edinburgh citizens—one of those thrifty and sensible men of whom Scotland may justly be proud. He said he thought it quite a mistake to be always thinking of getting up reading and refreshment rooms for working men. He thought it would be much better to form good libraries in different parts of the town, and encourage the men to take the books home to read. "Why not encourage them," he said, "to look for comfort at home?" Many will say this is unreasonable, as I once heard a very distinguished man say, when arguing against a decrease of public-houses, "How can you expect a man who has been working all day to go and sit in a comfortless home with his wife and perhaps half a dozen little children huddled up in a corner of the room?" I reply, property involves responsibility. It was well said by a noble-minded Scotchman, "Property has its duties as well as its rights." The six little children, whom we can picture in the corner of that miserable home by the unjust laws of our land, do not belong to the mother who has borne them, they are exclusively the property of the father; and if the fathers were taught that home was their sphere, perhaps we should see less of this squalid misery, and more library books in the dwellings of the poor. I believe many women, for the want of a little more political knowledge, are not aware that a married woman has no ownership in her own children. It is only unmarried women who are in the position of mothers whom the laws of England deem the fit and proper mothers to have the custody of children. I need not tell you that we do not ask for the suffrage as a mere abstract right. Women see that they ought to have a voice in the representation of the country, that they may have some influence upon laws which closely affect themselves as well as the country at large. There is much yet to unlearn as well as to learn with regard to the sphere of men. They have often, with the best intentions, taken upon themselves more than they could well accomplish, forgetting that it was said, "It is not good for man to be alone." We may have to learn that these words were intended to have a much wider meaning than that which has hitherto been accorded to them by One who could see the end from the beginning. In the report of the Local Government Board, containing a series of investigations recently made on behalf of the Government inspector, the first of her sex so appointed in Great Britain, and appointed by the Rt. Hon. J. Stansfeld, M.P., Mrs. Nassau Senior, amongst many interesting statistics, shows the good results of boarding-out pauper children; Mr. Mozely, another inspector, reports that in his district the only failures of the boarding-out system have occurred where it has been managed solely by the guardians, and not as in many places by joint-committees of guardians and ladies. And I am quite sure that if men and women could work together on more boards and on more committees many things would be worked better; and in this opinion I am supported by the most enlightened men of this city, as well as by its press. What do you think was the admission of the

Times newspaper within the past year, in a suggestion which I think was most unworthy of the leading journal in a Christian country?—that the tone of morals was so low at the Epsom races that gentlemen ought to encourage ladies to attend them in order to elevate it. Now the immorality which prevails on the racecourse is of a much more degrading character than that which obtains at Parliamentary elections; therefore it becomes the duty of the *Times*, with its great power, to aid them in their own request to be allowed to purify the political atmosphere of their country, whether from the platform or through the ballot box. (Applause.) I repeat again, there is much to unlearn. The best and noblest of our men, from whom we learn so much and from whom we derive so much help, do not in their turn despise the teaching of women. They know that from their own early and close contact with the world they become apt to see many things as through a glass darkly. Women have mostly been kept in a purer light, and perhaps see some things more clearly. I have been told on good authority that the 11th verse of the 48th Psalm ought to be rendered, "The Lord gave the word, great was the company of women publishers." I have thought sometimes that the Lord is again giving the word, and calling up a company of women publishers, to publish the need of a purer faith and a purer life. This can be done through the Ballot Box as well as from the platform. There is one woman at the present moment, delicate, beautiful, obedient to her special call, no words of applause invite her onwards; leaning upon the promise, "my grace is sufficient for thee," she has entered Paris alone, to face the most deadly enemy that can ever destroy any city. She carries no weapon forged by human hands; she hopes to strike the sin of that great city and of other continental cities by the force of truth alone. When apostles are raised up, there are hearts prepared to receive them, and from high and unexpected quarters she hears the words, "We will hear thee again of this matter." I doubt if there has been a greater instance of faith since Peter walked on the waters. I trust this dear apostle's faith will not fail her even for a single moment. Such is the call going forth, that I saw in the papers a day or two ago, that the Baroness Burdett Coutts, who has expressed herself strongly in favour of the old doctrine, which I delight to say is in the main part true, respecting woman's sphere being at home, that she herself, prompted by her earnest sympathy with the brute creation, has been addressing a crowded meeting at Exeter on the subject of cruelty to animals. I am sure it would be a most effective appeal on their behalf. I never heard a speech more gracefully given, both as to matter and manner, than the one she made in Edinburgh when she received, at Mr. Cewan's hands, the freedom of this beautiful city. We are not all called upon to work in the same questions, but we are all called upon to sympathise with suffering everywhere, and to examine how it is that such suffering exists. There are agonies which the spirit born to an immortal inheritance has to bear, far beyond any which these dumb creatures can ever know. We would not ask one effort less for them, these faithful friends need our every care; but whether the intenser sufferings to which I have alluded be produced by our laws or could be mitigated by any alteration in our laws, every intelligent woman is bound to examine. Is there no cruelty in ejecting a widow in the bitterness of her loneliness, with her fatherless children, from the farm whose produce was their bread, simply because the law refuses her the vote which her husband could have given at a Parliamentary election, and which she could just as intelligently have given? Is there no injustice in our legislators proposing to enfranchise

the uneducated labourers who have scarcely asked to be enfranchised, and turning a deaf ear upon the tens of thousands of petitions which intelligent women have for years been sending to Parliament through much patient toil and self-denial? In Edinburgh and Leith there are 18,000 more women than men; the disproportion between the sexes is as great in some other places. In the borough of Marylebone, in London, represented in Parliament by our friend Mr. Forsyth, there are 20,000 more women than men. It would take long to tell the misery, the vice, the suffering involved in words so easily spoken. What a sphere for our rich and good women if they would, with their great wealth and influence, come forward and use their gifts for the higher education of women, many of whom seem to be shut cut from all family duties, and have them instructed as missionaries and medical missionaries, to seek, if they choose, an opening for themselves in other countries, making themselves lights in the dark places of the earth; and making life to themselves an useful and honourable thing, instead of too often the reverse. (Applause.)

