

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XII.—No. 135. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

APRIL 1, 1881.

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Correspondence.

Foreign Notes and News. Paragraphs.

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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.

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

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! Women Ratepayers are reminded that Elections of Poor-Law Guardians, Members of Local Boards, Churchwardens, Overseers, Auditors, and other Officials take place during April. Vestry Meetings for the Election of Churchwardens usually take place on the Tuesday in Easter Week. Women Ratepayers have the right to attend and vote in all Local Elections, and they are earnestly exhorted to use the suffrage which the law confers on them, especially when there is a woman candidate for a Board of Guardians. Elections for Guardians and Members of Local Boards are conducted by means of Voting Papers, which are left at the houses of the ratepayers, and called for before the election. Women Ratepayers should see that their papers are duly filled up and signed ready to be given up when called for, and in case of failure to collect the papers, they should themselves forward them to the proper officer, who is bound to notify by public advertisement the time and place when he will receive papers which have not been called for.

It is of the utmost consequence that women should exercise their votes on every lawful occasion.

EXETER.—A Public Meeting, in support of Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Householders and Ratepayers, will be held in the Royal Public Rooms, Exeter, on Wednesday, April 6th, 1881. Chair to be taken at 8 p.m., by R. C. WILKINSON, Esq. Mrs. Ashworth Hallett and Miss Helen Blackburn will address the meeting on behalf of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage; and the following ladies and gentlemen are expected to attend:—Lady Bowring, John Bevan, Esq., Rev. Conway Carter, Edward J. Domville, Esq., H. Boyd Mackay, Esq., Mrs. May, Mr. Councillor Owen, J. Petherick, Esq., junr., Miss M. Petherick, Henry Wilcox, Esq., J.P.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER,



**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.

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

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

## THE CALENDAR.—APRIL, 1881.

MOON.		SUN.	MOON.		SUN.
6th First Quar., 3h 54m aft. 14th Full Moon, 11h 50m morn.		Rises. 5 25 Sets. 6 39	21st Last Quar., 9h 38m morn. 25th New Moon, 10h 24m morn.		Rises. 4 53 Sets. 7 4
<b>MEETINGS, &amp;c.</b>					
1	F		Meeting, Killyth, 1873. Meeting, Bury St. Edmunds, 1875. Meeting, Stamford, 1875.	1	
2	S		Lecture, Miss Tylour, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, 1874. Meeting, Loughborough, 1875. Cottage Meeting, Dewsbury, 1879.	2	
3	S	5th SUNDAY IN LENT. Mary Carpenter born 1807.	Public Meeting, Aberdeen, 1871. Lecture, Miss Tylour, Lillithgow, 1871. Lecture, Miss Rhoda Garrett, Cheltenham, 1872. Meeting, Sunderland, 1872. Meeting, Edgeware, 1873. Meeting, Liverpool, 1873. Address, Miss Craigen, Yarm-on-Tees, 1875. Drawing-room Meeting, Beckenham, 1878.	3	
4	M		Meeting, Alloa, Miss Tylour, 1871. Meeting, Chatham, 1872. Meeting, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1872. Meeting, Port Bannatyne, 1873. Debate, Ryde, 1877. Lecture, Miss Downing, Witney, 1879.	4	
5	T	Abbesses summoned to attend Parliament by Edward I., 1306.	Meeting, Stirling, Miss Tylour, 1871. Lecture, Miss Rhoda Garrett, Worcester, 1872. Meeting, South Shields, 1872. Meeting, Luton, 1875.	5	
6	W		Meeting, Johnstone, Miss Tylour, 1871. Meeting, North Shields, 1872. Lecture, Mrs. Ronniger, Leighton Buzzard, 1875. Meeting, Dublin, 1877.	6	
7	Th		Meeting, Kilbarchan, Miss Tylour, 1871. Debate in the House of Commons on Women's Disabilities Bill, 1875. Drawing-room Meeting, Chiswick, 1877.	7	
8	F		Lecture, Miss Rhoda Garrett, Hereford, 1873. Lecture, Southampton, Mrs. Fawcett, 1872. Meeting, Hartlepool, 1872. Meeting, Droitwich, 1874. Meeting, Lazenby, 1878. Lecture, Miss Tod, Bally Bay, 1878.	8	
9	S		Lecture, Greenwich, Mrs. Fawcett, 1870. Meeting, Stourbridge, 1872. Meeting, Stockport, 1877. Discussion, Darlington, 1877. Drawing-room Meeting, St. John's Wood, 1877. Meeting, Boston, 1878. Lecture, Miss Downing, Clapham Road, 1879. Annual Meeting, Belfast, 1880. Drawing-room meeting, Chelsea, 1880.	9	
10	S	PALM SUNDAY. "Le Droit des Femmes" (first women's paper in France) started, Paris, 1869.	Meeting, Dundee, Miss Tylour, 1871. Lecture, Miss Rhoda Garrett, Leominster, 1872. Meeting, Darlington, 1872. Meeting, Whitby, 1872. Meeting, Chelsea, 1873. Meeting, Coventry, 1874. Meeting, Scarborough, 1877. Meeting, Retford, 1878. Discussion, Brixton, 1878. Meeting, Miss Craigen, Huddersfield, 1880. Drawing-room Meeting, Holland Road, Kensington, 1880.	10	
11	M	Margaret of Navarre born 1492.	Meeting, Cupar Angus, Miss Tylour, 1871. Meeting, Oxford, 1878.	11	
12	T		Meeting, Brechin, Miss Tylour, 1871. Meeting, Ipswich, 1871. Meeting, Market Lavington, Wilts, 1872. Meeting, Middleborough, 1872. Meeting, Eston, 1878. Discussion, Darlington, 1878. Lecture, Dublin, Mr. P. C. Copland, 1880.	12	
13	W	Madame Guyon born 1648.	Meeting, Glasgow, 1872. Address, Miss Craigen, Eston Mines, 1878. Cottage Meeting, Batley, 1878.	13	
14	Th		First Public Meeting on Women's Suffrage, Manchester, 1868. Meeting, Cupar Fife, Miss Tylour, 1871. Meeting, Framlingham, 1871. Meeting, Exeter, 1874. Lecture, Mrs. Scatcherd, Leeds, 1874. Meeting, Notting Hill, 1880.	14	
15	F	GOOD FRIDAY.	Lecture, Miss Craigen, 1872. Meeting, Birkenhead, 1872. Meeting, Kirkcaldy, 1873. Annual Meeting, Birmingham, 1878. Debate, Crouch End, 1878. Lecture, Fulham, Mrs. Webster, 1880. Drawing Room Meeting, Tulse Hill, 1880.	15	
16	S	"La Donna" (first women's paper in Italy) started, Padua, 1868.	Meeting, Ipswich, 1874.	16	
17	S	EASTER SUNDAY.	Meeting, Banbury, 1872. Conference, Birmingham, 1877. Meeting, Birmingham, 1877. Drawing-room Meeting, Chiswick, 1880.	17	
18	M		Lecture, Dublin, Mrs. Fawcett, 1870. Meeting, Taunton, 1872. Meeting, Norwich, 1873. Meeting, Worcester, 1877. Debate, Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill, 1877.	18	
19	T		Lecture on Women in India, Lady Anna Gore-Langton, Langham Hotel, 1877. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Pleasley Vale, Derbyshire, 1877. Lecture, Notting Hill, Miss Biggs, 1880. Lecture, Women's Provident League, London, Miss Shore, 1880.	19	
20	W	Alexandra College, Dublin, Easter Term begins. Lady Banks, defender of Corfe Castle, died 1661.	Lecture, Hammersmith, Mrs. Webster, 1880. Lecture, Hackney, Miss Wade, 1880.	20	
21	Th	Charlotte Bronte born 1816.	Meeting, Bury St. Edmunds, 1873. Conference, Keighley, 1875. Drawing-room Meeting, Bridport, 1880.	21	
22	F	Cambridge Easter Term begins.	Meeting, Keighley, 1875. Address, Miss Downing, 1879. Address, Miss Downing, Gravesend, 1879. Discussion, Peckham, 1880.	22	
23	S	Madame de Staël born 1766.	Meeting, Chelsea, 1873. Lecture, Dromore, County Down, Miss Tod, 1878. Cottage Meeting, Chelsea, 1880. Public Meeting, Bridport, 1880.	23	
24	S	LOW SUNDAY. Act to Amend the Law as to Custody of Infants, 1873.	Meeting, Northampton, 1873. Meeting, North Bow, 1873. Miss May M'Combie died, 1874. Lecture, Miss Downing, Rochester, 1879. Drawing-room Meeting, Woodberry Vale, 1880.	24	
25	M		Lecture, Monaghan, Miss Tod, 1878. Lecture, Miss Downing, Canterbury, 1879. Lecture, Rev. Stewart Headlam, St. Thomas's, Charter House, 1880.	25	
26	T	Debate in the House of Commons on Women's Disabilities Bill, 1876.	Meeting, Brighton, 1873. Meeting Wandsworth, 1880. Meeting, Westminster, 1880.	26	
27	W	Mary Wollstonecraft born 1759.	Meeting, Stafford, 1874. Meeting, Memorial Hall, London, 1880. Lecture, Hackney, Miss Downing, 1880. Drawing-room Meeting, Spring Grove, 1880.	27	
28	T		Women's Suffrage Conference, Langham Hotel, 1871. Meeting, London, 1873. Meeting, Dudley, 1874. Lecture, Miss C. A. Biggs, Tonbridge, 1879. Meeting, Southwark, 1880. Discussion, Hackney, 1880.	28	
29	F	S. Catherine of Siena, 1380. Joan of Arc's first Victory, 1429.	Meeting, London, 1872. Meeting, Stalybridge, 1874. Meeting, Wolverhampton, 1874. Lecture, Miss Downing, Canterbury, 1879. Meeting, St. Martin's Lane, 1880.	29	
30	S		Meeting, Tamworth, 1874. Meeting, Wigan, 1874. Lecture, Bedford, Miss Helen Taylor, 1880. Meeting, Blackfriars, 1880. Meeting, Brixton, 1880.	30	

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SINCE our last issue there has been a clearance in the political atmosphere, and our parliamentary friends are now preparing for action. Mr. MASON will ballot for a day on the eve of the adjournment, and will secure the first day he can obtain on the re-assembling of Parliament after the Easter recess. We must therefore be prepared for a possible debate and division in May, although the chances of the ballot may postpone it to a later date.

