

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XI.—No. 129. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

OCTOBER 1, 1880.

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Contents :

Leading Articles :—Review of the Session; The Movement during the Month; Approach of the Municipal Elections; Mr. Courtney at Liverpool; The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1880; Protection of Young Persons; The Jury System; Defect in the Law for the Protection of Girls; Qualification for Guardians of the Poor; Notes.

Public Meetings and Lectures :—Ireland—Dublin, Belfast, Londonderry; South Wales—Swansea, Mumbles, Tenby, Pembroke, Ferryside, Aberystwith, Cardiff; England—Minehead, Teignmouth, Harrogate, Bowness, Keswick, Malton; Scotland—Edinburgh, Girvan, Stranraer.

Trades Union Congress.
Higher Education in Wales.
Obituary.
City and Guilds of London Institute.
Petitions.
Treasurer's Report :—Manchester.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

A GRAND

DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN

In connection with the Bristol and West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, will be held in the

COLSTON HALL, BRISTOL,

ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH,
at 8 o'clock,

In support of a Memorial to Her Majesty's Government praying for the Extension of the Franchise to Women Ratepayers and Landowners in Counties and Boroughs.

Delegates and representatives are expected from all the principal towns in Gloucestershire, Monmouth, Hereford, Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall; and ladies residing within these counties are specially invited to attend.

All who desire to be present or to assist in promoting the Demonstration are requested to communicate with the Secretaries of the Bristol and West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 20, Park Street, Bristol.

OPINIONS OF WOMEN ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Issued by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, London, W. This pamphlet was frequently referred to in the last Parliamentary debate.

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

A LETTER TO THE RIGHT HON. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.—From a Lady in "the Gallery."—London: Printed by E. Matthews and Sons, 54, Berwick-street, and 377, Oxford-street, W. Price Threepence, to be had from the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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DUBLIN.—An Afternoon Meeting to Promote the Extension of the Franchise to Women Ratepayers will be held in the Leinster Hall, Molesworth-street, Dublin, on Saturday, the 2nd October, 1880; the Chair will be taken at Three o'clock by THE RIGHT HON. LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE. Miss Taylor, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss Tod, and other influential friends are expected to address the meeting.

WOMEN'S UNION JOURNAL, published Monthly by the Women's Protective and Provident League, records the progress of the Women's Trade Union movement; and contains information, collected from reliable sources, about the wages, hours of work, and other conditions under which women are employed in various trades. The Journal also discusses all questions connected with the industrial position of women, such as the influence of Factory and Workshops' Legislation, Factory Inspection, the establishment of Co-operative Workshops, &c., &c. Its pages are open to correspondence.

Price One Penny; Subscriptions for year, including Postage, One Shilling and Sixpence.

Communications for the Editor and orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Secretary, Women's Protective and Provident League, 36, Great Queen-street, London, W.C.

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

Now ready. Price One Penny.
THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT. A Paper read by Miss Becker, at the Conference on behalf of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, held in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol, on January 24th, 1879.—Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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

CONTENTS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1880.

1. Competition v. Nominations.
2. A Plea for the Entire Freedom of Women.
3. A New Industrial School in Paris.
4. An Italian View of Women's Suffrage.
5. International Marriages.

Reviews.

Record of Events :—London University B.A. and B.Sc.—St. Andrew's—Queen's University Examinations—Higher Local Examinations: Cambridge, Oxford—London School Board—Musical and Society of Arts Examinations—National Writing and Drawing Competition—Female Clerkships in Post Offices—French Marriage Law—Ministration of Women at Funerals—Women Factory Operatives. Protection of Children—Maintenance of Children—A Medical Appointment—A Married Woman Empowered to Sue—The British Association—New Agricultural School—The Late Dr. Hodgson—Miscellaneous.

Foreign Notes and News.

Paragraphs.

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

LA DONNA.—An educational periodical of contributions by Italian ladies, conducted by Gualberta Alaide Beccari. Published on the 15th and 30th of each month at Strada Stefano, No. 5, Bologna.—Price for each number, 50 centimes.

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

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

Communications for the Editors and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

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THE CALENDAR.

MOON.		SUN.	
	Rises.	Sets.	
4th New Moon,	4h 43m morn.	6 7	5 30
11th First Quar.,	6h 55m morn.	6 19	5 15
18th Full Moon,	4h 26m morn.	6 31	5 0
26th Last Quar.,	7h 0m morn.	6 45	4 43

Day	Event
1 F	[Free Hos. Lond., as Students, 1877. Camb. Mic. Term b. Women admitted to Pharm. Exam., Ireland, 1875, and to Royal Alexandra College, Dublin, Michaelmas Term begins. 19 after Trinity.]
2 S	
3 M	
4 T	
5 F	
6 S	Mrs. Bodichon's Paper, "Reasons for the Franchise," read at [Social Science, Manch., 1866. Miss Becker's Paper on the S. Bridgett, of Sweden, 1873. Progress of the Movement, read at S.S. Con., Man., 79.]
7 M	
8 T	
9 W	20 after Trinity.
10 Th	
11 F	[So. Sc. Ass. Birm., 1857. Lond. School of Med. for Women op. 1874. 1st Meeting of The Countess of Huntingdon died 1746. Somerville Hall, [Oxford, opened 1879. lege for Women opened 1859.]
12 S	
13 M	Marie Antoinette guillotined 1793. Hitchin Temporary Col- 21 after Trinity. Etheldreda. Newnham Hall, Cambridge, opened 1875.
14 T	
15 F	
16 S	
17 M	22 after Trinity. [Morata died at Heidelberg 1555.]
18 T	
19 W	Working Women's College, Queen Square, op. 1874. Olympia National Education Union established 1871.
20 Th	
21 F	
22 S	
23 M	Adelaide Proctor born 1825. 23 after Trinity.
24 T	
25 F	
26 S	
27 M	
28 T	
29 F	
30 S	
31 M	

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The twenty-fourth annual Congress of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science will take place at Edinburgh on October 6th and following days, under the presidency of Lord Reay. In the section of jurisprudence and amendment of the law the Lord Advocate will preside, and one of the special questions for discussion is "Do the laws relating to the property of married women in the United Kingdom require amendment, and, if so, in what particulars?" In the education section, over which Lord Balfour of Burleigh presides, one of the questions is "What may be the dangers of educational overwork for both sexes, with special reference to the higher classes of girls' schools, and the effects of competitive examinations?" Other questions will also be discussed. We are requested to state that during the term of the Congress the Edinburgh branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage will have temporary Committee Rooms at 5, St. Andrew's Square, Room No. 3.

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THE short and troubled session of Parliament which ended on September 7th has little to show in the way of measures calculated to improve the laws for women. Among legislative failures we have to count Mr. HINDE PALMER'S Bill for Amending the Law relating to the Property of Married Women, which, as well as Mr. ANDERSON'S Bill to the same effect for Scotland, was read a second time without opposition, but could not get into committee, owing to the notice of opposition given by Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL, M.P. for Kirkcaldy Burghs, and to the House having been twice counted out about nine o'clock on the evenings when it was set down for discussion. Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL may possibly be called to account by the ladies of Kirkcaldy for his opposition to their property rights; but he can afford to despise their complaints, as they do not muster a vote among them.

Mr. THOMASSON, M.P. for Bolton, introduced a Bill to enable a wife to claim maintenance for herself and her children direct from her husband, instead of as at present being required to throw herself on the parish if her husband refuses or neglects to maintain her. This Bill, which was read a second time, was stopped from proceeding further by a notice of opposition in the name of Mr. WARTON, who appears desirous to court special distinction as an opponent of legislation intended to benefit women.

An Act to extend to Scotland the facilities for effecting policies of assurance for the benefit of married women and children now in force in England and Ireland; an Act to render valid certain orders for the maintenance of illegitimate children, which had been declared void through a technical error; and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, referred to elsewhere, complete the meagre roll of measures having special reference to the unrepresented half of the nation.

In this same short session two measures of the first magnitude affecting the interests of classes who have votes have become law. The tenant farmers have obtained some protection from the ravages of ground game, and the Nonconformists have obtained the right to use their own services in the parish churchyards. But farmers and

Nonconformists have votes. Parliament must attend to their representations; it need not attend to the grievances of women. This is no fault of Parliament, it springs from the very nature of representative government, and until women are represented the same rule must prevail.

