

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIX.—No. 221. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

MAY 1, 1888.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

Leading Articles:—The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill; Proposed Amendments on going into Committee; Lord Denman's Bill; Women's Suffrage in South Australia; Evening Party in Westminster Town Hall. Parliamentary Intelligence. Public Meetings:—Liverpool; Wolverhampton Women's Liberal Association.

Scotland:—Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs; Kirkcaldy; Edinburgh School Board Election; International Council of Women. Correspondence:—Women and Return of Income Tax; The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. International Council of Women.

Education in Canada. The New Somerville Club. Treasurers' Reports:—Manchester National Society; Central Committee; Bristol and West of England Society. Women Poor Law Guardians for 1888.

To Secure
Reckitt's
Blue
genuine, always see
the name on the wrapper.

NEAVE'S { FOR INFANTS,
GROWING CHILDREN,
INVALIDS, AND } **FOOD.**
THE AGED.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, in support of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. Petitions ready for signature will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; Miss BALGARNIE, 29, Parliament-street, London; or Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, Dublin.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

An Appeal from the Women of England on the Threatened Change in the Law	1d.
The Woman's View of the Question. By some Middle-class Wives and Sisters...	1d.
Marriage as affected by the Proposed Change in the Marriage Laws—A Letter to English Wives. By Edith Mary Shaw	6d.
A Lady's Letter to a Friend, on behalf of those who do not wish to Marry their Brothers; and pointing to Germany as a Warning	½d.
What Miss Lydia Becker says, on the Social Disadvantages of the Change apparent to an Advocate of Women's Rights	½d.
A Sister-in-Law's Plea for Mercy	2d.
A Woman's Opinion on the Wife's Sister Bill. By an Elderly Married Lady	½d.

These publications on this question may be had at 35, King-street, Westminster, S.W.

HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE. Vol. III. Edited by ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, and MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE. Paris: G. Fischbacher, 33, Rue de Seine.

MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION TRACTS.—Vol. 1, third edition, containing Tracts 1 to 43; also Historical Preface. Cloth, 2s. 6d., post free 3s., at the Office, 35, King-street, Westminster, S.W.; Messrs. SMITH AND SON'S Railway Bookstalls; or E. W. ALLEN, 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED
INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH EXHIBITION



BENGER'S
TINS, 1/6, 2/6 & 5/-
For Children and Invalids,
FOOD

"Retained after every other food has been rejected."
London Medical Record.

Of Chemists, &c., everywhere, or free by parcels post from the manufacturers,
MOTTERSHEAD & CO., 7, Exchange-street, Manchester.

THE RATIONAL DRESS SOCIETY'S GAZETTE. Published quarterly. Price 3d.; by post 3½d., or 1s. 2d. per annum. Contains suggestions for the reform of women's dress.—HATCHARDS, 187, Piccadilly.

NEW SOMERVILLE CLUB FOR LADIES, 231, Oxford-street (opposite Peter Robinson's). A Reading-room supplied with papers and magazines. A Lecture-room for debates and social meetings. Light refreshments. Subscription, 10s.; an entrance fee after June 25th.—For particulars, apply to the Hon. Sec., Mrs. FLEMING BAXTER, 55, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co.

MADAME BROWNJOHN, Court Dress-maker, 48, Elizabeth-street, Chester Square. The most fashionable costumes of every description made at the shortest notice. Ladies' own materials made up. Estimates given. Evening Dresses, from 3½ guineas; Morning Dresses, from 2½ guineas. Wedding orders and foreign outfits promptly attended to. Perfect fit guaranteed.

TOWLE'S 1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.
4s. 6d. & 11s.
CHLORODYNE

Invaluable for Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Consumption, Spasms, &c. One Dose speedily relieves. TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE LOZENGES and JUBBERS. 6d. and 1s. per box. A. P. TOWLE, Chemist, 75, Back Piccadilly, Manchester, and of Chemists.—Post free 13½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, APRIL, 1888.

Mr. S. Chesters Thompson .. £5 0 0	Miss Alice Wood £0 5 0	
Mrs. Wm. Hargreaves 2 0 0	Mrs. Fielden Thorp (York) .. 0 3 0	
Mrs. M'Kinnel 1 1 0	Mrs. J. Brooke 0 2 6	
In Memoriam, Mrs. M'Culloch.. 1 1 0	Dr. Small, J.P. 0 2 6	
Mrs. Richard Smith 1 1 0	Mr. F. C. Danson 0 2 6	
Clara, Lady Rayleigh .. . 1 0 0	HYDE (continued).	
Mrs. Whately Cooke Taylor .. 1 0 0	Miss Smith 0 10 0	
Mrs. William Grey 1 0 0	Mrs. J. C. Hibbert 0 2 6	
Mrs. Alfred Hunt 0 10 0	Miss Morton 0 2 6	
Mr. Jonathan Burt (York) .. . 0 10 0	Mrs. A. Sidway 0 2 6	
Mrs. Frankland 0 6 6	Mrs. Pointon 0 2 6	
Mrs. H. Pears 0 5 0	Mrs. J. Sidway 0 2 6	
Mrs. Swanston 0 5 0		
Mrs. C. J. Brooke 0 5 0		
Miss Gooch 0 5 0	£17 10 6	

NOTE.—The £5 given last month by Miss Biggs for the late Miss Hill was for the Women's Suffrage Journal Fund.

