

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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Report for March.

THE past month has witnessed energetic efforts on the part of the promoters of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, to bring the character and objects of the measure before the people in various districts of the country. But in order to give adequate representation to the increasing force of public opinion in its favour, and due support to the Parliamentary leaders, those efforts will need to be redoubled in every direction, and continued with unremitting assiduity up to the very day of the second reading of the Bill, which is fixed for the first of May. We beg that our friends, in their anxiety to introduce the question in districts where the public have not, as yet, become acquainted with the objects of the Bill, will not lose sight of the equally necessary duty of collecting the suffrages of those who already support it, by means of signatures to petitions in its favour. There are times and seasons for various kinds of work—seed time and harvest alternate—and now is our harvest time. We entreat our friends who have been so eagerly and successfully cultivating fresh fields, not to lose sight of the necessity for gathering in the harvest of opinions already ripe, and of bringing these to bear in the shape of petitions to the House of Commons during the coming month of April.

Last year the number of signatures to petitions in favour of the measure sent in before the second reading was 185,000. Up to the present time the number of persons who have signed petitions this session falls considerably short of this number. There remain but four weeks to make up this difference, and we trust that our friends will see the necessity for the most strenuous effort, in order to avoid the appearance of a decreasing demand for the measure, which might be alleged were the number of signatures to fall short of that of previous years. Our friends are well aware that the manifestations of public opinion in other directions prove a great advance since the corresponding period of last year. The tone of the newspaper press has become greatly

modified. Greater attention is given to the question. More articles are written on it, and they are couched in a more temperate and respectful spirit, and show a higher appreciation of the merits of the question than was the case some time ago. The establishment of the Central Committee has given weight and cohesion to the movement. The meetings that have been held all over the country have brought the subject under the consideration of a much larger section of the public than had the opportunity of discussing it last year; and the action of the various municipal corporations, in adopting petitions for the Bill, is a proof of the increased consideration which is being given to the claim. Already petitions in favour of the measure have been sent to the House of Commons from the Town Councils of Edinburgh, Stirling, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Bootle-cum-Linacre, Salford, Hartlepool, Dewsbury, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Newark, and Wrexham, and the list is likely to be greatly enlarged before the second reading of the Bill. The attitude of the Government has changed from that of hostility to one of friendly neutrality; and it does not need so great a change in the sentiments of Mr. GLADSTONE as that which is shown in the difference between his speeches on the Bill in 1870 and in 1871, to convert him in 1872 into a positive supporter of the measure. No one has ever accused Mr. GLADSTONE of going forwards and backwards on any question, and we have no reason to apprehend that ours will be an exception to the rule which governs his course on other subjects. We approach the contest this year without the sense of having to encounter that opposition from the Government which is almost certain to defeat the efforts at legislation of any private member, which deprived us of the votes of some of our supporters who are members of the Cabinet, and which was only withdrawn after the debate had begun, when, at the end of the speech of the mover of the Bill, Mr. GLADSTONE, under a heavy cross-fire from the front Opposition bench, yielded to Mr. JACOB BRIGHT'S challenge, and

intimated that the Government would no longer actively oppose the measure.

The course pursued by the Administration with regard to the electoral rights of women seems capricious and exceptional in the extreme. First, it restored to them the right of voting in local affairs by the grant of the municipal franchise, a measure which involves what Mr. GLADSTONE had not then discovered to be "a practical evil, not only of the gravest, but even of an intolerable character," namely, the "personal attendance and intervention of women in election proceedings." Next, it remained neutral while Mr. JACOB BRIGHT asked the House of Commons to assent to a measure identical in principle with, and the logical sequence of that which had been already conceded; but when the House acknowledged the justice of these considerations by passing the second reading of the Bill, it suddenly turned round and assumed an attitude of bitter and successful opposition to the claim. Its next move, after having declared women incapable for the function of electing legislators, was to declare them capable of exercising legislative functions, and to provide for their election as members of local assemblies, to which was entrusted the task of determining for each locality questions which the imperial legislature found itself incapable of settling on definite principles for the whole country, and which, more than any other class of political problems, have been made the occasion of party and sectarian strife. Women, to whom the Government refused the franchise on account of the supposed inconvenience which would arise from their being seen in the public streets and in the polling booths during the few minutes necessary to record a vote, and from their being mixed up with the excitement of election proceedings on matters of controverted character, were expressly made eligible and invited to offer themselves as candidates for election in large popular constituencies, when the conflict involved not only ordinary political feeling, but a considerable infusion of theological bitterness in addition; and where the means to be used in order to present their claims to the electors must of necessity be totally incompatible with the notion of privacy. Publicity is the very essence of popular election; and of all persons who take part in election proceedings the candidates have the greatest share of publicity.

By inviting and encouraging women to occupy these conspicuous positions; to issue addresses in which their personal opinions and their moral and mental qualifications must be offered for the criticism of the public whose

suffrages they seek; to address meetings in which they are brought into personal communication with the masses of the people; to enter councils in which controverted points must be maintained in fair debate without regard to the sex of the debater—by encouraging women to do all these things the Government has deprived itself of any plea for the maintenance of their electoral disabilities which is founded on the assumption that it is desirable to restrict women to the sphere of domestic duties, and to impose upon them, with or without their consent, the rule of enforced seclusion and abstention from public affairs. Perhaps it was a perception of the hopelessness, after what had been allowed, of finding a logically tenable position for resistance to the present claim that induced the surrender by Mr. GLADSTONE of the principle contended for in the Bill. Certainly, if we had attempted to forecast the course of events, we should have placed the attainment by women of such a position as that of an elected member of a School Board, as not to be expected until long after the Parliamentary franchise had been gained, and we hold it to be impossible that the latter can be long withheld after the concession of the former.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

WE desire to call attention to the Conference held at the Rooms of the Social Science Association, London, to consider the course to be adopted with regard to Mr. STAVELEY HILL'S Bill to amend the Married Women's Property Act, 1870. The object of Mr. HILL'S Bill is to do away with one of the unjust anomalies created by the objectionable Act of 1870, by virtue of which a husband, who becomes the owner of his wife's property on marriage, is freed from liability for her ante-nuptial debts. One case at least has occurred of a creditor being deprived of his remedy by the operation of the Act of 1870, and we are not surprised that Mr. HILL should seek to amend so faulty a law. But while we agree with Mr. HILL in the preamble of his Bill, that "it is not just that the property which a woman has before marriage, or acquires after marriage, should not be liable for her debts contracted before marriage," we disagree with him as to the remedy. He proposes to make the husband, who acquires the property by marriage, liable jointly with the wife for the debts. We propose to leave the wife, notwithstanding her marriage, in the condition of absolute ownership of the property, and sole liability for the debts in question. Our proposal would do justice, not only to the

creditors of a woman who marries whilst in debt, but to the creditors of a married woman carrying on business separately from her husband. At present these have no remedy at law, for the husband is not liable for such debts; and although the Act of 1870 gave a wife power to sue in such cases for debts due to her, it imposed no corresponding liability to be sued for debts or other obligations due from her. Everyone who is acquainted with commercial transactions will understand how difficult it must be to carry on trade under such conditions, and nothing can remedy this evil except the passing of a measure based on the principle of Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY'S Bill.