THE movement for women's suffrage has been carried on with vigour in many and various parts of the country, as a reference to our reports of meetings will show. In the north of England Miss BECKER and Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD have been lecturing at Harrogate, Bowness, and Keswick. The first named lady, with Miss HELEN BLACKBURN, Miss DOWNING, and Miss CRAIGEN, appeared at a large meeting at Swansea. Miss CRAIGEN has held a series of meetings in Cardiff, and also in Belfast. Miss DOWNING has undertaken a tour of lectures in South Wales. Miss TAYLOR, Mrs. FENWICK MILLER, and Miss TOD have spoken at meetings at Belfast and Londonderry, and Mrs. ELLIS, Miss BROWN, Miss WILKINSON, and other women delegates who attended the Trades Congress in Dublin addressed a meeting on the suffrage question convened at the Coffee Palace, Dublin.

THE approach of October brings with it the note of preparation for the municipal elections, and already candidates and electors are beginning to prepare for the event. The vote which women possess in these contests is of extreme importance and value, not only as regards the interests directly involved, but in its bearing on national affairs. It is no light advantage to either party in a parliamentary election to possess a majority in the Town Council, and, independently of this, a municipal contest frequently serves as a kind of parade or exercise of the forces that are afterwards to be employed in the wider contest, and as a test of political strength. For these reasons, municipal elections are frequently fought on political issues, and tend increasingly in that direction. Women may acquire no small amount of political experience through their municipal vote; and as all the statistics hitherto obtained show that they exercise their

votes as freely as men, they must already have attained some political influence and power.

We earnestly press on the attention of women who live in municipal boroughs where there is to be an election contest next month, the great importance of summoning meetings of the women electors only, which can readily be done by means of post cards directed from the published list of burgesses, to listen to addresses on the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote, and to give the candidates an opportunity of explaining their views to the women electors, and of soliciting their support. Women should take care to press their claim for the parliamentary vote on the attention of the candidates who seek their suffrages in a municipal election, and it will usually be found that when the matter is thus clearly placed before them, the candidates will be found ready to promise to support in the Town Council a petition in favour of giving women burgesses the parliamentary as well as the municipal vote.

Mr. COURTNEY, in a recent speech at Liverpool, said that there could be no function more useful in the House of Commons than that of encouraging the Government to do more than they are attempting to do. No Government could be strong which was not thus pressed, just as no member of Parliament could be strong unless he received the ardent support, the impetuous support, of his constituents; just as no constituency can be strong unless there are in it some active, energetic members, he might say troublesome members, who worry their representatives, who insist on keeping them in the right path, and will not be content with half measures or half fulfilment of promises.

Now, if this is true of measures in which men are interested—if men need to keep perpetually reminding those who are sent to represent them of the matters which concern their welfare, and the measures which they desire to see accomplished—how much more needful is it that women, who have no votes to enforce their demands, should use all diligence in arousing and keeping public attention fixed upon their claims, and in giving their representatives no rest until they have obtained a fair hearing and an equitable adjustment of the inequalities in the law.

Above all things let women everywhere exhort both electors and members not to be content with a half measure of household suffrage, but to insist that the promise of household representation both for counties and

boroughs shall be fulfilled in its entirety, and the rate-book be the register in parliamentary as in local government.

WE are happy to record that the atrocious defect in the criminal law established by the decision of the Court for the consideration of Crown Cases Reserved, in *REGINA v. ROADLEY*, that the consent of a child seven years of age might be pleaded in defence of a charge of assault, has been amended by an Act which received the royal assent on the last day of the session, and we have also the satisfaction of believing that the attention called to this matter through the columns of this journal has materially contributed to this result. The legislative achievement itself is due to the energetic and persevering efforts of Mr. HOPWOOD, Q.C., in whose constituency a case occurred which proved the absolute necessity of immediate legislation to check the committal with impunity of frightful crimes against children.

Soon after the decision in the case of *REGINA v. ROADLEY*, the facts were brought under the notice of the LORD CHANCELLOR and of the HOME SECRETARY, both of whom expressed surprise at the state of the law and willingness to amend it, but neither of them made the slightest attempt at legislation for the protection of children, who could be assaulted without risk of punishment. When the miscarriage of justice occurred at Stockport, whereby the assailant of a child six years of age was discharged on the ground of consent on the part of the child, another appeal was made to the LORD CHANCELLOR, who merely declared that it was too late to pass a Bill that session, although there would have been ample time for the purpose had either the LORD CHANCELLOR or the HOME SECRETARY brought in a measure when their attention had first been called to the matter, and subsequent events proved that even then it was not too late. As soon as it became clear that the Government would do nothing, Mr. HOPWOOD introduced a short Bill of a single clause, which provided that it should be no defence to a charge or indictment for assault on a young person under thirteen years of age to prove consent. This Bill passed the second reading without opposition, but its further progress was blocked by a notice of opposition from Mr. WARTON, M.P. for Bridport, whose action in this and in one or two other matters concerning legislation for women we commend to the special notice of his constituents. The notice, if persisted in, would have been fatal to the Bill, and in order to buy off Mr. WARTON'S opposition, Mr. HOPWOOD was forced to consent to accept an amendment to lower

the age up to which protection was extended from thirteen to twelve years. On this Mr. WARTON withdrew his notice, and the Bill passed the House of Commons in that mutilated form.

But in this case, as in the Wives' Protection Bill of 1878, women had cause to be thankful that there is a House of Lords. The friends of the Bill represented the case to the LORD CHANCELLOR, and at their request he introduced an amendment substituting thirteen for twelve as the age up to which protection should extend. The Bill thus restored to its original form came back to the Commons, where the Lords' amendments were accepted, and the measure received the royal assent on September the 7th, the last day of the session.

It is to be hoped that judges and magistrates will be as quick to note the amendment of the law as the ruffians were to take advantage of the judgment which gave them licence to commit outrages on children with impunity.

THE protection afforded by the Criminal Law Amendment Act is satisfactory so far as it goes, but the measure is still grievously inadequate for the protection of young persons by reason of the limitation of age to thirteen years. We maintain that protection should extend to sixteen years of age. It seems a monstrous anomaly that the law should hold a child of thirteen years of age competent to consent to her own ruin, and not competent, until she is sixteen, to consent to live with her mother in case of separation between her parents.

IN a debate on reform of the jury laws at the Trades Congress in Dublin, Miss CRAIGEN observed that it had been laid down by jurists of recognised authority that the essence of the principle of the jury system was the liability of the jury, under conceivable circumstances, to be guilty of the charge alleged against the accused. In like manner it may be said that another essential principle of the jury system is the liability to suffer from the offence charged against the prisoner. Both these principles seem reasonable enough in the interests of justice, but if they are sound they ought to be universally applied, and therefore point directly towards admitting women to some voice in making the law, and some control over its administration. There are crimes and offences which women only can commit; there are crimes and offences which can be committed only against women. The first of these classes of offences are liable to be dealt with under the present system with undue severity; the latter with a leniency which goes far

to deprive women altogether of the protection which they have a right to expect from the law. This is a natural consequence of the conditions of human nature, and not the result of a conscious neglect on the part of men to secure due protection to women. But evils and dangers from which men cannot possibly suffer themselves do not come home to them in the same way as those which may overtake them at any time. Men in general have much the same feelings in this respect as the *Saturday Review* attributes to Londoners in a recent article on railway accidents: "A sad railway accident at Nine Elms comes home with unusual force to Londoners. They can be philosophic over possible negligence in the north, or an obvious refusal to take obvious precautions in the Midland counties; but when a disaster happens in London itself, and to a train by the like of which they have to travel every day, their interest in the matter becomes very keen."

MEN cannot be and never have been friendless, unprotected girls under sixteen years of age, but men may have young daughters in their own charge whose loss and ruin would be a grievous wrong to them. As if to show the truth of the principle indicated above, men have framed the law relating to abduction, so as to carefully give protection to the parent of a girl under sixteen years of age, whose daughter is enticed or taken out of the possession of lawful guardians, and to carefully avoid giving protection to a young girl of the same age if she has the misfortune to be friendless and alone, or to be living with no one in lawful charge of her. Such at least is the law as administered at Manchester, as shown in a recent case.