Miss WIGHAM, secretary of the committee, read the annual report. The number of petitions sent from Scotland was 340, and the number of signatures appended to them was upwards of 50,000. From Scotch town councils 14 petitions were sent, and a memorial to Mr. Disraeli was forwarded, signed by 10,127 of the women of Scotland, praying for his continued support, and reminding him of the fact that he was the first member of the House of Commons who within its walls conceded the right of women to representation. After the dissolution, communications were held with the Scotch candidates for election, and it was believed that, so far as Scotland was concerned, their friends were not fewer than in former years, thirty Scotch members being known to be supporters of women suffrage. During the year thirty-three public meetings had been held, from nearly all of which petitions in favour of the representation of women householders were sent. During the year vigorous efforts were made in England, and the aggregate petitions in the United Kingdom amounted to upwards of 1,000, and the signatures to 300,000, exceeding by 60,000 the number in former years. It was satisfactory that in all the efforts made Scotland bore her full and fair proportion of the work. In the fact of municipal expression, the sentiments of Scotland exceeded those of England, there being 14 Scotch town councils, and only 12 English and Irish councils that had petitioned. Although there was no direct progress to report in Parliament, there were many tokens to indicate that the recognition of women as allies in the political world was gaining ground. The report referred to the loss sustained by the death of Lady Amberley and Miss Mary M'Combie, Aberdeen, and called on all friends to aid in the good and righteous cause. The treasurer's statement was as follows:—Balance from last year, £24. 9s. 2d.; subscriptions and donations, £342. 16s. 10d.; altogether £367. 6s. The expenditure of printing amounted to £48. 13s. 9d.; the expenses of public meetings, £67. 7s. 2d.; expenses of getting up petitions, £71. 16s. 5d.; expenses of secretary, £100; stationery, &c., £19. 11s. 4d.; advertisements, £8. 18s. 9d.; rent of committee room, £1. 14s. This left a balance in the hands of the treasurer of £49. 3s. 7d.

Mr. COWAN, M.P., said: The report read by Miss Wigham was very interesting, and showed the great work and the labour which the committee had had in hand during the past year; at the same time, they would allow him to congratulate them as Scotchmen on the very marked part which Scotland had taken in the agitation, and for the attitude Scotland now showed in favour of women's rights. (Applause and hisses.) The estimate in which women were held in a country was always a

mark of the civilisation of a people. Tacitus told them that the old Germans never undertook any serious business without first consulting the women. ("Oh, oh," laughter, and hisses.) They knew, furthermore, what a large number there were in our own days of single women, or widows, or women deserted by their husbands—(laughter)—who were occupying houses, who were paying taxes, who were bringing up families, and doing all they possibly could in many cases, as he knew, to keep themselves out of the poorhouse. He asked, were those women who were paying taxes not entitled to vote for members of Parliament as well as men? (Hear, hear.) Had they not an equal political stake in the country? He was satisfied that the votes of women would be in favour of good government, and that they would choose the best of whichever two candidates appeared for their suffrages. He congratulated the society on the work which had been done last year, and hoped one of the pleasantest sights they might have in the House of Commons this year on the respective benches would be to see which side turned out the greatest number of members to vote for this measure when it came before them. (Applause and hisses.) He had strong hopes that even this year it would meet with success, but if not, they had the assurance that it was certain to be carried in the end. He begged to move the approval of the report.

Mr. MACFIE seconded the motion.

Mrs. HUME-ROTHERY moved, and Miss STUART seconded, the following resolution:—"Resolved that, in the opinion of this meeting, the true principles of representation require the admission of women to the franchise on precisely the same footing as men, whatever qualification may be prescribed by Parliament as entitling to the suffrage, and that, while a property qualification is the basis of representation, it is a manifest injustice that women, while subject to all burdens laid on property, should be debarred as now from its corresponding privileges."

Bailie MARSHALL moved the adoption of a petition to Parliament, based on the previous resolution.

Miss STURGE, of Birmingham, in seconding the resolution, said that if the question they were met there to advocate had been entirely in the hands of Scotchmen, it would have been carried long ago.

The different motions were put to the meeting and carried, and the meeting separated after votes of thanks had been awarded to the lady speakers and to the chairman.—*Abridged from the Edinburgh Courant.*

GREENOCK.

On December 18th, Miss Craigen addressed a meeting in the Temperance Institute, Greenock, Mr. W. Cameron in the chair. The petition was carried by a unanimous vote.

KILBARCHAN.

On December 26th, Miss Craigen held a meeting in the Templar's Hall, Kilbarchan, Renfrew. The attendance was pretty good. Mr. Weir, a working man, occupied the chair. He said this was a working-class question, for the bad laws by which women were oppressed would never be got rid of till they gave women a fair share of representation, and these bad laws came keenest on working women. Rich men took care that their daughters should have marriage settlements, but how could a working man settle anything on his daughter. Rich men shut their daughters out from danger, but how could a poor man guard his child from the seducer if he was obliged to send her to a mill, or to service, therefore he was heartily with the movement. The petition was carried unanimously. The audience was almost entirely composed of working weavers.

KIDDERMINSTER.

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING IN THE MUSIC HALL.

On January 11th, a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in support of Mr. Forsyth's Bill to Remove the Disabilities of Women, was held in the Music Hall, Kidderminster, under the presidency of his Worship the Mayor (D. W. Goodwin, Esq.) and Miss Becker, Miss Sturge (Birmingham), Mrs. Ashford (Birmingham), and the Rev. T. G. Crippen, attended as a deputation. The Revs. Geo. Hunsworth, T. Fisk, W. H. Fish, and E. Parry; Aldermen Holloway and Lloyd; Councillors W. Green, W. H. Green, Greaves, and Crowther; Messrs. Geo. Turton, J.P., W. Brooke, Jacobs, Jones, G. Hopkins, J. Binnian, C. Crowther, E. Crowther, Greenwood, Isaacs, &c., were also present.

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, said that meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the Bill relating to the electoral disabilities of women, the object of which was to give women the same electoral rights in Parliamentary as they at present possessed in municipal elections. It seemed curious that they should have met in the year 1875 to ask for the removal of these electoral disabilities of which women so justly complained; for not only could women take care of themselves, but he was convinced that some women could exercise the franchise with as much ability and good sense as men very often exhibited, and therefore he thought it was their duty to assist the women in getting the franchise as early as possible. (Cheers.) The Mayor read a letter from Sir William Fraser, Bart., M.P., regretting his inability to attend the meeting, and stating that he had not changed the opinions he expressed at the election.

