

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XV.—No. 171. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
Yearly Subscription, Post Free, 1s. 6d.

MARCH 1, 1884.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
By Post THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

Leading Articles:—The New Parliamentary Leader; Opinions of Members For and Against; The Canadian Franchise Bill; Meetings during February; Liberal Associations; The Guardianship of Infants Bill; The Conjugal Rights Bill; The Breach of Promise Bill; The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill; Need of Representation for Women in Social Questions; Mr. Trevelyan's Speech at Hawick; Mr. Bright's Speech at Birmingham; Strike at Kidderminster; Queen Margaret of Scotland. Conference in the House of Commons. Parliamentary Intelligence.

Election Intelligence.—Paisley, West Norfolk. Members of Parliament on the Franchise for Women. Letters from Members of Parliament. Liberal Associations:—Halifax, Keighley, Hull, City of Ripon, Pickering, Bury (Lanc.), Prestwich, Smallbridge, Dearnley and Featherstall, Leigh, Chorley, Blackpool, Chesterfield, Stafford, Fenton, Bridgewater. Ireland: Belfast, Newry. North of Ireland Society for Women's Suffrage. Public Meetings:—Bristol and West of England Society, Bradford, Bramley, Clay Cross, Ashton, Hertford, Newbury, Aylesbury, Bromley.

Debating Societies:—St. George's and Marylebone, Chesham and Waltham, Liberal Social Union (London), Shrewsbury, Cardiff, St. Mary Hall (Oxford), Nottingham, Driffield, Cross Bank (Batley), Scotland: St. Luke's (Edinburgh), Ladies' Debating Society (Edinburgh). Wales: Aberystwyth. Women's Suffrage in Canada. Electoral Qualifications in the Three Kingdoms. Opinions of the Press. Petitions. Treasurers' Reports:—Manchester; Central Committee; Bristol and West of England.

It is always safe
to use
**Reckitt's
Blue.**

NOTICE.—To the Nobility, Clergy, Gentry, and all whom it may concern in the United Kingdom. By sending Eightpence in stamps you will receive a bottle of
OGDEN'S UNSURPASSED REAL OLD ENGLISH FURNITURE CREAM,
by which you can produce a brilliancy on all kinds of Furniture, unrivalled by none.
J. E. OGDEN,
65, Tennyson Place, Bradford, Yorkshire.

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

CONTENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1884.

1. The Census of 1881 and Occupations of Women.
2. Wendell Phillips.
3. The Law of Conjugal Rights.

Registered Medical Practitioners and List of Appointments, Institutions, for Women, &c. Reviews.

Record of Events.—Cambridge—Ulster Schoolmistresses' Association—Women's Suffrage—Parliamentary Conference—National Reform Union, Manchester, Plymouth, Scotland, Antrim, Meetings—Opinions of Members of Parliament—Poor Law Managers, Edinburgh—Ladies on Electoral Boards—Plymouth Women's Liberal Association—Custody of Children—Housing of the Poor—Female School of Art—School Board Election, Yarmouth.

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

THE NEW VOLUME.
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XIV. January to December, 1883. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London: Trübner and Co.; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by at once collecting signatures for petitions, to be presented in support of the motion for women's suffrage, which is expected to come on for discussion during the debates on the Government Franchise Bill. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

BRISTOL.—A Public Meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, in the Vestry Hall, Pennywell Road, Bristol, in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women householders and ratepayers. Mrs. Ashton Dilke; the Revs. A. N. Blatchford, B.A., J. H. Burkitt, and H. R. Wilkinson; Miss Emily Sturge, Mrs. Beddoe, Mrs. Manning Prentice; Messrs. G. F. Jones, Bevan, Oaten, Pembury, Williams, and other friends have promised to be present. The chair will be taken at 8 p.m. by Mr. J. D. MARSHALL. Admission free.

Preliminary Notice.

EDINBURGH.—A Demonstration of women will be held in the United Presbyterian Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, on the evening of Saturday, the 22nd of March. The chair will be taken at half-past seven by the Viscountess HARBERTON. Further particulars in local announcements.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. By VERAX. Reprinted by permission from the *Manchester Weekly Times*. Price One Penny. May be had from the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

WHAT IS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AND WHY DO WOMEN WANT IT? By VERITAS. Price One Penny. To be had of the Secretary, 29, Parliament-street, London; 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND THE FRANCHISE BILL. By Mrs. FAWCETT. Reprinted by permission from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and revised by the author. Price One Penny. To be had of the Secretary, 29, Parliament-street; 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

**TOWLE'S
CHLORODYNE**

Invaluable for Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Diarrhoea, Consumption, Spasms, &c. One Dose speedily relieves. TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE LOZENGES and JUBBES. 6d. and 1s. per box. A. P. TOWLE, Chemist, 75, Back Piccadilly, Manchester, and of Chemists.—Post free, 13d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d.

LONGTON.—On Monday, March 3, 1884, in the Town Hall, at 8 p.m., a Meeting to consider the question of Women's Suffrage and the new Reform Bill. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd and Mrs. Eva M'Laren will attend as a deputation from the National Society. The MAYOR (Ald. Wardhaugh) will preside, and several local gentlemen have promised to attend.

TUNSTALL.—On Tuesday, March 4, in the Lecture Hall, at 8 p.m., a Meeting to consider the question of Women's Suffrage and the new Reform Bill. Mrs. Eva M'Laren and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd will attend as a deputation from the National Society. GEORGE CUMBERLIDGE, Esq. (Chief Bailiff), will preside, and several local gentlemen have promised to attend.

BURSLEM.—On Wednesday, March 5, in the Town Hall, at 8 p.m., a Meeting to consider the question of Women's Suffrage and the new Reform Bill. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Miss C. A. Biggs, and Miss Florence Baggallie will attend as a deputation from the National Society. The MAYOR (G. B. Ford, Esq.) will preside, and several local gentlemen have promised to attend.

HANLEY.—On Thursday, March 6, in the Mechanics' Institute, at 8 p.m. A Meeting to consider the question of Women's Suffrage and the new Reform Bill. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Miss C. A. Biggs, and Miss Florence Baggallie will attend as a deputation from the National Society. The MAYOR (Mr. H. Ringland, Esq.) will preside, and several local gentlemen have promised to attend.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—On Friday, March 7, in the Town Hall, at 8 p.m. A Meeting to consider the question of Women's Suffrage and the new Reform Bill. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Miss C. A. Biggs, and Miss Florence Baggallie will attend as a deputation from the National Society. The MAYOR (Alderman Keary) will preside, and several local gentlemen are expected to be present.

THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACTS.

With an Introduction and Notes on the Act of 1882. By H. N. Mozley, M.A.—BUTTERWORTH, 7, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 29, Parliament-street, Westminster, London, S.W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Daily Votes and Proceedings.)

- Feb. 7. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of CHELSEA, DARLINGTON, CLAY CROSS, and ST. ALBANS; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
8. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meetings at UPPER NORWOOD, BRAMLEY, and CROYDON; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
11. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meetings at RYE, ST. LEONARD'S-ON-SEA, and HASTINGS; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
14. Franchise, Petition for the extension of, to women, of Meeting at LEWES; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
21. Franchise, Petition for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of HERTFORD; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
25. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meetings at REIGATE and AXLESBURY; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—For Extension to Women.

FIRST REPORT, 6—12 February, 1884.

- Feb.
*11 6 LEEDS, Attendants at a Meeting of Ladies held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Wilkinson, 197, Belle Vue Road, M. T. Wilkinson, president (Mr. Barran) 1
*12 ,, CHELSEA, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled at the Progressive Club, Johnson-street, Notting Hill, J. D. Nicholls, chairman (Sir Charles Dilke) [APP. 4] 1
*13 ,, LEEDS, Female Inhabitants of, in meeting assembled, A. Scatterd (Mr. Herbert Gladstone) 1
*14 ,, BODMIN, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, E. H. Almo, Lieutenant-Colonel, chairman (Mr. Leveson Gower) 1
*15 ,, NOTTINGHAM, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, J. Manning, mayor (Mr. Charles Seely) ... 1
*16 7 GREENWICH, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, John Bell, M.A., chairman (Mr. Boord) 1
*17 ,, DARLINGTON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, John G. Blumer, chairman (Mr. Theodore Fry) 1
*18 ,, YEADON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, Sarah Ann Kenion, president (Sir Andrew Fairbairn) 1
*19 ,, BRAMLEY, Leeds, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, M. G. Coker, chairman (Mr. Herbert Gladstone) 1
*20 ,, BROMLEY and other places, Inhabitants of (Viscount Lewisham) 80
*21 ,, BECKENHAM, Inhabitants of (Viscount Lewisham) ... 74
*22 ,, WEST KENT, Inhabitants of (Viscount Lewisham) ... 6
*23 ,, TEWKESBURY, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, John Henry Boughton, chairman (Mr. Richard Martin) 1
*24 ,, WEST KENT, Inhabitants of (Sir Charles Mills) ... 16
*25 ,, EMMA M. BROWNING HALL and others (Sir Charles Mills) 10
*26 ,, BROMLEY, Attendants at a meeting held at the Town Hall, in the county of Kent, Walter H. Bosanquet, chairman (Sir Charles Mills) 1
*27 ,, HUSWORTH and other places, Inhabitants of (Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease) 21
*28 ,, ANNE LOMAS and others (Mr. Pennington) 38
*29 ,, UPPER NORWOOD, Attendants at a drawing-room meeting of ladies held at 10, Percy Villas, Margaret J. Pillans, president (Mr. Watney) 1
*30 ,, JOHN HAMILTON, D.L., J.P., and others 15
*31 8 WILLIAM WILLIAMS, M.A., and others (Mr. David Davies) 70
*32 ,, CROYDON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, V. Balfour, chairman (Mr. Grantham) 1
*33 ,, W. SIMONS and others (Mr. Richard) 6
*34 11 BOURNEMOUTH, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, B. J. Sullivan, Admiral, chairman (Mr. Davey) 1
*35 ,, MARSKE BY THE SEA, Inhabitants of (Mr. Dawnay) ... 384
*36 ,, DULWICH High School for Girls, Head Mistress and Assistant Mistresses of the (Mr. Grantham) 21

- Feb.
*37 11 HACKNEY, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, James R. R. Elliot, chairman (Mr. John Holms) ... 1
*38 ,, B. C. CONSTABLE and others (Sir John Kennaway) ... 23
*39 ,, Colonel F. W. BRINE and others (Colonel Walrond) ... 112
*40 12 TOWER HAMLETS, Inhabitants of the, in public meeting assembled, James Branch, chairman (Mr. Bryce) ... 1
*41 ,, BUDLEIGH SALTERTON, Members of the Congregation of the Baptist Church (Sir John Kennaway) 24

Total number of Petitions 31—Signatures 916

SECOND REPORT, 13—19 February, 1884.

- Brought forward, Petitions 31—Signatures 916
Feb.
*692 13 SAINT IVES, Inhabitants of (Mr. Chas. Campbell Ross) 21
*693 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 18
*694 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 18
*695 ,, ,, ,, in meeting assembled, W. Cragge, chairman (Mr. Charles Campbell Ross) ... 1
696 14 CHELSEA, Inhabitants of (Sir Charles Dilke) 72
*697 ,, HARWICH and DOVERCOURT, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, L. A. Cottingham, chairman ... 1
*698 15 IPSWICH, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, E. Grimwade, chairman (Mr. Jesse Collings) 1
*699 18 SARAH ANN STABBINS and others (Lord Brooke) 4
*700 ,, LEWES, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, Walter F. Crosskey, M.D., mayor (Mr. William Ewart Gladstone) 1
*701 ,, RYE, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, A. M. Brookfield, chairman (Mr. Inderwick) 1
*702 19 BURY SAINT EDMUND'S, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled, J. H. Salmon, chairman (Mr. Hardcastle) 1

Total number of Petitions 42—Signatures 1,055

The Petitions marked thus (*) are substantially similar to that from Chelsea. [APP. 4].
The Petitions marked thus (C) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

Write out the form on a good sized sheet of paper.
To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned
SHEWETH,
That in the judgment of your petitioners the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.
The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.
Petitions may also be sent to the House of Lords. The following form may be used:—

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned
SHEWETH,
That in the judgment of your petitioners the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Lordships will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The petition should be written without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and signatures must be on the same piece of paper. If more room is required more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XV.—No. 171. PUBLISHED MONTHLY. MARCH 1, 1884. PRICE ONE PENNY. BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

WE have the satisfaction of announcing that Mr. WOODALL, M.P. for Stoke-on-Trent, has consented to take charge of the women's suffrage question in the House of Commons. At a conference of friendly members, held in the House of Commons on February 7th, it was agreed that should the Government Franchise Bill not extend to women, an amendment with the object of including women should be moved at some stage of the discussion on the measure in the House of Commons. Mr. WOODALL was requested to take charge of the amendment and agreed to do so.

THE number of members now in Parliament whose opinions are known on the subject of the enfranchisement of women is 485. Of these there are—

Table with 2 columns: Opinion, Number. In favour ... 249, Against ... 236, Majority in favour ... 13.