ROBERT ADAMSON, TREASURER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, APRIL, 1888.

Mr. James Heywood, F.R.S. £10 0 0	Miss Anderson £0 5 0
Mr. and Mrs. Meinertzhagen .. 2 2 0	Miss Hawkins 0 2 6
Mr. C. H. Hopwood, Q.C. .. . 2 2 0	Mr. Thos. Carpenter 0 2 6
Miss Lucy Johnson 1 1 0	Miss Hart 0 2 6
Mr. R. Edmunds 0 10 0	Mrs. Pennack 0 2 6
Miss F. S. Petrie 0 5 0	Miss Ketton 0 2 6
Mrs. Wates 0 5 0	Mrs. Clifford 0 2 6
Miss Clark (Norwich) 0 5 0	
Miss Peppercorn 0 5 0	
Mrs. Preston 0 5 0	£18 0 0

HARRIET MORRISON, TREASURER, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 23RD TO APRIL 25TH, 1888.

Mr. Charles Thomas £5 0 0	BRIDGWATER.	
Miss Courtney 1 1 0	Mrs. F. J. Thompson £0 10 0	
Miss Cave 0 10 6	Mrs. A. Thompson 0 5 0	
Miss Rooker 0 5 0	Mrs. Perry 0 2 6	
Miss M. Rooker 0 5 0	Miss Thompson 0 2 6	
Mrs. Southall 0 5 0	Mrs. Wm. Thompson 0 2 6	
Mr. M. Weir 0 5 0	Miss Burghope 0 1 0	
Mrs. Harle 0 2 6	Miss Rodger Smythe 0 1 0	
Miss F. Davenport Hill .. . 0 2 0		
	£9 0 6	

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, TREASURER, Office, 69, Park-street, Bristol.

WOMEN POOR LAW GUARDIANS FOR 1888.

PLACE.	NAME.	ELECTED.
ENGLAND.		
London: Fulham	Mrs. Henniker	3rd time
Greenwich, Deptford .. .	Miss Peppercorn	
Hackney		
Holborn	Miss Baker	7th time
"	Miss C. M. Wyld	4th time
Islington	Miss Varley	7th time
Kensington	Mrs. Louisa Twining .. .	5th time
"	Mrs. A. Brandreth .. .	
"	Mrs. Shaen	
"	Miss Marion Ferguson ..	
Lambeth	Miss Whitehead	6th time
Paddington	Mrs. Amelia Charles .. .	5th time
"	Mrs. Moore	4th time
St. George's, Hanover Square	Mrs. Lawrie	3rd time
"	Lady Anstruther	
"	Miss Bramston	
St. Pancras	Miss Lidgett	7th time
"	Miss E. Dampier	4th time
"	Miss Goldschmid	
St. Saviour's	Miss J. Johnson	
Strand	Mrs. M. M. Evans	2nd time
"	Miss Stevens	
Wandsworth, Battersea .. .	Mrs. Poulton	6th time
"	Miss Synnot	6th time
Clapham	Miss Evins	7th time
Woolwich, Plumstead .. .		
Barnet Union	Mrs. Edwards	3rd time
Bedford	Mrs. Cheyne	
Birmingham	Mrs. Rollason	
"	Miss H. Cadbury	Elected for 3 years
"	Miss Fanny Shelton .. .	
King's Norton	Miss Angela James .. .	Elected 1887, for 3 years
"	Miss Agatha Stacey .. .	
Boddington in Tewkesbury Union	Mrs. M'Ilquham	8th time

PLACE.	NAME.	ELECTED.
Brighton	Mrs. Haycraft	5th time
"	Miss Biggs	4th time
Bristol: Clifton	Miss Alice Winkworth .. .	
"	Miss Woollam	
St. Philips	Mrs. Manning Prentice ..	Elected 1886, for 3 years
Westbury-on-Trym	Miss Clifford	
Cleveland	Miss S. J. Pedder	3rd time
Croydon	Miss Anna Ely	3rd time
"	Miss Shanks	2nd time
Eastbourne	Miss Wilhelmina Hall .. .	6th time
Guildford: Shere	Miss A. Spottiswoode .. .	8th time
Pirbright	Miss Brander	2nd time
Hinckley	Mrs. Argyle	2nd time
"	Mrs. Goode	2nd time
Hyde in Stockport Union ..	Miss Elizabeth Smith .. .	
Honley in Huddersfield .. .	Miss Siddon	7th time
Kingston-on-Thames Union ..	Mrs. Henry Kingsley .. .	2nd time
Rugby	Mrs. Ellen Hulson	
Richmond	Miss A. E. M'Clure .. .	
Scarborough	Miss Foster Newton .. .	
"	Miss Hopkins	5th time
West Bromwich	Miss Thompson	4th time
"	Miss Anna Lloyd	4th time

EVENING PARTY IN WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

An EVENING PARTY will be held at the WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL, on FRIDAY, MAY 11th, 1888, under the auspices of the following Ladies:—