At the Manchester City Police-court, on September 16, before the Stipendiary Magistrate, JOHN SULLIVAN was charged on remand with abducting young girls for immoral purposes. The evidence made it clear that the prisoner had enticed a girl, named THEALE, under sixteen years of age, to leave her work and her lodgings, and place herself in his power. Through the efforts of the Manchester police the girl was produced in court, and, as could be seen, she was quite a child. It appeared that she was not living with her father, but supported herself by her work, and lived in respectable lodgings. Nothing was said in court as to the character of the girl's father, or as to the suitability of his house for her home. But the mere fact that she was not living with her father deprived her of the protection of the law, as will be seen from the following report of the magistrate's

decision, taken from the Manchester newspapers:—

"Detective-sergeant CAMINADA said that the girl was away from her father because of a family quarrel.

"Mr. HEADLAM: But the difficulty is that you have to prove that she was living either with her father or with somebody that had lawful charge of her; and nobody has any kind of charge of her.

"The witness: No, I am not in anybody's care; I look after myself.

"Mr. HEADLAM (to CAMINADA): You are bound to prove that the girl was in lawful charge of somebody when she was enticed away, or there is no case.

"CAMINADA: And it is of course impossible to prove that in this case, because the girl was living in lodgings.

"Mr. HEADLAM (to CAMINADA): You cannot prove any case of abduction, because you cannot prove that either her father or anybody else had got lawful control over her. You cannot get a conviction against the prisoner of abducting the girl from the place where she lived. I am sorry for it, but I do not see that it would be of any use to remand him further.

"Addressing the girl THEALE, Mr. HEADLAM said: You have had a very narrow escape. You might have been a ruined girl, and probably would have been ruined, had it not been for this coming out.

"Speaking to the prisoner the Stipendiary said: I shall have to discharge you, I am sorry to say."

If this ruling is right, it seems that this poor child, who was in nobody's care, and looked after herself, was not under the shield of the law, and was lawfully at the mercy of any scoundrel who might entice her with false pretences to her ruin.

THE Resolution of the Weavers' Committee which advised the abandonment of the threatened strike in Lancashire contained a recommendation which, if carried out, would seem to involve a remarkable invasion of personal liberty. We learn from the Manchester papers of the 27th ultimo that at a meeting of the Wages Committee and a sub-committee from the Accrington Local Committee, a resolution was adopted advising the operatives to continue at work for a short time longer, in order to give the employers another chance of carrying out their promise; and the Resolution concluded—"during which time the various committees be urged to take the opinion of the weavers as to the advisability of taking married women with families out of the mills and supporting them at home."

We are not told in what manner the withdrawal is to

take place, nor how the mandate is to be enforced, should the women in question refuse to leave the mills. But there is this to be said for the men who propose this step, and it contrasts favourably with the action of the Legislature in imposing restrictions on the work of women. The Weavers' Committees propose to compensate the women whom they would deprive of their wages by supporting them at home. Parliament passes laws which have the effect of turning women out of suitable and well-paid employment, and makes no attempt to compensate them for the loss, or to provide them with any other means of support in lieu of that which it takes away.

It may be well to remind those ladies who are ready to take part in the election of guardians of the poor next April, whether as electors or as themselves candidates for election, that they should be careful to see that their names are duly entered on the register before the end of October, as otherwise they might lose their qualification, which depends on the name of the ratepayer *appearing on the rate books* as having paid all rates due up to a period of six months previous to the election. It is much to be regretted that some ladies who were last year prepared to stand lost their qualification from neglect of this precaution, and therefore it is desirable to warn others who may now be preparing to stand next year against a similar risk. H. B.

How completely the duties of a guardian of the poor fall within the province of women can hardly be better expressed than by such figures as those published in the report of the Local Government Board for 1878-79, which show that while three per cent of the population were receiving relief (whether indoor or outdoor) from the poor rates, the number of women relieved was double that of the men; of children under sixteen, over a third more than the men.

An office which has to think for and administer to the needs of so many suffering women and children can hardly be excluded from the woman's sphere, even on the most limited conception of that ill-defined circumference, and appeals loudly to women who have the necessary qualification to come forward and share in its duties. H. B.

WE beg to call the attention of our readers, especially of those residing in the West of England, to the proposed demonstration of women in the Colston Hall, Bristol, which is fixed for November the 4th. The Bristol and

West of England branch of the society has been doing persevering and energetic work for some years in the counties of its district; we may therefore hope that this work will bear fruit in a gathering worthy of the occasion, and that all important towns of the district will be represented.

Our friends in Dublin propose to continue their work begun last month by holding an afternoon meeting in the Leinster Hall, under the presidency of Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, at which Miss TOD and other ladies will assist, and an interesting gathering may be expected.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND LECTURES.

I R E L A N D.

DUBLIN.

On Sept. 17th a public meeting was held in the Coffee Palace, Townsend-street, Dublin. The hall was crowded, and amongst those on the platform were Mrs. Haslam, Miss Craigen, of the Weavers' Union, Bingley; Mrs. Ellis, Weavers' Union, Dewsbury; Miss Brown, Shirt and Collar Makers, London; Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Joseph Gough, Miss Meyrick, Bristol; Miss Wilkinson, London; Mr. T. H. Webb, Mr. J. Erskine, Mr. J. J. Hanlon, Mr. J. Smyth, Mr. C. Kendall, Miss M'Derrill, Mr. James Henderson, &c. The chair was taken by Mr. Henry J. Allen.—The Chairman said no doubt there was a considerable difference of opinion on the subject of women's suffrage. As for himself, he had long held the opinion that the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women was their right, and that on it depended a great many of the improvements that they hoped for. He believed that if women had the suffrage their influence would be generally given on the right side.—Mrs. Ellis moved the following resolution: "That the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women otherwise legally qualified would be an act of justice calculated to promote the well-being of the community."—Miss Meyrick, president of the National Union of Working Women of Bristol, seconded the resolution. She had to thank the Irish members of the Trades Union Congress for the hearty support they had given to every resolution by which female labour was concerned. (Applause.) She had also to thank her Irish friends most heartily for the kind reception they had given to the members of the first Trades Union Congress ever held on Irish soil. (Applause.)—Mr. William Count, general secretary of the National Union of Working Women, supported the resolution.—Miss Craigen, delegate at the Trades Congress from the Weavers' Union, Bingley, also addressed the meeting in support of the resolution, which was then put and carried.—Miss Brown, delegate of Shirt and Collar Makers of London, moved the adoption of a petition in favour of equal political rights for women.—Miss Wilkinson, delegate from the Upholstresses' Trade Society, London, seconded the motion, which was agreed to.—On the motion of Mr. Russell, of the Dublin Women's Suffrage Association, thanks were voted to the ladies who had given addresses that evening.—On the motion of Miss Craigen, thanks were voted to the chairman, with which the proceedings concluded.

BELFAST.

On September 20th a public meeting was held in the hall of the Working Men's Institute, and was very largely attended. On the motion of Rev. R. J. LYND, seconded by Dr. BURDEN,

the chair was taken, amid applause, by Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, Ballykilbeg, formerly M.P. for Belfast.

The CHAIRMAN said he received the invitation to preside at that meeting with very great pleasure. He was no new advocate of the movement to be advocated there that night. During the ten years he had the honour of representing this great constituency in Parliament, the claims of women to household suffrage found in him, he hoped he might appeal to Miss Tod to say, an earnest, consistent advocate. And he had not changed his opinions, for he felt that no more praise-worthy object, no more earnest right, was advocated either in Belfast or elsewhere than the one which they attended there that night to support. (Hear, hear.) When Belfast took up any object and supported any claim it was apt to do so enthusiastically and earnestly. He knew of some support which it had given to several claims, and he knew of the support it had given and would give enthusiastically to the claims of those who had a right to vote. (Hear, hear.) That night he had the honour once more of appearing in this great town. His visits to it now are few and far between, but he never could forget the years with which he was connected with it, and he trusted he would ever cherish an earnest recollection of the honour that was reposed in him in sending him to Parliament from this constituency. And now once more, though not in St. Stephen's Hall, he desired to add his humble tribute to the claims that would be advocated there, and if anything that could be said by him would influence one wavering vote from a member of Parliament from Ulster, he would earnestly urge upon that member to do justice and to do right, not to fear ridicule or adverse influence, but to give in his adherence at once in Parliament to the cause which would be advocated at that meeting. (Hear, hear.) One of those who advocated that cause was Mr. Disraeli, now Lord Beaconsfield, the late Prime Minister of England, and he (the chairman) trusted that his eloquent and distinguished successor in the Premiership—(applause)—would give to that cause the support to which it was entitled, and that during the next session of Parliament he would send to the House of Lords with a very large majority, and an emphatic contribution from his own eloquent tongue, a Woman's Suffrage Bill from the House of Commons. (Applause.) That night the cause would be supported by old friends and distinguished advocates who were perhaps new to this city, but he hoped it would not require the eloquent advocacy of the ladies and gentlemen who were present to urge that claim upon them, and to induce them to support earnestly in their homes and as citizens to press forward that subject. It was his earnest desire that that large assemblage before him would see the triumphant success of that measure during the next session of Parliament.