All members who have voted or paired, or declared by speech or writing, that they would support a measure of women's suffrage in any form, are counted as favourable, and may be expected to support any proposition that may be made to extend the Parliamentary franchise to the women who have now the right of voting in all matters of local government.

There is therefore every inducement to use the most strenuous efforts in order to secure that when the measure for the extension of household suffrage passes the House of Commons it shall be—to use the words of Mr. JACOB BRIGHT in his speech last session in support of Mr. MASON'S Resolution—a measure of "real household suffrage," under which "those houses where women are at the head shall not be passed over as if there were no human beings there with rights to defend or interests to protect."

Of the members in favour, so far as at present known, there are: Liberals, 170; Conservatives, 57; Home Rulers, 22; total, 249. Of those adverse there are:

Liberals, 101; Conservatives, 127; Home Rulers, 8; total, 236.

The number of members who have not expressed themselves one way or the other is 155, of these 57 are new members—that is, members who have been first returned to the House of Commons since the division on Mr. COURTNEY'S Resolution in 1879.

We earnestly urge on our friends the extreme importance of endeavouring by petitions, letters, and other manifestations of opinion, to impress on their Parliamentary representatives the justice and the strength of the claim for the franchise to women, and the pressing urgency of the question now that the subject of the extension of the suffrage is about to engage the attention of the Legislature.

WE have great pleasure in recording the reintroduction, by Sir JOHN MACDONALD, Prime Minister of Canada, in the House of Commons, Ottawa, of the Government Franchise Bill, which was brought forward last year. This Bill includes the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who are owners or occupiers of property giving the qualification for the suffrage. Married women whose husbands are living are amongst the list of persons declared to be disqualified from voting.

The Bill was introduced last session too late to pass into law. It has now been brought forward again. It is to be hoped that Sir JOHN MACDONALD may be successful in passing it into law this year; but whatever may be the fate of the measure, the mere fact that the responsible Government of the oldest and largest portion of Her MAJESTY'S Colonial possessions has sanctioned the principle of the suffrage for women by asking the assent of the Legislature to a practical measure of enfranchisement, is a significant sign of the times, and a sure prognostication of the accomplishment of the end at no distant date.

MEETINGS have been held during February at Bradford, addressed by Miss MULLER, Mrs. EVA M'LAREN, and

Mrs. SCATCHERD. Mrs. SCATCHERD has also spoken at a miners' meeting at Clay Cross along with Miss J. E. COBDEN, at Bramley with Miss CARBUTT, and at two meetings at Ashton-under-Lyne. A meeting has been held at Hertford, under the presidency of Baron DIMSDALE, who, when he was in Parliament, voted for women's suffrage, and who is a Conservative candidate for the next election. Mrs. ASHTON DILKE and Miss C. A. BIGGS were the lady speakers. Meetings were held at Newbury, under the presidency of the Mayor, addressed by Miss CAROLINE BIGGS, Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT, and Miss FLORENCE STACPOOLE. The same ladies also spoke at a meeting at Aylesbury. Mrs. LUCAS, Mrs. CHANT, and Mrs. LEACH addressed a meeting at Great Yarmouth. The annual meeting of the Bristol Branch of the society was held on the 26th, when Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, Miss EMILY STURGE, Dr. BEDDOE, and others took part in the proceedings.

RESOLUTIONS in favour of the extension of the franchise to women who possess the local franchise have been adopted during February by the Halifax Liberal Association, Keighley Liberal Association, Hull Liberal Association, City of Ripon Liberal Association, Pickering Liberal Association, Chesterfield Working Men's Liberal Association, Bury (Lancashire) Liberal Association, Prestwich Liberal Club, Leigh Liberal Club, Chorley Reform Club, Blackpool Liberal Club, Dearnley and Featherstall Liberal Association, Smallbridge Liberal Association, Stafford Liberal Hundred, Fenton Liberal Association, Bridgewater Liberal Association, and in Ireland by the Belfast Liberal Association and the Newry Conservative Association.

A BILL has been introduced to amend the law relating to the guardianship and custody of infants by Mr. BRYCE, Mr. DAVEY, Mr. ANDERSON, and Mr. STAVELEY HILL. The Bill provides that the parents of any infant shall during the continuance of the marriage be its joint guardians. On the death of either of the parents the survivor shall be its guardian. Where any question shall arise as to the custody of an infant whose parents are living separately from one another, or as to the religion in which a child shall be brought up, the Court shall have the power to make such order as it may think fit. There are other provisions relating to the appointment of guardians after the death of the parents, but those we have enumerated are the main provisions of the Bill.

Should the Bill become law, it will effect a substantial

improvement in the legal position of mothers, and its course will be followed with anxious interest by all who desire the amendment of this department of civil law, and the consequent abolition of the cruel wrongs and sufferings caused by the present barbarous code.

THE state of the English law with regard to the enforcement of conjugal rights by means of a writ of attachment against the person, and consequent imprisonment of the recalcitrant spouse, has long been felt to be oppressive. We can recall one or more cases in which husbands have by this means sought to compel their wives to return to them, and of wives who, in order to avoid imprisonment for refusal, have been forced to hide, or fly their country. On such occasions the judges have been known to animadvert strongly on the provisions of the law they were compelled to administer; but usually the matter has hitherto ended with this protest. The victims in these cases were only women.

But in a recent case the hardship of the law has touched a man, and—hey, presto!—the LORD CHANCELLOR on the first day of the next session of Parliament introduces a Government measure for the alteration of the law.

The case which has given occasion for the introduction of what may, perhaps, not inaptly be described as the WELDON Relief Bill, is briefly as follows: Mrs. WELDON, a lady possessing a considerable fortune in her own right, lived unhappily with her husband. He separated himself from her. The lady had not given her husband any grounds on which a legal separation could be granted. She appealed to the Courts for a restitution of conjugal rights, and the judgment was given in her favour. Whereupon Mr. WELDON took a furnished house, provided his servants and an allowance of £500 a year for his wife, but declined to comply with the order of the Probate and Divorce Court directing him to reinstate her in his own home. This arrangement did not satisfy Mrs. WELDON, who thereupon applied for, and obtained, a writ of attachment against her husband to force him to comply with the order of the Court. Unless that order should be reversed by the Court of Appeal Mr. WELDON will be liable to imprisonment for an indefinite period, until he submits to the Court and takes back his wife to his house.

Sir JAMES HANNEN, in announcing his decision granting the writ to the petition of Mrs. WELDON, gave utterance to an expression of regret that the law of England was not similar to the law of Scotland, which does not require

that a husband should take his wife to live under the same roof with him if he provides proper alimony for her. The English law does, however, compel a man to live with his wife in the literal sense of the word, and, accordingly, Sir JAMES HANNEN had no alternative but to issue the attachment asked for by Mrs. WELDON, although he has on more than one occasion expressed a strong opinion against the law on this point.

UPON this hint, the LORD CHANCELLOR appears to have acted. The Bill he has introduced in the House of Lords provides that a decree for the restitution of conjugal rights shall not be enforced by attachment, but where the application is by the wife the Court may, in the event of the decree not being complied with, order that the respondent shall make to the petitioner such periodical payments as may be just.

Where the application is made by the husband, and if the wife is entitled to any property, or is in receipt of any profits of trade or *earnings*, the Court may order a settlement of such property, or any part of it, for the *benefit of the petitioner* or the children of the marriage, and may order such part as the Court may think reasonable to be periodically paid by the respondent to the petitioner, for *his own benefit* and for the benefit of the children.

If the respondent shall fail to comply with the order of the Court such respondent shall be deemed guilty of desertion, and a suit for a judicial separation may be forthwith instituted.

THIS Bill makes a grave change in the legal sanction of the marriage contract, and its provisions need to be very carefully watched. Without touching on the essential principle of the measure, we may observe that the conditions required from the respondent are not the same for husbands and wives, and that the inequality seems to be greatly against the woman. We fail to see on what principle of justice a wife, separated from her husband, can be compelled to support him out of her property, and still less out of her earnings. Men call themselves the "breadwinners," and, if able-bodied, should be able to support themselves, without depending in any degree on the industry of the unfortunate wives who, from any cause whatever, find they cannot live with their husbands.

As to the power of compelling mothers to pay for the maintenance of their husbands' children, that is simply monstrous in the present state of the law. So long as the law denies to mothers parental rights, and vests the custody

and control of the children of a marriage solely in the father, to the total exclusion of the mother, so long should the legal responsibility for the maintenance of the children rest solely on the father to the total exemption of the mother.

PROBABLY the shortest Bill introduced this session is one for the abolition of the action for breach of promise of marriage introduced by Col. MAKINS. Its single clause reads, "From and after the passing of this Act no person shall be entitled to maintain an action in respect of a breach of promise to marry. Provided always that this shall not apply to any action commenced before the passing of this Act."

Notice of opposition to the Bill, the second reading of which is fixed for April 9th, has been given by Sir HARDINGE GIFFARD.

The Bill if passed would deprive women of such protection as the law can give against a very cruel wrong. It is too common for men to pursue a girl with attention, engage her affections, induce her, under promise of marriage, to leave some occupation whereby she was earning a livelihood, and having obtained all they wanted to cast her off with blighted affections and ruined prospects in life. At present men who pursue this course are liable to a penalty for the injury caused by their breach of contract, but should the Bill pass it will be tantamount to a declaration by Legislature that henceforth the most solemn contract that a man can enter into with a woman may be broken with impunity, and for the injury caused to her by such a violation of faith she is entitled to no compensation whatever.

THE familiar figure of the "Deceased Wife's Sister" again appears on the notices of Parliament. This is one of the subjects on which it appears pre-eminently unjust for the Legislature to take action while women are denied representation. This injustice is intensified by the anomalous and one-sided character of the measure. The men who ask for liberty for widowers to marry their deceased wife's sister strenuously resist the notion of allowing a widow to marry her deceased husband's brother. It has even been asserted that the persons responsible for the introduction of the measure would abandon it if it were made equal as between husbands and wives, or widowers and widows.

THE consideration that Parliament is to be engaged with

proposals to alter the law in matters so closely and vitally affecting the interests, the feelings, and the *status* of women, as do the four Bills just described, is a most potent and irrefragable argument in favour of the admission of women to representation in Parliament. Members in approaching the discussion of subjects affecting the welfare of their constituents naturally desire to learn the opinions and wishes of those who send them to Parliament. The attitude of members' minds towards these several questions would be sensibly affected if, instead of having to ask themselves, as at present, "Will the men of my constituency think this measure satisfactory to women?" they had to ask themselves, "Will the women among my constituents think this measure satisfactory to women themselves?" Therefore, we say, the appearance of these and similar Bills in the legislative programme of the session is an urgent and pressing argument for the immediate enfranchisement of women, for it is not just to legislate on matters affecting them while they are excluded from representation.

MR. TREVELYAN, in a recent speech to his constituents at Hawick, said, in reference to the apportionment of members to population, that formerly "in allotting the amount of members of Congress to Georgia, to Virginia, and to South Carolina, count was taken of the number of the negroes; but when these members had been allotted the white men, and the white men only, were allowed to vote."

This mode of reckoning is adopted in all the schemes of redistribution that are proposed in this country. Count is taken of the number of both women and men in estimating the population to be represented by the members, but, to apply Mr. TREVELYAN'S phraseology, substituting "women" for "negroes," "when an election came the women had the pleasure of seeing the members who had been told off to represent themselves voted for by the"—men.

The American arrangement used to be defended on the ground that the interests of the slaves and their owners were identical, and an exactly similar plea is used to defend the arrangement by which men exclude women from voting in the election of the members told off to represent them. But common sense and common justice have proved too strong for the maintenance of the one anomaly, and they must in the end prevail for the overthrow of the other.

MR. BRIGHT, in his speech at Birmingham in the month of

January last, quoted some passages defending negro slavery, from newspapers published in the Southern States during the war, which afford a curious parallel to some of the arguments used by some of our opponents in defending the political subjection of women. Says Mr. BRIGHT:—"This is what the *Richmond Examiner* says: 'The experiment of universal liberty has failed. The evils of free society are insufferable. Free society in the long run is impracticable; it is everywhere a starving, demoralising, and insurrectionary policy; and humanity alike forbid the extension of these evils to new people and to coming generations, and, therefore, free society must fall and give way to a slave society, a social system old as the world and universal as man.' That is one paragraph."

We are told that the political subjection of women has existed from time immemorial. Whether this be true or not it is certain that slavery as a social institution has existed from time immemorial, and that it was maintained in the British empire within the lifetime of the present generation. Immemorial usage cannot consecrate injustice, and the generation which has witnessed the abolition of one wrong, old as the everlasting hills, is destined to witness the greatest emancipation the world has yet seen—the removal of the brand of political incapacity from half the human race.