The Countess of PORTSMOUTH.	CLARA Lady RAYLEIGH.
The Viscountess HARBERTON.	Lady MAUDE PARRY.
Mrs. GARRETT ANDERSON.	LOUISA Lady GOLDSMID.
Mrs. ARTHUR ARNOLD.	MISS DAVENPORT-HILL.
Mrs. ASHFORD.	Mrs. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE.
Miss BECKER.	Mrs. FAWCETT.
Mrs. BEDDOE.	Mrs. WILLIAM GREY.
Mrs. BEWICKE.	Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT.
Miss C. A. BIGGS.	Mrs. CHARLES HOLLAND.
Miss J. BOUCHERETT.	Mrs. JOHN HOLLOD.
Mrs. COTTON.	Mrs. COURTENAY SCOTT.
Miss COURTENAY.	Miss TOP.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BECKER, 49, Eaton Terrace, S.W.
 Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. FAWCETT, 2, Gower-street, Bedford Square.
 Tickets, Five Shillings each, may be obtained from any of the above Ladies.
 Reception at Nine o'clock. Carriages at Twelve. Music, &c.
 The proceeds will be devoted to the Women's Suffrage Journal Fund.

PROGRAMME OF ARRANGEMENTS.

RECEPTION, NINE O'CLOCK.

MUSIC AT INTERVALS DURING THE EVENING.

Pianoforte.....	"Tarantelle"	Claude Trevor.
Song.....	Mr. CLAUDE TREVOR.	
	"Let me dream again"	Sullivan.
Songs.....	Miss HELEN MEASON.	
	"Vorrei morir"	Tosti.
	"It came with the Merry May" }	
	Signor MHANES.	
Song.....	"Her bright smile haunts me still"	
	(Harp accompaniment) Mrs. BEWICKE.	
Song.....	"Yes, I will"	Denza.
Duet.....	Miss FLORENCE EMERSON.	
	"I'll whisper thy name"	Claude Trevor.
Song.....	Miss HELEN MEASON and Signor MHANES.	
	"Spangles"	Lohr.
Song.....	Miss HELEN MEASON.	
	"Parais a ta fenetre"	Gregh.
Harp Solo.....	Miss FLORENCE EMERSON.	
	"Welsh Airs"	
	Mrs. BEWICKE.	

Conductors: Signor DENZA and Mr. CLAUDE TREVOR.
 Grand Pianoforte kindly lent by Messrs. Chappell & Co.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIX.—No. 221. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MAY 1, 1888.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
By POST THREE HALFPENCE.

THE Bill to render legal marriage with a deceased wife's sister passed second reading in the House of Commons on April 18th by 239 votes to 182; majority, 57. This shows a falling off in the majority since 1884, when Mr. BROADHURST carried a resolution to the same effect by a majority of over one hundred.

The question is one on which the opinions of women are greatly divided; the difference is deep and searching, and the feeling on both sides is intense. In the absence of representation, it is not possible to obtain an authoritative expression of the opinion of the majority of women on the subject, and as the matter vitally affects the interests of the family circle, we must maintain the position, without prejudice to the merits of the question, that it is one that Parliament is not morally competent to deal with so long as representation is denied to women.

But if there is to be an alteration of the marriage law, the change should be based on a principle of strict equality in the legal relation of husbands' and wives' kindred. The whole tendency of modern legislation has hitherto been in the direction of raising the position of the wife towards a condition of legal equality with the husband. The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, in its present form, is a distinctly retrograde measure. It lowers the position of the wife in the marriage relation, because the marriage will cease to make her husband the legal brother of her sisters, while the marriage will still make her the legal sister of her husband's brothers.

Mr. WALTER M'LAREN has given notice of an amendment on going into Committee on the Bill which, if adopted, will make the measure equal as between husband and wife. The amendment deserves the cordial support of all who believe in equal law for women and men, and it is to be hoped that it will receive the sanction of the House of Commons.

MR. WALTER M'LAREN will move as an amendment on going into Committee on the Deceased Wife's Sister

Marriage Bill, "That it be an instruction to the Committee that they shall extend the scope of the Bill so as to include marriages between a woman and her deceased husband's brother." On this Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL has given notice that he will move as an amendment to Mr. WALTER M'LAREN's proposed instruction, after the word "brother," to insert "or nephew, and between a man and his deceased wife's niece."

It is difficult to understand how either of these amendments can be logically rejected after the House of Commons has abandoned the principle that affinity is a bar to marriage by making the wife's sister marriageable. The wife's niece is a more distant relation than the wife's sister, and there is neither principle nor consistency in abolishing the prohibition of marriage with a wife's near relation, and keeping it up with a more distant one.

Whatever be the principle which the Legislature in its wisdom may see fit to adopt in the very serious matter of regulating the conditions of kindred under which it will sanction or prohibit marriage, that principle should be strictly and logically definable, and easily understood by the people. The circle of prohibited degrees, if it is to be contracted, should yet remain a perfect circle, touching kindred equal in degree all round. Marriages would then be lawful in all degrees of affinity outside the contracted circle, while they would remain unlawful within the narrow limits of the revised table of prohibited degrees.