We ask our friends to use their utmost diligence in preparing and forwarding petitions, and to take every opportunity that presents itself of pressing the question on the notice of their parliamentary representatives.

The announcement of the date of the resolution will be made through the public press as soon as Mr. MASON has succeeded in the ballot, but it can be fixed only four weeks in advance at the utmost, and therefore our friends will perceive that there will be no time to lose in bringing their influence to bear in support of the resolution especially after the date has been determined.

MR. REGINALD YORKE has addressed a question to the ATTORNEY-GENERAL respecting the hardship inflicted on women householders in those boroughs where bribery commissions have been sitting, by the levying of a rate to defray the expenses of such commissions, and thus imposing a pecuniary fine on women for the delinquencies of their male neighbours, who had abused the electoral privileges they possessed, but which were denied to women.

The reply of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL recognised the grievance of innocent persons, who have acted purely in the elections, being compelled to contribute to the expenses of the bribery commissions, but it was unsatisfactory in that it failed to recognise the essential distinction between the grievance of those who had a right to take part in the election and a duty to aid in keeping it pure, and those who were denied the right to take part in the election, and had, therefore, no duty to perform in regard to it. Women are deprived of electoral rights on the ground that parliamentary elections are matters which

do not concern women. They are forbidden to take part in them, and are thereby deprived of the rights and opportunities which men have of putting down bribery if they choose to use them. Their grievance is, therefore, wholly distinct from that of unbrided electors, and they have a right to demand either that they shall be exempted from the payment of any rates for election expenses, or allowed their right to vote in the elections for which they are called upon to pay.

It is said that Mr. BROADHURST proposes to introduce, either in the Corrupt Practices Bill or in the Ballot Bill, a clause providing that the expenses of the returning officer shall be paid out of the local rates. The clause is identical with one that was introduced into the Ballot Act of 1871. It passed the House of Lords, but was struck out when the Bill returned to the Commons. The principle is also embodied in a Bill introduced this session by Mr. ASHTON DILKE.

Should this proposal become law, it will be a further application of the principle that the interests and responsibilities of men and women ratepayers are equal and similar in parliamentary as in municipal elections, and it will form an irrefragable argument for the full recognition of this principle by admitting women to the parliamentary vote.

As the sun crossed the equator in rising to the northern hemisphere, he rose on the scene of the first election of legislators within the realm of Queen VICTORIA in which the rights of women electors are recognised. The general election of the Isle of Man began with the vernal equinox on March 21st. The nominations for Castletown and for Ayre Sheading took place on that day. There was no opposition in Castletown to the return of the former member, Mr. JEFFCOTT, High Bailiff, and he was consequently declared duly elected.

The polling for three members for Ayre Sheading took place on March 22nd. This is the most extended district in the Island, and there were four polling places. The



candidates were Messrs. E. C. FARRANT, J. R. COWELL, T. MARTIN, and R. TEARE.

This was the first contested election under the new Act, and we record with great satisfaction that women were first at the poll. At Andreas polling station the first two votes recorded were those of women, and women polled first also at the stations of Ramsey and Bride. With two exceptions, every woman who was on the electoral roll for Ayre Sheading recorded her vote.

The ballot has not been adopted in the Isle of Man, and at half-past five the result of the poll was declared in favour of Messrs. FARRANT, COWELL, and MARTIN. These three gentlemen were colleagues in their candidature, and they commanded the great body of support among the people, and the votes of all the women electors.

The polling for Glanfaba Sheading took place on the 24th, but on account of the general confidence felt in the return of Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. JOUGHIN, and Colonel ANDERSON, the voting was slow. All the women electors who voted polled in favour of Mr. SHERWOOD, the leader of the movement for women's suffrage in the House of Keys. He was returned at the head of the poll.

The contest in Douglas was the most lively of all, and considerable excitement prevailed. The custom of the place is for the people to manifest their excitement by pelting each other with bags of flour, which, bursting as they hit their mark, converted the candidates and their supporters into a presentment of the miller and his men. All took this carnival-like diversion in good part, but it is probably destined to disappear, as similar observances in this country have disappeared, under the anodyne of the secret vote.

There were five candidates. The polling took place on March 25th, when Mr. STEPHEN, Major TAUBMAN, and Mr. SPITTALL were returned. Mr. STEPHEN is a new member, and was the first candidate for Douglas to give prominence to his views in regard to the extension of the franchise to women occupiers, and the amendment of the laws respecting married women's property. It was possibly to this care for promoting the interests of women that he owed his position at the head of the poll.

The total number of voters who recorded their votes was 1,256. The number of women who voted was 71. This appears a large proportion, seeing that the franchise was restricted to women owners of property, and the large number of women householders in the town who do not own property were shut out of the lists. The total number of women electors in the island is over 700.

The manner in which the women voted excited great

admiration, and contrasted favourably with that of the men, who were in many cases slow and unintelligent in their manner of polling. Some of the men seemed to have no distinct idea of the names of the candidates, and asked irregular questions as to who they ought to vote for. But the women were without exception quick, intelligent, and business-like in their procedure. They knew for whom they meant to vote, and in answer to the query of the polling clerk they delivered the three names clearly and without hesitation. The women electors have deserved and have won admiration from all for the manner in which they have discharged the trust committed to them; they have demonstrated the fitness of women for the duty of voting in elections; they have received in the discharge of this duty the sympathy and support of men of all shades of opinion, and their appearance at the polls has been received with universal pleasure and approval.

The women have already gained a great deal of influence and consideration through their admission to political rights. They are promised a great deal more through the efforts of the men they have sent to represent them to obtain from the Legislature an amendment of the laws affecting the property and other interests of women, and, what is a very important consideration in reference to some objections that are made, there is nothing on the other side to set against this great gain. Women have not lost through the exercise of the suffrage by those who had the right to vote one jot or tittle of any influence or advantage that they possessed while they were deprived of political rights and duties.

We learn from one of the speeches delivered during the recent election proceedings in the Isle of Man that it was only by accident that a Bill extending the franchise to women was prevented from passing five years ago. At a large meeting of men and women electors of Peel held on February 23rd, Mr. R. CORRIN, who was in the chair, said that five years ago, when he held a seat in the House of Keys for Glanfaba, Mr. SHERWOOD and himself introduced a very liberal Reform Bill, which included the franchise for women. It was even a more liberal measure than the one that has just passed. It was read a first time, and carried. The final motion after the second reading—that this Bill as amended do now pass—was deferred till next morning, and when it came before the House he (Mr. CORRIN) was so ill that it was utterly impossible he could be present to support the Bill. Therefore, that Bill was lost through him, for it was lost by the want of one vote only, which

was requisite to make up the quorum majority of thirteen required by the forms of the House.

This very interesting circumstance affords a measure of the progress that has taken place in men's minds on the question in the short space of six years. There has been no general election of the Keys since then, yet we find that the same House, which in 1876 failed to pass a Reform Bill including women's suffrage for want of one vote, in 1880 passed a similar Bill by a majority of upwards of five to one. We believe that this advance may be taken as an indication of a general feeling throughout the country, of growing recognition of the claims of women in every department of political and personal rights. This feeling was conspicuously manifested by the recent vote at Cambridge on the formal admission of women to the University honours examination—a vote which revealed such an overwhelming preponderance of opinion in the favour of the admission as the most sanguine supporters of the proposal had not dared to anticipate. Opinion matures silently, and until a test is applied no means exist for estimating its strength or direction. The consideration of such significant votes as the above should encourage the friends of women's suffrage in their efforts to use every method in their power to influence the mind of the people, so that when the test is applied, be it sooner or later, of a crucial division in the House of Commons, the result may show that the work of the last few years has borne its legitimate fruit.

THE political reformers of Italy have been confronted with the demand for the enfranchisement of women, and have responded in accordance with their own principles. We learn from Italian papers, quoted in the *Englishwoman's Review*, that a meeting was held last month in Rome, at which eight hundred working men's societies were represented by delegates. ANNA MARIA MOZZONI delivered a remarkable address in favour of extending the franchise to women. At the conclusion of her address, the Assembly voted an order of the day affirming the right of women for the suffrage.

On the following day, February 13th, the third and last sitting of the Committee took place, and the following resolution was approved of after a long discussion:—"The Central Committee recognising that the right to vote is a human right; considering that humanity is composed and represented by men and women; recognising the impossibility of solving the social question, unless the conditions of exclusion, minority, and subjection in which the half of humanity is held, cease; abiding by its principles, and

desirous of justice, which is for the interest of all, it recognises, confirms, and proclaims for women as well as for men, the integral right to the vote." The Mazzinian party supported this resolution heartily, but it was less cordially received by the other sections of the Committee, who feared it would prove another practical difficulty added to those already menacing the cause of universal suffrage. The resolution was, however, approved and passed. About three thousand persons were present at this meeting, mostly delegates, and the importance of this resolution in deciding the future course of the party can therefore hardly be over-estimated.

ELECTIONS for Poor-Law Guardians take place during April, and there has been a strong effort in many districts to procure the nomination of women to a position which affords them special and peculiar opportunities for public usefulness. The majority of the poor people to be cared for are women and young children, and women's knowledge of domestic management and of the needs and requirements of the persons to be assisted will prove invaluable in improving the efficiency and economy of the system of Poor-Law relief. We trust that women will use their votes so as to secure the election of every woman who is a candidate. Five ladies have been nominated for seats on the St. Pancras Board, among whom is the Dowager Marchioness of Lothian. Women have also been put forward in Bristol and other districts. It is to be hoped that every year will see an increased number of ladies who devote their energies to this eminently charitable and useful work.

#### THE BIRMINGHAM LIBERAL ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPUTATION TO MR. GLADSTONE.

The following letter has been received by Miss Sturge, Hon. Sec. of the Birmingham branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, in reply to a request from that society that the Birmingham Liberal Association would appoint delegates to represent them on the deputation which the Prime Minister will be asked to receive to present the memorial adopted at the great meeting of women in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on the 22nd February last:

"Birmingham Liberal Association, March 18th, 1881.

"Madam,—I beg to inform you, that at the last meeting of the Management Committee of this association, the following four gentlemen were appointed delegates to represent the Birmingham Liberal Association on the deputation which you purpose sending to the Premier: The Rev. H. W. Crosskey, F.G.S.; Mr. George Dixon, J.P.; Councillor W. H. Hart; Mr. Alfred C. Osler. I shall be glad if you will send me particulars of date, time, place of meeting, as soon as the arrangements for the interview with Mr. Gladstone are arranged, so that I may communicate them to our representatives.—I am yours faithfully,

"(Signed) F. SCHNADHORST."