Mr. WILL BROOKE moved the first resolution.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. ASHFORD, who said, in asking them to agree with the National Society, that where a woman was qualified by the payment of rates to possess exactly the same citizenship as men, they should have exactly the same privileges, they were asking no favour, but simply laying down a principle which appealed to their sense of justice. They did not seek to change the basis of representation; for they found that if the suffrages were extended to women qualified exactly as men, some 200,000 voters would be added to the electoral roll, which would be a proportion of about one-sixth; so that there was no fear of women changing the current of any special election. There were upwards of a million more women than men in this country, nearly all of whom must be self-supporting, and it was of great importance that every obstacle should be swept out of their way of getting a honest living. The last census showed that there were 5,000,000 adult women in the United Kingdom, and over 3,000,000 were working for their own subsistence, and of those 3,000,000, 1,000,000 were wives. The state of the law was formerly such that any man who was a husband could leave his wife to eke out her own subsistence, and at intervals he could appear on the scene and help himself to the earnings of his laborious and industrious wife. Since then, however, a law had been passed, which enabled married women under troublesome conditions to protect their earnings; but now a step had been taken in a backward direction, which limited the hours during which the woman could labour. Mr. John Stuart Mill—(applause)—said that the interests of a class not directly represented were very apt to be overlooked and forgotten, and unfortunately in political human nature it was proved to be so. Acts of Parliament by the score had been passed in which the interests of women had been involved, but the only part women were expected to take was to obey. Some of those laws bore heavily upon women, and yet they had no voice in choosing the men who

made those laws. That was no sentimental grievance. A man might be a drunkard, a thief, or a ticket of leave man, but if he possessed the necessary qualification he could vote; no question being asked, beyond ascertaining whether his name was on the register, and whether he had already voted. A woman might have the wealth of a Baroness Burdett Coutts; the intellectual abilities of Mary Somerville, or the self-denying nature of Florence Nightingale—(applause)—but even all those qualifications could not give her the right of representation in the Council of the nation. It was said that women were not sufficiently educated, but there were doubtless many men who could not value the privilege until they were educated up to it. A sense of responsibility was a great educator, and she was sure the extension of the Parliamentary franchise would confer immense benefits upon her sex. What they asked was that as working men when they were politically weak were thought of by those who were politically strong, now in the day of their strength they would advocate the political rights of women who were still left out in the cold. (Cheers.)

The Rev. T. G. CRIPPEN and Miss BECKER supported the resolution, which was then put to the meeting and carried with only one dissident.

Mr. GEO. TURTON, J.P., moved, and Mr. Councillor A. H. GREAVES seconded, a resolution adopting petitions and memorials, which was supported by Miss STURGE, and carried. Votes of thanks to the deputation, proposed and seconded by Mr. Councillor W. H. GREEN and the Rev. E. PARRY, and to the Chairman, closed the proceedings.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

On January 12th, a meeting was held at St. George's Hall, Wolverhampton. Miss Becker, Miss Sturge, and Mr. Rogers were a deputation, and there was a large number of gentlemen on the platform. The Mayor had been announced to preside, but Mr. S. S. Mander took his place, and read a letter of apology from his Worship (Mr. Edwards) for non-attendance, owing to other engagements, but wishing that the meeting might be informed of his hearty approval and support of the object in view. This, the chairman believed, was no mere excuse, as there was a meeting of special interest to the members of the Church of England being now held at the Exchange. Though the subject (said the chairman) might be sometimes treated facetiously, it was, no doubt, a serious matter to the ladies who were about to address them. Man had long had all the rule to himself, and he did not know that the world had been managed so well but that they might be willing to admit a change.—Mr. W. Phillips moved the first resolution.—Mr. Rogers, of Edgbaston, seconded the resolution, remarking that some of the authors of the ancient classics had given their adhesion to the principle they now advocated, and they had some of the finest thinkers of the present day who had entered the army of advocates of women's suffrage. Over and beyond all other reasons for supporting this movement, he held this to stand paramount—that there was a dearth of political enthusiasm among men in England. This needed to be quickened, and a stimulus would be afforded by the conferring the suffrage upon women.—Miss Becker, who was received with loud cheers, supported the resolution at great length, quoting Mr. Disraeli's remarks upon the anomaly of the existing law, and deducing therefrom the dictum that they had the highest political authority in favour of the claims she was advancing. If it were ever true that women were not concerned in politics, that statement was never more inappreciable than now. Were not women concerned in education, in matters of peace or war, with legislation affecting the foundations of national morality? Nothing that is disputed and doubtful in these matters could be

rightly solved unless women and men had a voice in their solution. Miss Becker then related her experience of a practical test of what were called respectively the women's and men's looms in the carpet trade at Kidderminster, and said she found the women's looms were those which required hard manual labour, and the men's looms those at which the men had to stand at ease and notice the steam power do the work. She also referred to the support given to the movement by one of their borough members, the illustrious Mr. Villiers, and by Mr. Staveley Hill, one of the members for that division of the county.—The Rev. T. G. Horton moved a resolution to the effect that a memorial be forwarded to the county and borough members, embodying a petition based on the foregoing resolution.—The Rev. Enoch Franks seconded the resolution, and Miss Sturge was called to support the resolution.—Miss Sturge, rebutting the objection that, if they obtained what they wanted in this movement, domestic life would suffer, contended that domestic life had sufficiently suffered through the affairs of the country being entirely in the hands of men. She controverted the notion that, in this agitation, women were passing out of their proper sphere, and urged that the gift by God of talents was ample justification for their development. When it was urged that political and domestic matters should be kept apart, she reminded them that there were politics in the coffee pot, that tea and sugar were elements in the country, and that women's hearts were torn by the ravages of war. If it were urged that women were not sufficiently logical to vote for members of Parliament, the disqualification was shated by some of the other sex. She referred to the position she held at the Birmingham School Board, her name being placed next to that of the Chairman; but if she were a teacher she would have less remuneration for even more work, when compared with the payment to masters of schools.—The resolutions were carried unanimously, and the usual vote of thanks were accorded.—*Abridged from the Birmingham Morning News.*

WALSALL.