In our advertising columns will be found an announcement of a Public Meeting and Conference in London, to be held at the end of April, and we desire to impress on our friends, and on all local committees, the desirability of securing as large an attendance of delegates and representatives of the movement from all parts of the country as can be obtained. The Conference last year, at the Langham Hotel, was very successful in this respect; the room was much too small for the numbers who sought admission, but a larger hall will be provided this year, and we trust that it may be filled with as goodly an assemblage.

We also beg that our friends will pay especial attention to the notice respecting Petitions to the House of Commons, which appears in another column, and we hope that all who are engaged in collecting signatures will forward them either direct to a member of Parliament, according to the instructions given, or to the secretary of one of the Local Committees, or to the secretaries of the Central Committee, or to the Editor of this Journal, any of whom will take care that they are duly presented.

CUSTODY OF INFANTS' BILL.

An important measure affecting the rights of mothers over their children is now before the House of Commons,—the Custody of Infants Bill, introduced on the 20th of March, by Mr. W. Fowler.

This measure proposes to enact,—
I. That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for any judge of one of the superior courts of equity in England or Ireland, upon hearing the petition of the mother of any infant under sixteen years of age, to order that such infant shall be delivered to her, and remain in or under her custody or control; or shall, if already in her custody or under her control, remain therein until such infant shall attain such age not exceeding sixteen, as the judge shall direct; and, further, to order that such custody or control shall be subject to such regulations as regards access by the father, and otherwise, as the said judge shall deem just and proper.

II. No agreement shall be invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of any infant shall give up the custody thereof to his or her mother: Provided always, that no court shall enforce any such provision, if the court shall be of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infant to give effect thereto.

THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.

A meeting of the Married Women's Property Committee was held in London on March 14, at the Social Science rooms, Mr. Pennington in the chair, to consider the course to be adopted with regard to the Bill introduced by Mr. Staveley Hill to amend the Married Women's Property Act of 1870. Amongst those present were Miss Becker, Miss Wallington, Miss Cobbe, Miss Mathilde Blind, Mrs. Pennington, Mrs. Hensleigh W. Wedgwood, Mrs. Augusta Webster, Mr. J. T. Hoskyns, Mrs. M'Laren, Mr. E. Pears, Mr. Herbert N. Mozley, Mr. Sebastian Dickinson, M.P., and others.

Miss LYDIA BECKER, the hon. secretary *pro tem.*, explained that the meeting was called in consequence of a resolution passed in Manchester asserting that the Married Women's Property Bill, though affecting an important amendment of the law, was faulty in detail and unsound in principle. All fellow-workers were called upon to make continued exertions for the passing of such a measure as should secure to married women the same rights to their own property and earnings as were enjoyed by married men. An executive committee was appointed as follows:—Lady Amberley, Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., Mrs. Jacob Bright, Miss Becker, Mrs. Butler, Mr. Thomas Chorlton, Miss Cobbe, Sir C. W. Dilke, Bart., M.P., the Rev. Alfred Dewes, B.D., LL.D., Miss Hacking, the Rev. Septimus Hansard, Mr. Thos. Hare, Mr. W. B. Hodgson, LL.D., Mrs. W. B. Hodgson, Mr. J. Boyd Kinneer, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Herbert N. Mozley, Dr. Pankhurst, Mr. F. Pennington, Mrs. Pennington, Mrs. Sutcliffe, Mr. Thomas Taylor, Mrs. Hensleigh W. Wedgwood, with power to add to their number.

Mr. PEARS explained the history of legislation on the subject, and urged that any bill framed on an equity rather than a common law principle must be faulty. He therefore suggested that efforts should be made to get the original bill passed instead of accepting Mr. Staveley Hill's amendment. He proposed a resolution to that effect.

Miss BECKER, in seconding the resolution, said she believed a bill like that proposed by Mr. Staveley Hill would retard still further the chance of a settlement on a just basis, of this question. It was, therefore, necessary for them to protest against it; and she believed the only effectual protest was to put before the House of Commons a bill based upon the principles now suggested, and take the sense of the House upon it. Such a bill as they desired passed through the House of Commons in 1870 without a division. Even the rights of creditors were not secured by the miserable bit of patchwork proposed by Mr. Staveley Hill. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DICKINSON, M.P., agreed that any bill upon this subject should be based upon what was called the common law principle, but the difficulty was how this was to be worked with the present bill in existence. There was so much work before the House of Commons that he feared there was no chance of introducing another private bill this session.

Mr. Mosley, Mr. Hoskyns, Mr. George Howell, Miss Cobbe, and others continued the discussion, the burden of which was that Mr. Russell Gurney's bill was the only measure that would be satisfactory to the society.

The resolution as amended eventually was passed as follows:

That the Married Women's Property Act of 1870 is radically unsound in principle, and that the introduction by Mr. Staveley Hill of a bill to amend one of the most glaring anomalies created by that act offers a favourable occasion for moving the Legislature to remedy the evils complained of, together with all other hardships of the existing law, by passing a comprehensive measure annexing to all women the same rights and liabilities as to property and contract as appertain by law to men.

A sub-committee was appointed to confer with members of Parliament with a view to take action in accordance with the terms of the resolution.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Pennington concluded the proceedings.

TOWN COUNCILS.

HUDDERSFIELD.

At a meeting of the Huddersfield Town Council held on March 5,

The TOWN CLERK said he had received copies of two Bills which were in progress through Parliament, with a request from the promoters of them that the Council would support them. One was the the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill; with a note from Miss Lydia Becker, requesting the support of the Corporation, by petitioning Parliament for the Bill that had been brought in under the auspices of Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Eastwood, and Dr. Lyon Playfair.

Councillor FAWCETT: What does it mean? (Laughter.)

The TOWN CLERK: It means, sir, to give the ladies the same qualification for parliamentary election as they possess for the municipal.

Councillor FAWCETT: I think they had better stop at home. (Renewed laughter.)

The TOWN CLERK read the preamble of the Bill, and asked if he must read the letter. (A voice: "We don't want this, Mr. Mayor.")

Councillor FAWCETT: I beg leave to move that we don't present a petition.

Councillor B. HANSON: I will second it.

The resolution was put to the meeting and declared carried, but as there seemed to be a slight misunderstanding, the Mayor said: Let us do no injustice to the women, those in favour of the resolution.

He declared the resolution carried.

Councillor HOUGHTON: It pointed out that if there was no proposition made in favour of petitioning Parliament, it was not necessary to move the resolution which had been moved by Councillor Fawcett.

Councillor FAWCETT: Any way.

Alderman CLOUGH said that to be consistent they ought to apply the principle municipally, and allow the ladies to take their seats there. (Laughter.)

Councillor WALKER thought that the least they could do in justice to Miss Becker, was to read her letter; it might influence the votes of the Council.

Councillor ASTON objected to "taking up their time with anything of the sort. He thought it had been decided."

The MAYOR: My decision was rather challenged.

A VOICE: Give the letter to the reporters; we can read it in the newspapers. (Laughter.)

The TOWN CLERK read the letter, which explained the object of the bill, and asked the Corporation to support it by petition.

Councillor H. HIRST: I beg to propose that a petition be presented in favour of the bill.

Councillor BARRACLOUGH seconded the motion.

Councillor J. A. HOPKINSON did not see why if a lady were allowed on the School Board they should not be allowed seats at the Council.

Alderman CLOUGH hoped the Council would not misunderstand him. He did not advocate the appearance of ladies at that Board, but that if they were to be consistent they ought to petition in favour of ladies possessing the franchise, seeing that they were already on the School Boards, and that they ought to allow them to come there. He did not approve of it.