FRIENDS of women's suffrage in this and other countries should not be misled by the failure of the misdirected effort of Lord DENMAN to induce the House of Lords to consider the Bill which, in spite of remonstrance, he deems it his duty to present annually to them. Nobody takes Lord DENMAN's efforts seriously, and Lord CRANBROOK, in moving the rejection of the Bill, was careful to explain that he did so without expressing an opinion one way or the other on its merits. Lord DENMAN's Bill was rejected without a division, but this action does not in any way prejudice the discussion of the question itself

whenever the Bill shall be sent up to their Lordships from the House of Commons.

WE have received from South Australia several numbers of the *Kapunda Herald* containing a lively correspondence on the women's suffrage question, one noteworthy feature of which is that all the writers take the side of enfranchisement and are supported by an article in the leading column of the paper itself. This consensus of opinion seems a good omen for the success of Dr. STIRLING when next he brings the subject before the Legislative Assembly in Adelaide.

The last occasion on which he did so was in 1886, when the Bill was read a second time by a small majority. But the constitution of the Colony requires that the second reading of any Bill shall be carried by an absolute majority of the House, consequently the further progress of Dr. STIRLING'S Bill was arrested. Judging from the numerous candidates' addresses in the papers sent, a general election appears to be in progress, and we trust that the new Legislative Assembly will ratify by the requisite majority any measure for the enfranchisement of women which Dr. STIRLING and his friends may submit for its consideration.

WE desire to call attention to the forthcoming evening party in Westminster Town Hall on the 11th instant. An influential gathering of leading workers in the women's franchise movement is anticipated, and the musical arrangements are such as to promise an agreeable entertainment for the guests. The proceeds will be devoted to the fund for circulating the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *Friday, April 13th.*

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.

Lord DENMAN moved the second reading of this Bill. Viscount CRANBROOK remarked that, although the noble lord had again brought forward his chivalrous motion, he thought that any one who looked at the House of Lords at the present moment would see that that was not an occasion on which it would take upon itself to alter the mode of electing members to Parliament. As on a previous occasion, without expressing an opinion one way or the other as to the merits of the Bill, he would move that it be read a second time that day six months.

Lord DENMAN: Does the noble lord mean lunar or calendar months? (Laughter.)

Viscount CRANBROOK: I think I will leave that to my noble and learned friend on the woolsack.

The LORD CHANCELLOR thought that lunar months were meant. For a long time that had been the meaning of the word month; then had come an Act of Parliament enacting that it should mean calendar month. That Act, however, had not extended to proceedings in Parliament, and therefore months in this case meant lunar months.

The motion that the Bill be read a second time that day six months was then agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Wednesday, April 18th.*

MARRIAGE WITH DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Mr. HENEAGE moved the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. SALT moved the rejection of the measure. In the course of his speech, he said there was another class of social questions which this question affected, and that was the rights of women. It would be most unfortunate if the House took any step towards putting woman in a less honourable position to that she now occupied. He thought any law was to be deprecated which was in any sense a retrograde step with respect to the social rights of women.

Mr. BROADHURST spoke in favour of the Bill.

Mr. HENRY MATTHEWS opposed the measure.

Sir JOHN SIMON supported the Bill.

Mr. E. BRODIE HOARE opposed the Bill. In the course of his speech, he said he had received a letter from a lady in his constituency urging that the settlement of this question should be postponed until women had votes. (Hear, hear.) There was great force in that argument, which had not previously occurred to him. It was natural that women, who had at least as large an interest in the question as men, should have a full opportunity of expressing their views upon the question. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. O. V. MORGAN spoke in favour of the Bill.

Colonel MAKINS, who had an amendment on the paper for referring the whole question of marriages of affinity to a Royal Commission, said it seemed to him a very one-sided arrangement that a man was to be allowed to marry two sisters while a woman was to be prohibited from marrying two brothers. That was binding the woman and leaving the man free; it was for the first time introducing in matrimony an inequality among the sexes. He would vote against the Bill, and if the second reading was carried he would move, should he have an opportunity, the amendment of which he had given notice. (Hear.)

Mr. H. H. FOWLER spoke in favour of the Bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Mr. ARTHUR O'CONNOR, and Sir J. FERGUSSON all opposed the Bill.

The House then divided, and the numbers were—

For the second reading	239
Against	182
Majority	—57

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Friday, April 20th.

WOMEN AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

Mr. JEFFREYS asked the President of the Local Government Board whether women who had the right of voting at the election of county councillors would themselves be eligible to be elected members of the county councils.

Mr. RITCHIE: Women as regards their eligibility to be elected as members of the county council will be in the same position as they are with respect to elections as councillors under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882. Although they may vote at municipal elections they are not qualified for election as councillors.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

LIVERPOOL.