On January 13th a meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Walsall, which was attended by a large number of persons, including most of the leading public men of the town. The chair was occupied by W. H. Duignan, Esq. Mrs. Ashford, Miss Becker, and the Rev. T. G. Crippen formed the deputation; and there were on the platform the Revs. A. A. Cole, W. W. Robinson, and W. Lees; and Mr. Holden, J.P., and Mr. Jupp. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, expressed his hearty approval of the object. The usual resolutions were supported by the above-named ladies and gentlemen; and Mr. Holden said that, as a member of the Walsall School Board, he should rejoice exceedingly if they had a lady among them to represent the girls; and in reference to the grammar school, he believed that Queen Mary gave it for boys and girls, and how the girls had been turned out of it he did not know, but he thought it was time the inhabitants, especially the ladies, took up the matter and insisted that part of the revenue should be expended according to the original intention. The resolutions were carried, and the meeting concluded with the customary votes of thanks.

LICHFIELD.

On January 15th a meeting was held in St. James's Hall, Lichfield. Rowland Crosskey, Esq., J.P., presided. There were also present Miss Becker, Mrs. Ashford, Miss Sturge, the Revs. Brooke Lambert and R. W. Essington, and Messrs. C. Simpson, M'Lean, F. Webb, F. Symonds, &c. The hall was well filled.—Mr. Crosskey opened the meeting by stating that, although the Bill was introduced by a private member of the House, he believed it would be supported by many members of

the Government. He thought the measure was misunderstood, and that when they had heard the arguments which would be brought forward the meeting would be of opinion that women ought to enjoy the same privileges as men, and not be classed with lunatics, paupers, and criminals.—The Rev. Brooke Lambert, vicar of Tamworth, moved the first resolution. He said the resolution spoke for itself, for if a Queen was allowed to rule in this country, at least women should not be excluded by reason of her sex from a share in the representation. He disposed of the general objections to the Bill, believing that the passing of such an Act as the one they were discussing would be among the first steps to woman's proper position, that she would thereby be the higher and better fitted for the training of the future of the nation.—Mr. McLean seconded the resolution.—Mrs. Ashford, in speaking in support of the resolution, mentioned that the Act would add 200,000 persons to the electoral roll of the country, and that she was convinced that recent legislation called for the intervention of women. She instanced the monopoly of educational establishments by boys; she declared that the marriage and divorce laws were unequal, and why? Because they were made by men. Mr. Gladstone had admitted that the English law did women less than justice, and that meant injustice.—Miss Becker said the question did not involve political complications. Lichfield would be particularly affected by the change, for from particulars supplied to her some years ago by the Town Clerk (Mr. Simpson), she found that the householders entitled to vote at municipal elections numbered 1,274, and of these 197 were women, that proportion being one woman to 5.4 men. She read a letter from the Rev. J. Graham, who had been announced to address the meeting, who said that he was with the meeting to a certain extent, but he thought that the true dignity of woman was forgotten when she descended to the arena of political strife.—Miss Becker commented on the last part of the remarks, and pointed out how women were more interested in social questions than men. It was not a party question, as it affected Liberals and Conservatives alike, and both might join to do for the Bill what they could.—Mr. A. Hinckley moved an amendment which stated that it was not desirable that the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women. He said no one had a higher appreciation for the sex than he, but he did not think it would be advisable or advantageous to extend to them the privilege of voting at parliamentary elections. He reviewed the arguments of former speakers, stating his belief that women were sufficiently represented by their husbands, brothers, sons, and fathers; that obsolete laws had been adduced as arguments by one of the speakers; that the reason that there was a difference in educational allowances was that masters were more expensive than mistresses; he criticised the asserted majority in the present House of Commons, showing that a large number of members were unaccounted for. He did not think it would benefit society, but did believe that woman had much better do her duty in that state of life to which she had been called, and leave the arena of politics to the sterner sex. What was the logical conclusion, and where would it stop? It would lead to lady M.P.'s, female Prime Ministers, a possible first Lady of the Admiralty, women politicians, lawyers, judges—in a word, it would unsex them, and to his mind tend to lower the character of women.—Miss Sturge, in a very clever speech, replied to the objections raised by Mr. Hinckley.—The Chairman, on the question being put to the meeting, declared the resolution to be carried.—The Rev. R. W. Essington and Mr. Simpson also addressed the meeting, which throughout was of the most interesting and lively character.—Petitions to both Houses of Parliament were also adopted, and the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the deputation and the Chairman.

BOSTON.

A well attended meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms, Boston, on December 16th. Miss Becker and Miss C. A. Biggs attended as deputation from the National Society. They were supported by Mrs. A. Hood, Mrs. C. Wright, and the Misses Wright. The chair was taken by Mr. Councillor Wood. Mr. Charles Wright moved the first resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. Alfred Hood. Mr. Councillor Wigelsworth and Mr. Edis Everitt also took part in the proceedings. Resolutions affirming the principle and adopting petitions and memorials to the local members were carried, and the meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

LEEDS.

During the past few weeks Mrs. Scatcherd, Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire Branch of the Society, has delivered various addresses in different parts of Leeds. She was invited by the committee of the Woodhouse Mechanics' Institution to give an address in their lecture hall on November 11th, when Mr. Alderman Gallsworthy presided, and a petition was adopted. Mrs. Scatcherd lectured in the reading room of the Wintown Literary Society on December 2nd, when a petition was adopted by the meeting. Mrs. Scatcherd addressed meetings of women only, on December 9th, at Bramley, and on December 14th at Holbeck. The Society appeal to their friends for aid in prosecuting the work of promoting petitions in the district during the coming season. Communications should be addressed to Mrs. Scatcherd, Hon. Secretary, 1, Victoria Chambers, South Parade, Leeds.

A WOMAN'S BLUE BOOK.*

(From the Spectator.)