"IN another paragraph," says Mr. BRIGHT, "the same writer says:—'The free system in Europe is a rotten system. Let us get rid of that, and make labourers as much capital and as much the property of the capitalist and employer as the capitalist's cattle and horses are property, and then the whole system will move with that perfect ease and harmony which the world admires so much in the Southern States of America.' Then there was Mr. COBB, who was a prominent man in that region, and a prominent speaker in the agitation which prompted and sustained the war. Mr. COBB says: 'There is, perhaps, no solution of that great problem of reconciling the interests of labour and capital, so as to protect each from the encroachments and oppressions of the other, so simple and effective as negro slavery. By making the labourer himself capital the conflict ceases and the interests become identical.'"

This is analogous to the short and simple method by which some politicians propose to harmonise the interests of men and women. They use arguments which are equivalent to the assertion that there is no solution of that great problem of reconciling the interests of men and

women so simple and effective as the political subjection of women. By making the woman herself the subject of the man the conflict ceases and their interests become identical.

THE question whether the interests of the working classes of women are safe in the keeping of men receives some light by the consideration of a controversy now going on at Kidderminster.

Messrs. DIXON and Sons have introduced a new manufacture of velvets for the upholstering trade, and they have found it to their advantage to employ women in weaving these fabrics. No sooner was this known than the men weavers combined to drive the women out of work. The Secretary of the Trades Union Committee was instructed to ask Messrs. DIXON whether women were working at looms formerly occupied by men, and, if so, what was their reason for employing women when there were men walking about without work. The reply to this was that women were being employed on looms. These looms were, however, considerably altered, and were now engaged on a new industry entirely unconnected with the Weavers' Association.

At a meeting of the committee of the Weavers' Association, a report was given by Mr. ROWE of a deputation of the men weavers to Mr. DIXON. Mr. DIXON stated, in reply to the deputation, that they could only go into the market if they employed girls, and they could not do so if they employed men. He had no desire to cause a rupture in the trade, but he could not pay men wages which would enable him to go into the market with his material; and if the society said he should not retain women at the looms, he should give up the manufacture. The President said they wanted Mr. DIXON to say that men should go on at the same prices as the girls. Mr. Dixon replied that men could not do this particular work so well, and that the girls kept the looms more clean and tidy. Mr. DIXON had allowed him to see the looms, but it did not alter his opinion that it was man's work and that men should be at work on the looms.

Mr. POMFRET gave an account of the inquiries made at Rochdale and other towns. At Messrs. BRIGHT'S mill there were over one hundred men weaving plush there; men were also weaving tapestry there, and women were weaving tapestry with men. Men were weaving plush at Halifax. They came to the conclusion that men might also be employed to weave plush at Kidderminster.

Mr. UNDERWOOD thought they were now in a position

to approach Mr. DIXON, and tell him candidly that they had ascertained that a similar material was being woven by men. He moved that the committees be requested to ask for another interview with Mr. DIXON, and to state to him the result of their inquiries. If women were introduced on the looms it might soon go a little farther.

Subsequently, at a mass meeting of weavers, held at Kidderminster on February 23rd, it was resolved to strike if the women were not dismissed from the looms.

WHILE working men were deprived of votes it was a legal offence to form combination societies to improve their industrial position. Working men obtained the suffrage, and the laws against trades unions were at once repealed. We have now the spectacle of these societies, which working men obtained through the power of the vote, used to crush and destroy the industrial position of working women, who are denied that right to vote. The remedy, surely, is to grant to working women the same means of protecting their interests as is given to working men—the right to exercise the Parliamentary suffrage.

THE Government acceded to the motion of Lord SALISBURY for a Commission of Inquiry into the dwellings of the poor. "A Taxpayer," in a recent letter to the *Times*, comments strongly on the absence from the list of the name of Miss OCTAVIA HILL. Long before any Government had thought of introducing an Artisans' Dwellings Bill, Miss HILL was patiently striving to solve the problem whether the conditions of life could be made permanently tolerable for the really poor. In 1864, Miss HILL bought her first block of London houses, and from that day to this the sphere of her operations has been constantly enlarging. The difficulty which has been declared to be insuperable by local authorities—that of providing wholesome accommodation at a rent which will pay an ordinary percentage on the capital invested—has been no difficulty to Miss HILL. All her property pays 5 per cent, and there is usually a surplus for improvements. Lord SALISBURY himself has drawn special attention to the extraordinary success of Miss HILL'S work, and the contrast it afforded to the species of deadlock which had been reached in the case of more ambitious efforts. "To appoint a Commission which is expected to go to the roots of the disease, and to omit from this court of investigation the one person who has made the subject the study of a life, and stands alone in the success which has attended her treatment," says "A

Taxpayer," "would indeed be to act 'Hamlet' without the title part."

Yet this is what has been arranged, and so far as it appears the sole reason why the Government has rejected the co-operation of the one person who knows most about the subject of inquiry is—because she is a woman.

QUEEN MARGARET'S College, Glasgow, has received the gift of Hillhead Park House to be used as a college for women, by the munificence of Mrs. JOHN ELDER. Well may the memory of the noble Queen, whose rare powers shine out as a softening influence on the rude times of the eleventh century, who was revered by the Church as a saint for her piety, now rise before Scottish women as the encourager of learning. Of her it is related—by her biographer, THEODORIC, Monk of Dunelm, who loved her with enthusiastic devotion—how she loved reading, and delighted to gather the most learned men around her and hold discussions with them on the most subtle questions, in which her intellect was so profound, her speech so clear, that oftentimes they left her wiser than they came. The King MALCOLM, her husband, though he could not read, "would often take her books in his hands and gaze on them, and if he heard her say that any one of them was specially dear to her, he would specially love to touch and caress that one." He took counsel with her in all things; "the laws were ordered according to her counsel, religion spread by her industry, and the people rejoiced in prosperity." THEODORIC also tells of her encouragement to merchants by buying beautiful things to adorn the palace, and of her anxious care about the training of her children, "who were always kind and peaceful amongst each other, the younger at all times honouring the elder."

"Nothing was firmer than her faith, more constant than her countenance, more enduring than her patience, more grave than her counsel, more just than her opinion, more delightful than her conversation." Such was MARGARET, Saint and Queen, whom the students of this new seat of learning for women, in the land where she lived and laboured, may well reverence as their patron and pattern.

H. B.

CONFERENCE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Thursday, February 7th, a Conference of members was held in the Conference-room in the House of Commons. MR. COURTNEY presided, and the following members attended:—Hon. H. Fawcett, Mr. Woodall, Mr. C. B. McLaren, Mr. Thomas A. Dickson, Mr. R. Blennerhassett, Mr. T. C. Thompson, Right Hon. James Stansfeld, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, Mr. W. S. Caine, Mr. A. Arnold, Mr. Ewart, Mr. S. Evans Williams, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. M. Brooks, Mr. E. Carbutt, Dr. Cameron, Mr. T. Roe, Mr. W. Summers, Mr. H. Richard, Mr. S. Williamson, Sir W. Lawson, Mr. P. A. Taylor, Mr. J. Hollond, Mr. H. Fowler, Mr. Hopwood, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, Mr. S. Smith.

After some discussion the following resolution was adopted:—
"That this Conference is of opinion that if the Government Franchise Bill should not enfranchise women, an amendment shall be moved with the object of securing to women the Parliamentary franchise on the same terms on which it is granted to men."

Mr. W. Woodall was requested to take charge of the amendment, and agreed to do so.

Mr. H. Fowler, Mr. S. Williamson, and Mr. S. Smith have subsequently intimated that they are not prepared to support an amendment couched in such wide and general terms.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *Friday, February 8th.*

The Lord Bishop of Rochester presented a petition from Upper Norwood in favour of the Parliamentary franchise being extended to women.

CONJUGAL RIGHTS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR brought in a Bill to amend the law as to the restitution of conjugal rights. He said the object of the Bill was to remove what most persons considered a very unsatisfactory state of the law with respect to matrimonial causes. The Bill proposed that where persons were not willing to live together the decree of the Court should not be enforced by attachment, and that such decree as the Court might make for allowance to the wife might be enforced in such a manner as an order for alimony in a suit for judicial separation.

The Bill was read a first time.

February 12th.

Lord Thurlow presented a petition from inhabitants of Hackney for women's suffrage.

Lord Carrington presented a petition from inhabitants of Aylesbury, in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women; also by Lord Monson, from Reigate, to the same effect.

February 26th.

Lord Waveney presented a petition from inhabitants of Ipswich in favour of the removal of electoral disabilities of women.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *February 25th.*

MISS OCTAVIA HILL AND THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

MR. PENNINGTON asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the exceptional experience of Miss Octavia Hill on questions relating to the housing of the poor, he would consider the advisability of her being appointed to serve on the Royal Commission which was about to inquire into the subject.

SIR C. DILKE: There can be no doubt as to the exceptional experience of Miss Hill, and I have myself for the last thirteen years had personal knowledge of her excellent system. I may, however, point out to the House that the experience of highly-skilled persons is often more valuable when they have an opportunity of giving evidence before a Royal Commission than when they are themselves Commissioners.

MR. CARBUTT: Will the right hon. gentleman say whether there is any objection to placing a lady on the Royal Commission?

SIR C. DILKE: The matter is one which has nothing whatever to do with the duties of my department, but there is nothing, so far as I am aware, to prevent a lady from being put upon the Commission. (Hear, hear.)

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

PAISLEY.

Mr. W. Holms having, we regret to say, resigned his seat for Paisley on account of his health, an election has taken place to fill the vacancy. Mr. Barbour, one of the Liberal candidates, wrote as follows in reply to an inquiry as to his views on the franchise for women:—

Camphill, Paisley, 1st February, 1884.

Dear Madam,—I am favoured with your inquiry on the part of the Scottish Executive of the women's suffrage movement with regard to my views on the extension of the Parliamentary franchise

to female ratepayers, and in reply let me say that, in case I am privileged to have a seat in the House, I will be found among the supporters of your measure.—Believe me, faithfully yours,

WM. B. BARBOUR.

Mrs. Robertson, Rockbank, Castlehead.

At a great meeting on January 31st MR. STEWART CLARK, another Liberal candidate, said in the course of his address: But a question has been sent to me as to what I intend doing about female suffrage. Now, the ladies have already acquired the right to vote in municipal and school board elections, and I don't find any complaint that they have abused this privilege. (Cheers.) Therefore, I am quite willing that they should likewise have the privilege of voting at Parliamentary elections. (Cheers.)

An Elector, speaking from one of the back galleries: Will our respected candidate state his views in regard to the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill? (Laughter and cheers.)

MR. CLARK: This deceased wife's sister has an unfortunate habit of cropping up at all public meetings. (Laughter.) I sympathise very much with the deceased wife's sister. (Great laughter and cheers.) As you are aware, I am a married man myself, and my wife still exists, and I don't wish ever to be put into such a dilemma—(laughter)—but I have no wish to deprive any man who wishes it the privilege of marrying his deceased wife's sister. (Hear, hear.) I have no objections to make to it. Only it seems to me that if we are to be kind to the deceased wife's sister we should be equally kind to the deceased husband's brother. (Great laughter.) It is a homely adage, but worthy of acceptance, that "what is sauce for the goose is likewise sauce for the gander." (Great laughter and cheers.)

Lord Ernest Hamilton, the Conservative candidate, replied as follows to Mrs. Robertson's letter:—

Blythswood, Renfrew, 5th Feb., 1884.

Dear Madam,—I am in receipt of your favour of yesterday. I sympathise extremely with the interest which is now taken by ladies in public matters that concern the common weal, and I fully recognise the beneficial influence which that interest has already exercised. I cannot, however, promise to support any measure which would introduce females directly to the turmoil of political strife, because I believe that any such change would have a baneful effect in weakening rather than strengthening the influence which they already exercise with so much advantage.—I am, dear madam, your faithful servant,

ERNEST HAMILTON.

Mrs. Robertson, Paisley.

Mr. Barbour retired from the contest, and Mr. Stewart Clark was returned by a large majority over Lord Ernest Hamilton.

WEST NORFOLK.

The vacancy in the representation of West Norfolk, caused by the retirement of Mr. G. W. P. Bentinck, has been filled by the unopposed return of Mr. Clare Sewell Read, who sat for South Norfolk in the last Parliament, but was defeated in 1880. Mr. Bentinck persistently voted against the franchise for women. Mr. Clare Sewell Read voted in Parliament in 1879 in favour of Mr. Courtney's resolution.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON THE FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

LORD JOHN MANNERS, M.P., AT BOTTESFORD.

On January 31st, the Right Hon. Lord John Manners, M.P., and the Hon. Montague Curzon, M.P., addressed their constituents in the National Schools, Bottesford, upon which occasion a Conservative and Constitutional Association was formed. Sir WILLIAM EARLE WELBY-GREGORY, Bart., M.P., presided, and amongst those present were Mr. George Storer, M.P., Canon Norman, Rev. J. W. Taylor, Captain Welby, Mr. George Manners, Mr. J. Wilders, Mr. F. W. Fletcher, Mr. J. Green, Mr. R. Geeson, Mr. T. C. Beasley, Mr. George Ingram, Mr. W. Beeson, and Mr. F. Vincent.