Mrs. FENWICK MILLER moved the following resolution:—"That the exclusion of women possessing the statutory qualifications from voting in the election of members of Parliament deprives a large part of the property, intelligence, and industry of the country of all participation in its government, and is therefore injurious both to them and to the community at large."

The resolution was seconded by Miss TAYLOR.

Mr. JOHN SHAW BROWN, in supporting the motion, said it appeared to him absurd that women, who reared men and trained them in such a way as that they ultimately were considered capable of governing the country, should themselves be treated as if they were not entitled to have any power to take part in matters connected with Government. There were many things at present affecting the laws of the country which required alteration. The country required a great many new laws affecting the protection of women, both as regarded their

persons and their property. He, for instance, would advocate a law by which, when a woman got married, any money that she might have in her own right should continue to be hers exclusively—(hear, hear)—and that she should have liberty to do with it whatever she liked—(laughter)—and he had no doubt she would exercise the power, as she usually did, in a wise manner. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt the time was not far distant when the grievance which they were now considering would be redressed. The present Government seemed to be prepared to redress grievances—(hear, hear)—at least those of which Irishmen complained; and he felt sure they would take up the question of women suffrage, which he believed to be more important than some Irish questions. (Hear, hear.) The question of giving women the suffrage had already been so much discussed that it had been resolved into a nutshell, and he believed that the great bulk of the thinking people, of the intellectual people, were satisfied that the suffrage ought to be extended to women. (Hear, hear.) It was the common opinion now of Liberals and Conservatives—[A Voice: And Home Rulers—(laughter)]—that the suffrage should be granted to women who had the proper qualifications, and he did not see why both parties should not amalgamate on the question and pass a law. There were Mr. Johnston and he before them, each holding different political views, and yet agreeing on this subject; and why should not all the members of Parliament agree and unite upon it? (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was passed.

Miss CRAIGEN moved the next resolution, which was to the effect that the meeting gave its hearty approval to the proposed Bill to admit women householders to the suffrages on the same conditions as men, and requested the members for the borough and the county to give their support to it when brought forward.

The Rev. Dr. JOHNSON seconded the motion. In the course of an able address, he said they all remembered the agitation for Catholic Emancipation in Ireland, how O'Connell asserted his own manhood, and that of his fellow-countrymen and co-religionists, and how the Duke of Wellington was obliged to broaden the basis and extend the franchise so as to prevent rebellion and consolidate the empire. The women formed a large and influential section in the empire, and it was now their turn to assert their right, and claim that the Government should extend the franchise to them on the same conditions as to men, and thus still further consolidate the superstructure by wisely widening the basis. (Hear, hear.) He knew that there were many ready to resist this extension of the franchise, as all the other measures of reform had been resisted. All manner of evils had been predicted if the women were incorporated; but these predictions would just prove as false and foolish as those put forward by the persons who opposed the application of steam to the locomotive. Several persons had predicted that the engines would set fire to all the haystacks in the country, frighten all the horses, and ruin the empire. He supported the claim of the women to the franchise because they had a deep, if not a deeper interest in the leading questions of the day than even men. He rejoiced to state that the recognition of the woman's right to the franchise was part and parcel of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church. The widow, if a communicant, at the head of the house, had a right to vote in the election of a minister, and if they were qualified to vote for a minister of the Gospel, why not for a member of Parliament? He was therefore consistent in advocating woman's right to the franchise, as in doing so he was only applying to the lower platform of politics the same principles which guided him in the higher platform of religion. He hoped he would be pardoned for the introduction of denominationalism; but, as his resolution called

upon them to ask the support of the members for the borough and the county, he felt sure the argument would have its full weight in securing the vote of Mr. Corry, who was an honoured elder of the Presbyterian Church, and would feel happy in giving a wider application to his religious convictions. (Hear, hear.) Matthew Henry, in his own quaint way, in commenting on the creation of Eve, says: "She was not taken from man's feet, indicating that she was not to be man's slave, but was taken from man's side, indicating she was to be man's companion;" and he felt assured that, just as the companionship of woman in domestic life added to the health and happiness of the household, so the companionship of woman in political life would add to the stability and beauty of the British Constitution. (Applause.)

The motion passed.

Mr. Samuel Black (Pandalstown) was called to the second chair.

Miss TOD (Belfast) proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Johnston for his kindness in presiding.

Mr. JOSEPH G. BIGGAR, M.P., seconded the motion, which was passed.

Mr. BLACK, in conveying the vote of thanks, expressed the hope that all parties in the State, of whatever shade of politics, would unite together in carrying into law the measure giving the suffrage to women. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHNSTON acknowledged the vote of thanks, and the meeting concluded.

Miss Jessie Craigen addressed a large gathering of Good Templars, in the Lancasterian School, Frederick-street, Belfast, on the evening of Tuesday, September 7th, on "Women's need of the vote for the sake of temperance work," and met with a very warm response from those present.

On Wednesday, 8th, she spoke in the open air, in Brown Square, to an audience of between 700 and 800, chiefly working men, to whom she pointed out the many respects in which the women of their own rank needed the franchise for their protection, in the same way that they themselves did. The meeting was not only cordial, but enthusiastic, in endorsing the views placed before them.

On Thursday, 9th, Miss Craigen spoke in the schoolroom attached to Messrs. Ewart's works, Crumlin Road, on the same topic, and was well received.

On Friday, 10th, she delivered a deeply-interesting address, on the moral claims of the suffrage cause upon women, in the Mission Schoolhouse, Blackstaff Road, Miss Tod being in the chair. At the conclusion, a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Craigen, not only for that evening's address, but for all those of the week, was moved by the Rev. A. M'Kinley, and seconded by a woman "who had been a factory-hand for thirty years," and carried unanimously.

LONDONDERRY.

On September 24th a large and respectable meeting of inhabitants of the city, convened under the auspices of the North of Ireland Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, was held in the Corporation Hall, Londonderry. Nearly half the upper portion of the hall was reserved, and a small charge made for admission. This was occupied chiefly by ladies. The seats were all filled, and a dense crowd thronged the standing room. Alderman DARCUS occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mr. W. F. Bigger, J.P., Miss Taylor, and Mrs. Fenwick Miller, members of the London School Board, and Miss Tod, of Belfast.

After some introductory remarks by the Chairman, Miss TOD

SOUTH WALES.

SWANSEA.

A well-attended public meeting in support of the claims of women householders and ratepayers to the parliamentary franchise, was held in the Music Hall, Swansea, on September 3rd. The MAYOR of Swansea (Alderman Jenkins) presided, and there were also on the platform Miss Becker (Manchester), Miss Downing (London), and Miss Helen Blackburn (secretary to the West of England Society for Women's Suffrage), Miss Craigen, the Rev. Ossian Davies, the Rev. S. Higman, Mr. Sidney Davies, the Rev. J. E. Manning, Mrs. Manning, Miss Brock, and Mr. C. H. Perkins, &c.

The MAYOR said that women ought to have an equal chance with men. We have heard enough of the "wishy-washy" stuff about the defects of women as politicians. He wished the women's suffrage movement success, and immediate success; for the exercise of the franchise was education in itself, and he desired to see that education general. Until the last general election he was not such a convert as now, to this movement, but he then saw, in the course of a personal canvass, a number of lady property holders of great intelligence, and who had studied political questions, without a voice as to the choice of a representative in Parliament. (Applause.)

Mr. SIDNEY DAVIES moved a resolution, pledging the meeting to the opinion that the parliamentary franchise should be exercised by women duly qualified as ratepayers or householders. He said that the privilege of voting was already possessed by women in municipal and School Board affairs; and it would not require any extra intelligence to enable them to exercise a similar right in the election of members of Parliament.