Councillor J. A. HOPKINSON begged pardon if he had misunderstood Mr. Clough.

Councillor MARRIOTT asked why should not ladies be able to give a vote in the election of a member of Parliament as well as for a member of that Council. They must bear in mind

that the bill only gave those who were householders—widows and others—who carried on the business perhaps because their husband was gone; or it might be who had gone into business on her own account. As a rule such a person was just as qualified as a man to do the work. She had to pay the rates and do the work in every respect similar to what the husband did, and yet she was shut out from the privilege she had enjoyed along with her husband. He was quite surprised that there could be any objection to the proposition.

Alderman WOODHEAD said that to be consistent, seeing that women already possessed the municipal franchise, they ought to have the Parliamentary franchise, and he cordially supported the proposition.

Cries of vote were now raised, and on the votes being recorded there were for the motion 22, against 13, and the resolution in favour of petitioning was carried amid loud cheers.—*Huddersfield Examiner*.

WAKEFIELD.

At a meeting of the Town Council on March 6th, the town-clerk read a letter asking the council to petition in favour of the bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. Councillor Wade moved that the petition be adopted. Councillor Ellerton seconded the motion. Councillor Lee said he would vote against the motion. On the votes being taken there were fourteen for and four against. Councillor Perkin: Cannot we have a deputation to go and support the petition?

DEWSBURY.

At a meeting of the Council of Dewsbury, held on March 15th, a petition was adopted in favour of the bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, and the corporate common seal of the borough, and the signature of Mark Newsome, Esq., Mayor, were affixed.

FALMOUTH.

At a meeting of the Council, held on March 14th, 1872, a Petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was adopted by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Falmouth. The Petition was signed by William Leake, Esq., Mayor, and the common seal of the borough was affixed thereto.

WREXHAM.

At a special meeting of the Town Council, held on March 11th, at the Guildhall,

The TOWN CLERK said he had received a letter, enclosing a copy of a Bill now before the House of Commons, to remove the electoral disabilities of women, and place on the register of the parliamentary borough those women who were now entitled to a place on the burgess roll. The Town Clerk then read a petition proposed to be adopted.

Mr. T. ROWLAND said that ladies were allowed to vote at municipal elections, and he did not see, as long as they were granted that privilege, that they should be debarred from voting for a member of Parliament. He felt very strongly on the matter, and he should be very glad to see the ladies have the power to vote for members of Parliament.

Mr. Alderman JONES: I think they would be more useful at home.

Mr. T. ROWLAND: You got in through the ladies. I beg to propose that the petition be adopted.

Mr. HUGH DAVIES seconded the motion.

Mr. OWEN was inclined to support the petition, upon the ground that he thought that property should be represented, whether it was held by man or woman, he considered that it ought to be fairly represented.

The motion was carried unanimously.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

A petition was sealed by the Newcastle Corporation in favour of the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, forwarded to Parliament, and presented by the Right Hon. T. E. Headlam, M.P., the senior member for the borough.

EDINBURGH.

At a meeting of the council of the City of Edinburgh, a petition in favour of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, was signed by William Law, Esq., Lord Provost, in name and by appointment of the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council, and the seal of the City of Edinburgh affixed thereto, on the 15th of March, 1872.

STIRLING.

The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the royal burgh of Stirling, have adopted a petition in favour of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, and ordered the same to be signed in their name and authority by George Christie, Esq., Provost, and the common seal of the burgh to be fixed thereto.

BOOTLE-CUM-LINACRE.

A petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was adopted by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of Bootle-cum-Linacre, and presented to the House of Commons on March 14, by Mr. Cross, M.P.

SALFORD.

At a meeting of the Salford Town Council, held on March 13, in the Town Hall, the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Barlow) presided. On the motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ald. Farrar, it was resolved to petition Parliament in favour of the bill for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women.

NEWARK.

The Town Council, on March 8, unanimously adopted a petition to Parliament in favour of the suffrage for women. A petition in favour of an extension of the suffrage to females is now in course of signature in Newark. It may not be known to many of our readers that a committee exists in the town for the promotion of the movement, the original members appointed in June, 1870, being Mr. John Bullen, Rev. Josiah Millar, M.A., Mr. John Castle, Mr. William Moss, Mr. W. O. Quibell, Mr. George Doubleday, and Councillors Walton, Crossley, Henry, and Wood, with power to add to their number. On the 20th February a meeting of the committee was held, present, Rev. J. Miller (in the chair), Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Earp, Mr. Earp, and Mr. Doubleday. Miss Lydia Becker attended as a deputation from the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Mr. Doubleday was appointed secretary, and the committee united itself with the parent society, agreeing to co-operate in the following manner: 1. To prepare a petition to be signed by the inhabitants in favour of a Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. 2. To memorialise the Town Council on the question. 3. To promote a public meeting whenever it shall seem practicable. 4. To support Mr. Hodgkinson, M.P., in his action in favour of the Bill, and to bring local influence to bear on Mr. Bristowe, M.P., with a view to induce him to vote for it. And 5. To assist the movement in any other manner that may appear advisable and feasible.—*Newark Advertiser*.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

SOUTHWARK.

Mrs. FAWCETT delivered a lecture on February 29 on Women's Suffrage, at the Working Men's Club, Gravel Lane, Southwark. Dr. Shae took the chair. Mrs. Fawcett enumerated sixteen arguments, which were all that she had been able to find in the speeches of those members who supported Mr. Bouverie last session in opposing the Women's Disabilities Bill. Some of these were very contradictory. For instance, one was that women would vote according to the opinion of their husbands or favourite clergymen, and another that women are so obstinate that the possession of the vote would disturb the domestic peace. Again, that women are inferior to men in intellect, and therefore unsuitable as voters; and also that women are so vastly superior to men that it is a pity to contaminate them with politics. The lecturer dealt with all the arguments, and finished with a description of the good effects to be expected from the political and social independence of women.—*Echo*.

LONDON.

On Friday, the 8th March, a meeting was held in the Bible Christian Rooms, Waterloo Road. The Rev. G. M. Murphy took the chair, and, in his opening remarks, declared himself fully impressed with the importance of putting no artificial barriers in the way of women. Those things which custom allowed them to do they did well, and he saw no reason to suppose that this would not still be the case when they were encouraged to undertake anything for which they had natural aptitude. Miss Mathilde Blind delivered an address on "Why Women want the Suffrage," in which she explained various points of law which are unfavourable to their interest, and answered some of the most general objections urged against the movement. On Mr. Ravenstein proposing that a petition to the two Houses of Parliament in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, Mr. Pattison, a working man, said that, as he held the views of his father and grandfather on this subject, he preferred that women should remain in their sphere. Mr. Taylor, also a working man, in answer to the last speaker, said that if they all held the views of their ancestors in this way, he thought that England would fall very much behind other countries, and a good many of the audience, besides the women, would still have no vote. After some further debate, the resolution was carried unanimously.—*Examiner*.

KENSINGTON.