The example of the Birmingham Liberal Association will, we trust, be followed by other associations. Deputations were appointed at the demonstrations of women at Bristol and Nottingham to present memorials with a similar prayer, and Mr. Gladstone will be asked to receive them shortly before the debate in the House of Commons on Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution.



## THE GENERAL ELECTION IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

The first contested election under the new Reform Act took place in Ayre Sheading, the northernmost district of the Island. The nomination was held in the Parochial Schoolhouse, Andreas, on March 21st. Four candidates were nominated. The polling took place next day. At three polling stations women were the first to record a vote:—Miss Eliza Jane Goldsmith, of Ramsey, at Lezayre; Mrs. Catherine Callow, widow, of Ballakilly, at Bride; Miss Esther Kee Leodest, at Andreas.

## AYRE SHEADING.

## RESULT OF THE POLL.

	Andreas.	Bride.	Ramsey.	Lezayre.	Total.
E. C. Farrant ...	105	30	129	69	333
J. R. Cowell ...	104	24	109	89	326
T. Martin... ..	115	25	114	41	295
R. Teare ... ..	120	38	36	61	255
Number of voters on the register...					792
Number of voters who could possibly record their votes ... ..					665

Votes actually polled:—Andreas, 211; Bride, 59; Ramsey, 133; Lezayre, 117. Total, 520.

Mr. Farrant, in his speech after the close of the poll, said: A new political element has been introduced, and it is one which has acted in a most admirable manner—(cheers and laughter)—and it has shown how sensible and with what wisdom the Keys admitted a new class to the electoral body. I mean, as you all know, the ladies. (Loud and continued cheers.) The more we have of them the better—(laughter)—and if, ladies and gentlemen, I could express a wish, it would be, "Oh, that we had the female occupier!" (Cheers.) Ladies and gentlemen, I have never seen an occasion on which there was so great an excitement over an election. I trust it springs from a healthy political feeling.

## GLANFABA SHEADING.

The nomination took place on March 23rd, in the Court House, Peel. Mr. Sherwood, the leader of the movement for women's suffrage in the Keys, was one of the candidates. In the course of his address he said: I will now refer to one matter which will probably come on again and require extension. Mr. William Quayle, of Ballanoor, who stands now before me, asked me on my nomination in this Court, about eleven years ago, what I thought about the female franchise? I am glad to say that since then we have achieved that, and yesterday the first voter at the Ayre contested election was a female—(loud applause)—and I believe the female voters considerably assisted to get the three good candidates returned yesterday for Ayre. (Hear, hear, and applause.) The next thing, and I can see no reason why it should not be, will be to extend the franchise to the female occupier. (Applause.) The subject of female franchise has brought the Isle of Man more prominently before many countries than anything that has ever taken place. It has turned out that we were the first Legislature in Europe which has extended the privilege to the women. (Applause.) There is no doubt they will follow up the movement in England, and perhaps before twelve months. There is actually a person on the Island now attending to our election, reporting progress, and watching the action of our females as voters. Every female voter on the lists for this week's elections has received a circular from a society in England.

The polling commenced at the booths in the Glanfaba sheading at the usual time—eight o'clock, Manx—on March 24th, but on account of the general confidence of the electors in the return of Mr. Sherwood, Mr. Joughin, and Colonel Anderson, the voting was slow; and up to the time of the declaration of the poll little or no excitement prevailed. Five women voted at the Peel booth; eight at St. John's; three at Patrick; and one at Marown; total, 15. Not one lady voted in favour of Mr. Lockerby, and everyone voted for Mr. Sherwood, the mover of the female franchise in the Keys. At Patrick, four ladies were prevented from voting owing to indisposition, but they had expressed their determination to vote for the three successful candidates.

A large number of persons assembled in the Court House at Peel to hear the declaration of the poll. At twenty minutes to six

the Returning Officer said: The result of the poll is as follows:—  
Sherwood ... .. 268 | Anderson ... .. 240  
Joughin ... .. 256 | Lockerby ... .. 43  
I therefore declare Messrs. Sherwood, Joughin, and Anderson duly elected members for Glanfaba sheading. (Loud cheers.)

## DOUGLAS.

The nominations took place on March 24th, in the Court House. After the five candidates had been duly proposed and seconded, the first to address the electors was Major Taubman, who began as follows:—Mr. Returning Officer, ladies and gentlemen, electors of Douglas.—This is the first time for me to address the ladies of Douglas, and I must take the opportunity of congratulating them heartily on having obtained the franchise. The only possible objection I have heard named to their having it at the present moment is, I am told, that possibly my juvenile opponents may cut a poor old member like myself out in their affections. (Cries of "No fear.") However, I will trust to their retaining at least one little corner for me. It is now fourteen years since I was returned as your representative in the House of Keys under the Election Act, but for about twenty-two years I have sat in the House (fourteen of these as Speaker), and I think I may safely say for the whole of that time I have faithfully represented the views of the great majority of the town of Douglas.

The polling for Douglas began at eight o'clock on Friday morning. The weather was extremely cold and stormy, and the discomfort was heightened by the perpetual shower of missiles in the shape of paper bags filled with flour or whiting, with which the mob relieved their political feelings. Notwithstanding this discomfort a goodly number of women recorded their votes. Fifteen ladies polled at the Court House, 25 at the Victoria-street booth, and 31 at the Iron Pier: making a total of 71. The first lady who polled at the Court House was Mrs. Christiaa Cannell, Lord-street; at Victoria-street, the first lady to present herself was Mrs. Sarah Wood, of Buck's Road; and at the Iron Pier, Miss Emma Gelling, of Buck's Road.

## THE POLLING.

The following table shows the number of votes for each candidate at each polling place, and the total number of votes recorded:—

	Ct. Hs.	Vic-st.	Iron Pier.	Total.
Stephen ... ..	376	245	157	778
Taubman ... ..	321	242	180	743
Spittall ... ..	249	172	185	606
Farrant ... ..	217	184	148	549
Keig ... ..	106	217	91	414
Total No. of voters...	504	431	321	1,256
No. of women who voted...	15	25	31	71

Total number of voters in Douglas: 1,913.

After the declaration of the poll Major Taubman and Mr. Stephen addressed the people assembled in the street. Mr. Stephen said, in reference to the ladies:—You have all joined in the election like honest men full of fun and good nature; gentlemen, if I had not had that confidence in you I would not have asked these fair ladies to grace the assembly (pointing to a few ladies in one of the windows of the hotel). (Loud cheers.) I say, gentlemen, and it is a credit to Douglas and the whole civilised world that ladies of gentle birth and breeding are able to attend and assist at an election of this kind without fear of insult or rudeness, any more than if they were sitting in their own drawing-rooms. (Cheers.) I take this opportunity of thanking the ladies who voted for me. Three cheers for the ladies! (The large crowd then gave three cheers for the ladies.) Ladies and gentlemen of Douglas, we have set an example to the whole civilised world of progress and advancement, because the women are quite as competent to exercise the electoral franchise as men; I have always thought, and I have always been taught to think, that the women are the better half—(laughter and cheers)—and I am sure that women have an instinct, rather than a reason, which enables them to arrive at a man's true character. (Hear, hear.) I will back a woman's opinion of a man's character as being true.—Major Taubman said he had always thought they would not return him at the head of the poll, because he considered the greatest mistake he had ever made was to vote for the extension of the franchise to the ladies. They had voted on behalf of his interesting juvenile friend, but they had done as he asked them, and kept one corner of their hearts for him.

## TO THE WOMEN ELECTORS OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

LADIES.—We beg to offer to you, in the name of the friends of the enfranchisement of women, hearty congratulations on the proud position you occupy as being the first women within Her Majesty's dominions whose rights as parliamentary electors have been recognised and legally secured.

The great victory which has been won for you by the sense of justice and the generous exertions of the House of Keys is hailed by us as an earnest of the coming recognition of the same principle in the next electoral Act for the United Kingdom. The action taken by your Insular Legislature, and the manner in which you make use of your newly acquired rights, will be of material significance, not only in regard to the further extension of the principle of women's suffrage in the Isle of Man, but also in the forthcoming struggle for the recognition of the claim of women to parliamentary representation in this country.

The eyes of the friends and opponents of the movement all over the world are bent on you, watching with eager interest the result of the great experiment of women's suffrage in the election of the Legislature of a free country, which you are now about to afford. We look with confidence and hope to your action, to demonstrate the fitness of women for the exercise of political rights, and the baselessness and futility of the objections which have been brought against the proposal to recognise these rights.

We, therefore, especially and earnestly desire to call your attention to the extreme importance of the act you will be shortly called upon to perform. We trust that on the polling day it may be found that no woman whose name is on the electoral list has failed to record her vote, and that every woman will use her vote to the best of her judgment and ability for the preservation of the ancient liberties of her country, the good government of the Insular Kingdom, the promotion of measures calculated to improve the condition of the people, and, more especially, with a view to the amendment of laws which are unjust and injurious to women, and thereby hurtful to the general weal.

We ask you to vote for candidates who will support in the House of Keys the extension of the electoral franchise to women occupiers, the passing of a just law respecting the property of married women, the amendment of the law in any other department in which it fails to secure for women adequate protection, and also for giving to women the full benefit of every educational provision in the Island, for securing to them full industrial rights, freedom to maintain themselves, or those dependent on them, by any work which they are capable of performing, and the right to develop, untrammelled by legal disabilities, all the faculties and capacities with which they are endowed. We also ask you to make your influence felt in other measures not especially affecting women, on which you may have formed your opinions and judgment.

We do not presume to suggest to you the names of any particular candidates, but we are satisfied that, if you are resolved to be diligent and faithful in the discharge of the great trust committed to you, the knowledge that they will be required to submit their qualifications to the judgment of good and thoughtful women will have an ennobling influence upon all the candidates who may seek your suffrages. It will then be seen that the extension of the franchise to women means not simply the addition of so many more names to the electoral roll, but the infusion into political life of those higher moral and spiritual influences which it is the mission of women to diffuse in family and social life.

We cannot doubt that these influences will be as beneficial in politics as experiment has proved them to be in society. Hitherto every advance that has been made in the elevation of women from a servile and subject condition has tended to the benefit of the people among whom it has taken place; and the degree of civilisation to which a nation has attained corresponds to the degree in which the condition of women has been raised.