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the course of his address, said, in reference to Liberal Conferences, they have not been unanimous. Take one considerable subject. The Leeds conference decided in favour of what is called female rating suffrage; the Glasgow conference, which followed, declined altogether to have anything to do with it, and why? On any settled principle? Not a bit of it, but simply

because, they said, they thought it would not be perhaps agreeable to Mr. Gladstone. He afterwards proceeded to say: I mentioned in the earlier part of my observations the different views which had been taken by two conferences about female suffrage. Allow me to say one word upon this subject. At the present moment no doubt there are anomalies about it. All the ladies who are rated to the poor have a right to vote at our municipal elections, and at our school board elections—I thank goodness you have no school board here—and at elections for Poor-law Guardians, but they are not allowed to vote for those superior articles—members of Parliament. This is an anomaly, undoubtedly, but what is going to happen if this extension of the franchise takes place? Why, every widow who has succeeded to the management of a farm, who pays rates and taxes, who pays every Friday or Saturday evening her labourers, who sets them to work, who keeps them in work, who provides them with the means of finding their daily subsistence, she won't have the vote, but every one of these labourers to whom she pays wages will, and don't you think, gentlemen, that that is a great addition, at any rate, to the anomaly which at present exists? Now I am speaking to you with my "withers unwrung," for ever since my attention has been called to this subject I have been in favour of giving the vote to the person who pays the rate, whether that person wears breeches or petticoats. (Laughter and applause.) But I put it to these great reformers who may even be in favour of this, that they are afraid to grant it lest forsooth they might be displeasing or disagreeable to Mr. Gladstone.

MR. JOHN P. THOMASSON, M.P., AT BOLTON.

At a great Liberal demonstration in Bolton on January 31st, when the members for the borough, Messrs. Cross and Thomasson, met their constituents, Mr. Thomasson, M.P., in the course of his address said: But not only should every male householder have a vote, but also every female householder. (A Voice: "Too soon yet," and laughter.) I don't know whether you are aware, but under the law of Scotland, and to a large extent in England also, a woman may be said to have no rights whatever in her children. It was only a short time ago, in Scotland, that a blameless wife, obliged to leave her husband on account of his cruelty to her, was compelled by the Court to deliver over to him her little child, only about twelve months old, and was only allowed to see it twice a week at the house of a friend. Such an incident reminds me of the stories of the days of slavery, when mothers and children were parted at the auction block, and I think that the law which would allow what I have stated is a disgrace to the statute book of either Scotland or England. (Hear, hear.) Rest assured that as soon as Scotch women obtain the right of the Parliamentary franchise, that law will be altered by the very next Parliament. My friend, Mr. Bryce, is to introduce a measure dealing with the custody of children, but you know a private member has no chance of passing such a Bill if any of the "lords of creation" choose to object to it. (Laughter.) Another question brought before the present Parliament is that of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. I notice that the Bolton Liberal Association recently passed a resolution in favour of the Bill for legalising such marriages, and to my mind any impartial person would naturally suppose that no Bill for legalising the marriage with a deceased wife's sister would be passed without making provision also for the marriage of a woman with her deceased husband's brother. (Laughter.) Members of Parliament, however, being responsible only to constituencies of men naturally look at the question from the man's side alone, and I am told by a great many members of the House of Commons that the promoters of the Deceased Wife's Sister's Bill would rather drop it than concede the same principle to women that they demand for themselves. (Renewed laughter.) That shows how necessary it is that we should have women voters in the constituencies, and then we should look at the various questions that come before Parliament from a woman's side as well as from that of a man's. (Applause.)

MR. R. B. MARTIN, M.P., AT TEWKESBURY.

On February 6th, Mr. Martin, M.P., addressed his constituents in the Borough Hall, Tewkesbury. In the course of his address MR. MARTIN alluded to the question of female suffrage, in favour of which he observed petitions had been presented from Tewkesbury. He considered that there was no sufficient reason at present for extending the franchise to women. Nobody would deny that many women were far more capable of exercising a discriminating judg-

ment in voting than many men. (Hear, hear.) But the question stood on far larger grounds than that. He did not think women should be given the franchise when they were not prepared to serve on juries and perform other disagreeable duties which were some of its penalties. He did not think that men would be so chivalrous towards women if they were put on the same footing in regard to the franchise. Another reason why he opposed female suffrage was because he could not for one moment reconcile himself to giving the franchise to women without giving them also the right to sit in the House of Commons. However he did not consider that the question was at present within the region of practical politics.

Questions were invited, but the only one put was by Mrs. M'ILQUHAM, who asked if Mr. Martin considered it fair whilst women were not fit to have votes that they should be charged election inquiry expenses? (Applause.)

Mr. MARTIN, in replying, admitted that the case was a very hard one, but was afraid that if a woman were exempted because she was a woman it would open the door to other persons being exempted who had no right to be. If they asked him "yes or no," he admitted that he must say "no" to the question.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. BORLASE, M.P.

Windham Club, St. James' Square, S.W., Jan. 29, 1884.
Dear Colonel Alens,—I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of a memorial, signed by yourself as chairman, from a public meeting at Bodmin, in favour of women's suffrage.

The principle has my full sympathy and will have my support, but I see difficulties in operation which, however, I am far from saying are insuperable.—Yours very truly,

WILLIAM C. BORLASE.

MR. C. T. D. ACLAND, M.P.

Spydoncote, Exeter, 28th Jan.
Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the memorial forwarded to me from the inhabitants of Bodmin.

Without in any way pledging my vote on the subject, I desire to say that while I recognise the abstract justice of the claim of female householders to the same power of voting as male householders, I cannot but see that there are several other considerations involved in any decision on so important a question.

One of these (among many) is what will be the bearing of the proposal of your memorialists on any legislation tending towards "manhood" as distinguished from "household" suffrage.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES T. D. ACLAND.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

HALIFAX LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members of the Halifax Liberal Association was held on January 28th in the Sunday School Institute, Halifax. Mr. Edward Crossley, J.P., the president, was in the chair.

The following resolution, passed at the Executive Committee, was agreed to, with one dissentient, on the motion of Mr. CHRISTIE, seconded by Mr. J. THOMPSON:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, any measure for the extension of the franchise should confer the right to vote at Parliamentary elections on all women who have now the right of voting in all matters of local government."

KEIGHLEY LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the Keighley Liberal Association was held on Feb. 11th in the Mechanics' Institute, Mr. JOHN BRIGG, vice-president, in the chair. Present: Mrs. W. S. B. M'Laren, Alderman Brigg, Messrs. John Clough, J. H. Blundell, W. S. B. M'Laren, Wm. Wright, John Sugden, Craven Laycock, W. A. Robinson, Daniel Smith, J. S. Cockshott, and others. After the adoption of the report,

Mr. JOHN CLOUGH, J.P., rose to move the following resolution:—"That this public meeting of the Liberals of Keighley, believing

that the Parliamentary franchise should be placed on a broad and just basis, earnestly hopes that in the next session of Parliament a measure may be passed for the extension of the suffrage to all householders in Great Britain and Ireland, whether resident in boroughs or counties, if possible without distinction of sex, who now have the right of voting in all local elections; and that in the subsequent session a measure for the redistribution of seats may be passed which will give as nearly as possible an equal value to every vote." He remarked that in dealing with this subject he took the broadest basis—no disenfranchisement, but the admission of as many as could possibly be admitted. There was no reason why women should not take part in Parliamentary elections. He did not think that either political party would suffer by their enfranchisement.—Mr. W. S. B. M'LAREN, in seconding the resolution, referred to and advocated that the elective franchise be given to women, as it was expedient that this matter should be finally settled. The rights of women were liable to be affected by legislation, and he maintained that all persons who were liable to have their rights affected should be entitled to defend their rights.—Mr. W. A. ROBINSON seconded the resolution, which was carried.

HULL LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Hull Liberal Association, held on January 25th, the following resolution was moved by Councillor James Stuart, J.P., vice-president of the association, seconded by Councillor Edward Elam, and carried unanimously:—"That in the opinion of this meeting any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government." A copy of the resolution was forwarded to Mr. Gladstone.

CITY OF RIPON LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At a committee of the above association, held on February 12th, it was resolved that they petition Parliament for the extension of the suffrage to women.

PICKERING LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At a recent meeting of the Pickering Liberal Association, a resolution asking the Government to include women's suffrage in their Reform Bill was adopted, and a copy forwarded to the Prime Minister.

BURY (LANC.) LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the members of the Liberal Association, Bury, Lancashire, held on January 28th, the following resolution was adopted:—"That this meeting hopes the Government will be able to see their way to extend the Parliamentary franchise to all women householders in the coming Reform Bill."

PRESTWICH LIBERAL CLUB.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Prestwich (Manchester) Liberal Club, the following resolution was passed and copies forwarded to the Prime Minister and to Mr. Leake and Mr. Agnew, members for South-east Lancashire:—"That, in the opinion of this executive meeting, any measure for the extension of the franchise to be satisfactory should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government."

SMALLBRIDGE LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At the February monthly meeting of the Smallbridge (Rochdale) Liberal Association it was unanimously resolved:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting."

DEARNLEY AND FEATHERSTALL LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the committee of the Dearnley and Featherstall Liberal Association, near Rochdale, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, and a copy forwarded to Mr. Gladstone:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting."

LEIGH LIBERAL CLUB.

At a meeting of the Liberal Club, Leigh, near Manchester, held on January 31st, a resolution in favour of the franchise for women was unanimously adopted.

CHORLEY REFORM CLUB.

At a meeting of the committee of the Chorley (Lancashire) Reform Club, held on February 19th, the following resolution was moved by Mr. W. Ashton, seconded by the Rev. Geo. Ride, and unanimously adopted:—"That in the opinion of this committee any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government."

BLACKPOOL LIBERAL CLUB.

The committee of the Blackpool Liberal Club have passed the following resolution in favour of women's suffrage, and the honorary secretary, Mr. Milton G. Wilde, has sent a copy to the Prime Minister:—"That this meeting regards the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to female householders as just and reasonable, and would hail with satisfaction the introduction of a Government measure which would confer the franchise on all female householders whether resident in counties or boroughs."

CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT WORKING MEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Chesterfield and District Working Men's Liberal Association, held on January 29th, it was resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government. It was also resolved that a copy of the above resolution should be forwarded to the Prime Minister.

STAFFORD LIBERAL HUNDRED.

The Liberal Hundred of Stafford unanimously passed the following resolution at their meeting on February 13th, a copy of which was forwarded to Mr. Gladstone:—"That this meeting regards the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women householders as just and reasonable, and would hail with satisfaction the introduction of a Government measure which would confer the franchise on all women householders, whether resident in counties or boroughs."

LIBERAL ASSOCIATION, FENTON.

At a Liberal Section Meeting held at Fenton, Staffordshire, on February 21st, it was unanimously decided to adopt a resolution in favour of women's suffrage. Copies were ordered to be forwarded to the Prime Minister and to Mr. Broadhurst, M.P.

BRIDGWATER.

At a meeting of the newly-formed Bridgwater Liberal Association, held at their rooms, 6th February, an able paper on the subject of the franchise for women was read by Mr. Bonnsall, member of the Bridgwater School Board and a vice-president of the association. After an animated debate, it was resolved by a large majority that the demand for women's suffrage deserves the support of the Liberal party.

IRELAND.

BELFAST LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Belfast Liberal Association on January 30th the following resolution was adopted:—"That, in the opinion of this Association, any development of electoral privileges the Government may deem it expedient to secure for Great Britain should not be withheld from Ireland, and that equal and uniform rights and powers should be accorded to all parts of the United Kingdom simultaneously by the same legislative enactments."

Mr. M'CLELLAND suggested that an addition should be made to the resolution, providing for the equality of electoral privileges to the women in all parts of the United Kingdom.

Mr. HYNDMAN said that matter was discussed by the executive committee when the resolutions were being framed. They were all in favour of the proposal, but it was considered that the resolution

submitted was sufficiently broad to embrace that matter. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was passed.

NEWRY CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Newry Conservative Association, held on the 8th February, the following resolution was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously:—"That no scheme of electoral reform be considered satisfactory unless it includes women's suffrage."

NORTH OF IRELAND SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

At a meeting of the North of Ireland Committee for Women's Suffrage, held on February 20th, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. "That this committee expresses its strong conviction that the passing of any measure for the extension of the franchise without including duly-qualified women would be unjust to them and to all women, and injurious to the community at large."

2. "That this committee, from the time of its formation in 1871, has acted upon the belief, authorised alike by common sense and by legal decisions, that the duly-qualified women are householders, being widows and unmarried women, rated in their own names, and exercising the ordinary local franchises; that this committee adheres to that rule of action, which is that of the National Society for Women's Suffrage; and feels much satisfaction in learning that the Parliamentary friends of the cause are prepared to press this claim upon the Government in connection with the coming Franchise Bill."

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members and friends of the Bristol and West of England branch of the above society was held on February 26th, at the offices, Park-street. There was a large attendance, and the chair was taken by Mr. MARK WHITWELL.

The CHAIRMAN said the Mayor had been asked to preside, but owing to his numerous engagements he was unable to accept. This was not to be accepted as a want of sympathy in the movement on the part of his Worship—on the contrary, for he had asked him (the chairman) to express his full sympathy with the objects of the association. (Hear, hear.)