Under the auspices of the Southport Guild of the Women's Household Suffrage Society, a public meeting was held on April 10th, in the Rotunda Lecture Hall, Liverpool. There was a good attendance. The chair was occupied by Mr. B. L. BENAS, J.P., and among the ladies and gentlemen present were Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss F. Balgarnie, London; Mrs. Sherbrooke (hon. sec.); Mrs. Zeschemacher, and Miss Nicholson, Southport; Mrs. Phillips; Miss F. Cooke and Miss Thompson, Birkenhead; Mrs. A. and Miss Allman, Mrs. A. H. Bright, Mrs. A. J. Johnson, Captain Edwards-Heathcote, M.P., Mr. Walter M'Laren, M.P., the Rev. R. A. Armstrong, B.A., the Rev. J. B. Anderson, Dr. Nevine, Messrs. A. H. Bright, A. Allman, A. J. Johnson, P. H. Rathbone, C.C., H. W. Meade-King, John Henderson, P. A. Benas, T. Crossfield, G. Booth, G. Martin, and T. Croft.

Mrs. SHERBROOKE, the honorary secretary, read a number of letters from gentlemen who were unable to attend the meeting, but who expressed sympathy with the movement. Sir William Forwood wrote that he was heartily in sympathy with the object of the meeting, but as he was to sail for America this week his time was very fully occupied.—Mr. Mattinson, M.P., writing from the House of Commons, said: "I purpose supporting the principle of women's suffrage when the matter comes to a vote in Parliament."—Captain E. T. D. Cotton, M.P., wrote that his Parliamentary engagements prevented his being present at the meeting in support of a measure which he hoped might soon be passed into law.—Mr. Woodall, M.P., wrote: "I have been in constant communication with Messrs. M'Laren and Edwards-Heathcote, and feel assured that in their hands your wishes will be realised."—Mr. A. B. Forwood, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, wrote: "I am very pleased to see the extension of the woman's suffrage in the new Local Government Bill."—Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., wrote: "Any measure referring to female suffrage will receive my most careful and favourable attention."—Mr. E. K. Muspratt wrote: "I heartily sympathise with the object of the meeting, and hope it will succeed."—Mr. George Melly, Mr. John Lovell, Mr. James Samuelson, Rev. Warden Stubbs, and Rev. L. Pearson also wrote expressing approval of the object of the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN gave an address in which he expressed his hearty sympathy with the movement, and said they simply asked that those whom the Legislature had already entrusted with votes for municipal purposes, for school board purposes, and prospectively for local government purposes, should be granted votes for Parliamentary purposes.

Captain EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE, M.P., 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 all matters of local government have the right of voting." He said the subject of women's suffrage was to those who had studied it pretty nearly threadbare, and he could not hope to add any novel arguments to the discussion. It was not a party question, and this was in some respects a disadvantage, because a question in which no party feeling was evoked lacked the momentum which the combative instinct of humanity gave where party feeling was concerned. But though this question lacked what he might call a party momentum, they trusted to give it that evening in Liverpool a far better momentum—the momentum arising from the conviction that the cause was a thoroughly just one. (Applause.) The cause had made very great strides since Mr. John Stuart Mill first discussed the question in the House of Commons twenty years ago, and was now very near success. The question, however, still is, Will you grant the Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting, and have exercised that right with very great advantage to the community as a whole? They have the vote on educational, on municipal, and poor-law questions, and now they are to be admitted, under the new Local Government Bill, to a share in County Councils. (Hear, hear.) If they have already exercised these franchises to the advantage of the whole community, why should they be denied the Parliamentary franchise? One of the reasons given was that they could not be soldiers. Well, neither could blind nor lame men, yet they were not disfranchised. Again, it was said that it would destroy the characteristics of women to give them the franchise and encourage them to enter the political arena. The fact, however, must be considered that they had already entered it. The platform was open to them now; they could attend public meetings; and possibly there were some present who knew how efficient they were as canvassers. Why, then, should it be supposed that it would unsex them to give them the votes which were but the logical conclusion of their political efforts? On the contrary, he thought it would prevent them degenerating into agitators; because people, whether men or women, who were denied justice very naturally agitated for it, and were very apt to go into extremes in order to obtain it. (Hear, hear.) Another objection was that there was some doubt about how women would vote; but, if the extension of the franchise to women was an act of justice, he contended that no one had a right to ask whether they would vote this way or that. Still, he was prepared to admit that this point was one which many on both sides of the House of Commons would consider. He ven-

tured to say that nobody knew how the majority of women would vote. He fancied that it would be found that the party lines which divided—or used to divide!—men in the House of Commons would probably divide women also; but he believed they would always find the majority on the side of the maintenance of law and order—(applause)—because they were physically weaker than men. Beyond this, he did not think it could be prophesied how they would vote. They would always vote, no doubt, for what they believed to be for the best interests of their country. (Hear, hear.) It was said that women did not want to vote. He said that they did want to vote, and, if they did not, they ought to. He did not know how they could show their desire to vote more clearly than they had done. They ought to want to be able to do the utmost they possibly could for the welfare of the community as a whole, and they could not possibly put out their whole force unless they had a vote to back it. He maintained that a woman to be a true companion to man must be able to take an interest in politics, and discuss with him the political questions of the day. He did not think there was any such educating influence as politics, whether for women or for men, and if it were true that women's brains weigh less than men's, it was all the more reason for educating them thoroughly. Taxation and representation should go together—(hear, hear)—and the woman who paid her taxes had the same right to have a voice in the distribution of the money which her energy and industry had provided that the man had. The Local Government Bill proved that both sides of the House of Commons were prepared to trust the people. (Hear, hear.) But what on earth did those members mean who said they were prepared to trust the people at the same time that they would deny the franchise to women, who were not only half of the people, but he might almost say the "better half" of the people. (Laughter and applause.) He asked his hearers to consider this question for themselves, whether it was just and right to deny the franchise to women who paid the same rates and taxes that men paid; and if they could come to the conclusion that it was not right, but that it was fair that they should have the franchise, then he asked them to lend their weight and influence to those who were endeavouring to extend the franchise to women, and to "be just, and fear not." (Applause.)

