

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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Contents :

Leading Articles:—Prospects of the Bill; Advance of Opinion since 1870; Amendments proposed in Committee on the Women's Franchise Bill; Balance of opinion in the present House of Commons; Meetings during March; Petitions since the opening of the Session; The House of Lords and Lord Denman's Bill; Prospects of the Women's Franchise Bill in the Lords; Need of the Franchise to Protect Working Women; The Meeting of Pit-bank workers at Pemberton.
Text of Bill, with Amendments of which notice has been given.

Notices of Motions.
Election Intelligence.—Cheshire, Altrincham.
Public Meetings.—Bedford, Kingston-on-Thames.
Drawing-room Meetings:—Kensington.
Lectures:—Bedford, Aspley Guise, Bedford; Brigstock, Cambridge, Cardington, Diss, Hemel Hempstead, Kempston, Rothwell, Thrapston, Wandsworth, London.
Debating Societies:—Horsham, Brighton and Preston, Hastings, Cambridge, Croydon.
Town Councils:—Chester, Chesterfield, Scarborough, Sunderland.

Political Associations:—National Liberal Club, Proposed Metropolitan Radical Federation, Cirencester.
Scotland:—Town Councils: Arbroath, Dumbarton, Galashiels. Debating Societies: Edinburgh.
Ireland:—Cookstown Young Men's Christian and Literary Association, North of Ireland Society, Municipal Franchise for Ireland.
Meeting of Pit-brow Women.
Municipal Suffrage in Tasmania. Petitions.
Treasurers' Reports:—Manchester: Central Committee, Special Fund for Public Meetings and Lectures; Bristol and West of England.

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**Reckitt's
Blue**
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As bad Qualities are
often substituted.

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CONTENTS FOR MARCH 15TH, 1886.

1. First Fruits of the New Parliament.
2. French Societies for Discharged Prisoners.
3. The Female School of Art.

Passing Notes:—The English Citizen's Diary—Patience, a Feminine Virtue—The Pit Brow Women—Given Away.

Reviews:—Flying Leaves from East to West—Social Studies in England.

Correspondence:—Class for the Study of Politics in Massachusetts.

Record of Events:—University of Ireland—Girls' Public Day Schools—Women's Suffrage: Proceedings in Parliament; Meetings—Women in the Church—Political Associations; the Primrose League; Liberal Associations—School Board Elections: Hastings, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Tavistock—Metropolitan Asylums Board—Medical Education of Women—Shop Hours Regulation Bill—Distress among Working Women and the Sweating System—Approaching Election of Guardians—Election of Board of Managers in Edinburgh—Helen Prideaux Memorial Fund—Technical Teaching for Women, Bristol—Female Factory Inspectors—National League of Women—Miscellaneous.

Foreign Notes and News.

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

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XVI. January to December, 1885. With coloured cover, price, post free, Two Shillings and Sixpence.—London: Trübner and Co.; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS, 1886.

Feb. 1. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings in LONDON, and at KEMPSTON; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
4. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of CANTERBURY; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
18. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings in LONDON, ROTHWELL, and CLIFTON (2); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], A Bill for extending the right of voting at Parliamentary elections to duly qualified women; was presented by the Lord Denman; read 1a, and to be printed. No. 10.
23. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at CLIFTON and BRISTOL; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
26. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at NOTTINGHAM and ASLEY GUISE, Inhabitants of LEEDS, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
Mar. 1. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at WOTTON, CARDINGTON, and CLAPHAM, and Inhabitants of ABERYSTWITTH; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
2. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Meeting at BRISTOL; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
4. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at THRAPSTON, BISLEY, and BEDFORD; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
5. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of LONDON (2), and KINGSTOWN, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
9. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at ABERDEEN, and Inhabitants of LONDON (2), BROUGHTON, and NORTHALLESTON; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
11. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of RIXON, SOUTHPORT, DUDLEY, and KELSO; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
12. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of SOUTHPORT, GATESHEAD, &c., and RIXON; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
15. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at ELSTOW, and Inhabitants of KENILWORTH, &c., COVENTRY, FOLESHILL, and BEDFORD; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
16. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at KILBY and BRIXTON, and Inhabitants of PENRITH, DUDLEY, HANLEY, LIVERPOOL, GAINSBOROUGH (2), HULL, SOUTHPORT, &c., KELSO, BRISTOL, and GATESHEAD ON-TYNE; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], Order of the Day for the Second Reading read: Moved that the Bill be now read 2a; objected to; and, on question, resolved in the negative.
18. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
19. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at DESBOROUGH, Inhabitants of STEBBING and SHEFFIELD, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
25. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of ASTON MANOR; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.—In Favour.

FIRST REPORT, 22 January—22 February, 1886.