On March 15th a public meeting was held at the King's Arms Assembly Rooms, Kensington. Mr. EASTWICK, M.P., presided, and Mrs. RONNIGER lectured, and several ladies and gentlemen addressed the meeting. On Mr. WARR and Major EVANS BELL proposing that a petition be signed by the chairman in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill, Mr. ALLEN rose to oppose the motion. He said that, far from women being unjustly treated with regard to property, they could easily have it secured to them by a settlement; that the sexes were not only equal in his opinion, but, if anything, women were better off than men, for women had the privilege of suing a man for breach of promise. After some further debate the resolution was carried. Professor HUNTER, in proposing thanks to Mrs. Ronniger for her lecture, said that it was quite true that, by a cumbersome and expensive machinery, women could retain their property after marriage, but why should such machinery be necessary? Why should a woman be punished for marriage as if it were felony, by being deprived of all she possesses? Mr. ALLEN had said that he saw no inequality between the sexes. How was it, then, that in a large family

the property often passed over the heads of several daughters to be conferred upon a son? The advantage of women being properly represented had lately been shown in the proceedings of the School Board, in offering of appointments to teachers and inspectors. The presence of two ladies at the Board had reminded the members that there are women to employ as well as men, and accordingly in their notices suitable offices were offered to women. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—*Examiner*.

STEPNEY.

On March 19th, at the Stepney Temperance Hall, Miss BEEDEY delivered a lecture. Mr. LUCRAFT, of the London School Board, took the chair, and Mrs. WILLIAM BURBURY and Mr. JOHN MACDONELL addressed the meeting. A resolution to petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill was carried unanimously, several of the audience speaking in favour of women's claims to the suffrage.—*Examiner*.

CANTERBURY.

Mrs. RONNIGER addressed a meeting at Canterbury on February 22nd. Alderman J. Brent in the chair. Petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill were adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting.

DOVER.

On February 21 a public meeting was held in the Apollonian Hall, Dover, when Mrs. RONNIGER delivered a lecture. The chair was taken by Mr. Alderman REES, and there was a fair attendance.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing Mrs. Ronniger to the meeting, expressed the sympathy he felt with the objects of the Association she represented. He had never been able to understand the reasons for withholding the suffrage from women who were householders; and, as he understood, the extension of the suffrage to this class was the object which the Women's Suffrage Society was endeavouring to achieve.

Mrs. RONNIGER, on presenting herself, was received with great applause.

At the conclusion of the lecture,

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the thanks of the meeting were due to Mrs. Ronniger for the eloquent and able lecture she had delivered. The arguments she had brought forward completely fortified him in the opinion he had ventured to express at the commencement of the proceedings; for they proved that tax-paying women were as well qualified as men to exercise the franchise; and that it was only just that the franchise should be conceded to them. (Hear, hear.) He reminded his hearers that the privilege of female suffrage was already established in municipal matters, and he was totally unable to conceive of any argument which, while admitting women householders to electoral rights in municipal matters, excluded them from the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. (Hear, hear.) After conveying the thanks of the meeting to Mrs. Ronniger, said he was requested to state that she would be happy to answer any question which any lady or gentleman in the room might desire to put to her.

Mr. GROSSMAN, availing himself of the opportunity thus afforded, said he desired to ask Mrs. Ronniger what would be the probable effect of the adoption of universal suffrage, supposing this principle adopted, in its relation to female voters? He also desired to know whether, in the event of an election, the chance of a candidate would not be materially enhanced in the eyes of lady voters by his good looks. (Laughter and hisses).

Mrs. RONNIGER, in reply to Mr. Grossman's first question, said she was not there to deal with hypothetical cases. What was demanded by the society she represented was that householding women should stand upon the same footing as house-

holding men. When there was a change in the suffrage as regarded men, it would be time enough to put forward the claim of women in the same direction. As to Mr. Grossman's other question, she submitted, with all respect to the meeting, that it was unnecessary for her to reply to it. (Loud cheers.)

No other question being put,

The CHAIRMAN read a form of petition to both houses of Parliament in favour of an extension of the suffrage to women who are householders; and this having been adopted by the meeting, with only three or four dissentients, the proceedings terminated.—*Abridged from the Dover Express*.

PORTSEA.

A lecture on the desirability of conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon women was delivered in the Beneficial Society's Hall, Kent-street, Portsea, on February 19, by Mrs. Ronniger, of London. The Rev. J. Ellis presided. The lecturer, a lady of considerable personal attractions, and possessing a fine, clear voice, commenced by observing that she could not help believing that the objections to the demands for the franchise could be answered to the satisfaction of all logical and impartial minds, if the opponents of the measure would come forward and honestly state the reasons for their opposition. She went on to reply to several arguments and assertions brought against the cause she advocated, such as that the possession of the suffrage would lessen the courteous and chivalrous regard of men for the other sex, and that women under the new state of things would not be inclined to marry, and concluded by asking those present for their countenance and assistance, and for their signature to a petition which was in the room, praying for the desired reform. Mr. Ediss moved the adoption of a petition to the Houses of Parliament in favour of the measure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hibbs. An amendment, proposed by Mr. Lindon, to the effect that it was not expedient to grant the suffrage to women until manhood suffrage had been secured in its entirety, was lost, only three persons voting in its favour. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.—*Abridged from the Hampshire Telegraph*.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

On March 4th, a lecture was delivered in the Welsh language by Mrs. Williams, on "The Indebtedness of Woman to the Bible," in the Cwmbrian Chapel, Merthyr Tydfil.

The chair, as previously announced by handbills, was taken by Mrs. Rose Mary Crawshaw, Cyfarthfa Castle, who, in opening the proceedings, was warmly received by the audience, which numbered some 800 persons.

Mrs. CRAWSHAW said: This is the first time that I have had a chance of thanking my constituents for the honour conferred by returning me for Merthyr and Vaynor School Boards, and as I dare say there are electors of both parishes present, I beg you will now accept my hearty thanks. There is a good deal of hard work, and I have (as probably some of you know) not shirked my share of it. In speaking of woman's suffrage, Mrs. Crawshaw remarked: "Taxation is the same for women as for men. Wages and earnings are almost always less for women, even when doing the same work. Hence taxation falls heavier on women than on men. The payment of fees to denominational schools is thought unfair, because a small portion of the ratepayer's money goes to a matter over which he has no control. How much more unfair that women should pay their share of taxes, and yet have no control over taxation! (Hear, hear.) Women have been turned out of farms on the death of their husband or brother, because the landlord could not do without the vote which a male tenant gave. At

Bridgwater the women actually had to pay 3s. in the pound for a commission to inquire into the malpractices of male electors; and if it should ever happen that election expenses should be met by a rate, they might have to pay for electing men who would not only disregard all laws for the benefit of women, but even pass such as should be insupportable to them. The hardest of all the existing laws is that a mother is not the natural guardian of her children at her husband's death. True, he may make her their guardian; but who so fit as a mother to be by law their guardian? (Hear, hear.) Mrs. Crawshaw, in conclusion, congratulated the workmen on the nine hours' movement, hoping they would make a good use of the hours of leisure, and sat down amid vociferous applause.

A vote of confidence in Mrs. Crawshaw on School Board matters was proposed by the Rev. CORNELIUS GRIFFITHS, seconded by Mr. WILLIAM GOULD, and carried unanimously.

At the close of her able lecture, Mrs. WILLIAMS also acknowledged the congratulations of the audience, and proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Crawshaw for presiding. This was seconded by the Rev. CORNELIUS GRIFFITHS, and carried.—*Abridged from the Western Mail*.

STALYBRIDGE.

A meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Stalybridge, on March 20, J. F. Cheetham, Esq., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Councillor Burnley, Rev. Noah Green, Rev. B. Glover, and Miss Lydia Becker. Petitions in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill were carried unanimously.

STOCKPORT.

A meeting was held on March 22nd in the Mechanics' Institute, Stockport, in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. The Mayor of Stockport, Mr. Alderman Walthew, occupied the chair. A resolution, affirming the principle of the Bill, was moved by Mr. Councillor Robinson, and seconded by Dr. Pankhurst. Mr. Vaughan made a speech in opposition, but the resolution was carried by a clear majority. The second resolution, adopting petitions in favour of the bill, was moved by the Rev. James Black, of Stockport, seconded by Miss Lydia Becker, and carried by an overwhelming majority, only three persons voting against it. A vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding concluded the proceedings.

SALFORD LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At the first annual meeting of the St. Stephen's and St. Matthias's district branch of the Salford Liberal Association, after the passing of the first resolution, Mr. Robert Leake moved the adoption of the following resolution:—"That this meeting urges on all Liberal members of Parliament to support Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women, and desires to express its sympathy with Miss Becker in her able efforts to obtain a higher recognition of the social and political status of her sex." Mr. Jas. Gee seconded the resolution, which was adopted, and acknowledged by Miss Becker.

ACCRINGTON.

A lecture was delivered under the auspices of the Accrington Liberal Club, on the political disabilities of women, on March 21, by Miss Lydia Becker, in the Assembly Room of the Peel Institution, Accrington, W. Entwistle, Esq., in the chair. There was a large and attentive audience, numbering about 500 persons, and a resolution affirming the principle advocated in the lecture was carried with only one or two dissentients.

GUISBORO', YORKSHIRE.

A large meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Guisboro', Yorkshire, on February 19, Mr. Robert Wright in the chair, when a petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was adopted.

LEVEN, YORKSHIRE.

On the 7th March a crowded meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Leven, near Beverley, which was addressed by Miss Craigen, and a petition for the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was unanimously adopted.—Mr. William Lambert occupied the chair.

NORTH SHIELDS.

A well-attended meeting was held at North Shields, on March 19, Miss Mary Ann Hodgkins, town missionary, in the chair. The audience comprised workpeople, tradespeople, and seafaring men. The meeting was addressed by Miss Craigen, and petitions to both houses of Parliament in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill were adopted and signed on behalf of the meeting.

WINDY NOOK, DURHAM.

A meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Windy Nook, on March 19, Mr. John Oxbery in the chair, which was addressed by Miss Craigen. Petitions to both houses of Parliament in favour of the Bill were adopted.

Windy Nook is a small old place. The grindstone quarries have been worked since the time of the Danes. The people are of a singular sort—all quarrymen. The Mechanics' Institute, in which the lecture took place, was built by these men. They raised, by subscription among themselves, the money to buy the ground. The owners of the quarry gave the stone, but the men dug and hewed it themselves, and erected the building with their own hands after their day's work was over. They offered the free use of the Institute for the purpose of the address on Women's Suffrage, and showed great sympathy with the cause.

MONTROSE.

On February 22, Miss Tylour, late of Belmont, delivered a lecture, in the Guild Hall, to a large audience. The chair was occupied by Mr. Johnston, in the absence of Provost Barclay. Resolutions were passed in favour of removing electoral disabilities of women, and a petition was submitted to the meeting in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill.—*Stonehaven Journal*.

STONEHAVEN.

A meeting was held in the Council Hall, Stonehaven, on February 23, to listen to a lecture by Miss Tylour, late of Belmont—Mr. J. Craig Thomson in the chair. Long before the time fixed for the meeting the hall was quite filled by a most respectable audience. Miss Tylour delivered a most admirable lecture which occupied about an hour in the delivery, in the course of which she was frequently applauded. The chairman moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was heartily given. Councillor Greig then moved a resolution in favour of extending the suffrage to women possessing the requisite qualifications and petitioning Parliament on the subject, which was seconded by Dr. Thom in a humorous speech, who stated that although he did not belong to the same sex as the lecturer, he saw no objection to the resolution as a political principle. Miss Tylour proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was duly acknowledged, and the meeting separated.—*Stonehaven Journal*.

LAURENCEKIRK.

A meeting of the inhabitants of the town and district was held in the St. Laurence Hall, on February 26, to hear an address on the above subject by Miss Tylour, late of Belmont. Before the hour announced for the address, the area of the hall was completely filled by one of the most respectable audiences

ever seen here. Mr. Patrick Dickson, banker, occupied the chair, and in his introductory remarks explained the nature and extent of the present electoral franchise for counties and burghs, giving illustrations of what he considered the injustice of excluding owners or occupiers of property from voting, merely on the ground of sex. Mr. Dickson then introduced Miss Taylour to the meeting, and that lady gave an address which occupied about an hour in the delivery. Mr. Keppie, parochial teacher, in a neat speech, proposed a resolution approving heartily of the movement, and requesting the chairman to sign on behalf of the meeting petitions to both houses of Parliament in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, and to forward them for presentation. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Charles Paterson, and carried unanimously.—*Stonehaven Journal*.

ARBROATH.

A public meeting was held in the New Hall, Arbroath, on February 29, to hear a lecture on Women's Suffrage by Miss Taylour. The Rev. Mr. Sorley was, on the motion of Councillor Bremner, called to the chair, and there were about 300 persons present. After Miss Taylour had delivered her lecture, resolutions affirming the principles advocated, adopting a petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, and appointing a committee to prepare and forward petitions from the district, were moved and supported by Mr. James Crichton, Councillor Strachan, Councillor Irvine, and Mr. Thomas Strachan, and adopted, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman the meeting separated.—*Abridged from the Saturday Evening Guide, Arbroath*.

DOLLAR.

On March 8th, in the large hall of Dollar Institution, a lecture on Women's Suffrage was delivered by Miss TAYLOUR, of Belmont, Stranraer. There was a large and influential audience. John Duncanson, Esq., M.D., Alloa, was called to preside. After a few remarks in favour of the enfranchisement of women, he introduced Miss Taylour to the meeting. For about an hour Miss Taylour succeeded in obtaining a most appreciative and attentive hearing, and was frequently applauded in the course of her address.—At the close the Rev. W. BARRACK moved a resolution authorising the Chairman to sign a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, and appointing a Committee to prepare and forward petitions from Dollar and the neighbouring parishes.—The motion was seconded by Mr. BRADSHAW, and met with the entire approval of the meeting.—A hearty vote of thanks having been accorded to the lecturer and to the chairman, the meeting separated.—*Abridged from the Alloa Advertiser*.

DUNBAR.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—A meeting was held in the Corn Exchange on March 18, for the purpose of hearing an address on the Women's Suffrage question, by Miss Taylour, late of Belmont. By the hour of meeting the Exchange was crowded to the door. Provost Purves occupied the chair, and Miss Taylour was accompanied to the platform by Miss Agnes M'Laren, Edinburgh; Mr. Brodie, Battleblent; and Mr. Easton. The Provost, in introducing the lecturer, expressed his sympathy with the movement on which she had come to address them. At the close of the address, which was frequently and deservedly applauded, Mr. Easton proposed a motion to the effect that the meeting approve of Mr. Jacob Bright's bill for removing the electoral disabilities of women, and that a committee be formed for procuring petitions, and otherwise forwarding the movement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Notman, writer, and on being put to the meeting by the Provost, was carried by acclamation. Mr. Brodie, Battleblent, proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Taylour for the lecture.