Mr. C. H. PERKINS seconded the resolution, which was first supported by

Miss BECKER, whose rising was the signal for loud applause. She said that the question they were discussing was a serious political and constitutional one. What women objected to was, she said, that they were declared to be incapable of exercising the common sense of a voter. Many men certainly passed through life without using the vote they possessed, but she questioned whether they would be so content if they were declared by law to be too stupid to exercise the franchise. She found that as many as 900 houses in Swansea were taxed without the owners being represented, owing to their being women. Being anxious that the claims of women to higher education should be fully put before the Royal Commission appointed to deal with the Welsh educational question, she wrote to Mr. Henry Richard—(applause)—who had always shown himself interested in the matter. She received a note from him that day, in which he said that the instructions given to that Commission were very general, and that they did not certainly exclude an inquiry as to the education of women. Lord Aberdare, the letter added, was chairman, and any representation made to him, on behalf of the education of women, would doubtless have a good effect. This was a matter which she could only point out to them, but she felt quite certain that an earnest movement amongst those interested in the subject in Wales would have a very good effect at the present crisis. She referred to instances in which legislation had acted disadvantageously to women, and said this was the result of making laws without consulting the women themselves.

Miss DOWNING supported the resolution, which was then put to the meeting, and carried with five dissentients.

The Rev. J. OSSIAN DAVIES moved that a petition should be sent to the House of Commons, and memorials to Mr. Dillwyn,

moved the following resolution: "That the exclusion of women possessing the proper statutory qualifications from voting in the election of members of Parliament deprives a large part of the property, intelligence, and industry of the country of all participation in its government, and is therefore injurious both to them and to the community at large." In the course of her address she said: One point in which they were deeply interested in Ireland was the Irish Intermediate Education Act, passed two years ago, which had been brought in by her townsman, Lord Cairns. When that Bill was brought before the House of Lords there was no provision made for girls whatever in it. Yet every argument made for boys in that Bill applied to girls quite as much as to boys. It was just as important for a girl, when God had given her greater talents than others, to have the opportunity given her of making the best use of them. (Applause.) A number of ladies at once began to act in the matter, and formed a pretty influential Irish deputation, who waited on the Lord Chancellor. Well, to their surprise they found that he had left out the girls, not because he did not admit their claims, but simply because he had forgotten them. However, he said he thought it simply impossible that girls could come up to the standard of boys, or compete with them in the subject of mathematics. He at once saw the justice of the case, and endeavoured to induce the Government to include girls in the Bill. He succeeded there, but when it went into the Lower House they had just to go from member to member to solicit their support. The meeting knew that there was no place in which girls had taken a respectable position and distinguished themselves at these examinations more than in Derry. (Applause.) The Irish Society of London spent a couple of thousands a year on Foyle College and the Coleraine Academy, exclusively for boys. If they (the ladies) had been able to go to members of Parliament with that peculiar persuasive eloquence which constituents alone possess, they would have had a power and been far more successful.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. FENWICK MILLER, and after being put to the meeting the chairman declared it carried.

Miss TAYLOR proposed the next resolution: "That this meeting approves of a proposed Bill to admit women householders to the franchise on the same conditions as men, and requests members of Parliament for the city and county to give their support to it when brought forward."

Mr. RICHARD SMITH seconded the resolution, which the chairman then put and declared carried.

Professor LEEBODY, amid some interruption from the gallery, said he thought there was nothing would worse please the ladies that addressed the meeting to-night than that there should be a contemptuous acquiescence in what had passed. He felt inclined to move a slight modification in the last resolution, and, after giving his reasons, moved "that the part of the motion requesting our city and county members to support the Women's Franchise Bill be expunged."

Mr. AARON BAXTER seconded the amendment.

Our report is thus far abridged from the *Londonderry Sentinel*, but at this point the proceedings appear to have become confused, possibly owing to what appears to be the irregularity of having an amendment moved and seconded to a resolution which had been already carried. We cannot gather from the published report the actual fate of the amendment, but our private correspondent informs us that it was defeated.

Mr. W. F. BIGGER, J.P., proposed a vote of thanks to Alderman Darcus for his kindness in presiding, which was seconded and put to the meeting by Miss Taylor, and passed unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

M.P. for Swansea; Mr. Vivian and Mr. Talbot, M.P.s for Glamorganshire.

This was seconded by the Rev. J. E. MANNING.

Miss HELEN BLACKBURN, in supporting the resolution, said that lately they heard in this hall how one great uniformity of process may be traced throughout all geologic time. Listening to that address of the president of the British Association, she could not but think how a similar uniformity of process runs through all historic time, moulding our social relations. From the earliest dawn of history to our own day, a uniform law may be traced in society, and that law is that where the sense of national existence increases the freedom of women increases, or to put it conversely, that where the freedom of women does not keep pace with that of men the sense of national existence diminishes. Look through history and it will be found so, but now there is only time to look for a moment at our own day. It is a truism to say that that is the best form of government which promotes the greatest efficiency of the greatest number. The question which, perhaps more than any other, most marks the last half century, is the recognition that that greatest efficiency is best obtained by spreading sovereign power amongst the people, that the governed should also be of the governing, and yet has been admitted of but half the population. The question which should most mark the next half century should be the extension of that recognition to women. The great Reform Bill of 1832 was the first statute expressly barring women from voting; the second Reform Bill in 1867 did not expressly include women in its provisions. Now a third Reform Bill is approaching, extending the share of sovereign power further amongst the people. If women are not included then, we shall make the inequality between men and women greater than it is, we shall diminish our sense of national life—teaching the mothers of our race that they are not true citizens. Can it be that men fear to diminish their own power if they give this power to women? The power of a nation is not a limited quantity, but like a current flowing on with ever-increasing tide. There is a story of the miller who opposed the erection of a second mill on the same hill beside his own, for how could there be wind enough for two mills when there was hardly enough for one? Those who oppose our question often reminded her of that miller. Whatever adds to the efficiency of our women must add to the sum of our national power.

Miss JESSIE CRAIGEN also supported the resolution, which was carried without a dissentient.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

MUMBLES.

On August 24th Miss Becker delivered an address in the Assembly Room, Mumbles, Swansea, the Rev. J. E. Manning in the chair. The lecture was well received, and the proceedings concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

TENBY.

On September 4th an address was given by Miss Downing, in the smaller hall at the Assembly Rooms, Tenby. Mr. Goward, M.A., LL.B., took the chair at 7-30. After the address, a petition was adopted on the motion of Mr. Howell Davies, seconded by the Rev. J. Calvin Thomas. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

PEMBROKE.

Miss Downing gave an address on the 6th September, in the Town Hall, Pembroke; the Mayor (Alderman George) presided, and was supported by Mr. Churchward, of Pembroke Dock. The attendance when the meeting commenced was very

small, but while the proceedings progressed became larger until the room was filled with an attentive audience.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing Miss Downing to her audience, said it was through freedom of action and the freedom of the public press that changes were brought about in this country, which if wrought in another would entail revolution and the shedding of much blood, and such reformation without revolution was this secret of the greatness and progress of the great nation. (Hear, hear.) He then called on Miss Downing to address the meeting. At the conclusion of the address, the Chairman said that however sceptical he might have been at the commencement he must surely have been converted by the excellent address and the manner in which it had been delivered. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CHURCHWARD thought they should convey to their friends the words and arguments that had fallen from Miss Downing in her address, and looked forward to a new era when the ladies' claims would be recognised. He moved a resolution in sympathy with the association.

Mr. GEO. PRICE: I beg leave to second that with all my heart.

Miss DOWNING moved a vote of thanks to Alderman George for the kind manner in which he had treated them by giving the use of the Hall, and conducting the proceedings that evening.

The MAYOR acknowledged the compliment done him, and proposed a vote of thanks to the lady lecturer, which, being seconded by Mr. John Williams, of Monkton, was duly accorded.—Abridged from *Pembroke Free Press*.

FERRYSIDE.

On September 7th an address on behalf of the West of England Society for Women's Suffrage was given by Miss Downing, in the National Schoolroom, Ferryside. The chair was taken by Miss Blackburn, secretary of the society.

ABERYSTWITH.

A meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Aberystwith, on September 9th, when Miss Downing delivered an address.

The MAYOR of ABERYSTWITH (Mr. Peter Jones) occupied the chair. In opening the proceedings he said he thought the subject well worthy of the attention it had received in many parts of the country. That the possession of the municipal vote by women had been decidedly beneficial. Women contributed a fourth of the entire rates of that town, and two-thirds of the houses were occupied by women; and since the possession of the vote they had exercised considerable influence over the doings of the local bodies of the town.