To your hands is committed the proud and glorious privilege of sounding the first note of the political freedom of women in the British Empire. We rejoice with you while we envy you, and we pray you to regard the exercise of this privilege as a most solemn and sacred duty.—We are, yours faithfully,

Manchester, March 21st, 1881.

LYDIA E. BECKER.  
ALICE SCATCHERD.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

## COVENTRY.

The vacancy in the room of the late Sir H. M. Jackson has been filled by the return of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Eaton, a gentleman who has voted both for and against the franchise for women. It is to be hoped that the electors of Coventry will strengthen him in favour of the claim. At a meeting of the supporters of Sir U. K. Shuttleworth, held during the election, two papers were handed up to Sir Ughtred from the audience, and in answer to questions written thereon Sir Ughtred said: The first question is very interesting to the ladies. Excuse me—(cheers)—"Will you, if returned, vote for the extension of the franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right to vote?" Well, I have wished personally very much that those good ladies of Coventry who have been wringing my hand so very kindly could have the opportunity of voting for me. (Hear, hear.) But they have much more influence, I believe, than the men have got. (A female voice: "I know the women will look after you," laughter and cheers.) I hope they will use that influence. (Another voice: "We will get you in.") I don't think, gentlemen, frankly, I don't think that it would be kind to the women themselves that they should have the direct interference in elections which the power of voting would give them. I think that they have far greater influence as it is—an influence which is more natural and appropriate to women—(hear, hear)—than going into the polling booth to record their votes. I cannot pretend that I am desirous that the women should have the same political franchise as the men.

The reply gave considerable dissatisfaction, and the honourable candidate appeared to labour under some embarrassment in answering. There is reason to believe that this dissatisfaction with what appeared to be a hesitation to meet the question frankly, was one among the influences which caused his defeat. The denial of women's right to vote appeared particularly inconsistent after the following utterance in the first speech made by Sir U. K. Shuttleworth in his election campaign, when he exhorts women to promote the success of Liberal principles. "And now, gentlemen in the body of the room, pray keep perfect silence whilst I address one warm and hearty appeal to those fair ladies who grace the galleries. (Loud cheers.) There is a lady there who has come from London to-day to stand by the side of her husband to help him. (Loud cheers.) I want every lady, every girl, every child who can understand at all the principles which I have been expounding, to do all she can by that great influence—far greater than the influence of men, to promote the success of the principles which I hope I have succeeded in bringing home to their hearts and to their convictions. I ask them to do this."

## PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 16.

## WOMEN AND THE COST OF ELECTION COMMISSIONS.

Mr. YORKE (East Gloucestershire) asked the Attorney General whether it had occurred to him to consider the hardship that would be inflicted upon female householders in those boroughs where bribery commissions have been, and were still sitting, by the levying of a rate to defray the expenses of such commissions, and, if so, whether he intended to take any steps with the view of exempting such persons from the pecuniary fine which would otherwise be imposed on them in consequence of the delinquencies of their male neighbours who had abused the electoral privileges which they possessed, but which were denied to women?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Henry James) said he quite admitted that a great hardship was inflicted upon female householders, and he might add also generally on persons who were not electors, and those who have acted purely in being compelled to contribute to the expense of the bribery commissions which have been sitting in some of the boroughs. A Bill had been introduced which contained a provision by which the expense of such inquiries should fall upon those who adopted the practice of bribery, and he hoped to have the assistance of the hon. member in carrying it through the House. (A laugh.)



## THE MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN BILL.

On the House resuming, Mr. HOPWOOD moved the second reading of the Maintenance of Children Bill.

Mr. WARTON (Bridport) asked where legislation of the kind proposed by the hon. member for Stockport was going to stop. The House ought to protest against this petty, peddling, meddling, mixing up of domestic affairs. It was a Bill the object of which was to make the position of wives still better in regard to their husbands, by compelling the latter when a separation had taken place to contribute to the support of the children who might be under the wife's control.

Mr. LITTON (Tyne) said it was always difficult to know whether the hon. and learned member for Bridport was in earnest or not, but speaking seriously, he (Mr. Litton) approved of the Bill, and he hoped that it would be extended to Ireland.

Mr. GREGORY (Sussex, E.) referred to other legislation specially affecting women which the House was from time to time called upon to deal with. It was proposed in one Bill to give a wife the entire control and disposition of her property, and to oust the husband from any direction over it, and now they were asked to give a wife the power to go to a court of summary jurisdiction for an order to compel her husband to maintain her children under any circumstances.

Mr. HOPWOOD (Stockport) thought that the Bill sufficiently spoke for itself. Its objects were, in his opinion, exceedingly modest, and the particular cases with which it proposed to deal would be left to the judgment of magistrates, who must at any rate be credited with common sense. At present a wife who had been deserted by her husband had only one remedy. She must apply to the poor-law authorities for assistance to maintain her children, and the poor-law officers must then take steps to recover the cost from the husband by bringing him before the magistrate. Was it fair that a wife should be driven to those straits? Was it not a reasonable proposal that she should go before the magistrates and say, "I am ready to support myself, but I ask as against my husband who is behaving thus, that he should be compelled to maintain his and my children?" No such order was to be made unless the magistrate was satisfied that the husband was able to educate his children and had refused to do so. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LEWIS (Londonderry) remarked that a wife had at present the right to pledge the credit of her husband for necessities for herself and children. The Bill placed a dangerous power in the hands of a spiteful wife. It was one of a series of measures introduced into that House for the purpose of separating those whom God had joined together. ("Oh!" and laughter.) He hoped that before a division was taken the views of the Government would be declared as to this kind of legislation. Feeling that some limit must be set to legislation of that kind, he begged to move that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. COURTNEY (Liskeard) observed that the Divine will to which the hon. and learned member for Londonderry had referred might be appealed to in the same way to cover every form of iniquity. The law already interfered with the relations existing between husband and wife, and the present Bill, if it proposed to go a little further in that direction, did not exceed the limits of common sense, by which, of course, all such legislation was to be bounded. It was said that it would give a dangerous power to married women. Every remedy provided by the law might be made a pretext for an unfounded charge, but that fact furnished no argument against establishing a legal remedy which justice demanded. The Government had no hesitation in approving the principle of the Bill. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GIBSON (Dublin University) gathered from the enthusiasm of the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department in favour of the Bill that he was not a married man. (Laughter.) The measure, as he read it, contained some very startling provisions indeed. There was nothing in it to prevent a married woman who was living with her husband from appealing to a court for an order against him on the ground that he was not bringing up the children in the way she desired. Or, again, the wife cohabiting with her husband might imagine that she was the more capable person of the two and apply for an order against him on that ground. Then, in case of couples living apart, the machinery of the law was to be put in motion in the district where the wife happened to be, and the husband, who might be living at the other end of the kingdom, was

to receive no notice of the proceedings. (Cries of "No.") At all events, if he did receive notice he would be required to attend the court in the locality of which the wife was a resident. It seemed to him that what was sauce for the gander ought to be sauce for the goose—(laughter)—and having regard to the happiness of English husbands and wives, he trusted that if the Bill was read a second time it would only be on the clear understanding that it should be substantially altered in Committee. (Hear, hear.)

Sir R. CROSS (S.W. Lancashire) admitted the right of a deserted wife to obtain an order against her husband for the adequate support of their children, but he could not conceive that the House would sanction the application of the Bill to the case of husbands and wives who were living together. He could only assent to the second reading of the Bill on the assurance of its promoter that no interference of that kind with conjugal relations was intended.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir H. James) said it was a well-known principle of law that children should be supported by their father, and what the Bill aimed at was to carry out that principle without the unfortunate children having first to undergo the humiliation of receiving parish relief. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the House would agree to the second reading of the Bill on the understanding that the case of husbands and wives living together would be excluded from its operation.

Mr. HOPWOOD remarked that it was of course in the power of the House to amend the Bill as it pleased in Committee. He hoped, however, to be able to show very good reasons why the Bill should remain as it was.

Mr. GIBSON wished to have from the hon. member a distinct answer whether or not he would consent to the suggested limitation of the Bill.

Mr. BRODRICK (Surrey, W.) said that unless the hon. gentleman could give them some assurance on the subject, he should move that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. HOPWOOD could only answer as he had answered before, that that was in the power of the House. (Murmurs.)

Mr. BRODRICK then moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House divided, and the numbers were—

For the adjournment	71
Against	141
Majority	70

Mr. HICKS (Cambridgeshire) said that as the hon. and learned member's answer to the appeal made to him was so unsatisfactory, he should state to the House the reasons why, in his opinion, this Bill ought not to be read a second time. The hon. gentleman continued his remarks till a quarter to six o'clock, when, in accordance with the standing order,

The debate stood adjourned.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

## SCOTLAND.

## EDINBURGH.

The annual meeting of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on March 3rd, at No. 5, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN, president of the society, in the chair. There was a good attendance.

The PRESIDENT having explained that this meeting was purely a business one, that they had therefore thought it unnecessary to take steps for a large meeting, called upon Miss Wigham, the secretary, to give the annual report.