GALASHIELS.

On March 20 a public meeting was held in the Burgh Buildings to hear a lecture from Miss Taylour, late of Belmont, on the object of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and to consider resolutions and petition to Parliament in favour of the "Electoral Disabilities Removal Bill" of Mr. Jacob Bright.

Bailie MUNRO, who presided, explained the object of the meeting. He expressed his sympathy with the object of the society, for when ownership or occupation qualified for the franchise he could not see why sex should exclude any, more especially when taxation was as heavy on female owners and occupiers as on males. Miss Taylour had unfortunately caught so severe a cold that she could not address the meeting, but Miss M'Laren was present and would read Miss Taylour's address.

Miss M'LAREN, honorary secretary of the Edinburgh branch of the society, then read a long argumentative, eloquent, and exhaustive address, which touched on a great many aspects of the general question of the enfranchisement of women.

Mr. JAMES WILSON, *Border Advertiser*, proposed the following resolution:—"That the ownership or occupation of lands and houses being the basis of representation in this country, it is unjust in principle to make sex a ground of disqualification; wherefore this meeting authorise the chairman to sign a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill 'To Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women,' and to forward the same to both Houses of Parliament along with memorials to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary—and further that this meeting appoint a committee to prepare and forward petitions from Galashiels and neighbouring parishes, the committee to consist of Bailie Munro, Councillors William Frater and Francis Lynn, Mr. John Bell, Mr. Alexander Yellowlees, Mr. James Wilson, Mr. Andrew Fairgrieve, Mr. John Fair, Mr. Thomas Clapperton, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. William Lees, Mr. Alexander Henderson, and Mr. Alexander Millar, with power to add to their numbers."

Mr. THOMAS CLAPPERTON seconded its adoption by the meeting. No amendment having been proposed, Bailie Munro declared the resolution unanimously agreed to. The Chairman then moved a vote of thanks to Miss M'Laren who had read, and Miss Taylour who had written, the full and interesting address to which they had just been listening. (Applause.)

Miss M'LAREN thanked the chairman and meeting, and expressed, on the part of Miss Taylour, that lady's regret at not having been able to speak.

The meeting then separated.—*Abridged from the Border Advertiser*.

Meetings have been also held during the month at INNERLEITHEN, NEWCASTLETON, SANQUHAR, KIRKCALDY, BURNT ISLAND, HAWICK, and PEEBLES, of which detailed accounts have not reached us.

PAISLEY.

On February 16th Professor Sheppard gave a lecture, which was a complete success, and the good effects of which have been felt by the Committee in their exertions on behalf of the petition, from the enthusiasm which it awakened. Many hesitators were convinced, and opponents converted to the cause.

STROMNESS, MARCH 13.—APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR OF POOR, &c.—Miss Margaret Corston was to-day unanimously appointed Inspector of Poor and Collector of Poor Rates, in room of her father, the late Mr. John Corston. This is the first case on record of a female holding the above offices in Scotland.—*Orkney Herald*.

VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF PERSONAL RIGHTS.

(COMMITTEE FOR AMENDING THE LAW IN POINTS WHEREIN IT IS INJURIOUS TO WOMEN.)

We desire to call the attention of our friends to a very important measure now before the House of Commons, entitled, "A Bill to Amend the Law relating to Illegitimate Children and for the Better Protection of Women," introduced by Mr. W. T. Charley, M.P.

The English Poor Law, under which alone the claims of illegitimate children upon their parents are recognised, provides—
Firstly, that, under no circumstances can the father be made to contribute more than half-a-crown weekly towards the maintenance of his illegitimate child, except during the first six weeks of its existence, in respect of which period a weekly payment of five shillings may be ordered.

Secondly, that unless an application for a summons against the father is made within twelve months of the birth of the child, or, if made later, the application can be substantiated by proof that within the first twelve months he has, by paying money towards its support, virtually acknowledged it to be his, he is absolved for ever from all legal responsibility for its life, well-being, and education.

Thirdly, that if by enlisting, emigrating, or otherwise absenting himself, the father can succeed in avoiding service of the summons before the time appointed for the hearing of the application, and twelve months have elapsed from the birth of the child, his responsibility for its support thereby lapses, and he cannot be compelled to recognise or assist it, unless, as before stated, he has contributed towards its support within the period of twelve months.

Fourthly, that, if through neglect, ignorance, or any other cause, the mother of an illegitimate child permits the weekly sum due by the putative father to fall in arrear, she cannot later recover more than the amount due for thirteen weeks, whatever the length of time during which the father has neglected to make the payment ordered by the justices.

Fifthly, that a father's liability to contribute two shillings and sixpence, or less, towards the maintenance of his illegitimate child ends with its thirteenth year, or at any earlier date, should the mother marry.

Sixthly, that for the further protection of the fathers of illegitimate children, the cost in the first instance, and also the trouble of obtaining the order, and afterwards of seeing that it is enforced, is thrown upon the mother; parish officers of every kind being forbidden, under a penalty of 40s., to interfere in any way, unless the child has become chargeable to the parish.

It is proposed by this bill to remedy the harshness and injustice of this law towards women and innocent children by providing:—

I. That the justices may make an order upon the father for what is "fair and reasonable under all the circumstances of the case."

II. That the absconding of the father of an illegitimate child shall be no bar to the procuring of an order for maintenance upon him after his return.

III. That the proviso shall be repealed which forbids the recovery by the mother of an illegitimate child of more than 13 weeks' arrears.

IV. That the period of the father's liability shall be extended to the child's sixteenth year, whether the mother marries or not.

V. That boards of guardians may recover from the putative father the cost of the maintenance and education of his child during the time that such child, while under sixteen, shall be in receipt of parish relief.

The bill further proposes to raise the age of protection for children from 12 to 14 years.

The amendment of the law proposed by this measure is so important an instalment of justice that we urge upon all our friends to give the bill their most hearty support, and to facilitate its progress through Parliament by petitioning in its favour, and by writing to their Parliamentary representatives, requesting them to be in their places on the 9th of April to support the second reading of the Bill.

The following form of petition is recommended by the committee.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SHREWETH,

That your petitioners believe that the existing law of bastardy is unjust to the mothers of illegitimate children and to the children themselves, and demoralising to their fathers, whom it encourages in evading their natural responsibilities.

They further believe that the present condition of the law is the cause of much mortality amongst infants, and also of direct infanticide, the mother being too poor adequately to nourish her child, and often, moreover, incapacitated by this charge from earning her own livelihood.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will pass the Bill entitled "A Bill to Amend the Law Relating to Illegitimate Children, and for the Better Protection of Women."

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Copies of the Bill itself, petition sheets, and other papers, will be supplied by the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Butler, 280, South Hill, Park Road, Liverpool; by Miss Cooke, Spring Vale, Egremont, Birkenhead.

VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF PERSONAL RIGHTS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE DECEMBER, 1871.