The SECRETARY (Miss Helen Blackburn) read letters which had been received from Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., Mr. W. H. Wills, M.P., and others. Mr. Lewis Fry wrote—"Had I been able to be in Bristol would certainly have attended your meeting, but as it is I am obliged to be in London that day, and must therefore decline." Mr. W. H. Wills—"I am obliged for your invitation for Tuesday, the 26th, but have an important engagement here (London) at two p.m. that day, and am therefore unable to leave town."

Miss BLACKBURN then read the annual report, which, after giving an account of the general progress of the movement, concluded as follows: "This is a momentous time in the history of our movement. The country is on the eve of a measure of reform; it will be the prominent subject of the present session. The words household suffrage and resident suffrage are repeated on all sides. Let us keep before the memories of our representatives that household and resident are generic terms; that they have not, and never in our history, usages, or legislation have known any distinction of persons. Let us make it impossible for our legislators to evade the point that alike in common law, common justice, common sense, and common English, household suffrage can have but one broad signification. Finally, we entreat our friends to bear in mind that now is the time for effort, and to exert themselves, whether by petitions, by letters to their representatives, by application to political organisations and political gatherings, in urging on the cause of equal justice to women."

The statement of accounts showed that the income had been £465. 16s. 2d., and the expenditure £464. 2s. 1d., leaving a balance in hand of £1. 14s. 1d.

Mr. W. K. WAIT moved the first resolution, the adoption of the report and accounts, and said they and their friends laboured under

a long standing grievance, and which should be redressed, not simply in the interests of women alone, but their countrymen generally. (Hear, hear.) He was much struck by the word "justice" in the report. He thought it was justice for which they asked. (Hear, hear.) He asked for justice in this matter on his own account, and he asked for justice also on behalf of the nation, of which women at the least formed one half—(applause)—that they might find a vent for their patriotism and intelligence by possessing a voice at the poll. Parliament had a good many things to occupy its time, questions of foreign policy, home legislation and administration. In the latter especially was their scope for women's work and assistance. Especially was this applicable to matters of administration of poor-law and education, in both of which their assistance would be most valuable and important. Alluding to the old phrase "women's rights," he claimed that this was a misnomer, and added that he should like to reverse the phrase and ask statesmen and legislators their right to deprive such a large portion of the community of the opportunity of doing their duty to the State. He would bid those interested in the movement not to abandon constitutional agitation, as by this means they would keep their case to the front.

Mrs. C. THOMAS briefly seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

Mrs. W. S. CLARK moved: "That the following persons form the committee for the ensuing year with power to add to their number:—Mr. J. Bartlett, Rev. A. N. Blatchford, Mrs. Bruce, Rev. E. S. Bayliffe, Mr. E. W. Cox, Mrs. Grenfell, Rev. J. Temperley Gray, Mr. T. G. P. Hallett, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Miss Kennedy, Miss Mary Price, Miss Priestman, Miss Mary Priestman, Miss Sturge, Miss Caroline Sturge, Miss Tanner, Rev. U. R. Thomas, Miss Tribe, Mr. F. N. Tribe. The above to form the working committee. Also Mr. W. R. Barker, Rev. A. C. Macpherson, Miss Spender, Mrs. Walter Sturge, Mr. J. G. Thornton, and Mr. P. Watson."

Mrs. STONE seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

Miss EMILY STURGE moved: "That this society, having heard with deep satisfaction of the acceptance by Mr. Woodall, M.P., of the leadership of the movement for the political enfranchisement of women, would respectfully request him, in the event of the Government Reform Bill not including women, to endeavour to amend it to the following effect: That the Parliamentary franchise be granted to those women who possess the household or property qualification which entitles men to vote, and who at present have an acknowledged right of voting in municipal, parochial and School Board elections." In the course of her remarks, the speaker said she did not take such a gloomy view as some, that they were a long way off a realisation of their object. She could hardly believe, supposing that the extension of the franchise was successful, that Parliament would withhold from them that which they had so long desired. She would like their country to be the first in giving to women a voice in the government of the State, and the present was not an opportunity that should be let slip.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, in seconding the resolution, thought that it made the object of the society abundantly clear, and this was especially necessary, because the local press had recently had paragraphs to the effect that the basis of the society had been extended, and that they were asking for the Parliamentary franchise for married women. She was not aware that at any of the hundreds of meetings held by their association on this question such a wide claim had been made by speakers, whether members or not of their association. They had always worked on those lines already laid down by law and by practice. The first Act passed by the Legislature extending the local franchise to women on the same terms as men was the Municipal Franchise Act of 1869, and all Acts passed since then relating to the local franchises had continued to remove the electoral disability from sex, while not touching in any way the disability imposed by reason of marriage. The Married Women's Property Act of 1882 also left this part of the question of coverture untouched. Their society had also left it alone. Many Liberals who were in favour of universal suffrage for men were now working for the more limited claim of household suffrage, and there were also members of their society who would go much further than the society as a whole. Dr. Pankhurst and others like him would plunge them at once into manhood and womanhood suffrage. From the unrestricted point of view of these consistent people, this society must seem very conservative and timid, for it accepted things as

they were and endeavoured to improve them by asking that women's electoral rights in local elections should be the basis of their electoral rights in Parliamentary elections. No bill or resolution yet introduced into Parliament had endeavoured to do more than this. Just as the municipal franchise had been in the past the parent of the political franchise for men, they now asked that it might be the parent of the political franchise for women. (Applause.) Mr. ELTON, the distinguished writer of "The Origins of English History," and the last newly-elected member in the West of England, had accepted this view of the question. In a letter addressed to one of his constituents he says: "I do not object to the view that women occupying property should have the same franchise as men in the same position. If women are capable of voting for municipal matters they are capable of the same exercise of judgment, in my opinion, as to Parliamentary elections." They were on the eve of a new Reform Bill, and it was rumoured that the Government were going to leave women outside its provisions. The Bill which would do this would, however, so they were told, admit to the political franchise a large class of men wholly untrained and untried even as municipal voters, and amongst these would be the mud-cabin holders of Ireland. She knew something of these people, and the degree of civilisation they represented was not high. A lady friend of hers, travelling through a district of this population, remarked that though she saw swarms of children she never saw a baby, and she was told that she must go inside the cabin to see the babies, for they did not come out till they could walk out of themselves. If, however, anyone entered a cabin, it was necessary to remain some minutes before the eye was sufficiently adjusted to the darkness to discern the objects within, and then the traveller would see not only the baby but the pig and her family, and the poultry perched around. (Laughter.) A large proportion of these electors to be could not speak our language. She had sat in a Land Court in Connaught, and almost all the evidence was given through an interpreter. The practical difficulties in the way of these men voting would therefore be great, for interpreters who could speak two languages and mark a printed voting paper were rare. (Laughter.) Mr. W. H. SMITH, speaking on this subject, said that if the franchise were extended to every male householder in Ireland, 425,000 mud-cabin holders would be given direct political power, and he asked was this statesmanlike? Mr. Chamberlain undertook to answer this question, and he said he thought it would be a very good thing for these mud-cabins. Now the number of women who would be enfranchised if their proposal were included in the Government Bill would be 500,000. They would respectfully ask was it statesmanlike to enfranchise 425,000 mud-cabin holders, and refuse the same privilege to 500,000 women of property and education, for it was rare to find an illiterate woman householder. (Applause.) Was it statesmanlike to give the vote to those who had never asked for it, while refusing a vote to those who had worked for years to obtain it—those who had proved themselves able to appreciate it and fit for its exercise, those who were tried and trained voters to be set aside for the wholly ignorant? (Hear, hear.) Even Mr. Chamberlain might find it difficult to answer this question. If the vote was a good thing for the mud-cabin, why was it not also a good thing for the substantial house? Why should cabins have a monopoly of this good thing? Women asked why was it to be denied to them. When the Birmingham Federation honoured Bristol with a visit its officers made this astonishing assertion, that the demand for the suffrage for men was timely and reasonable, but that the demand for the suffrage for women "did not stand upon an equal footing." Well, if there was inequality in the demand the stronger claim was on their side. Both reason and justice must place it before that of their humble and less-educated brethren. Mr. Chamberlain when he uttered sublime truths appeared to confine the advantages of their application to men alone. He said the other day in reference to the cabin-holders that it was "always opportune to do right and justice." Then by all means let him teach this to the federation of Birmingham—(hear, hear)—let this right and justice be done to women, for surely never was a season more opportune than now. (Applause.) It had been alleged that "immemorial usage" was against the exercise by women of political power, though history distinctly disproved the assertion. A story was told that when the father of Cetewayo was asked to name his successor, he replied that among the Zulus the strongest was King, and so his sons fought out the question, and Cetewayo became King. In the good old days this law was more or less

universal. In days when the strongest ruled, it sometimes happened that the strongest was a woman. If Britain had her Boadicea and England her Aethelfleda, whose great deeds in the making of England were so wonderfully related by Mr. Green, Ireland had her redoubtable Grace O'Malley, Queen of Connaught, who slept in her castle by the sea, with the rope of her war vessel round her arm. The story of her voyage to visit her sister Queen Elizabeth would seem mythical were it not all true. What was contrary to immemorial usage was that the ignorant and incapable should rule, should sway political power in order that they might thereby acquire wisdom and capacity. This was now an accepted dogma, but it was a modern innovation. According to the school that had introduced it, the politically incapable and ignorant among the male population ought to be the special objects of any extension of political power. Political power thus became a sort of artificial prop to redress the inequalities of nature. Women did not claim political power on these grounds, but if these grounds commend themselves to any of their political friends, women will not be so proud as to refuse to accept the franchise on them. They claimed political rights on the immemorial ground that women shared with men political rule when the suffrage was an unheard-of thing. Now that the suffrage had become the rule of government, women, who possessed its qualifications and fulfilled its requirements, claimed to be included within its sphere. (Applause.) She would refer to a subject recently found to have a special and indeed a sort of double interest to statesmen of both political parties. It might now be called a fashionable subject—and that was the subject of the housing of the poor. A Royal Commission had been appointed to inquire into this matter, composed of great and even Royal names. But long before any Government thought it worthy of attention a woman had taken it in hand, and devoted her life to its solution. (Applause.) Every one admitted that Octavia Hill, aided by many other noble women, had during the last twenty years practically solved the problem. She had improved large districts of slums and raised the character of the inhabitants, and in the process she had never once banished political economy to either Jupiter or Saturn. (Applause.) She had acted like a true statesman, and her work had been blessed to those who gave and to those who received, for it had combined economies with philanthropy. Her practical knowledge of this special question was undoubtedly greater than that of any one of the Royal Commissioners—perhaps than all of them put together. It appeared, however, that from "time immemorial" no woman had sat on a Royal Commission, and accordingly her name was left out of the list. The *Times*, in its leader two days ago, exclaims with indignation that "surely the exclusion of Octavia Hill's unsurpassed experience on so foolish a ground as sex is almost incredible," and the day following it said that "strong as the Commission is, it would be strengthened by the addition of her name." In conclusion, Mrs. HALLETT said let them supply this criticism to the new Reform Bill, and say that surely the exclusion of women on so foolish a ground as sex was almost incredible, and that the future electorate, whatever it hereafter might prove to be, would be vastly strengthened by the addition of thoughtful and educated women. They asked for this reform in the name of order, of progress, and of good government. (Applause.)

Dr. BENDON, in moving that a petition be presented to the House of Commons in favour of the movement, expressed his gratification that the conduct of their business in the House of Commons had fallen into the hands of Mr. Woodall. About eighteen months ago he had the pleasure of sitting under Mr. Woodall at the meeting of the Social Science Congress at Nottingham, and it was there he made his acquaintance, and he certainly much admired the ability, the tact, and fairness of mind with which he conducted the business of the department over which he presided. He thought it would scarcely be possible to get a better man to take charge of the business of the society in Parliament. (Applause.)

Miss KENNEDY seconded the resolution.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Mark Whitwell for presiding.

BRADFORD.

A public meeting in support of women's suffrage was held on February 18th, in the Lecture Hall at the Bradford Mechanics' Institute. Mr. R. KELL presided, and he was supported on the platform by Miss Müller, a member of the London School Board;

Mrs. Eva M'Laren, Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds; Mrs. F. Priestman, Mrs. W. P. Byles, Mrs. M'Cormick, Mrs. Pesel, Mrs. Denby, Mrs. Watson, and Mrs. J. E. Booth; Mr. W. S. B. M'Laren, Mr. W. P. Byles, and Mr. J. E. Booth.