Miss WIGHAM said that in presenting their report to the friends and subscribers to the society the committee felt that they had much that was new and important to communicate with regard to the action taken throughout the country in furtherance of their movement, and while thanking friends they asked them still more than ever for their continued support and sympathy, inasmuch as the movement met now with almost no opposition anywhere, and must soon be recognised by the Legislature. When the dissolution was announced last year the committee, though they did not deem it expedient to take any public action, issued an address to every Scotch candidate, and invited an expression of their opinion. It was at present not easy to ascertain the numerical strength of their party in the new Parliament, but, as

regarded Scotland, they felt satisfied they had not lost ground. There had been no opportunity in the first session of this Parliament to introduce a motion on their subject, but as the question was one of national importance, the friends of women's suffrage in the House deemed it right that in every general scheme for the extension of the franchise the inclusion of women should be agitated. Accordingly, on the introduction of a Government measure dealing with the question of the burgh franchise in Ireland, an amendment in the direction of their movement was given notice of, but was crowded out at the end of the session. Miss Kirkland (the secretary) had held drawing-room meetings in the south of Scotland, and similar work had been undertaken by others in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh and elsewhere. Nine public meetings and a number of other drawing-room meetings had been held during the year. One of the latter they owed to the kindness of Bailie Cranston, whose efforts to make the meeting successful had been gratefully appreciated by the society. In Edinburgh a great meeting had been held at the close of the Social Science Congress, and soon after another was held in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow. Dr. Cameron, M.P., had this session brought forward his motion for the amendment of the municipal franchise in Scotland, which had been passed by the House of Commons, and which, they hoped, would have a safe passage through the Lords. By it women ratepayers would be able to vote in the election of town councillors, and they offered their warm thanks to Dr. Cameron for his services. Five Scotch town councils had petitioned in favour of that Bill. The grant of the municipal franchise to women in England had had a useful bearing on the parliamentary representation, and had been exercised on the side of a higher tone of political morality. In the five large demonstrations held in England, of which two were of a national character, the Scotch association had taken part, and now testified to their success. The report went on to refer to the withdrawal of Mr. Duncan M'Laren, the beloved and revered senior member for Edinburgh. They deeply regretted that they would no longer have his faithful services in the House, where, from the first presentation of the Bill for the Removal of the Electoral Disabilities of Women by John Stuart Mill in 1867, he had supported it and every measure for the advancement of women. He was entitled to their warmest thanks for his constant aid, sympathy, and counsel. (Applause.) He had been succeeded by his son, the Lord Advocate, and his influence, so far as he was at liberty to exercise it, would, they felt confident, be given on their side. (Applause.) In conclusion, the report contained an expression of deep regret at the loss sustained by the death of Professor Hodgson, who had ever been a powerful friend and advocate of this movement. The treasurer's abstract of accounts, submitted in her absence by the secretary, showed that at 3rd March, 1880, there was a balance of £77; that the income from subscriptions and donations was £134; and that, after paying all expenses, there remained a balance in hand of £48, or about £30 less than the balance last year.

The PRESIDENT said: In rising to move the adoption of the report, I fear to break the spell which especially its solemn and deeply touching conclusion has cast over the meeting. I do so, however, full of the recollection of the true and dear friend we and every good cause have lost. It comes vividly over me how, last year, he seemed to respond with eager gladness to every call made upon him to speak on questions which appealed to his higher moral nature. It was his religion to do good, and all who had the privilege of knowing him, can in truth bless his memory. No year has passed since this agitation for women's suffrage commenced when we felt that the question had made such immense progress. I am sure some of you must have heard of this progress with surprise, because there is one mark of success to which we have not yet attained—we have not yet sufficiently gained the attention of the press. This cannot be because our efforts and our position do not deserve it; there must be some other cause for it. I do not believe, when these great demonstrations have taken place, which we have seen in England, when so many thousands of women have gathered together to be addressed by women of great intellectual power; when halls which formerly required the highest oratorical talents of which our country can boast to fill them; when these great halls have been filled to overflowing, and second halls have had to be engaged for the still advancing crowd, and even then hundreds of women had to be turned away unable to gain admittance—I do not believe the silence of the press could

be accidental. The history of every struggle for freedom and justice has to be repeated. In my own day I have seen more than once the press silenced when those in power have feared the rising influence of other agitations; but it may be the appointed means for success, as it stimulates resolve and effort, and widens the area of agitation. I ask you, when women gather together in these large numbers to ask for political justice, to ask for that which is given to even the most illiterate and worst of men, is it all of so little moment that it should not be considered worth while for the electric wires to convey the eloquent fact beyond the towns where these demonstrations are held? (Cheers.) It seems to me that there are readers of newspapers who would feel quite as much interested in such details as in following a woman, even though that woman be an empress, on the hunting field, whose movements it is thought worth while to keep daily before us. However, we have owed a good deal to some of our newspapers, and I would especially thank the *Daily Review* of this city—(cheers)—which has nobly argued our cause from time to time. I will not deny that the Empress of Austria may be fulfilling her mission in following the hounds, by showing that neither taste, power, nor intellect is dependent upon sex. (Applause.) Let me here remark, that if you wish to be kept up with our question, or the causes why we promote it, you must take in the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, edited by Miss Becker, of Manchester. You would see in that Journal some of the reasons why women desire to bring their influence to bear upon our parliamentary representation. You would see injustice exposed under which women suffer, both rich and poor, of which two notable examples are given in this month's Journal. Already fruit is ripening, the seeds of which have been sown by this and kindred societies which have sprung from ours. There is a committee sitting now in the House of Commons for the purpose of putting the property of married women on a more just basis, which will, I trust, prevent the repetition of such wrong-doing as you will read of in the Birchall case given in the Journal. We feel deeply grateful to those men, whose number is increasing in Parliament, as well as to those throughout the country who are desirous of raising the position of women—(cheers)—to such as recognise the logic of that poor brutal husband, who had some undefined sense of having been under the education of bad laws, when he said on his trial for illusing his wife, "When you make her my equal I will treat her as such." Little of this equality is recognised by our laws, and never will be without the influence of women to make it otherwise. I am sorry to dwell on this part of our subject. Some one must do it, and, if I am disagreeable, you must forgive me. There is a little paper which comes out in this city called the *Evening News*. It seems to me assiduously to collect painful criminal cases. I sometimes feel in reading it as though I was going through the "chamber of horrors;" but unfortunately the persons exhibited are still acting agents, or will be so again when their short terms of imprisonment are over. An old custom is preserved in some of our small towns and villages in England. The curfew bell still tolls to tell that eight o'clock is the old hour, perhaps God's appointed hour, for going to rest. This little *Evening News* sometimes seems to me to come like a very solemn warning, calling to a feeling of unrest, as it announces every evening the last twenty-four hours of crime in this city—crime followed by punishment which produces no reform. It comes like a voice to our churches, saying, ye are found wanting: look at the crimes committed under your very spires and church-towers, and how unequally are men and women dealt with in much of this wrong-doing. Is there no one to "cry aloud and spare not?" I look often for some indication of disapproval of this routine of injustice. But though there is a general appearance of contentment, I speak the growing sentiment of women when I say there is a very growing feeling of discontent amongst them. (Applause.) Therefore you must allow a woman to speak, for it seems laid upon me to do so. I know there are many men who mourn over much of the evils that exist. I am reminded of one who has shown great faithfulness in going against accustomed thought when it was opposed to morality. When the dreadful revelations were made, showing how British girls were decoyed to the Continent, and found themselves, instead of meeting with honourable service, doomed to the worst kind of slavery, this good man wrote me, saying, he had long been aware of such nefarious practices, and now he thanked God for having given women the courage to expose it. I confess I was surprised, as my friend was



not lacking in courage. I could only account for it in him by remembering what a great American divine once said, that "God was keeping men back in order to bring women forward." Can you wonder that thoughtful and intelligent women are roused to a feeling of rebellion against the way educated magistrates dispense the law under the name of justice, when they read such cases as the few to which I venture to call your attention? A poor girl or woman at Durham, who had just been liberated from gaol, was condemned to three months' hard labour, for taking as she left the prison a pair of what are called "Queen's stockings," which she had been knitting, worth 2s. 6d. Perhaps the woman had not a penny with which to buy bread or lodging, and justice might have been better served had there been, as in Edinburgh, a Released Prisoners' Aid Society to have helped her. On the same day at Hull, a man was sentenced to six months with hard labour, and two months in addition in case he could not find two sureties in £10 each—for what? He had committed an aggravated assault on a woman who had lived with him. He had asked the poor woman for 10s., which she gave him; he then dragged her by her hair into another room, locked the door, stripped her, kicked her all over with his heavy boots, then, dragging her to the fire, lifted her up and dashed her against the hot bars. Her shrieks for mercy then brought assistance to her. We may well pity the poor woman, upon whom he would be let loose again in six or eight months. The next and last case among many I could cite was in Edinburgh. A man and woman entered the house of a woman, I believe a widow, in the Lawnmarket; they knocked her down, trampled upon her and kicked her, then placed a pillow over her mouth, whilst the man atrociously used her; and afterwards threw a quantity of cold water over her. And what do you think was the punishment given? Five months' imprisonment! two months more than for stealing a pair of stockings worth 2s. 6d. I think you will agree with me that a sentence which showed so little appreciation of a woman's honour and a woman's rights was not calculated to make brutal men regard women of much value in the eye of the law. I am sorry to have asked you to listen to these horrid details, but I cannot help sometimes exclaiming—

Alas, that flesh and blood should be so cheap.

when that flesh and blood is woman. Our magistrates and judges need not longer take refuge under the plea that the law only allows them to give certain sentences, since the Home Secretary was reported to have said the other night in the House of Commons, when questioned on that dreadful Beckett case, when a man had murdered his wife and received no punishment, which you will see in Miss Becker's Journal, that "he knew no reason why juries should be compelled to deliver verdicts, or judges sentences, otherwise than in accordance with the dictates of their own judgment." Perhaps some of you may ask, What has all this to do with seeking to obtain the parliamentary franchise for women? My answer is, that if women were raised to the same political position which men enjoy, they would be regarded with much more consideration, and the laws under which they suffer would be improved through their influence upon the minds of our legislators. It will be an immense boon to Scotland, as regards all social questions, if women get the municipal franchise; and their minds will become far more alive to the benefits which would accrue, both to themselves and the nation, by the possession of the higher parliamentary franchise. Since much that I have said has been connected with the question of justice, I feel it would be unjust not to add, that though crime abounds, so also do good deeds. It would be a beautiful and touching page which would record the daily twenty-four hours of good done in our city, and would reveal much noble self-sacrifice and devotion to duty. But George Eliot has said, "It behoves us to learn how our miseries are wrought." If more pains were taken to do this, and to teach that morality which is in accordance with the principles of the New Testament, whose code is the same for both men and women, much of the efforts of the benevolent would be saved. Although we shall always have the poor amongst us, yet, when the upper classes acknowledge and practise a higher morality, we should not see in our streets so many who cannot be included amongst the virtuous poor. It is as much to the credit of men as to women, that opinion has advanced as it has done on every question which we have agitated. We have much to encourage us on every hand. That splendid vote of 396 against 32, in favour of granting honours

examinations to women at Cambridge—(cheers)—although it still keeps back an act of justice, confers a great good; and it was with no ordinary feeling of pleasure we read what an excitement of gladness it had caused in the lobby of the House of Commons. Perhaps some noble student may carry this act of justice to its legitimate end by one day declining the position of honour given to him if he knew that a lady deserved it before him. He would, by such an act, leave the university crowned by a laurel such as neither Cambridge nor any other university has the power to bestow. (Applause.) The report refers to the principle our Society has so long worked for having been now recognised in the Isle of Man. Although that victory was not complete, "it was a glorious victory," in that little island in the middle of the sea. We read in the history of that island of women having more than once played a heroic part in that path which some of our opponents have thought women ought to tread ere they could prove themselves worthy of being accepted as political entities. The warfare in which they engaged was suited to the times in which they lived. We wage a higher warfare, and we have, by our courage and the brightness of our weapons, carried captive most of the thinking portion of the nation. When the Birmingham papers say that "no new Reform Bill can be considered complete which excludes women's suffrage to the extent which is asked for;" when Mr. Gladstone, amongst whose rare and unequalled talents is the power to prepare the people for coming events, has told us that there is a side of politics which belongs to women; when his call to them to perform their duty in it is being answered by one demonstration after another of thousands of women eager for political justice and for higher work—the hour of victory cannot be far off. (Applause.)