Mrs. Freeth.....	£0 3 6
"A Friend to the cause".....	5 0 0
"A Friend," per Miss Hervey.....	0 10 0
Mrs. Fuller.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Nichol.....	5 0 0
Mrs. Garnett.....	2 0 0
Mrs. Winkworth.....	2 0 0
Professor F. W. Newman.....	10 0 0
Mrs. Russell Carpenter.....	2 0 0
Mrs. James Walton.....	0 10 0
Miss H. M. Walton.....	0 10 0
Miss C. Garnett.....	0 10 0
Mrs. Yorke.....	0 2 6
Madame Venturi.....	1 0 0
Dr. Duncan M'Nab.....	1 0 0
Mrs. Bingham.....	1 0 0
Miss Hervey.....	0 5 0
Miss R. Hervey.....	0 5 0
A Friend, per Miss Hervey.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Mactaggart.....	0 2 6
Miss Lillias Craig.....	1 0 0
Miss Julia Leaf.....	0 10 0
Mr. S. Fothergill.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Claypole.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Weiss.....	2 0 0
Total.....	£36 8 6

LYDIA E. BECKER, Treasurer.

28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE DECEMBER, 1871.

Mrs. Haslam.....	£0 5 0
Mr. H. Nicol.....	1 1 0
Miss Louisa Nicol.....	0 10 0
Mr. R. Cox.....	1 0 0
Mr. M'Laren.....	1 1 0
Miss Ramsay.....	1 0 0
"A Friend".....	1 1 0
Total.....	£5 18 0

LYDIA E. BECKER, TREASURER.

28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

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Mr. Henry Fawcett. Mrs. Carpenter.
Mr. Cordy Burrows (Mayor). Miss E. Carpenter.
Dr. Acworth. Miss Garnett.
Mrs. Acworth. Mrs. Haycraft.
Mrs. Bowyer. Miss Hill.
Miss Bligh. Miss Hopkins.
Miss Boucherett. Rev. G. Lamotte.
Miss Barnard. Mr. F. Merrifield.
Miss Brown. Miss Slatter.
Dr. Buchanan. Mr. Wood.

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Miss Emily Davies.

Vice Presidents.

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Miss Drewry. Mrs. Orme.
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Frederick Hill, Esq. Dr. Storrar.

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Mrs. Charlton Baslian. Mrs. Macrae Moir.
Miss Otilie Blind. Miss Orme.
W. Boulting, Esq. Mrs. Palmore.
Miss Hamilton. Miss Reece.
M. Hartog, Esq. Miss Robertson.
Mrs. Jennings. Miss Whitehead.
J. N. Lockyer, Esq., F.R.S.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Mrs. Fox Bourne, 14, King Henry's Road, N.W.

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Councillor Brown. Councillor Strachan.
Mr. James Crighton. Mrs T. Strachan.
Mrs. Henderson.

Councillor Irvine, Convener.

DOLLAR.

Mrs. Ewart. Miss Murray.
Mrs. Herriot. Miss Eva Murray.
Mrs. Murray, of Dollarbeg.

Mrs. Paterson, 1, Charlotte Place, Hon. Sec.

KIRKCALDY.

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Mrs. Crawford. Mrs. Scott.
Mr. R. Douglas. Mrs. Speedie.
Miss Douglas.

Mr. McPherson, Gas Works, Hon. Sec.

LAURENCEKIRK.

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Mr. Charles Paterson. Mr. John Keppie.
Dr. Fettes, Chief Magistrate. Mrs. Mitchell.
Miss Robertson. Mrs. Webster.
Mrs. Ireland.

Mr. Patrick Dickson, Banker, Hon. Sec.

MONTROSE.

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Miss Kate Brand. Miss Sinclair.
Rev. H. Hyslop. Miss Stephen.
Mr. Lyall. Mr. Taylor.
Mrs. Johnstone.

Mr. Johnstone, Convener.

PERTH.

Miss M. Black. Councillor Mackay.
Miss Cree. Rev. Thomas Millar.
Baillie Jamieson. Mr. Andrew Scott.
Rev. W. D. Knowles. Mr. John Sprunt.
Miss Lindsay. Mrs. Wilkie.
Miss McVickar. Miss Wilson.

Rev. John Wallace, Hon. Sec.

INNERLEITHEN.

Rev. Mr. Dobson. Mr. Paterson.
Mrs. Dobson. Mrs. Paterson.
Mr. Euman.

Mr. Thomas Dobson, Hon. Sec.

NOTICE.

PETITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The second reading of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill is fixed for the 1st of May. The coming month is therefore the last which remains for the work of petitioning, with reference to influencing the second reading of the Bill. In order to have due weight, petitions should be presented not later than Friday, April 26, as they will then appear in the last printed report which will be issued before the day of the second reading, and the numbers will go to swell the score which will come under the eyes of members of Parliament. But those which cannot be got ready earlier should be sent in up to the day of the division. We exhort our friends, first to let every available signature be despatched by the post of Thursday, April 25, and then to collect as many more as possible, so as to keep up the petitions to the last.

We would impress upon all workers that neither public meetings, nor any other mode in which public sentiment can be expressed exerts so direct an influence on Parliamentary action as large numbers of signatures to petitions. Mere excitement may subside, mere opinion may veer round, mere approbation goes for very little in forwarding the cause. But a signature once affixed to a petition is an enduring influence in favour of a principle. The number of signatures is recorded year by year, and the record is accepted and appealed to as the most trustworthy index available for testing public opinion on any subject that engages the attention of Parliament. Up to the present year the number of signatures in our favour has been steadily increasing. This year, owing to the fact that the energy of the workers has been diverted to other modes of agitation, there is great danger that the numbers may show a decline. This danger can only be averted by the most resolute determination on the part of the friends of the cause to devote the coming month to the collection of great numbers of signatures to petitions, and we entreat every reader of this Journal, who has the cause at heart, to do his or her part in the work.

The following is the form recommended:—

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned SHEWETH,

That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of Members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass the Bill entitled "A Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Write out the above form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper, obtaining as many signatures as you can to follow. After the written heading is signed extra sheets of paper may be attached to hold more names. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age whether householders or otherwise.

Make up the petition as a book-post packet, write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the member who is to present it, at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free.

Write, and send along with the petition, a note (post paid) asking the member to present it, and to support its prayer. Any member may be asked to present a petition, but it is desirable to select one in whose constituency the petitioners reside. Members of Parliament deem it their duty to present any petition from their constituency, whether they agree with its object or not; and as a rule they are very willing to take charge of any that may be entrusted to their care.

N.B.—The printed forms issued by the Society are used only for collecting signatures. Printed petitions are not received by Parliament, consequently, in using these forms, the printed part must be cut off, and the names attached to a written and signed copy of the petition.

Written headings and printed forms for the collection of additional signatures will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester, and signatures collected on such forms should be returned to her on or before April 15, if possible. Signatures collected after that date may be sent up to the end of the month.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Thursday, Feb. 29.

PETITIONS.

Lord Clinton presented a petition from Lawrence Kirk, Kincardineshire: praying for the removal of electoral disabilities of women.

Monday, March 4.

Lord Airlie presented a petition from certain inhabitants of the burgh of St. Andrew's, praying that the right of voting for members of Parliament may be conferred on women.

March 14.

The Earl of Airlie presented a petition from Forfar, in favour of conferring upon women the right to vote for members of Parliament.

March 22.

The Earl of Airlie presented a petition from the Executive Committee of the Haddington Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, praying that the Parliamentary franchise may be conferred on women.

PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS RESPECTING THE BILL.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.—AGAINST.

Mar. 13 Dundee, Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of ... Mr. Armitstead Seal 1

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.—IN FAVOUR.