It was a happy moment when the thought entered Mr. Stansfeld's head that he would get "a woman's view" of a system which to the official mind appeared to work so admirably, it was a happier when he selected the clear brain which has worked so indefatigably for twelve months towards the result now before us. It will be as well briefly to put the broad outlines of the case. The State is responsible not merely for the school teaching, but for the education and training of some thirty thousand pauper children, whose condition, physically, mentally, and morally is of the lowest order; whose distinct natural *tendency* (allowing, of course, for exceptional cases) is to exaggerate in their own persons all that has made their parents a burden to the State, that is, practically, to the general community. Such is the raw material with which we have to deal. Of these thirty thousand and upwards of children, some eighteen or nineteen thousand are girls, and it is with them exclusively that Mrs. Senior has to do. But it is impossible to enter into the spirit of her report, without glancing at the general aspect of the system she desires to see reformed. Some thirty years ago public attention was called to the necessity for establishing district schools, by means of which arrangement pauper children should be removed from the evils inseparable from association with adult paupers. The establishment of these schools was a great move in the right direction, and for thirty years Mr. Tufnell has laboured honestly and indefatigably to increase their number and promote their careful supervision. But the official mind is apt to become stereotyped. It is a wise adage which says, "He that is ever learning never grows old," but the official mind is apt to cease to learn early. It accepts a new system,—probably at the moment of acceptance the best

* Report of Mrs. Nassau Senior as to the Effect on Girls of the System of Education at Pauper Schools. Third Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1873-74.

that could be then devised,—but thenceforth occupies itself with details, too often surface details, which deal mainly with the advantages of the system, while the indications beneath the fair exterior, that it is getting old and rotten, and ready to vanish away, are completely hidden. So it is that Mr. Tufnell, to whom be all the honour due for good work done, writes, "After a longer experience in pauper education than has fallen to the lot of perhaps any other person, and a practical acquaintance with every other system yet devised for educating this lowly class, I come unhesitatingly to the conclusion that *nothing can equal or even approach* the success of the plan of uniting the children in large schools arranged on the district system." And in confirmation of such opinion, he states, "The chaplains whose testimony I have quoted in former reports speak unanimously in the highest terms of the conduct of these children. And so far as statistical results tell of their failure or otherwise in after life, I have never been able to discover, from the numerous returns I have collected and printed in past reports, that more than four per cent fail to gain an honest and independent livelihood." That success is astounding, if true. We fear in no other class does any system of education work such wonders. Of what other section of society could it be said that four per cent only fail to get an honest and independent livelihood? But we must not be hard on Mr. Tufnell. It is not his fault if "facts are very often false." As to the unanimous testimony of the chaplains, they have not even supervising power beyond the age of sixteen, nor even so far as that, if the child's first place be forfeited, while as to those who voluntarily continue to seek their counsel and aid, it is needless to say they are generally the best and most intelligent. As regards the boys, however, the system has not worked badly.

But it is with the present system, as it works for the girls, that we have to do in Mrs. Senior's Report, looking at which we are forcibly reminded of Bacon's words, that "he that cannot contract the sight of his mind as well as disperse and dilate it, wanteth a great faculty." Mrs. Senior's determination was to keep strictly to the work before her, namely, to examine the working of the existing system as it affected girls—first, in the schools; and, secondly, in their career in after life. In pursuit of the first object, she visited the 17 metropolitan schools once, "postponing their more particular investigation to a later period; then went to see some country districts in England and Scotland, visited orphanages, reformatories, kindergartens, &c., in England, Scotland, and Paris, and paid special attention to the cases of children boarded out. In pursuance of the second object, she obtained the help of efficient fellow-workers, who inquired minutely into the history of 650 girls, who during the last two years have been placed in service in London and the suburbs. Not satisfied that even this would give a fair idea of the average working of the system, Mrs. Senior personally inquired into the history of 51 girls who had left the schools five years, namely, in 1868, after having been trained for not less than five years in them. We know few things which possess a more touching human interest than the report which embodies the results of these inquiries. The dry bones of mere "statistical results" seem clothed with flesh and blood, and exist no longer in the aggregate, but in separate and individualised organisms. But microscopic power, though valuable, is not always pleasant, and when by means of it Mrs. Senior separates the living atoms from the well-drilled, systematised whole, she finds the result to be too often failure, and failure to a degree which makes us wonder whether in Mr. Tufnell's bewildering four per cent girls counted for nothing. The 650 girls whose histories were carefully searched into were divided among Mrs. Senior's fellow-workers. One reports on 75 cases in Appendix F. Out of this number we counted 40 on the side of failure, their report being to this effect:—

"In school 7 years. S.—Untruthful, dishonest, violent, and savage; threatened to stab the nurse; knew nothing of housework. This girl used to pretend that she visited her mother, who was in the workhouse, but the mistress has reason to believe that she spent her time in going about with a boy. The girl has had five situations since she left this one, and is now in workhouse.

"An orphan entirely brought up in school. D.—Ill-taught in all respects; light in her behaviour; a great story-teller; very quarrelsome; ever ready to fight. Run away from her second place. Now in workhouse.

"In school over 5 years. D.—Active, willing, and clean in her work, but horribly dirty in personal habits. A terrible temper; sulky and resentful. At first given to pilfering, but has been cured of that. Although her temper is a little improved, her mistress still fears that she cannot keep her.

"In school over eight years. D.—Dishonest; untruthful; very sullen; very bad as regards housework. Very dirty in all her habits.

"Nine years in school. S.—Insolent; bad-tempered. This girl stayed eleven months in her place, but had warning given her three times, her mistress trying her over and over again out of pity. Mistress believed that the girl had been well taught, but as she would not do anything, could not be sure.

"Two years in school. D.—Honest; truthful; sullen and obstinate; very indolent and dirty. Dismissed on account of her extreme idleness.

"1. D.—Audacious and violent to the last degree; threatened to stab her own mother.

"2. D.—Nothing could be done with this girl. She set her mistress, a nice, sensible woman, at defiance by all sorts of whims, insisting on sitting up all night; refusing to do anything she was told. When she was told she should be sent back to school, she refused to go, said that she would cry till she could cry no longer, and then scream. She laid hold of the edges of the sink, and said nothing should move her. She had to be carried forcibly out of the house by a policeman, and put into the cart which was to take her away.

"3. S.—On one occasion the girl, because she was annoyed at having to wash a flannel petticoat, rolled it up when wet, and put it under the child's head in bed, thereby giving it a bad cold. She was sullen as well as spiteful, once refusing to eat for three days."