Mrs. FENWICK MILLER seconded the motion, which was supported by the Rev. R. A. ARMSTRONG, and adopted with only one dissenter.

Mr. WALTER M'LAREN, M.P., moved that a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and be sent to Mr. Neville, M.P. for Exchange Division, for presentation; and that copies be sent to the members for the other divisions of Liverpool. He said he doubted if there was any question before the country really of so great importance in its ultimate issues as this. It was a far larger question than the lowering of the franchise, over which there had been such political struggles. Strictly speaking, what was asked for was only the restitution of a right which the women of this country undoubtedly possessed in times gone by. Fortunately, women had decided for themselves the question whether they were to enter on political life or take an interest in politics. The fact was that the education of women and the demands of men had conspired to compel women to come into active political life and therefore necessarily into competition with men, and Parliament had been obliged to endorse their action by the concession of the local franchises which had been referred to. Year after year women were taking an ever increasing interest in politics. In giving them local franchises Parliament had really conceded the main principle contended for—that women householders were entitled to vote, because, though an imaginary distinction might be drawn between Parliamentary and local franchises, there was no real intelligible line of distinction between them. Men had done and were doing all they could to induce women to enter public life when it was to the advantage of those men to do so. There was not a candidate for Parliamentary honours who did not do his utmost to persuade women to canvass for him—(hear, hear)—and the women's leagues had done very much to bring women into the political arena. He rejoiced that such associations existed, because he rejoiced in anything which brought women forward into political life. At that very moment a great congress of women was sitting in Washington to consider the claims of women to the suffrage, which was now one of the leading topics of interest in the United States, and the women of this country had sent several delegates, among whom were Mrs.

Scatherd, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, and Mrs. Chant, to that congress. Whether women would be happier or not for their competition with men had nothing to do with the question; but giving them the franchise would enable them to bear that competition better, and would remove the disability under which they suffered. What he wanted was to give women a fair chance in the world. Let them be put on an equality with men, and have a fair field and no favour. (Applause.) The *Liverpool Courier* had said in an article that woman could not expect, in her new and independent position, the consideration she received when in a clinging and dependent relation to man. He would like to know what sort of consideration women who were dependent did receive from men. (Applause.) Let them ask the outcast women on the streets what consideration they had ever received from the men on whom they had depended. (Applause.) Ask the women who worked in sweating shops; ask the woman whom the trades unions tried to drive out of work; and, finally, let them ask the married women generally, and they would find that, in the vast majority of cases, this consideration was a myth and had no existence. The fact was men showed most consideration to those women who were independent of them. (Applause.) The *Liverpool Mercury*, in an able article on this subject, said if women would only show eagerness to obtain the franchise they would easily obtain it. (Applause.) He believed that women were unanimous in favour of it, but they showed too much confidence in the men; they thought it would come without making a special demonstration or showing eagerness to obtain it. But he feared it might be delayed, because women did not show the anxiety which they should feel. Women should make this question of their enfranchisement the first question; they should lay aside all other questions until their object was attained. That was the conduct that men had always taken with regard to their own enfranchisement. No man would have dreamed of working for a candidate who would not vote for his enfranchisement, and, speaking as a party politician, it was to him lamentable that women should be banded together as Liberal associations, or as Tory associations, and should work for candidates at elections without inquiring as to what their views on women's suffrage were. If, in the course of this Parliament, at a few by-elections which would make no difference to parties which way they went, the women of those constituencies would band themselves together—Tories and Liberals alike—and would throw over all other political considerations, and put the whole of their energy and enthusiasm into the scale in favour of the man who would vote for their enfranchisement, the question would be carried before twelve months were over. (Applause.)

Miss BALGARNIE seconded the motion, Mr. P. H. RATHBONE supported the resolution, and the motion was carried.

Mr. MEADE-KING moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. JOHN HENDERSON seconded the motion, which was also carried, the meeting separating shortly afterwards.

WOLVERHAMPTON WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting to consider the question of women's suffrage was held on April 23rd, in the St. George's Hall, Wolverhampton, under the auspices of the above Association. Mrs. Osler presided, and among those present were Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mrs. Major, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Dickenson, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Berry, &c. Mrs. Osler, in course of her remarks, said the effect of the Primrose League's organisation had been to reconcile public opinion to the question of women's suffrage. One absurdity of the present system was strongly instanced in Birmingham, where women, who assisted in the selection of political candidates, were not allowed to vote for them. Mrs. Fenwick Miller delivered an address, and was followed by Miss Balgarnie. Mrs. Major moved a resolution in favour of women's suffrage, and that a petition, signed by Mrs. Osler, on behalf of the meeting in favour of such enfranchisement, should be forwarded to Parliament. Mrs. Webb seconded the resolution, and it was carried.