Table listing petitions in favour of the bill with dates, locations, names, and numbers of signatures. Includes entries for Manchester, Salford, Northallerton, Coniston, Oldham, Paisley, Falmouth, R. Macdonell, May M'Combie, Margaret Anderson, Euphemia Mowatt, Manchester (St. Luke's Ward), Inverary, Hampstead, Portpatrick, Longtown, Manchester (St. George's Ward), Keith, Salford (St. Matthias), Dumfries, Sanquhar, Dumfries, Penpont, Langholm, Mousewald, Corston, Saltford, Saint Andrew's, Glenluce, Manchester, Forfar, Laurencekirk, Manchester (St. Michael's Ward), Manchester (Cheetham Ward), Stonehaven, Loanhead, Dalkeith, Perth, Manchester (St. George's Ward), Manchester (St. Luke's Ward), Clifton, Coventry, Glasgow, Stoke Bishop, Clifton.

Mar. 11	Shirehampton, Inhabitants of...	Mr. K. Hodgson	135
" 11	¶ Torquay, Inhabitants of ...	Dr. Lush...	50
" 11	Holywood, Inhabitants of ...	Mr. M'Laren	85
" 12	§ Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Municipal Corporation of ...	Mr. Headlam	Seal 1
" 12	§ Hartlepool, Corporation of ...	Mr. Jackson	Seal
" 12	§ Huddersfield, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of under their Corporate Common Seal ...	Mr. Leatham	Seal
" 13	§ Malton, Meeting at; J. Craven, chairman ...	Mr. C. Fitzwilliam	1
" 13	§ Banbury, Meeting at; W. Banton, chairman ...	Mr. Samuelson	1
" 13	Newton SaintLoe, Inhabitants of	Sir William Tite	105
" 14	§ Burntisland, Meeting at; David Low, chairman ...	Mr. Aytoun	1
" 14	§ Wakefield, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of, in Council assembled ...	Mr. S. Beaumont	Seal
" 14	Kirkwall, Meeting at ...	Mr. Jacob Bright	69
" 14	E. C. Wolstenholme ...	Mr. Jacob Bright	1
" 14	Elizabeth Cobb... ..	Mr. Jacob Bright	1
" 14	¶ Leeds, Female Inhabitants of	Mr. Carter	48
" 14	Salford (St. Matthias and Trinity Wards) ...	Mr. Cawley	1,017
" 14	§ Salford, Corporation of ...	Mr. Cawley	Seal 1
" 14	§ Bootle-cum-Linacre, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of	Mr. Cross	Seal 2
" 14	§ Truro, Meeting at; W. H. Jenkins, chairman ...	Sir F. Williams	1
" 14	§ Helston, Meeting at; James Hy. Hoskin, chairman	Mr. A. Young...	1
" 15	¶ Merthyr, Inhabitants of ...	Mr. Fothergill...	133
" 15	§ Merthyr Tydfil, Meeting at; T. D. Matthias, chairman	Mr. Richard	1
" 15	§ Cardiff, Meeting at; John Coralas, chairman ..	Mr. Richard	1
" 15	Neath and Llanelly, Inhabitants of ...	Mr. Richard	20
" 15	§ Peterborough, Meeting at; B. Taylor, chairman...	Mr. Wells...	1
" 18	§ Dollar, Meeting at; J. Duncan-son, chairman ...	Mr. Adam...	1
" 18	Manchester (St. George's Ward)	Sir Thos. Bazley	1,084
" 18	§ Stirling, Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of ...	Mr. Campbell	Seal 1
" 18	§ Chipping Wycombe, Meeting at; T. Gilbert, chairman ...	Mr. Carington	1
" 18	§ Rochdale, Meeting at; W. T. Shawcross, Mayor, chair- man ...	Mr. Thos. Potter	1
" 18	§ Dewsbury, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of ...	Mr. Serj. Simon	Seal 2
" 19	§ North Shields, Meeting at; Mary Ann Hodgkin, president	Mr. W. Beaumont	1
" 19	§ Bristol, Meeting at (Women Bur- gesses of St. Paul's and St. James); Mary A. Estlin, president ...	Mr. K. Hodgson.	1
" 19	§ Liskeard, Meeting at; Richard S. Raby, Mayor...	Mr. Horsman	1
" 19	Finsbury, Inhabitants of ...	Mr. Lusk ...	1,012
" 19	§ Innerleithen, Meeting at; A. Lennie, chairman...	Sir G. Montgomery	1
" 19	§ Kirkwall, Meeting at...	Mr. Pender	Seal 1
" 19	§ Tewkesbury, Meeting at; T. Wil- kinson, chairman ...	Mr. W. E. Price	Seal 1
" 19	§ Edinburgh, Lord Provost, Magis- trates, and Council of...	Mr. M'Laren	Seal 1
Total number of Petitions 123—Signatures			29,246

The petitions marked ¶ have the addresses of some or all of the petitioners affixed.
The petitions marked § are signed officially.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING MARCH, 1872.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Browne	3	0	0
Mr. Bramley	0	1	0
Mrs. Bramley	0	1	0
Mrs. Bingham.....	0	10	0
Mrs. Brankston	0	10	6
Mrs. Fitzgerald Butler.....	0	10	6
Mr. W. F. Cowell Stepney.....	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Dale	3	3	0
Mr. William Evans	1	1	0
Mr. Frank Evans	1	1	0
"A Friend," per Miss Jolly	0	10	0
Mrs. Thomas Griffith	0	2	6
Mrs. Gwynne	1	2	0
Miss Anna Jesper	0	1	0
Mr. P. T. Lascaridi	0	5	0
Mrs. M'ulloch	1	0	0
Mrs. M. Kinnell.....	1	0	0
Miss S. A. Pung	0	10	0
Mrs. Agnes Simmons	0	5	0
Mr. H. B. Samuelson, M.P.	5	5	0
Mr. Charles Wilson	0	10	0
Mrs. C. Weiss.....	1	0	0

£22 9 6

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 9, Berners Street, London, W. A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in ST. GEORGE'S HALL, on Monday Evening, April 29th, in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. Admission free.

On the next day, Tuesday, at Eleven a.m., a CONFERENCE will be held, which will be attended by Delegates from all the Provincial Committees. Admission by ticket, to be obtained of the Hon. Secs., 9, Berners Street, or of the Secretary of any local Committee. Further particulars will appear in the leading London papers.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—WOMEN'S DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.—A public meeting in support of the above measure will be held at the Mechanics' Institution, Newcastle, on Thursday, April the 4th. The meeting will be addressed by Miss Isabella Stuart, of Balgonie, Miss Lydia Becker, of Manchester, and others. For further particulars, see local advertisements.

SUNDERLAND.—A public meeting in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women will be held on April 3, in the Victoria Hall, Sunderland. Miss Isabella Stuart, of Balgonie, Miss Lydia Becker, of Manchester, and others will address the meeting. Further particulars in local advertisements.

THE ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES, 34, Davies-street, Berkeley Square, London, W., provides monthly, medical, surgical, fever, and small pox Nurses; Mental Attendants, male and female, who can be engaged at any hour on application, either personal, per letter, or telegram, to Miss HODGES, Superintendent. N.B.—Some of the Nurses are total abstainers.

Communications for the Editor and orders for the Journal may be addressed to 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester. Price post free for one year, One Shilling and Sixpence.

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