We cannot be surprised that Mrs. Senior does not regard the system of which this is the outcome, as the ideal of all our ambition, as the system "which nothing can ever equal or even approach for success." But having pointed out its deficiencies, Mrs. Senior at once suggests the remedy. . . . The result of her inquiries leads her to a distinct belief that all large schools for these girls—especially where, as at present, permanent and casual pupils are permitted to mix—are bad; that, were it possible, the boarding-out system should be adopted. She holds that the humblest cottage home affords more facilities for really training a girl for her work in life, than the barrack life of even the best ordered district school. . . . What these children really need, Mrs. Senior says, with womanly emphasis, is *mothering*; and elsewhere, not in the Blue-book, we find, "There was one child who did not know how to kiss." And it is this *mothering* she is seeking to obtain for the many thousands of friendless and orphan servant-girls under twenty years of age who are in service in London and elsewhere, and who "go wrong" because they have no true friend in the wide world to whom they dare speak. "The whole problem," she well says, "is one of terrible difficulty, and its solution can only be arrived at through a series of gradually diminishing mistakes." In this instance, at least, a woman's scissors have been more effectual than a man's knife, to cut the red tape which binds up such mistakes as sacred.

LADY STUDENTS AT CAMBRIDGE.

In an article which was quoted in our last issue, commenting on the success of the lady students, it was erroneously stated that Miss Paley and another lady, who were examined in the Moral Science Tripos, were students of Girton College instead of Merton Hall. The following letter in reference to one of the ladies has been addressed by the Rev. Thomas Paley to the Editor of the *Daily News* :—

"Sir,—My name having been mentioned in several London and local papers in connection with Miss Paley's course of study in Cambridge, I feel called upon to give a correct version of the matter. She was admitted to the same examination as the men, with an understanding that her place in the classes should not be divulged, but only certified to her immediate friends. I am therefore not at liberty to say where she stood. It is sufficient to say that the result of the examination gave great satisfaction to her tutors, and proved that without any very extraordinary ability, and without any strain on her health, a woman is capable of the highest mental culture. Miss Paley was a student of Merton Hall, where she had all the advantages of Cambridge tuition without the formality of a college life. The House was most opportunely opened three years ago by Miss Clough, and but for this Miss Paley would probably not have been a Cambridge student at all. She is the great-granddaughter of the celebrated Paley.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully, THOMAS PALEY. Ufford Rectory, Dec. 21.

EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN IRELAND.

A deputation of ladies waited on Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Chief Secretary for Ireland, January 12th, at Dublin Castle, to present to him a statement of the different documents which have been laid before Parliament, and before members of the Government, during the last three years, on the subject of the higher education of women in Ireland; and also to press upon his attention the desirableness of obtaining a Royal Commission of Inquiry as to the state and prospects of advanced education of women throughout the Three Kingdoms. The chief secretary expressed much interest in all the subjects brought under his notice by the deputation, and promised to draw the attention of other members of the Government to the importance of such a commission of inquiry as had been suggested.

A LADY DOCTOR OF LAST CENTURY.—The following, from a newspaper dated March 18, 1736, has a modern reference :—"Friday, Mar. 12.—Bologna, Mar. 3. The day before yesterday, Mademoiselle Loure Bussy, a graduate of this University, aged 22, disputed with the professor in the Latin tongue, the question was, *Whether the bones of the human body had their accretion by the means of certain juices?* The anatomist maintained the affirmative, and the lady the contrary. She spoke with great eloquence for an hour and a half; and, consequently, was extremely applauded by the assembly. The young female doctor is here in great consideration. When she took her degree about three or four years ago, the ceremony was performed with a good deal of solemnity; the Cardinal Legate and Archbishop and the Cardinal de Polignac were present, and the last made her a present of a gold snuff box."—*The Daily Journal*.

MRS. VAN COTT'S MISFORTUNE.

Mrs. M. Van Cott, the great revivalist, who has done so much for the church, lately applied to the Methodist Bishop of San Francisco, for ordination.

Says Mrs. Van Cott: "During the last year, through my labours, I have brought one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five persons into the church. Have I not shown my capacity to fill the position?"

"Certainly," says the Bishop, "you have."

Says Mrs. Van Cott: "In order to accomplish these conversions, I have travelled in one year 7208 miles. Have I not shown my capacity to bear fatigue and exposure, and to renounce temporal comforts, in labouring for the faith?"

"Yes," says the Bishop, "you have."

Says Mrs. Van Cott: "In the prosecution of my ministerial work, I have written, in one year, 650 letters; and I have attended 828 religious meetings; and I have preached 399 sermons. Could more be asked? What man of you all has done more than this?"

"None," says the Bishop, "none."

Says Mrs. Van Cott: "I have spent 1776 hours in religious meetings during one year. Has any minister in the land exhibited a greater zeal, and a more devoted steadfastness in the faith?"

"None," says the Bishop, "none. You have travelled, and written, and prayed and preached; and 1735 persons received, through your ministrations, into the church, bear living and joyful testimony to your power in converting sinners to Christ, and saving souls from damnation; but—but—but—you are a—"

The Bishop paused.

"Speak! speak!" said Mrs. Van Cott. "Say what I am that should keep me from doing the work of my God and Saviour!"

Said the Bishop: "You—you—Mrs. Van Cott, are a—you are—"

"Oh, go on," said Mrs. Van Cott. "Do not hesitate to tell me what is the terrible thing you would name. Go on. What terrible crime have I committed, that should disqualify me for Christ's work? Speak—name it—and I will withdraw my supplication."

Said the Bishop: "I will not ordain you. You are a—"

"What am I?" said Mrs. Van Cott. "Out with it. Speak like a man. Name my crime!"

"Oh!" said the Bishop, "it's no crime—no crime, I suppose, Mrs. Van Cott, but only a terrible misfortune."

"Oh! name my misfortune, then," said Mrs. Van Cott. "If it is one that debars me from ordination to do the work of my Heavenly master, then, indeed, is it a terrible misfortune; but I will bear it. Name it, and through Christ's help, I will bear it."

"I will not ordain you," said the Bishop. "You are—you are—God give me strength to speak it! You are—a—WOMAN." *Santa Barbara Index*.