The CHAIRMAN opened the proceedings with some remarks upon matters which lay very much upon the surface of the question of women's suffrage. It had been asked, by one party or another, what would be the effect of the extension of the franchise to women? It had been asked, would it strengthen or would it weaken our Constitution? Would it be likely to add to our liberties, or would it rather retard our progress? These questions had been asked, but did not seem to the Chairman to be very much to the point, because he held that the question which must be put was, Was this extension of the franchise to women just and right? If such extension were just and right, he held that it must be expedient. The statement had been made that so far as women had taken part in public life their action had not been a success, and to prove that it had been alleged that women as members of school boards had not been successful, that they had not done all that was hoped for, and that in some instances they had wrought mischief. He held that that was not true. (Hear, hear.) There might undoubtedly have been one or two instances in the experience of school boards in which women had not been over wise, but that had been not because they were women, but because they were unwise, because they were foolish. If women were to be eliminated from the school boards because here and there one had been unwise he would ask the question—were there no foolish men on school boards? (Hear, hear.) And if it were necessary to keep women out of school boards because here and there one had been unwise, then by a parity of reasoning men should be kept off school boards, because there were plenty of men on school boards who had shown little or no sense. (Hear, hear.) There was one argument against women's suffrage which had been brought forward by no less an authority than Goldwin Smith, a friend of his, from whom a few years since he should have thought it almost heresy to differ. The argument was that if women were to have the rights of citizenship they were to perform all its duties, and among those duties Goldwin Smith held was that women should give themselves as men did to the defence of the country, that they should become soldiers and sailors, and should join the army or the navy. This argument seemed to the chairman to be almost too absurd to need any reply, because in the army, for instance, a man must be 5ft. 7in. in height, and must have a certain measurement round the chest, but the men who were ineligible in height or chest measurement for the army were not on that account deprived of their rights as citizens. (Hear, hear.) Why, in the case of women, because they were not able to fight our battles, because physically they were not suited to carrying bricks in a hod up a ladder, were they to be deprived of the opportunity of performing duties which simply taxed the mental and moral qualities of the person? (Applause.)

Mrs. EVA M'LAREN moved: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is just that the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to those women who, possessing the same local qualifications as men, have the right of voting in all local elections; and this meeting earnestly hopes that the coming Reform Bill will extend the franchise to such women."

Mr. J. E. BOOTH seconded the resolution.

Miss MÜLLER supported the resolution. She said that in glancing at the list of subjects occupying the attention of Parliament on any ordinary working day there might be found half a dozen subjects which had a direct influence upon the homes and the women of England. Was not the Deceased Wife's Sister's Bill a question upon which every woman felt as strongly as every man? A member of Parliament was trying to do away with the breach of promise of marriage laws. She should like to know if the ladies who were interested in the subject had been consulted. Speaking personally, she had not. (Laughter.) Gentlemen who said that women must keep to their own sphere she supposed were very particular never to meddle in women's work. One never found them interfering with domestic concerns. That went without saying. Her hearers would be surprised to learn that it was not by any means the case. As a member of the London School Board she had constant and practical illustration of the way in which gentlemen did interfere with women's affairs. The needlework of the board schools was all laid down, stitch by stitch, by gentlemen at the Education Department; it was inspected by gentlemen in the

schools; and the stitches never were fine enough for these gentlemen. So things went on very much to the annoyance of women who were on school boards, and who did not like the way in which gentlemen were meddling and muddling in this matter of needlework in the schools. Miss Müller concluded by saying that ladies did not confine themselves to talking in this matter. Although she had received a demand to pay her State taxes—the first time she received one being on the 1st of January this year—she had not paid them, and did not intend to pay them. She was going very politely but very firmly to refuse, and if necessary her furniture must be taken in payment. She considered it was an injustice, against which she protested with all her might and main, not only with words but also with deeds. (Applause.)

Mr. S. RHODES moved an amendment to the effect that the Parliamentary and other franchises should be extended to all men and women over the age of twenty-one in Great Britain, criminals, lunatics, and paupers alone excepted.

The amendment having been seconded was put, and received four supporters, while a large majority voted against it. The resolution was then put, and carried with five dissentients.

Mr. W. P. BYLES moved: "That copies of the resolution passed by the meeting be forwarded to Mr. Gladstone and the borough members; that the chairman be authorised to sign a petition to Parliament in terms of the same; and, further, that this meeting expresses its hearty thanks to Mr. Alfred Illingworth, M.P., for the courageous and unflinching support he has given to the enfranchisement of women, as well as to every other measure that has been brought forward for their benefit." In the course of his address Mr. Byles said: "With regard to a letter which had recently appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, signed 'A Good Liberal,' and dated from Bradford, he believed he could name the writer of the letter, and he had perhaps a better knowledge of what women had done on boards in this part of the country than the writer of that letter, and his opinion was precisely the reverse of the writer's. There was one prominent instance of a lady on a public board in Bradford whose conduct and words had been much watched—he meant Miss Lupton. If all did not agree with the policy Miss Lupton had pursued, had she not made her mark upon the School Board, and did she not represent the people who had sent her there? If any doubted, let them wait till next election, and they would see with what enthusiasm she would be carried at the head of the poll."

Mrs. SCATCHERD (Leeds) seconded the resolution, which was briefly supported by Miss E. LUPTON.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

BRAMLEY.

A public meeting was held on February 5th in the Zion School, Bramley, Leeds, in support of a movement for the enfranchisement of women. The Rev. G. M. Coker presided. Miss Carbutt, in speaking to the first resolution, said they simply asked that they might have a voice in electing the men who were to go to the House of Commons to make the laws which they had to obey as well as the men. They already possessed three votes, which they exercised, she believed, with credit to themselves. The Rev. A. Ashworth moved—"That in the opinion of this meeting any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women possessing the qualifications which would entitle men to vote." This being seconded by Mr. John Dawson, and spoken to by Miss Hurst, it was unanimously adopted. Mrs. Scatcherd moved the second resolution—"That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted, and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; and that memorials to Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P. for the borough of Leeds, Sir A. Fairbairn, Kt., and Sir John Ramsden, Bart., members of Parliament for the Eastern Division of the West Riding, be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him." Mrs. Scatcherd said such a course would serve to remind Mr. Gladstone of his public utterances on the subject, and might stimulate Sir A. Fairbairn to take a more active interest in the movement. As a sign of the times she mentioned that of the 38 Yorkshire members 20 were in favour of the enfranchisement of women; and 218 members of the whole House of Commons were favourable to the cause. The Leeds Conference, which was representative of 450 Liberal Associations, had passed a resolution on the subject by about 1,200 votes to 30 against. Manchester and Edinburgh and seventeen large Yorkshire associations had also given their adhesion to it. The resolution was seconded, and unanimously adopted.

CLAY CROSS.

On January 30th a public meeting was held in the Market Hall, Clay Cross, in support of the measure for conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon women possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote. There was a very large attendance, the spacious building being completely filled, and the greatest interest was manifested in the proceedings. Miss JANE COBDEN (daughter of the late Mr. Richard Cobden, M.P.) occupied the chair, and she was supported on the platform by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, of Leeds, and Mr. E. J. C. Moreton, of London, who attended as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage; Mrs. M'Cormick, of Manchester; Mr. A. Linacre, Clay Cross; Mr. A. Ward, Mr. Stollard, &c., &c.

Miss COBDEN, who had a hearty reception, in opening the proceedings said they were met that evening for a good cause; for one they themselves and their fathers before them had to fight many times. They had met to ring out one more note for the fall of that giant strong—Monopoly.

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD expressed her pleasure at seeing such a large meeting, and said a vote would do women just as much good, and they could use it to raise their position in just such a measure as could men to raise their position. Mrs. Scatcherd then mentioned a number of questions in which a woman had an interest, and which she considered were as much, and even more women's matters than men's. Alluding to the question of the dwellings of the poor in large towns, she said Miss Octavia Hill had done more to improve the dwellings of the poor in London than any body of men or women in that city, and even Lord Salisbury mentioned her with the deepest respect. (Applause.)

Mr. A. LINACRE, vice-president of the Clay Cross Liberal Association, who was well received on rising to move the first resolution, said he was somewhat in a dilemma in addressing their president, but he would address her by the unadorned and honoured name of Miss Cobden. (Applause.) The question they were that night dealing with was not a party question; it had been taken up by many Conservatives as well as Liberals. He could not himself see why, when a man died, his widow should be deprived of all the privileges her husband possessed in his lifetime, if she had the same rates and taxes to pay. He had great pleasure in moving "That in the opinion of this meeting any measure for the assimilation of the county and borough franchise would be unsatisfactory unless it contains provisions for extending the suffrage, without distinction of sex, to all persons who possess the statutory qualifications for the Parliamentary franchise."

The motion having been seconded by Mr. J. SMITH, it was supported by Mr. E. J. C. MORTON.

Mr. G. WAGSTAFF moved "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolutions, be adopted and signed on behalf of this meeting, and that a memorial to Admiral the Hon. F. Egerton and Mr. A. Barnes, members for the Eastern Division of Derbyshire, requesting them to support the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, be signed on behalf of the meeting and forwarded."

Mr. FOSTER seconded, and Mr. J. STOLLARD supported the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Derbyshire Times, Feb. 4.

The supporters of the agitation that has been going on for a long time in the country for women's suffrage have reason to be proud of the meeting held under their auspices in the Market Hall, Clay Cross, on Thursday evening, being, we believe, the first meeting ever held in the district of Clay Cross on this "burning" question. The meeting was a great success, the attendance numbering over five hundred—a big audience for Clay Cross—and consisting of a very large number of females, from sixty years of age down to fourteen, and chiefly of the working, with a sprinkling of the middle classes.

LIBERAL MEETING AT ASHTON.

On February 8th a public meeting, under the auspices of the Ashton-under-Lyne Liberal Association, was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of hearing addresses from Miss Cobden (daughter of the late Richard Cobden) and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, of Leeds, on the subject of reform. Miss Cobden, however, was

unable to attend. Among those on the platform were Mr. A. E. REYNER (in the chair), Mrs. Scatcherd, Messrs. J. Fletcher (Springfield), John Brooks, Rupert Mason, and Jonas Knight; Councillors Fletcher, Farron, and Hamer; the Rev. A. Bowden, &c.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. A. E. Reyner), who was received with cheers, was sorry to say that his first announcement would be one that would cause very great disappointment. They had received a telegram from Miss Cobden stating that she was indisposed, and very much regretted that she could not keep her appointment there that evening. They had, however, got Mrs. Scatcherd there, and she had very kindly promised to do her utmost to make up for the loss they must suffer in the absence of Miss Cobden.

Councillor WILLIAM HAMER moved:—"That this meeting rejoices to hear that it is the intention of the Government to introduce Bills during the present Session of Parliament for (a) The extension of the suffrage to all householders in the United Kingdom. (b) The reform of the municipal government of London. (c) To extend the hours of polling at municipal and Parliamentary elections; and assures them of its hearty support in carrying these measures into law."

Mr. J. HANNA seconded the resolution, which

Mrs. SCATCHERD, who was received with applause, supported. She said there was a proposal to place the expenses of elections upon the rates, but it would be very unfair to levy those rates upon women unless they allowed them to take part in the elections. (Cheers.) Earl Stanhope, with the best intentions, was about to introduce a Shop Hours Regulation Bill. She agreed with his aim, but not with his means, for if the Bill became law, hundreds of young women would be turned out of situations which were suitable for them and young men engaged in their stead, in order that their employers might not be troubled with the visits of inspectors. Under the guise of doing them a kindness men were going to do that great injury to these women. (Shame.) Sir Richard Cross, when the Factory Acts were under consideration, actually refused to receive a deputation of women. She got a copy of the Shop Hours Regulation Bill the other day, and in every place where the word "women" occurred she struck it out, and substituted "Earl Stanhope's cook," or "the Countess of Stanhope's maid"—Earl Stanhope's cook shall not be allowed to work after five o'clock in the evening, and so on. (Laughter.) She sent that copy to his Lordship, but she received no reply. (Laughter.) Another grievance which women had was that if married they had no right to their own children. She believed the bulk of good men did not even know that such a bad law existed. There was the subject of the protection of little children from the worst outrage that could befall them, and she knew that there was no father or mother who would not be roused to indignation when they thought of what might not be done to those children in the name of law and justice. (Cheers.) There was the question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. They were divided on that question, but they were all agreed on this, that if they allowed a man to marry his deceased wife's sister she ought to be allowed to marry a deceased husband's brother. (Laughter.) She could see no justice in making the children of one marriage legitimate while those of the other were to remain illegitimate. (Cheers.) They said women could not fight, and therefore ought not to have a vote. They had more sense. Besides, that argument ought to push out all the weak men who could not fight. She remembered an occasion at Leeds, where a gentleman who was proposing the health of the ladies referred to them as "the weaker vessel," when another at the back of the room called out, "I nobbut wish thou'd our Sall to deal wi' for a fortnight." (Roars of laughter.) Some women might not want a vote, but that was no reason why those who did want it should not have it. They did not ask to be equal with men, but only their equivalents. The women asked to be admitted to the franchise by the same door, and not be told that there was another door round the corner and they must wait a little longer. In the words of the American poet let her ask—

Is true freedom but to break
Fetters for your own dear sake?
And with leathern hearts forget
That you owe to us a debt.
No! True freedom is to share
All the woes that others bear,
And with hand and heart to be
Earnest to make others free.

(Cheers.)

HERTFORD.

A public meeting to advocate the admission of women to the Parliamentary suffrage was held in the Shire Hall, Hertford, on February 8th. Baron DIMSDALE presided, and there was a crowded attendance of ladies and gentlemen.