Miss Downing having addressed the meeting, Dr. D. ROBERTS moved that the chairman be authorised to sign a memorial on behalf of the meeting to the members of the borough and county of Cardigan.

This was seconded by Mr. Alderman WILLIAMS.

Mr. KING (a visitor) asked to be allowed to move an amendment. He urged that the arguments adduced by Miss Downing would be equally applicable to children, who were liable to be abused, but would that be a reason for giving children votes? The agitation was only for a very small minority of women. It was men who built up and maintained this country, and were responsible for it; when women did the rough and perilous work done by men, let them have the vote. He moved: "That this meeting authorise the Mayor to petition Parliament against the agitation which is going on."

Another Visitor seconded the amendment.

Mr. J. GIBSON said the two gentlemen who had moved and seconded the amendment would, doubtless, believe him when

he stated that he had the greatest respect for men who stood up in a public meeting called to advocate a particular question, and spoke against it. That was a position in which he had been placed more than once, as some of those present knew. (Laughter.) Sometimes he had been by himself, and had not been so fortunate as to get a seconder. The mover of the amendment said his argument about giving votes to little children might be considered as a childish argument. Doubtless it was so, because it was an argument about children. At that advanced period of the evening it might not be desirable for him to state all the reasons why women should have a vote in imperial matters. Miss Downing, in an address full of facts, had given personal reasons why women who occupied houses and paid taxes should have votes; and she had also shown why in respect of the custody of children, the ownership of property, and the rights of citizenship which, it was thought, every male adult should exercise, women should have a voice in the settlement of matters which concerned them. (Hear, hear.) The sound, strong reasons which had been instanced, however—reasons which no man could contradict—were not such, he believed, as would gain the franchise for women in this or any other country. The reasons why they should have the franchise lay further back, and had to do not so much with the personal, individual position of each woman as with the existence of the family, with the existence of the community, with the existence of the nation. (Cheers.) That the franchise had not been conceded to women hitherto was not, he considered, in consequence of the weakness of their case, but because the people of this country had never realised what it meant to withhold liberty from one half of the population. (Applause.) It was not a question of pounds, shillings, and pence, or a question merely of a woman recording her vote for a member of Parliament; but it was a question that dealt with the great, inexpressible loss of liberty and rightness, and virtue and goodness, which must ever exist where a nation gave power to the stronger half of its population to hold the other half in any kind of thralldom. (Cheers.) If women possessed the liberties they do not now possess, they would take this nation onward to a moral and spiritual height which the keenest of those present had never conceived of. At that late hour of the evening he must content himself with merely enumerating the points upon which, if time permitted, he had intended to speak. Few as the number of women householders might be—and fewer still the number who might obtain seats in the House of Commons—they would effect a salutary change in connection with the labour question in this country. If women had votes, it would not be possible to deprive them of those means of making a livelihood which they ought to possess. He employed a few persons, and he should like to engage one or two girls, but he could not employ females whom the law said must not work except under such stringent regulations that they were profitless. Before he occupied his present position he was connected with a firm which could not employ women except under greatest difficulty. One of the first things women would do if they had a voice in such matters would be to emancipate labour, and make it more honourable than at present. Did anyone mean to tell him that, if women had the power to mitigate or abolish the great offence of drunkenness, those who were the cause of that offence would continue to hold their present honourable and honour-giving positions? (Hear, hear.) Would anyone say that, if the women of this country who had been denied education—who had been taught from the time they had first learned to speak that their brothers were superiors to whom they must give way—were allowed to exercise that political power which they ought to possess, they would not sweep away every public-house magistrate and every public-house

man who occupied high positions? (Applause.) There could be no question as to the result. He would next deal with the physical argument. What were politics a thousand years ago? They were simply a question of physical force. The heads of tribes and the heads of families met together, and decided what should be—not for the women only, but also for all the other men. If there were a Saul in the nation, who stood a head and shoulders above the people, he became king by the force of his muscle and the power he possessed to compel others to obey him. Little by little that state of things was altered, and weak men obtained positions of influence—men much weaker than many women, both in the arm and in the head. (Laughter.) Did anyone mean to assert in this age, when politics had come to mean something more than the exercise of physical force, that the women of this country should not have votes? (Cheers.) Then as regarded the home question. At least nine-tenths of the time of women was spent in the homes of this country—in the hovels of this country, he might say—(hear, hear)—places where the light of heaven could not be seen, and where no breath of fresh air ever got in during the sultry days of summer. Parliament should be made to do something in the way of improving or abolishing the filthy dens in which the bulk of the population had to drag out their weary existence. There was no question upon which women could exercise so beneficial an influence as that of home life. (Hear, hear.) Then, as to education, he could assure Miss Downing that when steps were taken in connection with Welsh higher education, the position of women would not be lost sight of. (Applause.) A conference would be held at Aberystwith shortly respecting higher education, and one of the prominent subjects to be brought forward was that of the higher education of girls—to provide teaching for them equally as good as that given to boys. Let them ask anyone who had taught little boys and girls in day or Sunday schools which learnt the quicker, and it would be found that girls got on half as fast again as boys. And why were they not correspondingly clever when they grew older? Because when they reached the age of seven or eight they had to nurse their little brothers, and do anything except go to school. When women were properly educated, however, they would be found to be equal to men; and there was no reason in the individual, there was no reason in the family, there was no reason in the town, there was no reason in the nation, there was no reason in the constitution of things, there was no reason on the face of God's earth why every kind of liberty which was enjoyed by men should not be given to women. If the result should prove unfavourable to the men—if women, when once they possessed liberty, put men into the second place—then, for God's sake, let men be manly enough to take it. (Applause.)

Mr. BARLOW, a Lancashire county magistrate, a visitor to Aberystwith, supported the proposition.

Miss DOWNING replied to the mover of the amendment in an eloquent speech, in which she said that women in all ages had helped to make England famous, and in no position in past national life had they failed to take a share of responsibility.

The amendment and proposition were then put to the meeting, and the proposition was declared carried by a large majority.

Votes of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, and to Miss Downing for her able address, terminated the proceedings.

CARDIFF.

Miss Craigen held a series of meetings in Cardiff during the latter portion of August. On August 23rd she spoke at the Bull Monument, Cardiff. It rained hard, but some hundreds of men stood through Miss Craigen's address, which lasted an hour.

On August 24th a very large meeting collected at the same

place, but after Miss Craigen had spoken for about three-quarters of an hour the meeting was stopped by the police under orders from the owners of the property, which was private ground.

On the 25th, 26th, 30th, and 31st August, and on September 2nd, Miss Craigen addressed meetings in the Ten Acre Field, Cardiff. These meetings were very large, the attendance growing from day to day.

On August 27th Miss Craigen held a meeting for women only at the large room of the Great Western Coffee Palace. A women's petition for the franchise was adopted.

ENGLAND. MINEHEAD.

On the 21st September Miss Blackburn gave an address at the Old Scholoroom, Minehead, Devon; the Rev. E. Balford in the chair. The room, which holds about 200, was quite filled by an attentive audience. After the address several questions were asked, which having been answered by Miss Mary Price and Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Boucher moved the adoption of a petition. This was seconded by a gentleman in the audience, a visitor, and carried with one dissident.

TEIGNMOUTH.

A meeting in favour of the extension of the franchise to women possessing the qualification was held in the Assembly Rooms at Teignmouth on September 23rd. Mrs. Brine, of Shaldon, presided, and delivered an able opening address; and addresses were delivered by Miss Emily Sturge, a member of the Bristol School Board, and Miss Blackburn, secretary of the West of England Branch of the National Society of Women's Suffrage. The adoption of memorials to the members for East Devon was moved by Mr. Southey, seconded by Mr. Arthur Brine, and carried.—A vote of thanks to Mrs. Brine concluded the proceedings.

HARROGATE.

On September 9th Miss Becker gave an afternoon lecture at the Spa Concert Rooms, Harrogate. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd occupied the chair. There was a good attendance.—At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks to Miss Becker was proposed by the Rev. William Sharp, seconded by another gentleman among the audience, and carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.

BOWNESS.

On September 21st Miss Becker delivered an address in the large hall of the Working Men's Club, Bowness, Windermere; Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd in the chair. There was a large audience, and the lecture was received with applause. The Rev. W. Bryans proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was carried with acclamation, and the proceedings terminated.

KESWICK.

On September 22nd Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd addressed a meeting in the Oddfellows' Hall, Keswick. Miss Becker occupied the chair. The lecture, which occupied about an hour, was favourably received.