A LADY LECTURER ON CHEMISTRY.—Lately, in Aberdeen, Miss Charlotte Napier gave a lecture on "Chemistry" in connection with the Blackfriars Useful Information Society. There was a very numerous attendance, and the lecture, which was illustrated by a variety of experiments, and was of a highly interesting and instructive character, was listened to with the closest attention, an enthusiastic vote of thanks being awarded to the lecturer at the close. Miss Charlotte Napier is a young Aberdonian. Last winter she studied chemistry in Edinburgh, under the direction of Mr. Falconer King, with a view to assisting her father as an agricultural analyst.

BOYS AND GIRLS IN THE NATIONAL COMPETITION IN WRITING AND DRAWING.

In order to encourage the attainment of excellence in writing and drawing by pupils of public and private schools throughout the United Kingdom, Mr. Vere Foster instituted four years ago a graduated system of Prizes. During the year just ended there have been 1,406 competitors in ordinary writing, 57 in ornamental lettering, and 344 in drawing. Boys and girls have competed in about equal numbers, there being 907 of the former, and 900 of the latter. The highest prize for ordinary writing, £5, is, for the fourth time in succession, awarded to a girl. Notwithstanding the expressed opinion of not a few school inspectors that *the style of writing was not natural to, and could not be acquired by girls!* Miss Ellen J. C. Moore, a pupil of Rickamore National School, county Antrim, is the successful candidate for this year. In plain and ornamental writing the highest prize, £5, is again awarded to a lady, Miss Maria J. Thorpe, a pupil of the Cork School of Art. The girls have also held their ground in the prizes for drawing, which are divided into thirteen classes. They have taken their share of first prizes of £1 each. The competition has been the means of encouraging and bringing out talent in the girls in elementary schools, and we understand that it has led in more than one instance to lucrative employment for those who have distinguished themselves. We trust that in the competition for 1875 there may be an increased number of entries. For writing, 281 prizes are offered, ranging from £5 to 5s., amounting to £115. Those interested in the subject may obtain full information by application to Vere Foster, Esq., Belfast.

WOMEN SUFFRAGE *versus* IGNORANCE.—A very dirty man came in to vote in a township of Michigan at the late election. Said a lady, offering him a ballot, "I wish you would oblige us by voting this ticket." "What kind of a ticket is that?" said he. "Why," said the lady, "you can see yourself." "But I can't read," he answered. "Can't you read the ballot you have there in your hand, which you are about to vote?" the lady asked. "No," said he, "I can't read at all." "Well," said the lady, "this ballot means that you are willing to let the women as well as the men vote." "Is that it?" he replied, "then I don't want it; the women don't know enough to vote."

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE MARCH, 2nd, 1874.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. James Heywood, F.R.S.	5	0	0
Mrs. Nichol	5	0	0
Mrs. Paulton	2	0	0
Professor F. W. Newman	2	0	0
Miss E. L. M. Praed	2	0	0
Miss Rose Hall	1	1	0
Mrs. Harriet Martineau	1	1	0
Rev. Alfred Dewes, D.D.	1	1	0
Mr. H. Nicol	1	1	0
Mrs. Evans	1	0	0
Miss Reddall	1	0	0
The Dowager Countess of Buchan	1	0	0
Mr. T. H. Bastard	1	0	0
Mrs. Carroll	1	0	0
Mr. John Leake, jun.	0	10	6
Miss Sara Hennell	0	5	0
Miss H. Lupton	0	5	0
	26	4	6

LYDIA E. BECKER, Treasurer.

January 23rd, 1875. 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING JANUARY, 1875.

ADDITIONAL FOR 1874.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Ashworth	70	0	0
Miss Solly	4	0	0
Mr. Latimer (Plymouth)	0	10	6
L. P.	0	10	0
Mrs. J. Phillips (Plymouth)	0	5	0
Miss Leedham (Bristol)	0	5	0
Mr. Wyatt	0	2	6
Mr. Bunce	0	2	6
Rev. J. J. Brown (Cirencester)	0	2	6
Miss Schild (Swansea)	0	2	6
Mr. Akery	0	1	0
Mr. John	0	1	0

Miss Ashworth	30	0	0
Professor F. W. Newman	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Collier (Plymouth)	1	1	0
Miss Mary Price (Bristol)	1	1	0
Mr. John Beer (Devonport)	1	0	0
Mrs. Layton (Bideford)	1	0	0
Mrs. W. H. Thomas (Swansea)	1	0	0
Miss M. N. Price (Bristol)	1	0	0
Miss Malin	0	10	0
Mrs. Roscoe	0	5	0
Miss F. Leonard	0	5	0
Miss E. Leonard	0	5	0
Madame H. de Manin	0	5	0
Miss Jones	0	5	0
Mr. Downing (Penzance)	0	5	0
Mr. Peter Price (Cardiff)	0	5	0

£119 9 6

ALICE GRENFELL, 5, Albert Villas, Clifton,

Office: 53, Park Street, Bristol.

Treasurer.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Central Office: 1, Victoria Chambers, South Parade, Leeds.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING JANUARY, 1875.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Oates (donation)	5	5	0
(subscription)	2	2	0
Mrs. Buckton	1	1	0
Mr. J. C. March	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Lupton	1	1	0
Mr. Baines	1	1	0
Mr. John Lupton	1	1	0
Mrs. Baily	1	1	0
Mr. J. S. Mather	1	1	0
Mr. J. K. Ford	1	1	0
Mr. Darnton Lupton	1	1	0
Mr. Edward Walker	1	0	0
Mrs. Ford	1	0	0
Miss Carbutt	1	0	0
Mr. Tatham	1	0	0
Miss Wilson	0	10	0
Mr. E. A. Lupton	0	10	0
Miss Wikinson	0	10	0
Mrs. Luccock	0	10	0
Miss Marshall	0	10	0
Mrs. Lawson	0	5	0
Mr. Edward Butler	0	2	6
Mr. D. T. Ingham	0	2	6
Dr. John Willis	0	2	6
	23	18	6

CELIA WALKER, Treasurer.

Springfield Mount, Leeds.

WOMEN TELEGRAPHISTS.—The employment of women in the Austrian Telegraph Service having given satisfactory results, the Minister of Commerce has adopted the system in the Post Office, and the railway boards have been asked to report on its extension to railways.—*Labour News*.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING JANUARY, 1875.