Miss FLORA STEVENSON seconded the motion, and expressed the gratitude of all present to those ladies who were giving so much valuable thought, time, and attention for the benefit of their whole sex. She believed that if ever there was a time in the history of their movement when they had encouragements to go on earnestly and hopefully it was the present. (Applause.)

Miss MAITLAND, in supporting the motion, remarked that the President had referred to the inequality of laws as regarded women. She remembered some years ago having visited Calton Gaol, and been told the number of prisoners there at that time. The number of women was more than double that of men, but she pointed out that there were certain offences for which women were imprisoned, and men were left unpunished.

The motion was adopted.

Miss LOUISA STEVENSON moved: "That this meeting is of opinion that the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right to vote; and that a petition to this import, in support of Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution, be forwarded to the House of Commons, and entrusted to the Lord Advocate." (Applause.)

Mr. GEORGE TAIT seconded, and Miss BURTON supported the motion.

The motion was adopted, and Miss WIGHAM read the petition, which was approved.

Miss SIMPSON moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. Jacob Bright, M.P.; Leonard Courtney, M.P.; Hugh Mason, M.P., and others who had spoken in favour of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. (Applause.)

The motion was adopted, and the Executive Committee having been reappointed, with Mrs. D. McLaren as president, votes of thanks were given to Mrs. McLaren for presiding, and to Miss Wigham for her able services as secretary, and the proceedings terminated.

## I R E L A N D.

### BELFAST.

On March 16th the annual meeting of the North of Ireland branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Lombard Hall. The attendance was large, and was largely composed of ladies. Amongst the gentlemen present were the Mayor of Belfast (Alderman Cowan, J.P.); Mr. John S. Brown, J.P.; Rev. R. J. Lynd, Rev. H. Osborne, Rev. D. Hunter, Rev. J. C. Street, Rev. John Kingham, Rev. William Kinahan, Rev. Wm. M'Granahan, Rev. Mr. M'Kay (Castlederg), Mr. R. H. Patterson,

Mr. J. H. Neill, Dr. Barnett, Dr. W. Arnold, Mr. Vere Foster, and Mr. J. Greenhill.

On the motion of Mr. PATTERSON, seconded by Rev. Mr. KINGHAM,

The MAYOR took the chair. In the course of his address he said he had long held the opinion that women householders were entitled to the franchise, and that those who contribute to the taxation of the country should have a voice in the election of its affairs. There were anomalies in connection with these franchises which went far to strengthen this position in Belfast; for instance, ladies had the privilege of voting at harbour and poor law elections, while they have no vote in municipal and parliamentary elections. And in England they have the vote in municipal and school board elections. Public opinion was becoming more enlightened on this question, and he had no doubt that in a very short time the privilege asked for would be conceded by the legislature. He called on

Miss TOD, who read the annual report and statement of accounts. The Rev. R. J. LYND moved the adoption of the report.

The motion was seconded by Mr. GREENHILL, and agreed to.

The Rev. H. OSBORNE moved the appointment of the committee for the year.

Miss GARDNER seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. JOHN SHAW BROWN proposed the next resolution, which was to the effect that the meeting request the members for the borough and county to support Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution.

Miss TOD, who was warmly received by the meeting, seconded the motion. She had had so many opportunities of bringing this subject before Belfast audiences, it would be highly undesirable for her to speak at any length. She was anxious to thank more than one of the gentlemen who had spoken for the kind way in which they had recognised the fact that it was a painful and uncongenial occupation for ladies to have to plead their own cause. (Hear, hear.) But there were absolutely thousands of women who were suffering from the want of the franchise and were yet unable to express their feelings in the matter. The fact was that the ladies who advocated on public platforms the right of women to have the franchise dare not stand still; they dare not refuse to do their best to obtain the franchise for qualified women, because they knew there was an immense number of matters in which the interests of suffering women were concerned, and which would not be put right until the members of Parliament consented to listen to the wishes of women with that peculiar interest which belonged only to petitions and requests from constituents. (Hear, hear.) At this moment she felt on the question a little keenly, for lately she had seen in a periodical which usually favoured the movement a sort of slight on those who talked about the question as compared with those who worked. Recently, in recognition of the great mathematical genius of a deceased lady, a scholarship was being founded in connection with University College, London, and it was insinuated that those who got up such things were doing their duties in the world in the way in which the young lady had performed her work. That was all very nice; but it should be recollected that, at the time when most of those now advocating for franchise rights of women were being educated, there was no opportunity given them of attending university classes. (Hear, hear.) There was no doubt at all that very rapid progress was being made even in the matter of education, which was so largely connected with the question of women's suffrage. Not long since Sir Erskine May said: "In a civilised community political power is exercised by the legitimate agencies of freedom of the Press, by public discussion, by association, and by electoral contests." She did not know if all present were aware of the extent to which women contributed to the newspapers and periodicals of the day, helping to shape that public opinion which was the all-powerful fuel-source of force in this country. (Hear, hear.) If they had that power already in an unrecognised form, would it not be better that they should possess it in the face of the public and before the world? Then, again, by public discussion and by associations women had helped to form the opinion of the people. Regarding electoral power, she most firmly believed that the possession of it by women would be most valuable in its results to the country. Having referred in becoming terms to the death of two valued friends of the movement—Professor Hodgson, of the University of Edinburgh, and the late Sir Henry Jackson—Miss Tod concluded amid applause.

Mr. JOHN SHAW BROWN was called to the second chair.

Rev. J. C. STREET moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor for his kindness in presiding and for his sympathy with the cause.

Dr. BARNETT seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The MAYOR having replied, the proceedings concluded.

## LIMERICK.

On February 23rd a public meeting of the essay and debating class attached to the Catholic Literary Institute was held, when the proposition discussed was "That the present social and political disabilities of women are unjust and impolitic." The debate was well sustained on both sides, and was well attended by the members and by the general public, including a large number of ladies. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. O'Shea, C.C., and the opening paper on the affirmative side was read by Mr. J. J. Donellan, secretary to the class. The secretary illustrated his arguments with many remarkable examples, and evoked frequent applause by his eloquence. Mr. H. T. Bourke followed on the negative side, and the debate was continued on the affirmative side by Mr. James Quin, Mr. E. H. O'Callaghan, and on the negative by Mr. A. O'Keefe and Dr. T. O'D. Russell. Mr. Donellan replied in a very brilliant speech on the whole debate. The rev. president then summed up, and called for a vote from the whole audience. The majority, which largely consisted of ladies, was declared to be in favour of the affirmative side of the question, and amid great cheering the proceedings came to a close.—Abridged from the *Limerick Reporter*.

## W A L E S.

### CARDIFF.

A public meeting in support of Mr. Mason's resolution to extend the parliamentary franchise to women householders and ratepayers was held in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Cardiff, on Wednesday evening, March 9th. The MAYOR of Cardiff (Mr. Rees Jones) presided, and he was supported on the platform by the Rev. J. Waite, Mr. F. Sonley Johnstone (editor *South Wales Daily News*), the Rev. W. Watkiss, the Rev. A. Tilly, Miss Jessie Craigen, Miss Helen Blackburn, Mrs. M'Iquham, Mr. J. W. Manning, Miss Jenner, and Dr. Morgan. There was a very large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, the Assembly Room being crowded to the door, every available standing place being occupied.

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, said he was not an advocate either on one side or the other, not having given the question such serious study as to enable him to arrive at a definite conclusion. But he felt that if ladies had the courage to come here and advocate their cause themselves, it was no more than common politeness that he should come and preside at the meeting. (Applause.) Letters of apology, the Mayor announced, had been received from Mr. J. Batchelor (who was prevented from attending by a pressing engagement in Manchester), from Dr. Fiddian, Mr. W. Sanders, Mr. R. Cory, &c. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. WAITE proposed the first resolution, which was, "That in the opinion of this meeting the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who fulfil the qualifications which enable men to vote; and who, in all matters of local government have the power to vote."

Miss JENNER, who seconded the motion, announced that she had received that morning a letter from Sir Edward Reed saying that he had the greatest pleasure in presenting their petition from Cardiff. Sir Edward was one of their friends. (Applause.) But he was not the only Welsh member of Parliament who was friendly to that movement. She protested against anything which hindered or fettered a woman from the performance of her daily duties in life; and while her country's laws judged her capable of paying her rates and taxes, so long would she consider herself capable of forming an opinion and of exercising her judgment, and agitating the question of having a vote. (Applause.)

The resolution was supported by Miss Craigen, who was frequently applauded.

The Rev. W. WATKISS heartily supported the resolution, for he felt in deep sympathy with the movement, believing that they were asking for nothing that was unjust, and that if their demands were granted that women would help considerably in the choice of representatives. (Applause.)



The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried amid applause. Mr. J. W. MANNING proposed the next resolution as follows: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the previous resolution, be adopted by the meeting, signed by the chairman on its behalf, and forwarded by him; also a memorial to Sir Edward Reed, thanking him for the support he has given to the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women in the House of Commons." The question was one which did not require study, especially by Liberals, who believed that taxation without representation was tyranny and ought to be illegal. (Applause.) He did not think the ladies should be called upon to give a reason for making their demands, but their opponents should be asked to give their reasons why they refused women the parliamentary franchise after granting them power to vote at municipal, school board, and poor law guardian elections. (Applause.) The measure asked for would do away with injustice, and he thought purify politics. (Applause.) On these grounds he proposed the resolution he had just read. (Applause.)

Mrs. M'ILQUHAM seconded the resolution. She spoke in strong terms of the necessity for alteration in the laws affecting women, and in order to effect that, widows and single women, householders and ratepayers, should have the parliamentary franchise. It was supported by Miss BLACKBURN and by the Rev. ALFRED TILLY. The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried.