Jan. 13 22 MARTHA SHERWOOD and others, There-undersigned (Mr. Channing) ... 28
14 25 CLIFTON, Bristol, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting of Ladies, held on the 29th October, 1885, at No. 4, Beaufort Road; Constance Croghan, president (Sir Michael Hicks Beach) ... 1
15 ,, KENSINGTON and other places, Inhabitants of (Sir Algernon Borthwick) ... 61
16 ,, COLCHESTER, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of (Mr. Trotter) [APP. 6] ... Seal.1
17 26 BOUTON LE MOORS, Women Inhabitant Householdors of (Mr. Cross) ... 1,478
18 ,, DUBLIN Committee of the Women's Suffrage Association, Members of the, in meeting assembled on January 20, 1886; Thomas W. Russell, chairman (Sir Thomas Esmonde) ... 1

Jan. 19 28 CLIFTON, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held on the 10th November, 1885, at No. 26, College Road; Alan Greenwell, chairman (Sir Michael Hicks Beach) ... 1
20 ,, LONDON, Inhabitants of (Lord Charles Beresford) ... 15
21 ,, CLIFTON, Attendants at a Meeting held in Rownham House, Leigh Wood, on the 1st December, 1885; Emily Sturge, president (Mr. Llewellyn) ... 1
22 ,, LONDON, Inhabitants of ... 23
Feb. 23 1 NOTTINGHAM, Attendants at a Meeting held at the Social Guild Institution, on January 26, 1886; Edward Gripper, chairman (Mr. Arnold Morley) ... 1
24 4 LONDON, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at No. 25, Phillimore Place, on Monday, 25th January, 1886; Frances Hallet, president (Sir Algernon Borthwick) ... 1
25 ,, ALDBOROUGH, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on the 14th January, 1886; William Cooke, chairman (Mr. Cozens-Hardy) ... 1
26 ,, CANTERBURY, Inhabitants of (Mr. Henniker Heaton) ... 19
27 ,, KEMPSTON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; James Keep, chairman (Mr. Magniac) ... 1
28 6 LEICESTER, Inhabitants of (Mr. Pictou) ... 18
29 18 KENSINGTON, Inhabitants of (Mr. Baker) ... 61
30 ,, BRISTOL, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held in Redland House; Mark Whitwill, chairman (Sir Michael Hicks Beach) ... 1
31 ,, LONDON, Lady Resident of Queen's College, and others (Lord Charles Beresford) ... 20
32 ,, LONDON, Inhabitants of (Lord Charles Beresford) ... 38
33 ,, KENILWORTH, Inhabitants of (Mr. Cobb) ... 30
34 ,, LONDON, Inhabitants of (Sir Julian Goldsmid) ... 56
35 ,, ,, (Sir H. Thurston Holland) ... 46
36 ,, ,, (Sir Roper Lethbridge) ... 20
37 ,, SOUTHPORT, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of (Mr. Pilkington) ... Seal.1
38 ,, LONDON, Inhabitants of ... 73
39 19 CLIFTON, Bristol, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at, on 7th January, 1886; A. C. Macpherson, chairman (Sir Michael Hicks Beach) ... 1
40 ,, HEMEL HEMSTEAD, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on February 2nd, 1886, in the Town Hall; W. H. Cranston, chairman (Mr. Halsey) ... 1
41 ,, S. E. JIFFIX and others (Mr. Lawson) ... 14
42 ,, FRANK H. MORLEY and others (Mr. Charles Russell) ... 2
43 ,, ROTHWELL, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; D. B. Chamberlain, chairman (Mr. Spencer) ... 1
44 ,, HANNAH FORDHAM and others (Mr. Stuart) ... 37
45 ,, NOTTINGHAM, Inhabitant Householdors of (Mr. J. Carvell Williams) ... 2,198
46 22 SOUTH KENSINGTON, Inhabitants of (Sir Algernon Borthwick) ... 13
47 ,, J. MORTIMER and others (Sir Algernon Borthwick) ... 66
48 ,, SOPHIA BARTON and others (Sir Algernon Borthwick) ... 53
19 ,, BRISTOL, Members and Friends of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage, in annual meeting assembled at, on February 18, 1886; Alan Greenwell, chairman (Mr. Lewis Fry) ... 1

Total number of Petitions 37—Signatures 4,402

SECOND REPORT, 23 February—1 March, 1886.

Brought forward, Petitions 37—Signatures 4,402
Feb. 24 23 DISS, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on Wednesday, February 17, 1886; George W. Pope, chairman (Mr. Taylor) ... 1
248 ,, NORTH YORKSHIRE and CLEVELAND Miners' Association, Delegates of the ... 23
24 24 BRISTON Liberal Club, Members and friends of the, in meeting assembled; James Sinclair, chairman (Mr. Broadhurst) ... 1
25 20 ,, SOUTH PADDINGTON, Female Inhabitants of, in meeting assembled on Thursday, January 28, 1886, in the Gymnasium, Queen's Road, Bayswater; Milliecent Garrett Fawcett, president (Lord Randolph Churchill) ... 1
251 25 SOUTH KENSINGTON, Inhabitants of (Sir Algernon Borthwick) ... 11
252 ,, CHELSEA, Inhabitants of (Sir Algernon Borthwick) ... 15
253 ,, LONDON and suburbs, Inhabitants of (Mr. Lionel Cohen) ... 94