SCOTLAND.

CONVENTION OF ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY BURGHS.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

On April 4th the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs resumed its sitting in the High Court of Justiciary. Sir Thomas

Clark, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, presided, and there was a large number of members present all day. In the course of the day's proceedings the Convention agreed, on the motion of Bailie Walcott, to petition Parliament to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women.

KIRKCALDY.

At a meeting of Kirkcaldy Town Council on April 11th, it was agreed unanimously to petition in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to female ratepayers.

EDINBURGH SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

On April 6th, the sixth school board for Edinburgh since the passing of the Education Act was elected. The three ladies who were members of the late board sought re-election: Miss Mary Barton, who came forward as heretofore as an independent candidate, and Miss Flora Stevenson and Mrs. M'Bride, who were nominated by the Ladies' Association. All three ladies were re-elected—a gratifying testimony of the appreciation by their fellow-citizens of the value of the co-operation of women in school board work, and of the manner in which these three ladies have discharged the duties entrusted to them.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The Edinburgh National Association for Women's Suffrage, in conjunction with the Glasgow Committee, nominated Mrs. Ormiston Chant as their delegate at the International Conference of Women just held at Washington.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN AND RETURN OF INCOME TAX.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam,—I am glad to see an article in this month's *Journal* informing women whose income does not exceed £150 a year that they can claim the return of income-tax which has been deducted from their dividends. But I write to warn those who may be induced to make an application that the process is not quite so easy or inexpensive as the article leads one to suppose. Last year I applied at the Income-tax Office and was referred to the Surveyor of Taxes, who lives in another town; after a correspondence, lasting a month and involving one shilling in postage, my claim for a very small sum was allowed.—Yours faithfully,

A CONSTANT READER.

[Our correspondent will, in all probability, not have the same trouble or expense another year. It is not surprising that in some cases the necessary verification on a first application should involve inquiry and a little delay. But we know of cases in which no expense beyond a penny stamp was incurred, even the first year, when the claim was allowed.—ED. W. S. J.]

THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam,—Although I know that the *Journal* does not deal with the question of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, I trust you will allow me, as one of the warmest advocates in Parliament of the necessity for equal legislation for men and women, to make an appeal to your readers on behalf of justice in this matter. I will neither say a word for nor against the principle of legalising the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister. I start from the fact that on the 18th inst. the House of Commons read the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill a second time, and will certainly send it this session up to the Lords. I hold that if it is passed in its present form it will do a cruel injustice to women, and I desire to try and prevent this great wrong. At present the law is, that a man may not marry his deceased wife's sister, nor may a woman marry her deceased husband's brother. The relationship is equal on both sides. The Bill removes the former prohibition but not the latter, hence the equality between the relations of the husband and the wife is destroyed. I shall move in Committee to extend

the Bill so as also to legalise marriages between a woman and her deceased husband's brother, and thus preserve the equality of relationship which now exists, and which justice and the interests of women demand.

I earnestly hope that women will aid me in this by petitioning Parliament and writing to their members. I enclose a draft form of petition. A petition must be written all on one sheet of paper, and signed on the same sheet, but more sheets may be added after the first sheet is filled. Petitions may either be sent to the local members or to myself for presentation, and are valuable even if they have only a few names on them; but I believe that private letters to members are even more valuable as a means of influencing votes on such a question. The Bill may be taken any day, and no time should be lost.

Will you please print the form of petition with this letter.—I am, yours truly,
WALTER S. B. M'LAREN.
House of Commons, April 24th, 1888.

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

The humble Petition of

Sheweth,—

That the present law of prohibiting marriages within certain degrees of affinity is based on the principle that the sisters of a wife stand towards her husband in exactly the same position as do the brothers of a husband towards his wife.

That the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, now before your Honourable House, violates this principle, because it allows a man to marry his wife's sister and does not allow a woman to marry her husband's brother.

That a great wrong will be done to women if the Bill passes in its present form, and a just principle of equality between the relatives of a husband and wife will be violated.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that any measure for alteration of the marriage law which may be passed by your Honourable House may be based on the principle of equality between the legal relations of wives' sisters and husbands' brothers.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam,—I have been very much surprised and grieved to notice, on the covers of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, advertisements of the tracts of "The Marriage Law Defence Union." Certainly, if these pamphlets are thus advertised, those of "The Marriage Law Reform Association" should also be advertised there, for it is certain that many of the supporters of that *Journal* are in favour of marriage law reform, and thus their views are misrepresented and a false impression conveyed to the public. I cannot understand how anyone who spends her life in trying to raise the social and political position of women can be otherwise than in active sympathy with this much-needed reform. To me it seems that this question is hardly second to that of women's suffrage in importance. No one who works much amongst the poor can fail to see how hardly this law against marriage with a deceased wife's sister presses upon them. Working men are driven by the necessities of their position to marry the sister of their late wife in order to preserve the purity and unity of their homes, and protect their children from evils too numerous and sad to be mentioned. I am constantly meeting with boys and girls who have been turned out of their homes, whilst they were children, by an unsympathising stepmother. Our servants' and rescue homes and reformatories are full of such cases. Marriage with a deceased husband's brother, since the children, the great consideration in a second marriage, have nothing to gain by such a union, is not of the same importance. I cannot see why we should wait for this reform until women get the franchise. Even then the first wife, as a married woman, will not have a vote, and therefore will have no voice in settling the question. We did not think it necessary to wait till the agricultural and other labourers got the vote before passing laws beneficial to the working classes. Besides, as this is not to be a compulsory bill, what possible injury can it inflict upon any one? All we desire is to make it legal for a woman to marry her sister's husband so that she may have the right to take care of her dead sister's children. We do wish a mother to have the comfort in her dying hours of leaving her children in the care of her own sister, of one who will not only love them better than any one else, but, what is of more importance,