Miss JENNER moved a vote of thanks to the chairman. This was seconded by Mr. F. SONLEY JOHNSTONE, who strongly expressed his sympathy with the movement. He saw that at present men held appointments for which they were unsuited, such, for instance, as a School Board inspector inspecting sewing work, and mentioned instances which had come under his own observation, which showed the importance of having ladies on School Boards. If, he affirmed, there was a class of society shut out from the vote, that class would suffer. When the people as a body were shut out the laws were not made for the people; when the people obtained the franchise, laws were made for the people. (Applause.) When woman took no interest in public matters laws were made entirely against her, as they were to a certain extent still; but make women electors and then laws would be made for them as well as for others. (Applause.) The vote was carried by acclamation.—Abridged from the *South Wales Daily News*, March 10th, 1881.

A meeting of a preliminary character, convened by invitation, was held in the Crown Court of the Town Hall, Cardiff, on the 25th February. Miss Gertrude Jenner, of Wenvoe, having been moved to the chair, said she had received a letter from Sir Edward Reed, M.P., who wrote as follows: "Dear Madam,—I believe it is well understood that I am adverse to the present exclusion of women from the parliamentary vote, and am desirous that under suitable conditions the right to vote should be given them. For this reason I sympathise with you in the meeting which you contemplate for the 25th, but it is quite impossible for me to leave the work of Parliament for the purpose of attending the meeting in question. Indeed the time seems to be approaching, if it be not already arrived, when those upon whom is laid the heavy burden of parliamentary attendance will be thereby unfitted for any other engagement whatever, at least during the parliamentary session. . . .—Yours very truly, E. J. Reed." Miss Blackburn, who next addressed the meeting, said she had received a letter written for Lady Reed, who, owing to illness, was unable to write herself, but wished all success to their efforts. Mrs. Richard Cory moved: "That a public meeting should be held in Cardiff, in order to extend knowledge and interest in the question of women's suffrage." This was seconded by Mrs. Rees Jones, and carried. The meeting then became conversational; a petition was adopted before its close, and a vote of thanks passed to the Mayor for allowing the use of the room.

#### MERTHYR.

A very large audience assembled at the Temperance Hall, on March 14th, for the purpose of supporting resolutions in favour of Mr. Hugh Mason's motion in the House of Commons for extending the parliamentary franchise to women who are householders and ratepayers. Mr. David Williams (high constable) presided, and there were also on the platform Mrs. Charles Herbert James, Miss Helen Blackburn (secretary of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage), Miss Jessie Craigen,

and Miss Colby, who formed the deputation, Mr. Gwillim James, Mr. J. W. James, and Mr. W. L. Daniel. The Chairman, in the course of some opening remarks, said his position that evening was a very peculiar one. He had taken the chair many times during his three years of office as high constable, but he had never before had the honour of presiding over a meeting of ladies. Mr. J. W. James moved the first resolution: "That in the opinion of the meeting the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possessed the qualifications which enabled men to vote in parliamentary matters, and who already possessed the power of voting in regard to matters of local government." The resolution was seconded by Mr. Gwillim James, supported by Miss Blackburn, and carried with one dissentient. The second resolution, adopting a petition and expressing the cordial thanks of the meeting to Mr. Richards for his uniform support of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, was moved by Mr. Daniel, seconded by Mr. Goodfellow, supported by Miss Craigen, and carried unanimously. After a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Miss Colby, the meeting concluded by singing "God save the Queen."

#### NEWPORT (MONMOUTH).

On March 15th, a public meeting was held at the Albert Hall, in support of Mr. Mason's resolution to extend the parliamentary franchise to women householders and ratepayers. Mr. Jacob (Mayor of Newport) presided, and was supported by the Rev. J. Douglas, Messrs. C. Lewis, T. J. Beynon, J. E. Ward, S. Batchelor, and several ladies. There was a tolerably large audience. The Mayor opened the meeting, after which the Rev. J. Douglas proposed the first resolution, viz.: "That in the opinion of this meeting the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the power to vote." Mr. S. Harse seconded the resolution, and it was supported by Miss Emily Sturge and Miss Helen Blackburn, who addressed the meeting on behalf of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage. The resolution was afterwards put to the meeting and adopted. Mr. A. R. Bear moved the second resolution, which ran: "That a petition to the House of Commons be adopted by this meeting, signed by the chairman on its behalf, and forwarded by him; also that a memorial be sent to Mr. E. H. Carbutt, M.P. for the Monmouth Boroughs, praying that he would give his support to the resolution in the House of Commons to remove the electoral disabilities of women." This resolution was seconded by Mr. C. Lewis, and supported by Miss Jessie Craigen, who spoke at great length, and whose address apparently produced a deep impression on the audience. Mr. S. Batchelor also spoke in support of the resolution, after which it was put to the meeting and adopted. Mr. J. E. Ward proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding. The vote was seconded by Miss Colby, and the proceedings were brought to a close.—Abridged from *South Wales Daily Telegram*, March 16th, 1881.

#### GUISELEY (YORKSHIRE).

On February 24th, a large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town Hall, Guiseley, Yorkshire. Mr. Jonas Mitchell occupied the chair; and the meeting was addressed by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd and Miss Louisa Carbutt, of Leeds, and Mrs. Ellis, of Batley. Miss Carbutt moved a resolution in the terms of that to be submitted to the House of Commons by Mr. Mason, which was seconded by Mrs. Scatcherd, supported by Mrs. Ellis, and carried. Mr. Sherwood proposed the following resolution, which was carried:—"That a petition from this meeting in favour of women's suffrage be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him to Sir Andrew Fairbairn for presentation to the House of Commons; also that memorials be sent to Sir Andrew Fairbairn and Sir John William Ramsden, members of Parliament for the Eastern Division of the West Riding, asking them to support Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution."

#### DEBATING SOCIETIES.

##### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

The annual debate of the Inter-collegiate Debating Society was held on March 23rd in the Botanical Theatre of University College, Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., presiding. The debate was opened by Mr. Nathaniel Micklem, B.A., LL.B., of the University College

Debating Society, who moved "That the extension to women of the political rights now enjoyed by men is not desirable." There was a crowded meeting. A lady (Miss G. Agnes J. Cluer, of University College Women-Students' Debating Society) had undertaken to reply, and the audience was largely composed of ladies. The proceedings were of the heartiest description. The speaking was generally vigorous, and the various points made by the speakers elicited the liveliest demonstrations, whether of merriment, dissent, or applause. Mr. Micklem forcibly and with frequent touches of humour presented the argument against the extension of the suffrage to women. Miss Cluer's statement of her case was lucid, eloquent, and closely argumentative, and was distinguished by a vein of quiet irony which was highly appreciated by her hearers. This lady was furnished with instances of gross injustice to ladies under the present state of the law relating to married women's property. These she adduced as showing that women required more direct representation, and followed them up by asking whether the audience would endorse what the *Daily News* had that day called the ungentlemanly resolution laid before them, and condemn the ladies to "silence and sewing," or whether, speaking with the voice of enlightenment and progress, they would say that the time was really nigh at hand "when women should not hold the place of idiots and thieves." An "hon. member" from Manchester New College offered as an amendment a proposition that the parliamentary franchise should be extended to unmarried women who possessed requisite qualifications. Miss Burnet, a lady whose speech was characterised by great power of expression, excited enthusiastic cheers by her intimation that she came at the request of others of her sex to declare their conviction that the extension of the franchise to women would be the reverse of beneficial to them. What they gained would not be of much advantage to them; what they lost would leave them poor indeed. Mr. Tarbolton, Miss Downing, Mr. Hart, Mrs. Hancock, and others continued the debate, which, on its conclusion, was summed up by Sir John Lubbock, who complimented the debaters on their ability and skill, and expressed the opinion that all were agreed that the University of London had done a great public service in throwing open to the ladies not only its own doors, but, by the force of its good example, the doors of the University of Cambridge. No reference had been made to the fact that if the ladies were put upon the electoral register the expense of our elections would be increased by several hundred thousands a year; but if it was considered right that the change advocated by Miss Cluer should take place, of course that expense must be faced. His own experience confirmed a statement by Miss Burnet, that the majority of ladies did not wish to be admitted to the franchise. He had contested five elections, and could hardly remember any case in which a woman had expressed to him a desire for the franchise. The argument that the ladies had practically votes already must be taken for what it was worth, but he confessed that when he was canvassing at elections he was always well satisfied as to the result if he found the ladies of the household on his side. (Laughter and cheers.) The amendment on being put to the meeting was lost. The voting for and against the original motion appeared to be so close, that the chairman had to ask for a second show of hands. He then decided that Mr. Micklem's motion was carried. A vote of thanks to Sir J. Lubbock for presiding concluded the proceedings.—*Daily News*.

#### THE REV. W. J. KNOX-LITTLE AND THE DUTIES OF WOMEN.

We have received the following disclaimer from the above-named gentleman of the accuracy of a report of a sermon delivered by him in America, quoted in the *Women's Suffrage Journal* for February:—

"St. Alban's Rectory, Cheetwood,  
Manchester, Feb. 3, 1881.

"Dear Madam,—It is perhaps owing to your courtesy that I have received a copy of the *Women's Suffrage Journal* for February 1st. In it I find the following passage in a review of Miss Cobbe's last work: 'The Rev. J. Knox-Little says, in a Sermon to Women, "Wifehood is the crowning glory of a woman. She brings to it the gifts of the Creator—endurance, loving submission, and intricacy of thought. In it she is bound for all time. To her husband she owes the duty of unqualified obedience. There is no crime which a man can commit which justifies his wife in leaving him. It is her duty to subject herself to him always, and no crime that

he can commit can justify her lack of obedience. If he is a bad or wicked man she may gently remonstrate with him, but refuse him, never."

"It is, I think, either by a great stretch of civility, or in acute sarcasm, that such words can come under the description of 'force and eloquence.' For myself, I should be inclined to describe them as 'confusion and nonsense.' As these are either no words of mine, or are so garbled and torn from their context as to be altogether untrue to my meaning; as they in fact express sentiments which I could not endorse, may I ask you kindly to let me know on what authority the absurd misstatement rests. I have been so long accustomed to misrepresentations of my views and sayings, that I seldom think of noticing such statements about myself, and, indeed, owing to a very busy life, I am, not seldom, the last to see or hear of them; but as this has come directly under my notice, as I feel sure you would not intentionally countenance or give currency to a misstatement, and as my supposed words are selected by your reviewer, as a succinct expression of a 'theory' or 'doctrine' that 'woman is shorn of all responsibility, is deprived of conscience, intelligent thought, self-respect, every attribute of personality'—which 'theory' or 'doctrine' is utterly hateful in my eyes—I think it right to tell you that the whole thing is a gross and ridiculous misrepresentation.