MALTON.

On Monday, August 30th, a meeting for women only was held in the Friends' Adult School, when Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd gave an address on the "Need of the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women Householdors." Mr. Thomas Hopkins, of Malton, presided, and in kind terms introduced Mrs. Scatcherd to the audience, which was large, the room being crowded. The address was listened to with marked attention and approval. At its close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs.

Scatcherd by several ladies present, all of whom wished similar addresses could be widely given in the neighbourhood in order to disperse the erroneous ideas prevailing on the subject. A Bible woman present said she felt how strongly the question of the suffrage bore upon her daily work amongst the poor. Votes of thanks to Mr. Hopkins for presiding and for convening the meeting, and to the adult scholars for the use of their room, brought a very pleasant meeting to a close.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.

A drawing-room meeting was held in August at the residence of Mrs. Mander, in Edinburgh, which was attended numerously by young women from several of the large dressmaking and millinery establishments in Edinburgh. The chair was taken by Mrs. Wellstood, and the meeting was addressed by Miss Kirkland, Miss Wigham, Mrs. Mander, and others. Considerable interest was expressed in the question. The resolution was carried unanimously, and a petition to Parliament was signed by a large majority of those present.

GIRVAN.

On August 31st a numerously attended meeting of ladies interested in the cause of women's suffrage was held at Girvan, in Ayrshire, at the house of Mrs. Blair. A considerable number of lady householders and ratepayers were present. Miss Kirkland read an address, which was listened to with marked attention and interest. Mrs. F. F. M. Blair also addressed the ladies. A resolution in favour of extending the franchise to women was proposed and seconded, and carried unanimously. After the conclusion of the proceedings a committee was formed, which undertook to carry on the work of the society in the district of Girvan and its neighbourhood.

STRANRAER.

A drawing-room meeting was held at the residence of Miss M'Dowall, London Road, on September 7th. It was numerously attended, and was presided over by Miss Dalziel, of Glenluce—a lady who for many years has taken a warm interest in this subject. The meeting was addressed by Miss E. Kirkland, secretary for the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage. The usual resolutions were passed unanimously, and a committee was formed to carry on the local work. A hearty vote of thanks to Miss Dalziel for presiding, and to Miss Kirkland for her address, terminated the proceedings.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The thirteenth annual Trades Union Congress took place on September 18th and following days in the Antient Concert Rooms, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin. At twelve o'clock the public meeting took place in the Practice Room, which was filled with delegates. The chair was taken at half-past twelve by the outgoing President, Mr. H. Slatter. The following is a list of the women societies represented, and the names of the delegates at the Congress:—Women employed as bookbinders, Mrs. E. Paterson, London, Miss E. Whyte, London; collar makers, shirt and underlinen makers, Miss A. Brown, London; London and Westminster Tailoresses' Society, Miss Geary, London; Swansea Upholstresses' Trade Society, Miss J. G. Wilkinson, London; Heavy Woollen Weavers' Association, Mrs. Anne Ellis, Batley, Yorkshire; Bingley Weavers' Union, Miss J. Craigen; National Union of Working Women, Mr. W. Count, Bristol, Miss Merrick, Bristol. Among other subjects the following were discussed, in which the women delegates took part. The reports are

taken from the special correspondence of the *Manchester Guardian* and other papers.

REFORM OF THE JURY LAW.

WEDNESDAY.—The Congress met again this morning, the President (Mr. Murphy) in the chair.

The discussion of Mr. Bailey's resolution on the jury laws, adjourned from the previous evening, was resumed by Mr. Nannetty (Dublin Printers' Society). Miss Jessie Craigen (Weavers' Union, Bingley) supported the resolution. A reform of the jury laws was, she said, absolutely necessary; but working women as well as working men should sit on juries in cases where women's interests were specially concerned. (Hear, hear.) There were many such cases. There were, for example, the numerous trials of women for infanticide, for concealment of birth, and so on; it was impossible in these cases for male jurymen to justly appreciate the whole of their bearings. (Hear, hear.) It had been laid down by jurists of recognised authority that the essence of the principle of the jury system was the liability of the jury, under conceivable circumstances, to be guilty of the charge alleged against the accused, and it was quite unnecessary for her to point out that it was impossible for men to commit some of the offences she had mentioned. (Cheers and laughter.) The resolution having been supported by Mr. Ambler, Mr. Shorrocks (Manchester), Mr. Evans (London), and others, was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS.

THURSDAY.—Mr. Shorrocks (Manchester) moved the following resolution: "That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to renew their efforts with increased energy, if possible, to secure the appointment of an increased number of assistant factory inspectors composed of practical persons, to be under the control of the inspectors, as sub-inspectors." Miss Wilkinson (London Upholstresses) objected to the resolution in that it did not demand the appointment of women as well as men inspectors. There were many occupations followed almost exclusively by women, and women would not complain of certain sanitary evils so freely to men inspectors as they would to women. (Hear, hear.) She moved to amend the resolution by striking out the word persons, and substituting the words men and women. (Hear, hear.) A long and animated discussion ensued, many delegates supporting Miss Wilkinson's view, and giving illustrations of the necessity for women inspectors. Amongst these were Miss Brown (London), Miss Merrick (Leicester), Mrs. Ellis (Batley), and Miss Craigen (Huddersfield). On the other side several delegates, and those the oldest and most experienced, deprecated the proposed enlargement of their demands as calculated to ensure their rejection. Amongst these was Mr. Broadhurst, M.P., who said that the Parliamentary Committee had approached the late Government on the question, but had received little encouragement. If they went to the new Government, supported by strong and independent representations from the trades, they might fare better; but he must tell the Congress that when he spoke to Mr. Redgrave, the chief Government inspector, on the matter, that gentleman told him that the demand for women inspectors would be one more objection against moving in the matter at all. ("Hear, hear," and "No, no.") He begged the lady delegates to be reasonable for once in their lives—(laughter)—and let them get working men inspectors first, and try for women inspectors afterwards. ("Hear, hear," and "No, no.") For himself, he did not believe that the case was so urgent as the lady delegates represented. He was sure that the great majority of women preferred to be inspected by men—(great laughter, and "No, no" from Miss Craigen)—than by members of their own sex. Miss Craigen

indignantly controverted Mr. Broadhurst's statements. Messrs. Ross (Edinburgh) and Keeley (London) and others continued the discussion with much warmth. Mrs. Paterson (London) replied on behalf of the lady delegates, and reminded the Congress that the same question had been debated at the Bristol meeting, in 1878. At that meeting the Congress decided in favour of women inspectors, and so she was sure would the Congress of to-day. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Shorrocks having replied, the Congress divided and adopted the amendment by an overwhelming majority.

THE COUNTY FRANCHISE.

SATURDAY.—Mr. Crawford moved: "That this Congress hail with satisfaction the pledge given by the present Government to the assimilation of the borough and county franchises, and requests the Parliamentary Committee to impress on the Government the necessity of introducing the measure during the forthcoming session."

Mr. John Wilson (Durham) seconded the resolution.

Miss Craigen moved that the resolution be amended, so as to assert the right of women householders to the parliamentary franchise. She based the claim on justice and expediency. At the last general election the candidates passed her door, but when the tax gatherer came round he did not. (Laughter.) In Lancashire and Yorkshire three-fourths of the persons employed were women, and they earned two-thirds of the wages.

The Chairman said that he could not receive Miss Craigen's amendment. It was not an amendment to the resolution before the Congress, but a distinct resolution in itself.

Mr. Evans (London) said the amendment had nothing to say to the assimilation of the county and borough franchise, and he hoped Miss Craigen would see the necessity of withdrawing it.

Miss Craigen: I submit to the ruling of the chair, and withdraw my amendment on the understanding that I shall be at liberty to move it as a distinct resolution at next year's Congress. (Applause.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick (Liverpool) moved an amendment to the effect that the assimilation of the Irish to the English borough franchise be also demanded by the resolution.

Miss Craigen: I rise to order. If my amendment was not received, why should this be?

The Chairman: I think Mr. Fitzpatrick is much in the same boat with Miss Craigen.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the population of Dublin was 260,000 and the number of ratings in it 32,854, and yet the number of voters on the register was only 13,000 and some hundreds.

The Chairman ruled against receiving Mr. Fitzpatrick's amendment, and the original resolution was put and carried.

THE GOVERNMENT CLOTHING FACTORY.