Baron DIMSDALE, in opening the proceedings, said Parliament had given a very warm and enthusiastic support to the question of women's suffrage, the measure having been rejected by only sixteen votes on the last occasion that it was before the House of Commons, and any movement which was rejected by such a small majority as that had a strong claim upon Parliament. It was no secret that a new Reform Bill would shortly be introduced by the Government, and it was important, therefore, that the claims of women to vote should be recognised in that Bill, or otherwise it was very improbable that so favourable an opportunity would be presented to them for many years to come. For his own part, however, he had never associated this movement with the introduction of a Reform Bill, for he considered that the question stood on ground entirely of its own. The franchise qualification was based upon property, and so long as this was so he contended that women who possessed property, and who paid rates, were as fairly entitled to it as men, and unless some substantial reason could be given that they were disqualified, he held that a great injustice was done to them. So long as they held that taxation and representation should go together, the advocates of this measure contended that women were just as much entitled to the franchise as men. (Applause.) Having pointed out that many eminent politicians, both Liberals and Conservatives, were in favour of conferring the suffrage upon women, he alluded to the drink question and the improvement of the dwellings of the poor as being two subjects of especial importance in the settlement of which the influence of women would be of great value. A third subject had been mentioned by Mr. Fawcett, the present Postmaster General, who, although a strong advocate for the disestablishment of the Church, was opposed to that question being settled until women were enfranchised, because he considered it one upon which they ought especially to have the opinions of the female portion of the community. (Hear, hear.) His duty that evening was merely to ask them to give a kind and sympathetic hearing to the ladies who had come to advocate the question; and he had no doubt that the resolutions which would be passed would show, like those passed at the meeting held in that room in 1878, that whatever the opinions of the rest of the country might be, here in Hertford they were warm advocates for the emancipation of the female sex from the great injustice under which they had hitherto suffered. (Applause.)

Mr. S. T. WILSHAW proposed the first resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who on all matters of local government have the right of voting."

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, who was very warmly applauded, seconded the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN then asked if any one wished to make any remarks on the resolution, but no one offering to do so, he put the motion to the meeting and it was carried.

Mr. V. QUELCH moved "That a petition to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and that a memorial to Arthur James Balfour, Esq., member for Hertford, asking him to support any measure dealing with the extension of the franchise which extends the suffrage without distinction of sex to all persons possessing the statutory qualification be also adopted and forwarded to him."

Miss CAROLINE A. BIGGS, in seconding the resolution, said all they asked for was that those women who were householders should have a vote, those women who were paying rates and taxes in their respective districts, and who were bearing the burdens which the State imposed upon every householder, that they should have the advantage, such as it is, which the possession of a vote gives to men under similar circumstances. (Hear, hear.) If this measure were passed the number of women who would receive the vote was estimated at about 500,000; the number of women householders, taking the average of English towns, being in the proportion of about one in seven as compared with men householders.

On being put to the meeting the resolution was carried with only one dissentient.

Dr. J. TASKER EVANS, jun., then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. GILBERTSON seconded the motion, and Baron DIMSDALE, in replying to it, said Mrs. Dilke had remarked that we only had a Reform Bill every thirty or forty years, but he should be very glad if they had them only as seldom as that, for he thought they had them a great deal too often. He referred to the fact that the question of women's suffrage was advocated by members on both sides of politics, not because they thought it would be of advantage to their own side, but because they regarded it as a measure of justice affecting the welfare of a large class of the inhabitants.

The vote was carried with acclamation, and Miss Biggs having briefly acknowledged it, the proceedings terminated.

NEWBURY.

A public meeting was held on February 12th in the Town Hall, Newbury, Berkshire. The Town Hall was crowded. Liberals and Conservatives alike supported the resolutions, and the meeting was enthusiastic. The MAYOR (R. Johnston, Esq.) presided.

The MAYOR, at the commencement, explained that women's suffrage was not a party question, but was favourably entertained among all classes of politicians. He was very much in favour of women's suffrage. (Applause.) Women were now allowed to vote at the elections to School Boards and Town Councils, and he could not see the consistency of refusing them to vote at Parliamentary elections. (Cheers.) The subject was being taken up warmly, and he trusted a clause would be inserted in the next Reform Bill conceding to the women of England their just rights. (Cheers.)

Mr. Councillor T. FIDLER moved the first resolution as follows: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in matters of local government, have the right of voting."

Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT seconded the resolution, which was carried with only one dissentient.

Miss FLORENCE STACPOOLE then moved the following resolution: "That a petition to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the Chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that memorials to Sir Robert James Loyd Lindsay, Philip Wroughton, Esq., and John Walter, Esq., members for the county, asking them to give their support to any measure for extending the suffrage without distinction of sex to all persons who possess the statutory qualifications for the Parliamentary franchise." With the extension of the franchise, said Miss Stacpoole, labourers on an estate would be able to vote, but the lady of the manor would not, simply because she was a woman. She might be patron of the living, or a great writer, or she may have endowed a hospital; she may indeed be the owner of a number of farms, and possess half a village, or a whole village even, and still she had no vote. Yet her ploughman, who could not read or write, might be able to vote at a Parliamentary election. Was that right, or was it just? (Cries of "No.") If this Reform Bill were passed without the inclusion of women it would be a disgrace to a Government that called itself Liberal.

Miss C. A. BIGGS seconded the resolution. She said that they had been engaged a long time in bringing this question before the country, and now a Reform Bill was impending it was more necessary than ever to discuss this matter. At first sight it seemed a simple thing. Those who paid the same taxes ought to have the same power of declaring how those taxes should be laid out, and they wondered that it had taken so long to bring this question to its present point of public acceptance. A statesman had said that Englishmen should be treated as you treat a horse likely to shy at an unknown object. Don't attempt to drive by it, but jump down and walk the horse round and round the object until it has got accustomed to it. This was just what they were doing with women's suffrage. In the beginning there were many arguments that had since changed. It was said that women were not experienced to deal with public life, but later years had shown that there were many departments of public life in which women could take their full part. (Applause.) It was not a new thing to hear that women, who were quite competent to carry on the business, were turned out of their farms because they had not a vote for the landlord's interest. Only recently such a case had occurred near St. Albans. ("Shame.") On comparing the present census with

the last they found that the number of women farmers had decreased by 4,000 in the country. A great deal of this was accounted for by agricultural depression, but as the number of men farmers had not decreased in the same proportion, something must be attributed to the action of landlords. It was said that women had no political knowledge. What were the questions agitating Parliament? One was the housing of the London poor, and on this subject there was one lady, Miss Octavia Hill, who knew more than all the gentlemen put together. (Cheers.) How much political knowledge did they require amongst their men voters? A gentleman once asked his gardener for whom he intended to vote. The man replied that it depended upon what he got. "But," said the gentleman, "that is very improper, the gentlefolks get nothing for their services." "Oh, but they do," answered the gardener, "I allus reads as how Parliament divides on a question, and what can 'em divide if it 'aint the taxes?" (Much laughter.) She did not think women could make political knowledge any lower than that. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried with but one dissentient.

Mr. Councillor FIDLER moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, and the ladies who had advocated their cause so eloquently and powerfully.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. G. HOWE, and carried by acclamation.

Mrs. CHANT having briefly replied,

The MAYOR also made a few remarks, and the proceedings then terminated.

AYLESBURY.

On February 21st a meeting on behalf of women's suffrage was held in the Masonic Hall, Aylesbury. Mr. C. S. MADDER presided, and there was a good attendance, including a number of ladies. On the platform were Mr. J. Turner, Mr. A. P. Scrivener, and Mr. J. Locke, besides the ladies who had come to address the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, after a few opening remarks, called on Dr. SCRIVENER, who moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting."

Mrs. CHANT supported the resolution in an eloquent address, mentioning several laws affecting women which wanted re- pealing.

The resolution was then put, and only three or four voted against it.

Mr. JOHN LOCKE moved a resolution in favour of forwarding a petition to Parliament and memorials to Sir N. M. de Rothschild, M.P., and Mr. George Russell, M.P., on the subject. It was not, he said, a party question; men of all shades of politics supported it. Mr. Russell went against it, and Sir N. de Rothschild did not vote. He remarked that Dame Dorothy Pakington once returned to Parliament two members for Aylesbury. Surely, then, there could be no objection to allowing ladies to help return one.

Mr. W. P. ROBERTS seconded the motion.

Miss CAROLINE BIGGS supported, and said she hoped the Reform Bill would not pass without according some measure of justice to women. The man who first spoke seriously on this question in the House of Commons was Mr. Disraeli, and he had voted for it whenever the question was brought forward. They also had the support of Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Charles Dilke, and other eminent men. Last year the hostile majority against the question was only sixteen, but nine years ago, when she addressed an Aylesbury audience, it was 100. She wished to correct a statement which had been made. Mr. Russell had not declared himself either for or against the question. She had read a noble speech by that gentleman, on justice to women, and she wanted him to see that justice could not be better given than by extending the franchise to them. She urged those present to use their influence on their hon. member, as they wanted the help of such men as Mr. Russell.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. TURNER, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, said he should like to see a lady occupying a seat on the Board of Health.

BROMLEY BRANCH.

The Bromley, Beckenham, and Shortlands Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage held its second annual meeting on February 23rd, at The Glen, Shortlands, by the kind permission of Miss Wilkinson. After the business meeting there was a drawing-room meeting, which was addressed by Miss Orme, Miss Stacpoole, and the Rev. Charles Green. Miss Wilkinson received letters of sympathy with the object of the meeting from Miss F. P. Cobbe and Miss Anna Swanwick. The speeches were remarkably interesting and powerful.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

ST. GEORGE'S AND MARYLEBONE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

The members met on February 5th, at their Hall, 29, Duke-street, Grosvenor Square, London. Mr. Dyke (Speaker) took the chair at 9 p.m. After the reading of the minutes and various questions being replied to, Mr. Davies (Sunderland) moved the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this House, any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government." The motion was seconded by Mr. Jolly. Mr. Owen Smith, Dr. Gutteridge, Mr. Collinge, Mr. Ward, Mr. Young, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Lansley spoke against the motion, and Mr. Turner and Mr. Bower supported it, but said he thought women who pay tolls and taxes should have a vote, but not women lodgers. After a reply from Mr. Davies, the resolution was put to the House, and it was declared that the noes were a majority.

CHESHAM AND WALTHAM PARLIAMENT.

The following resolution was moved in the Chesham and Waltham Parliament by Mr. W. A. Todhunter: "That in the opinion of this House the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting." The division took place on February 12th, when the resolution was carried by thirteen votes to nine.

LIBERAL SOCIAL UNION (LONDON).

The Liberal Social Union held its monthly meeting on Jan. 31st, at the Rooms of the Society of British Artists, London. Mr. Theodore Wright presided, and an address was delivered by Miss Müller, member of the London School Board, on "Women and the coming Reform Bill." Miss Müller's paper was received with much applause. A discussion followed, in which the following took part: Mr. Jennings, Miss Grant, Mr. Bromhead, Mrs. Sims, Miss Babb, Mr. Dick, Mr. A. P. Allen, Mr. Cullis, and the Chairman. Miss Müller briefly replied. The general tone of the discussion was strongly in favour of women's suffrage. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Miss Müller, and the proceedings terminated.

SHREWSBURY PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

At the meeting of the Parliamentary Debating Society on January 28th (Mr. A. Ford, Speaker, in the chair), Mr. S. Evans proposed a motion to confer the franchise on women. A rather amusing debate followed, in which the proposal met with considerable opposition, and on the vote being taken 16 voted against the resolution and 7 in its favour.

CARDIFF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

On January 29th, G. B. Hughes, Esq., B.A., in a terse and forcible speech proposed the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the franchise should be extended to all women having the same qualifications as entitle men to vote." The debate was continued with great vigour over two sittings, during which the opponents of the motion did considerable service to the cause of women's suffrage by the utter inability they displayed to grasp, not to say combat, a single one of the many arguments made use of by the supporters of the measure. On being put to the vote the motion was carried by a majority of one, which is a decided victory,

as on a former occasion a similar proposal was defeated by a large majority.

ST. MARY HALL (OXFORD) DEBATING SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the St. Mary Hall Debating Society held on 12th February, Mr. A. H. Shelley moved, "That in the opinion of this House the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to duly qualified women." He went over the chief arguments in favour of the resolution, insisting particularly on the non-party character of the measure, quoting largely from the opinions of living and deceased Conservative statesmen, and from the organs of that party in favour of his motion. He also showed the anomaly of women possessing the municipal franchise and yet being deprived of the Parliamentary, and claimed for them the latter in order that many social problems might be better dealt with and solved. He was vigorously opposed by the Rev. Edward de Ewer, who advanced the usual arguments about women's proper sphere being the home, and their intellectual and physical unfitness for the suffrage. He also denounced it as a radical measure and thought Parliament ought to take away the municipal franchise from women. The rev. gentleman spoke strongly against the unmarried condition of many young people, and taunted modern society with being fond of selfish bachelorhood. Messrs. Shone, Hatch, and Mills spoke in favour of the motion, the latter in an eloquent speech producing the historical arguments for the motion. The motion was lost by three votes.