"I do not know that I go the whole way with you and Miss Cobbe on this subject, probably not, but I do go a very considerable way; and whilst there are very serious differences between my views and some of Miss Cobbe's published opinions on some grave questions, and I sometimes regret the tone in which she writes, yet I have always given respectful attention to anything she has written, and with many of her views on *this* subject I entirely agree.—I am, dear madam, faithfully yours,  
"Miss Becker."

"W. J. KNOX-LITTLE.

We can only express great regret for having too hastily assumed that the report was correct. It appeared in the American papers, and was copied in a Manchester paper, from which we extracted it. We have great pleasure in giving currency to the correction. Subjoined is a letter received from Mr. Knox-Little in answer to a communication from us, which we have his permission also to publish.

"St. Alban's Rectory, Cheetwood,  
Manchester, March 29, 1881.

"Dear Madam,—I have found it impossible to write to you fully, as you had asked me to do, on the general question referred to in our short correspondence of February last. The subject is a large and interesting one, and my time has been more than filled with necessary work. I have no objection to your publishing my first letter, and I may now add this to what I have already written to you, so that, although it is impossible to deal with the whole question, four important points may be made clear. (1) There was just that amount of truth in the statement quoted in your *Journal* which makes it—as always in such cases—difficult to disentangle it from the numerous threads of falsehood. But the important point is that the spirit and object of my address had wholly disappeared. (2) I was insisting upon the immense importance of woman's calling and work, and accentuating the real and dignified duties of married life, but chiefly in order to emphasise the fact that marriage is not—as has been too often supposed and taught—the only end of woman. I dwelt, therefore, on the great work allotted to her in other relations of life. (3) I do not hold nor did I teach that 'there is no crime which a man can commit which justifies his wife in leaving him,' but I did insist upon what I believe to be true and of vital importance to the welfare of mankind, viz., that no sin in a husband can justify a wife in seeking for *divorce*, and that the (so-called) marriage of divorced persons is, in fact, no marriage at all. This I believe to be merely stating the law of Christ, which is, naturally, the only standard of right and wrong in the matter of any weight with me. I am afraid the 'head and front of my offending' was my distinctness on this point, *hinc ille lacrymæ!* (4) Far from encouraging the idea that woman could be 'shorn of her responsibility; &c., the whole tenor of my words was to insist upon the solemn responsibility resting upon her, not at all as man's *slave*, but as having *her own* place, and that no mean one, to fill in the world. In one address one cannot say *everything* on so large a question, and my discourse at Philadelphia did not aspire to the dignity of an exhaustive treatise;



nevertheless, the large part of my audience, as I know, formed a very different estimate of my meaning, and received my words in a very different spirit from the anonymous writer in question; and, as you know, the ladies of America are not wanting in intelligence and independence of thought, indeed very much the reverse. With all kind wishes for your efforts to do good, I am, dear madam, faithfully yours, "W. J. KNOX-LITTLE."

ABOLITION OF DOWER IN VICTORIA.

The following advertisement is taken from the Times. From this it would appear that a measure of confiscation of the equitable and legal rights of women to provision out of their husbands' estate has been passed by a legislature in which women are denied representation:—

NOTICE UNDER THE DOWER ABOLITION ACT OF THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.—Attention is directed to the Act of the Parliament of Victoria called "The Dower Abolition Act, 1880," by which all widows entitled to dower and all married women contingently entitled to dower are required before the 28th day of December, 1882, to lodge a claim in writing with the Registrar-General of Victoria at Melbourne, otherwise they will lose their right to dower.

Every such claim must contain the name and residence of the claimant, and set forth as clearly and distinctly as may be the lands sought to be charged or affected, the date and place of the marriage of the claimant, the name of her husband through whom she claims; and such claim may be signed by such claimant or any one on her behalf; and no such claim will be received unless some address or place within the present limits of the city of Melbourne be named therein as the place at which all proceedings relating to such claim may be served.

The address may from time to time be changed as provided for in section 5 of the Act by endorsing a memorandum of such change on the claim.

Dated at the Registrar-General's office at Melbourne this 14th day of January, A.D. 1881.

RICHARD GIBBS, Registrar-General.

Obituary.

MRS. ROBBERDS.—We very much regret to record, on the 25th of February last, the death of Mrs. Robberds, wife of the Rev. J. Robberds, B.A., of Battledowne Tower, near Cheltenham. The deceased lady was an early adherent and liberal subscriber to the cause of women's suffrage. Of very retiring habits, and known only to a small circle of friends, her sympathies were nevertheless wide and active. No genuine case of distress was ever brought to her notice in vain, and every movement for the amelioration of the condition of women received her hearty and unflinching support.

SIR H. M. JACKSON, BART.—We record with deep regret the death of Sir Henry Mather Jackson, which occurred suddenly just at the opening of the judicial career on which he was about to enter. As a member of the House of Commons he was a devoted and consistent supporter of the franchise for women, and of all proposals to amend the law for their benefit that were submitted to Parliament. Had he lived he would doubtless have proved one of those judges who are careful that the law shall be so administered as to secure for women as much protection as it is capable of affording; and for this reason alone women would have cause to lament his untimely end. Sir Henry Jackson represented Coventry. He was made a Judge on March 2nd, which caused the vacation of the seat, and died on March 8th of heart disease, at the age of 49 years, a few hours after the completion of the formularies connected with his judicial appointment.

SIR CHARLES REED, M.P.—The sudden and unexpected death of the Chairman of the London School Board and M.P. for St. Ives will be deeply lamented by all friends both of education and of the franchise for women. Sir Charles Reed died on March 25th, from the effects of cold. He was born in 1819. He was active in promoting the election of women on the London School Board, and a steady supporter of the franchise in the House of Commons.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES—For Removal.

FOURTH REPORT 9—22 February, 1881.

Brought forward, Petitions 61 Signatures 1,793

Table listing petitions for removal of disabilities, including locations like Canongate Ward, Dumfries, Minehead, Inverness, Birmingham, and London, with names of chairmen and counts.

Total No. of Petitions 93—Signatures 3,283

FIFTH REPORT 23 February—1 March, 1881.

Brought forward, Petitions 93 Signatures 3,283

Table listing petitions for removal of disabilities, including Birmingham, London, and Dumfries, with names of chairmen and counts.

Table listing petitions from Birmingham, Halifax, and Bath, including names like Elizabeth Dale and Sir Charles Mills.

Total No. of Petitions 106—Signatures 3,552

SIXTH REPORT 7—8 March, 1881.

Brought forward, Petitions 106 Signatures 3,552

Table listing petitions from Bridgeton, Cardiff, and Guiseley, including names like Charles Cameron and Sir Edward Read.

Total No. of Petitions 109—Signatures 3,612

SEVENTH REPORT 9—22 March, 1881.

Brought forward, Petitions 109 Signatures 3,612

Table listing petitions from Witheridge, Lucan and Leixlip, Dalkey and Kingstown, Leeds, Abergystwith, West-Super-Mare, Cardiff, Nottingham, Margate, Perth, Nottingham, Bourton on the Hill, Yeovil, London, Barmouth, Birmingham, Mere, Berry Brow, Birmingham, H. Payton, Birmingham, E. H. Carter, Birmingham, F. Wright, Birmingham, W. H. Hart, Knaresborough, London, and Rotston.

Total No. of Petitions 125—Signatures 4,285

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

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Miss Becker has been appointed Secretary to the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, W., and will carry on the work of the Central Office in conjunction with the Secretaryship of the Manchester Committee which she has held since the beginning of the movement, and which she still retains.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

FEBRUARY 20 TO MARCH 20, 1881.

Table listing financial contributions to the Central Committee, including names like P. A. Taylor, Chas. M. Laren, and Miss Pennington.

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

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, MARCH, 1881.

Table listing subscriptions for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including names like James Kerr, Alderman Hindle, and W. H. Herald.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MARCH, 1881.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for Bristol and West of England, including names like Mrs. Eeblin, Charles Thomas, and Mrs. Hale.

ALAN GREENWELL, TREASURER, 3, BUCKINGHAM VALE, CLIFTON.

NORTH OF IRELAND COMMITTEE.

Table listing subscriptions for the North of Ireland Committee, including names like Mrs. Hamilton, Shauganagh, and Mrs. E. Lindsay.

A. BLACKWOOD, TREASURER.





# CASH'S CAMBRIC FRILLING

None are Genuine without the Name and Trade Mark of J. & J. CASH Coventry.

To be had of Drapers everywhere.

Is the most Durable and Satisfactory Trimming for Ladies', Children's, and Infants' Wardrobes.

DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE.

Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.

## FENNINGS' FEVER CURER.

BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose.

TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses.

DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses.

SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses.

DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses.

Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps.

SORE THROATS CURED.

EASY TEETHING.

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE.

FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.

ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.

## FENNINGS' Children's Powders.

For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.

Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.

Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c. Ask your Chemist for a free copy.

SAFE TEETHING.

COUGHS. COLDS. BRONCHITIS.

## FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS.

The Best Remedy to Cure all Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.

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The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free,) contain three times the quantity of small boxes.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

BRONCHITIS CURED.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

## HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

These excellent FAMILY MEDICINES are invaluable in the treatment of all ailments incidental to every HOUSEHOLD. The PILLS PURIFY, REGULATE and STRENGTHEN the whole System, while the OINTMENT is unequalled for the removal of all muscular and outward complaints. Possessed of these REMEDIES, every Mother has at once the means of curing most complaints to which herself or Family is liable.

N.B.—Advice can be obtained, free of charge, at 533, Oxford Street, London, daily between the hours of 11 and 4, or by letter.

ESTABLISHED 1835.



By the use of which, during the last Forty Years many Thousands of Cures have been effected; numbers of which cases had been pronounced INCURABLE!

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

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

Sold in boxes, price 7½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., by G. WHELPTON & SON, 3, Crane Court, Fleet-street, London, and by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors at home and abroad. Sent free by post in the United Kingdom for 8, 14, or 33 stamps.