Miss Geary moved: "That the Congress desires to express its regret that further serious reductions have taken place in the wages of the workwomen of the royal clothing factory; also that the only recommendation of the committee of inquiry in the nature of a concession to the women had not been adopted; and that intimidation had been used in the following notice now posted on the walls of the factory:—'The Secretary of State for War having intimated in the House of Commons that if any of the operatives have any complaints, and will bring them before their official superiors in the manner prescribed by the regulations of the public service, he will undertake to look fully and impartially into them. Demonstrations are therefore unnecessary, and that in Westminster Hall on Thursday afternoon having been followed by a counter demonstration in the factory on the following morning, which

caused considerable excitement and loss of time, he feels compelled in the interests of the women themselves and for the maintenance of discipline, to forbid any further demonstration, and directs that the name of any operative taking part in them shall be reported to him.—By order of the Secretary of State for War, GEORGE D. RAMSAY, Director of Clothing.—August 25, 1880.' ”

Mrs. Paterson seconded the proposition, which was carried.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN WALES.

A conference on the best means of securing for the Principality an extension of the means of higher education was opened at Aberystwith on September 22nd, under the presidency of Mr. WILLIAM DAVIS, M.P. There was a large attendance of ministers and laymen. The object is to represent to the Commission which has lately been appointed the views of the people of Wales upon this important subject.

In briefly addressing the conference, the CHAIRMAN said the topic to be discussed naturally divided itself under three heads—first, the question of a Welsh University; secondly, whether colleges, one in North and the other in South Wales, in addition to that at Aberystwith, should be established; and thirdly, the question of intermediate schools. On the question of higher education there could not be two opinions. (Hear, hear.) It was one which deeply affected the whole of the Principality. Everyone must admit that Wales was deficient in good schools. (Hear, hear.) The Principality had been neglected—(applause)—and now was the time to press their views upon the Government. (Hear, hear.)

It was then resolved that a series of suggestions as to the specific questions to be discussed should be accepted as the agenda paper of the conference.

Upon the question of the better administration of the old endowments and the starting of intermediate schools in districts where there are none, considerable discussion arose. Ultimately Mr. WILLIAMS, of Swansea, moved, “That a general system of intermediate schools for boys and girls should be established throughout Wales and Monmouthshire, and that as many as possible of the old endowments should be utilised towards founding those schools or for giving scholarships to pupils educated at them.”

Miss JENNER (Cardiff) said girls' high schools were urgently needed in the Principality, for with the exception of Howell's Charity at Cardiff, they had not a single girls' school in the whole of South Wales. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was unanimously passed.

A further resolution, moved by Professor PRICE, and seconded by Mr. MORRIS, of Aberystwith, was passed in the following terms: “That a scheme should be adopted for enabling boys and girls to pass from the elementary schools to intermediate schools and thence to colleges.”

The conference adjourned till the next day.

At the adjourned meeting Mr. J. P. PUGH, M.P., was called to the chair. The resolutions adopted at yesterday's sitting were read, and the Chairman intimated that they were open to any verbal or other amendments, whereupon Dr. ROBERTS suggested that the resolution by which it was recommended that a general system of intermediate schools for boys and girls should be established throughout Wales and Monmouthshire should be amended by the addition of the words, “girls' schools being especially needed.” There was, he said, no want more manifest in Wales than the want of girls' schools, and it should be brought very prominently before the Departmental Committee.—The proposition was seconded by Miss JENNER, and unanimously agreed to.

Obituary.

PROFESSOR W. B. HODGSON.—The lamented death of this gentleman deprives us of an earnest friend and able advocate of the enfranchisement of women and the removal of all the legal and educational disabilities imposed upon them. He died suddenly at Brussels while attending the International Educational Congress. Professor Hodgson was from the first a member of the Women's Suffrage Society, and he continued to afford it throughout its existence able and efficient help. His loss will be felt everywhere by those who are engaged in promoting educational progress, but more especially in Edinburgh, where he was professor in the university, and where he was settled during the last few years of his life.

LORD CHIEF BARON KELLY.—The death of this learned judge at the advanced age of 88 years should not pass unnoticed, inasmuch as he was a good friend to our cause, and had been for some years a sub-criber to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

MISS GERALDINE E. JEWsbury.—This amiable and accomplished lady died on September 22nd, at the age of 68. She was the author of several novels which had a wide circulation and influence in their day. The family resided in those days at Greenheys, Manchester. The mother died when Geraldine was six years old, and an elder sister, Maria, took charge of the household. A lofty aspiration filled the minds of the two girls at an early age, and the ambition of both was that they might become litterateurs. This was admitted by Maria, who on one occasion said, “I was nine years old when the ambition of writing a book, being praised publicly, and associated with authors seized me as a vague longing.” Often has this natural and praiseworthy ambition in girls been cruelly repressed and remorselessly crushed out by the demoralising dogma that women's talents were given them to be hidden in obscurity, and that it was unwomanly to cultivate and increase them for the benefit of society. But a happier fate was in store for these girls. Both the sisters had their aspirations realised, but Maria died early in India whither she had followed her husband. Wordsworth, who was one of her greatest admirers, afterwards addressed a poem to her, entitled “Liberty.” Geraldine lived long in the employment of her talents, and in the enjoyment of the best literary society. She was a sympathiser in the movement for the enfranchisement of women, although she took no active part in it.

CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE.

The City and Guilds of London Institute commence their session on October 4th, at the Cowper-street Schools, Finsbury, E.C., London. Women are admitted to all the classes. These consist of a course of about thirty lectures on Mondays, at half-past eight p.m., on organic chemistry, with special reference to its industrial applications; and of a course of twenty four lectures on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, at four o'clock, dealing with the more important elements, by Dr. Armstrong, F.R.S. Laboratory classes, as well as tutorial and laboratory classes, especially suited for students attending these lectures, and class of photographic chemistry will also be held.

In the subject of physics the laws involved in “weighing appliances and motor machinery” will be specially considered in the Friday evening lectures, whilst the subject of Professor

Ayrton's day lectures will be the “electric light.” We have observed in a recent number of the *Electrician* that the higher posts in Government telegraphy are to be open to women. We would venture to suggest, therefore, to those who would compete successfully for such appointments, the importance of the Tuesday evening course on “electrical instrument making,” as affording them means of gaining more than that superficial knowledge of their instruments which is apt to prove so insufficient on the occurrence of some unforeseen fault in working. The physical laboratory will be open daily except Saturday.

The average fee for each course, including special laboratory instruction, appears to be only five shillings, without any extra charge for the use of apparatus and materials. The value of such laboratory work will be thoroughly appreciated by those of our readers who have experienced the hopelessness of attempting to study a scientific text book, without, at the same time, experimentally practising what they read.

For fuller particulars concerning the City Guilds classes we refer our readers to the syllabus for the ensuing session, which may be obtained by applying to the Professors, at the City and Guilds Institute Technical School, Cowper-street, Finsbury.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES—For Removal.

SIXTEENTH REPORT, 16—28 August, 1880.

Table with 2 columns: Date (Aug.) and Signatures. Lists various petitions from different locations like London, Bristol, and Wetheridge.

Total No. of Petitions 256—Signatures 7,660

The Petitions marked thus (*) are similar. The Petitions marked thus (†) are similar to that from Aberdeen [APP. 122]. The Petitions marked thus (©) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

BOROUGH FRANCHISE (IRELAND) BILL—For Alteration.

SIXTEENTH REPORT, 28 August, 1880.

Table with 2 columns: Date (Aug.) and Signatures. Lists a petition from Cork.

Total No. of Petitions 39—Signatures 1,084

This Petition is similar to that from Dublin [APP. 39].

SUMMARY OF PETITIONS PRESENTED UP TO AUGUST 28th, 1880.

Summary table with 4 columns: Category, No. of Petitions signed Officially, No. of or under Seal, Total Signatures. Includes categories like Women's Disabilities Removal and Borough Franchise (Ireland) Bill.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, SEPTEMBER, 1880.

Table with 3 columns: Name, £, s. d. Lists various subscribers and their amounts, including names like Sympathiser, Dowager Countess of Buchan, etc.

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A FEW WORDS TO TEMPERANCE WOMEN UPON THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION.—By Mrs. Dawson Burns.

THE POLITICAL CLAIMS OF WOMEN.—By Julia Wedgwood.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN.—By Mrs. Stuart Mill.

THE CLAIM OF ENGLISHWOMEN TO THE SUFFRAGE.—By Helen Taylor.



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