COBDEN CLUB, NOTTINGHAM.

On February 9th, a meeting was held at the Cobden Club, Nottingham, with reference to the Women's Suffrage Bill. There were about seventy persons present, and Mr. J. Black (president of the club) occupied the chair. The Chairman proposed a resolution in favour of the Bill, which was seconded by Mr. Hayes (vice-president of the club). A discussion ensued, in which Mr. Harper and Mr. A. Richards opposed, and Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Killingley, Mr. Humphreys, and Mr. Proctor were in favour of the resolution. On being put to the vote the motion was carried by a large majority.

DRIFFIELD CONGREGATIONAL MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

On January 29th, at the weekly meeting of the Congregational Mutual Improvement Society, the Rev. P. S. Atkinson presiding, the subject discussed was, "Should the Parliamentary Franchise be granted to Women?" There was a large attendance of members, including many ladies. Mr. W. Bradshaw (member of the School Board) opened the debate in the affirmative, and was followed by Mr. W. A. Brown (journalist), who took an opposite view. Mr. Sparks, the Rev. J. Dunning, Mr. F. J. Brigham, and Mr. Ed. Wigmore supported Mr. Bradshaw's arguments, whilst the opponent of an extension was left in a state of isolation. After a very interesting debate, a "division" was taken, the result of which was that twenty-one votes were recorded in favour of the extension of the franchise to women, and only five against.—*Driffield Express*, Feb. 2nd.

CROSS BANK (BATLEY) MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

On February 15th the members of the Cross Bank Mutual Improvement Society held a very warm discussion on the suffrage question—Should it be extended, and on what basis? Mr. Jonas Crossland led the debate. He said he had been rather conservative in his views on this subject, but after close study and careful consideration on it, he felt from deep conviction that the county and borough franchise ought to be assimilated; that now is the proper time for it; and that women ought to be included. These sentiments were heartily supported, and a vote in accordance was carried by a large majority.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.

ST. LUKE'S LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of St. Luke's Literary Association, Young-street, Edinburgh, on the 12th ult., Miss E. Kirkland read a paper entitled "Some Aspects of the Women's Suffrage Question." An animated debate followed, when it was agreed upon a majority to

forward a petition to Parliament, signed by the president, from the meeting, praying the House of Commons to pass a measure to extend the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women.

LADIES' DEBATING SOCIETY.

The question of the Parliamentary franchise for women was debated for the third time in the Ladies' Edinburgh Debating Society on February 2nd. When this question was first raised in the society, about fifteen years ago, only five members voted in the affirmative, while an overwhelming majority declared the proposal to be subversive of all social order.

WALES.

ABERYSTWYTH.

On February 21st, a lecture on "The House of Lords" was delivered by Mr. Hackney in the Assembly Rooms, Aberystwyth. At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. J. Gibson said: Before he moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, he should like to elicit an expression of opinion on a point affecting the franchise, and he should be obliged if anyone would second the proposition he was about to make.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN CANADA. THE GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE BILL.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA, January 23rd.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD introduced a Bill respecting the electoral franchise. He stated that the Bill was substantially the same as that of last year with some few changes.

SUMMARY OF THE MEASURE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT—VOTING POWERS TO BE EXTENDED TO WOMEN.

The following is a condensation of the Franchise Bill laid on the table of the Dominion Parliament on January 23rd. It is substantially the same as that submitted to the Committee of the Whole last session and subsequently withdrawn:—

"Owner," when relating to a male person, of real property situated in the Province of Quebec, shall mean "proprietor" in his own right, or in that of his wife, of real property in free and common socage. When the word "owner" relates to the ownership by a female person unmarried, or a widow possessing property in the province of Quebec, it shall mean "proprietor" of real property in free and common socage in the Province of Quebec, and in said province when one person has the mere right of property or legal estate in any real property, and some other person has the usufructuary enjoyment for his or her use, the former shall not have the right of being registered as a voter, or of voting under this Act in respect of such property, but in such case the latter shall alone have this right.

"Owner," when it relates to the ownership of real property situated elsewhere in Canada than in the Province of Quebec, shall mean the "proprietor" either in his or her own right, or for his or her own benefit, or if such proprietor be a married man it shall mean the proprietor in his own right, or in the right of his wife, of freehold estate, legal or equitable, in lands and tenements held in free and common socage of which such person is in actual possession or is in receipt of the rents and profits thereof.

"Tenant" shall mean a person who pays rent in money, or who is bound to render to the landlord some portion of the produce or profits of the property leased in lieu of rent.

"Occupant" shall mean a person in actual occupation of real property, other than as "owner," "tenant," or "usufructuary."

"Farm" shall mean land actually occupied by the owner thereof, and not less in quantity than twenty acres.

The following is a synopsis of the Act as far as it relates to the

QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS IN CITIES AND TOWNS.

"Every person shall, upon and after November 1st, 1884, be entitled to be registered on the list of voters in any electoral district or portion thereof, if such person is twenty-one years of age or over, and is not disqualified by any law of the Dominion; is a British subject by birth or naturalisation; is the owner of real property in such city or town of the actual value of \$300; is the tenant of real property within any city or town at a monthly rental of at least two dollars, or at a quarterly rental of at least six dollars, or at a half-yearly rental of at least twelve dollars, or at an annual rental of at least twenty dollars, who has been in possession as tenant for at least one year before November 1st, 1884, or in any subsequent year, provided that the year's rent so required to be paid shall be the year's rent up to the last yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly day of payment as the case may be, which shall have occurred next before the 1st November in each of the said years respectively; and provided, also, that a change of tenancy during the year next before the 1st November in each year shall not deprive the tenant of the right to vote in respect of such real property: is the bona fide occupant of real property, within any such city or town, of the actual value of \$300, provided that such person has been in possession as occupant for one year before the 1st November, in 1884, or in any subsequent year, is a resident within such city or town and derives an income from some employment, or from investment or charge on real property in Canada, of not less than \$400 annually, and who has derived such income and has been such resident for one year before 1st November, in 1884, or in any subsequent year; is a son of any such owner of real property, and not otherwise qualified to vote, and who is and has been resident upon such property continuously with his father (or mother) for one year prior to the 1st November, 1884, or subsequent year, if the real property is of sufficient value if equally divided amongst them as co-owners, to qualify as voters under the Act; and if not of sufficient value then the right to be registered as a voter shall belong only to the father (or mother after the death of the father), or the father, or mother, the eldest or such elder sons as the property when equally divided will qualify; provided that each such son must at the time of the election be resident with his father (or mother in case of the death of his father); occasional absence of the son from the family residence for not more in all than four months in the year shall not disqualify him.

FOR THE COUNTIES.

For counties the same provisions will guide the preparations of voters' lists, with the same changes and additional clauses having no special reference to the electoral rights of women.

The following persons shall be disqualified and incompetent to vote at any election to which the Act applies:—The chief justice and judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, the chief justices and judges of the Superior Courts in the provinces of Canada, and the judges of all the courts in the said provinces, whether such courts are now in existence or are hereafter erected, and police, stipendiary magistrates, and recorders. Revising officers, returning officers, and election clerks (who are disqualified only as far as the election for the electoral district in which they hold such offices or positions is concerned), and any person who at any time, either during or before the election, is or has been employed at the same election or in reference thereto for the purpose of forwarding the same by any candidate or by any person whomsoever in any capacity whatsoever, and who has received or expects to receive either before, during, or after the said election from any candidate or from any person whomsoever in any such capacity as aforesaid, except only the returning officer, in the case of equality of votes between the candidates where the addition of a vote would entitle any of such candidates to be declared elected. All married women whose husbands are living will also be disqualified and incompetent to vote.

ELECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE THREE KINGDOMS.

In counties England has her £12 occupiers, her £50 tenants, her 40s. freeholders, her leaseholders and copyholders, her burgage tenants, and possessors of ancient rights. In boroughs her £10 occupiers, her inhabitant householders, her lodgers, and possessors of reserved rights under the Reform Act of 1832.

Scotland has in counties her £14 tenants or occupiers, and her owners or life-renters, and in burghs her owners, joint-owners, occupiers, joint-occupiers, householders and lodgers.

Ireland has her £50 freeholder, her £20 freeholder, her £10 leaseholder, and her £20 leaseholder, all independent of rating, and her £12 rated occupation franchise, and her £5 rated freehold franchise. In boroughs Ireland has a rated occupation franchise above £4, a lodger franchise as in England and Scotland, and a freeman's franchise.—Edinburgh Review.

TEXT OF PETITION, FROM THE APPENDIX TO THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS.

APP. 4. Sir Charles Dilke. Sig. 1.

12. The humble Petition of Inhabitants of the borough of Chelsea, in public meeting assembled, at the Progressive Club, Johnson-street, Notting Hill, on the 25th day of November, 1883, Sheweth,—That in the judgment of your Petitioners the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass a measure to remove the electoral disabilities of women. And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Signed on behalf of the meeting, JOHN D. NICOLLS, Chairman.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

MISS OCTAVIA HILL AND THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

Times.

One Londoner, indeed, has for the past twenty years been grappling with the task, and has achieved extraordinary success. Since 1864 Miss Octavia Hill has been annexing one noisome court after another, and has purified a series of horrible tenements without evicting or transplanting their tenants. A correspondent to-day suggests a doubt whether Miss Hill may not be omitted from the Royal Commission because no female Royal Commissioner has yet been known. The exclusion of her unsurpassed experience on so foolish a ground is almost incredible. We shall not believe it until the list appears without her name.

Spectator.

We see with some surprise no mention of Miss Octavia Hill's name among those of the Commissioners to be appointed on the question of the housing of the poor. The truth is that Miss Octavia Hill knows as much about the matter as all the Commissioners put together, and we trust that the absence of any precedent for the naming of a woman on a Commission will not prevent her nomination. Her operations have, it is true, only been conducted on a limited scale, but they have really reached the class for whom they are intended, and they have succeeded in every sense financially as well morally.

Pall Mall Gazette.

Now that we have an official declaration from the President of the Local Government Board that there is nothing to prevent a lady being placed on a Royal Commission, we may fairly hope that, even at the eleventh hour, the Government will make room for Miss Octavia Hill on the Commission which they are appointing to inquire into the subject on which she is the first authority in London. No doubt the experience of highly-skilled persons is sometimes more valuable when it is tendered as evidence than when it is employed in the examination of witnesses, but there is no reason why Miss Hill should not both appear as a witness and serve on the Commission. But if these functions are held to be incompatible, then it is more important that she should be a Commissioner than

a witness. We want her experience and good sense to permeate the whole inquiry, instead of being placed as it were on exhibition before the Commissioners for a single day. The Government could hardly do a wiser and more popular thing than to submit the name of Miss Octavia Hill for the approval of Her Majesty as an additional member of the Commission.

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FEBRUARY, 1884.

Table listing names and amounts for Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage, February 1884. Includes names like Mrs. Charles Holland, Miss Brennan, Mrs. E. B. Smithson, etc.

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 28, JACKSON'S ROW, MANCHESTER.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 28, 1884.

Table listing names and amounts for Central Committee, January 28 to February 28, 1884. Includes names like Proceeds of Ball at Kensington, Miss Cobden, Mr. W. F. Bramley, etc.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 29, PARLIAMENT-STREET, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM JAN. 22, TO FEB. 20, 1884.

Table listing names and amounts for Bristol and West of England, Jan. 22 to Feb. 20, 1884. Includes names like Mrs. Chas. Thomas, Miss Eastin, Mrs. W. S. Clark, etc.

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 26, COLLEGE ROAD, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

CASH'S EMBROIDERED NAMES AND INITIAL LETTERS FOR MARKING LINEN.

Your Name or Initials Embroidered on our Fine Cambric Tape in Turkey Red, which can be sewn on to any article of dress requiring to be marked.

Can be ordered of HOSIERS and DRAPERS everywhere.
(J. & J. CASH, COVENTRY.)

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SORE THROATS CURED.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">EASY TEETHING.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SAFE TEETHING.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">BRONCHITIS CURED.</p>
<p>DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE. Sore Throats Cured with One Dose. FENNINGS' FEVER CURER. BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose. TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses. DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses. SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses. DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses. Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists. Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps.</p>	<p>DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE. FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions. ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING. FENNINGS' Children's Powders. For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions. <i>Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.</i> Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W. Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on <i>Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c.</i> Ask your Chemist for a free copy.</p>	<p>COUGHS. COLDS. BRONCHITIS. FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS. The Best Remedy to Cure all Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c. Sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., with directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W. The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free,) contain three times the quantity of small boxes. Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.</p>	<p>FENNING'S EVERY MOTHER'S BOOK sent post free on application by letter or post card. Direct Alfred Fennings, West Cowes, I.W.</p>

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

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

N.B.—Advice can be obtained, free of charge, at 78, New Oxford Street. late 533, Oxford Street, London, daily between the hours of 11 and 4, or by letter.

ESTABLISHED 1835.



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

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

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

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