	£	s.	d.
A Friend	100	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thomasson	50	0	0
Mr. H. D. Pochin	25	0	0
Mrs. Gell	5	0	0
R. W.	2	2	0
Mrs. Wm. Grey	2	2	0
Miss Humble	2	0	0
Miss Edith Brooke	2	0	0
The Dowager Countess Buchan	2	0	0
Mr. Henry Nicol	1	1	0
Rev. Alfred Dewes, D.D.	1	1	0
Professor F. W. Newman	1	1	0
Mrs. Stephenson Hunter	1	1	0
"Omega"	1	1	0
Mr. Thos. Cooke	1	1	0
Miss Ramsbottom	1	1	0
Mr. Gilbert Greenall, M.P.	1	0	0
Mrs. de Hersant	1	0	0
Miss E. C. Shepherd	1	0	0
Mrs. Layton	1	0	0
Mrs. Stephenson (Barnes)	1	0	0
Mr. John Leake, junr.	0	10	6
Mrs. Bingham	0	10	0
Mrs. Wood (Lisbon)	0	16	0
J. R.	0	10	0
Mrs. Mylne	0	5	2
Mr. E. Richardson (Warrington)	0	5	0
Mr. D. Roberts (Chester)	0	5	0
Mr. T. W. Jones	0	5	0
Mrs. J. Cash	0	5	0
Miss Tootal	0	5	0
Misses Oxley	0	5	0
Miss Carter	0	5	0
Miss Nicholson (Bourton-on-the-Hill)	0	5	0
Mr. W. Jennings	0	2	6
Mr. John Glover	0	1	0

KIDDERMINSTER.

Captain Pemberton Talbot	1	1	0
Mr. Wm. Talbot	1	0	0
Mr. Holloway	0	10	6
Mr. Miller Corbet	0	10	6
Mr. D. W. Goodwin	0	10	0
Mr. W. A. Crowther	0	10	0
Mr. Alderman Lloyd	0	10	0
Mr. T. S. Bucknall	0	10	0
Mr. Jonas Crabtree	0	10	0
Mr. John Stooke	0	10	0
Mr. Wm. Adam	0	10	0
Anon.—Donation towards expenses of meeting	0	10	0
Anon.	0	10	0
Mrs. Gledhill	0	5	0
Rev. Thos. Fisk	0	5	0
Mr. Councillor Cowen	0	5	0
Mr. W. Hyde	0	5	0
Messrs. J. Binnian & Son	0	5	0
Mr. W. Brooke	0	2	6
Mr. R. Jones	0	2	6
Mr. J. P. Harvey	0	2	6
Mr. John Christie	0	2	6
Mr. Geo. Thomason	0	2	6
Mr. A. W. Beale	0	2	6
Mr. Ebenezer Guest	0	2	6
Mr. Geo. Turton	0	2	6
Miss Quinn	0	0	6

WALSALL.

Mr. W. H. Duignan	1	1	0
Mr. E. T. Holden	1	1	0
Mr. Geo. Cotterel	0	10	0

£219 9 8

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, and may be sent either direct to him at 107, Upper Brook-street; or to the Secretary Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Contributions to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 294, Regent Street, London, W., from December 22nd, 1874, to January 20th, 1875.

	£	s.	d.
Alex. MacArthur, Esq., M.P.	2	2	0
Mrs. Yates	2	0	0
Miss Hall	2	0	0
Prof. F. W. Newman	2	0	0
Miss E. L. M. Praed	2	0	0
Mrs. Corbridge	1	10	0
Miss Babb	1	1	0
Mr. A. W. Bennett	1	1	0
Mr. Galpin	1	1	0
Mr. Nicol	1	1	0
Miss Ramsay	1	1	0
Mr. Man	1	0	0
Mr. B. H. Penney	0	10	0
Miss Louisa Bigg	0	5	0
Miss H. Blackburn	0	5	0
Mr. B. Taylor (Peterborough)	0	5	0
Mrs. Holbrook	0	2	6
Mr. Holditch	0	2	6
Rev. Alex. Murray	0	2	6
Mr. Holmes	0	2	6
Mr. Tuxford	0	2	6
A Friend (Peterborough)	0	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis	0	2	0
Mr. Dennison	0	1	0
Mrs. Müller	0	1	0

ALFRED W. BENNETT, Treasurer. £20 2 6

EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE DECEMBER 20TH, 1874.

	£	s.	d.
Miss E. Stevenson	20	0	0
Miss L. Stevenson	10	0	0
Mrs. Nichol	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. W. Millar	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. R. Miller	5	0	0
Miss Jex Blake	5	0	0
Mr. R. A. Macfie	3	0	0
Miss Hope	2	0	10
Miss Du Prè	2	0	0
The Misses Bartholemew	2	0	0
Mrs. Macleod	2	2	0
Mrs. Masson	2	0	0
Mr. Whyte Millar	2	0	0
A Friend in Life	2	0	0
Mr. Greig	1	0	0
Miss Alston (Collected by)	1	0	6
Haddington Committee	1	0	0
Messrs. Nelson & Son	1	0	0
Mrs. Blackie	1	0	0
Mr. Raleigh	1	0	0
Mrs. Dodd	1	0	0
Mrs. Hill-Burton	1	0	0
Miss Caldwell	1	0	0
Mrs. Hope, Dreylaw	1	0	0
Mrs. Caldwell Crawford	1	0	0
Ayr Committee	0	15	0
Miss Stoddart	0	10	0
Mrs. B. Mein	0	10	0
Mrs. Drew	0	10	0
Mrs. T. Robertson	0	10	0
Mr. Josiah Livingstone	0	10	0
Mr. Armour	0	10	0
Miss Laidlaw	0	10	0
Councillor Crighton	0	5	0
Mrs. Iillie	0	5	0
Mrs. Mc.Fadyen	0	5	0
Mrs. W. Anderson	0	5	0
Mrs. Caldwell	0	5	0
Mrs. D. Grievie	0	5	0
Mrs. Jeffrey	0	5	0
Mrs. Somerville	0	2	6
Miss Graigen, per	0	2	6
Miss Frazer	0	2	6
Mrs. Kemp	0	2	0
Mrs. Mitchelhill	0	2	0
Mrs. Low	0	2	0

£89 16 10

6, Carlton Street.

AGNES CRAIG, Treasurer.