understand their dispositions better than anyone outside the family could possibly do.—Apologising for thus trespassing on your space, I am, yours truly,
A. M. W.

[We beg to inform our correspondent, with reference to her complaint about the advertisement, that our columns are as open to advertise the publications of the Marriage Law Reform Association as those of the Marriage Law Defence Association, but we do not insert advertisements unless they are ordered.—ED. W. S. J.]

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam,—Shall the multitude suffer for the sake of a mere fraction of the community? Such is the question raised by the Bill which was read a second time last month in the House of Commons—a Bill which will bring relief to a certain number of persons, but at the expense of the comfort of tens of thousands of households.

Those who feel sympathy with the fraction who wish to marry their deceased wives' sisters, or are willing to marry their brothers-in-law, in their dislike to the restriction the law imposes, forget that to remove that restriction is to push a bar between wives and their sisters; is to make unmarried women as strangers in the homes of their married sisters; is to deprive motherless children of the intimate care of their dearest aunt. For that aunt will be less at home than a stranger in her brother-in-law's house—under compulsion, virtually, to marry him or, if she does not wish to marry him, to keep aloof.

This is no question of religious obligations laid on early stages of Hebrew or any other society; nor of experiments which our colonies have elected to try,—both life in scriptural times and colonial life are under different conditions of population, very unlike the extensive choice of the present day in this country. This is a question of what is most conducive to the maintenance of happy family life, here in the British Isles, to-day.

Men show no desire to weaken the fraternal bond between their brothers and their wives, not even those who are most ready to weaken the sisterly bond between themselves and their sisters-in-law; yet we are told that it is the unreasoning logic of the women of the country that is against the measure. It were nearer the truth to say it is the unreasoning sentiment of men that is for it.

Then, as an additional aggravation, it is sought to force this measure, which if it became law must directly affect at least two women for every man—while women are without the direct representation which might enforce their views.

The more it behoves us, then, to enter our protest by the aid of the Press, and your kind courtesy is therefore sought for this letter by yours faithfully,
SOROSIS.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

An international council of women was held at Washington during the last week of March to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. Delegates were present from many states of the union and many countries of Europe, representing associations of women for various social and political objects. The very narrow limits of our space unfortunately preclude us from attempting to give a summary of the proceedings. The magnitude of the congress may be gathered from the fact that the mere enumeration of the papers on the programme would occupy more than a column of this *Journal*. The *Woman's Tribune*, Beatrice, Nebraska, and the *Woman's Journal*, Boston, U.S.A., contain full reports of the proceedings.

EDUCATION IN CANADA.

Ottawa, April 17.

Sir Donald Smith has given 250,000 dollars to the Royal Victoria College at Montreal for establishing preparatory schools for women in Manitoba and the North-West.

THE NEW SOMERVILLE CLUB.

The New Somerville Club, 231, Oxford-street, was formally opened on April 10th, and a large gathering of ladies assembled to hear an address from Mrs. Scharlieb, M.B., B.S., on the "Advantages of Clubs for Women."

CASH'S CAMBRIC FRILLINGS.

Made in the following Patterns, viz.: PLAIN, LACE EDGE, IMPERIAL,
SPIRES, LILY, VIOLET, PLEATINGS, &c.

ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF DESIGNS FREE BY POST.

J. & J. CASH, COVENTRY.

SORE THROATS CURED.	EASY TEETHING.	SAFE TEETHING.	BRONCHITIS CURED.
<p>DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE. Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING. FENNINGS' Children's Powders. For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.</p> <p><i>Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c. Ask your Chemist for a free copy.</p>	<p>COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS.</p> <p>FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS. The Best Remedy to Cure all Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free), contain three times the quantity of small boxes.</p> <p>Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.</p>	<p>FENNINGS' 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.

Proprietors, G. WHELPTON & SON, 3, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

WHELPTON'S PILLS

The Best Family Medicine.

Recommended for disorders of the HEAD, CHEST, BOWELS, LIVER and KIDNEYS; also in RHEUMATISM, ULCERS, SORES, and all SKIN DISEASES, these Pills being a DIRECT PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD.

WHELPTON'S HEALING OINTMENT.

The best remedy for BURNS, SCALDS, ULCERS, and all SKIN DISEASES.

Pills and Ointment in Boxes at 7½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists.
Free by post in the United Kingdom for 8, 14, or 33 stamps.