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VOL. XVII.—No. 196. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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THE Women's Franchise Bill still awaits the next stage of procedure. The opponents of the measure, being apparently of opinion that they would be beaten on a division, resort to the tactics of obstruction, in order to prevent the House of Commons from giving a vote on the question of going into Committee on the Bill. Notice of opposition has been given by Mr. M. J. KENNY, Mr. BERESFORD HOPE, Mr. E. A. LEATHAM, and Mr. BAUMANN, and these "blocks" have sufficed to arrest the further progress of the measure.

The Bill is, however, in the hands of able and resolute men, who may be trusted to watch over its fortunes and to lose no opportunity of getting it forward. Their efforts should be supported by numerous petitions and other manifestations of opinion in favour of the Bill, and if this be done there is every reason to hope that, in spite of the efforts of the opponents to burke discussion, the House of Commons, which seems to have made up its mind to pass the Bill, will find the means of doing so before the conclusion of the session.

THE advance of opinion on the question that has taken place since the movement began is shown in a striking manner by the contrast of the present situation with the parallel case in 1870, when, on the first occasion when the Bill was submitted to a new Parliament after a Reform Act, the second reading was carried by a large majority. This was on May 4th, and at that time there was no "half-past twelve o'clock rule." But if there had been there was no need for the opponents to shelter themselves behind it. On May 12th, the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair was lost by 220 votes to 94; majority against the Bill, 126. If anything like such a condition of things prevailed in the House of Commons at the present time, the opponents would court the opportunity of administering a defeat to the measure on its merits. But they, as well as the friends, realise the change of opinion that has taken place since 1870, and now, in place of challenging the verdict of the House,

they use the forms of the House in order to shirk a decisive division.

THE amendments of which notice has been given in Committee on the Women's Franchise Bill will be found in another column. They may be divided into three categories. 1. Those which restrict the scope of the original Bill by excluding one or more of the existing franchises from its operation. 2. Those which, while altering the wording, leave the scope of the original Bill unaffected. 3. Those which propose to extend the operation of the Bill by admitting married women to the franchise. Under the first head must be ranked the amendments proposed by Mr. RUSTON and Mr. GREGORY, which would appear to exclude women from the freehold and the lodger franchise. Under the second head comes the amendment of Mr. BRADLAUGH to omit the words "Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall enable women under coverture to be registered as voters or to vote at such elections." As the Bill without these words would not extend to married women, the mere omission of the explanatory proviso would not enable wives to vote, and consequently the practical effect of the Bill would be unchanged.

This is well understood by Mr. CHARLES CROMPTON, Q.C., who proposes not only to omit the proviso, but to replace it by a new clause expressly declaring that women under coverture shall be included in the Bill. This amendment, therefore, and that of Mr. RAIKES, come under the third head, namely, amendments designed to extend the operation of the Bill beyond its present limits.

The proposers of the amendments expressly extending the franchise to married women are avowed opponents of the principles of women's suffrage, and should they press their amendments to a division they would probably receive the support of all the opponents of the Bill as well as of some of its friends.

Under these circumstances, it is understood that the members responsible for the charge of the Bill will resist

all amendments, and use their utmost endeavour to pass the Bill through Committee unchanged from its present form. They will deprecate any amendment as earnestly as Mr. GLADSTONE deprecated amendments likely to "deck-load" the franchise Bill for men. Like him, they have put into their Bill as much as in their judgment it will safely carry, and they appeal to their friends with the same confidence as Mr. GLADSTONE appealed to the friends of the men's franchise Bill not to endanger the Bill by raising extraneous or difficult questions, but to join in the single aim to place on the statute book during the present session this great measure of political justice.

THE present House of Commons consists of 670 members. Of these 349 have either already supported the women's franchise Bill by their votes, or have promised to do so; 165 are known opponents, and the views of 156 on the question are unknown. The friends of the measure, therefore, constitute an actual majority of 28 in the whole House over opponents and doubtfuls combined. The 155 whose views are unknown consist almost exclusively of new members; it is therefore reasonable to expect that a large proportion of these will be found to be favourable to the measure whenever a decisive division shall be taken.

The balance of opinion in the present House of Commons in favour of the Bill was shown by the increased majorities on the day when the House accepted the principle by assenting to the second reading without a division. The manifestation of the sense of the House was so strong as to convince Sir HENRY JAMES that it would be futile to offer any further opposition to the second reading of the Bill.

The analysis we have given of the declared opinions of members shows that this state of things, which seemed to take Sir HENRY JAMES by surprise, was no temporary or accidental condition to be attributed to the unexpectedness of the opportunity which was afforded for the discussion of the Bill, but that the vote which carried the second reading represents the deliberate and declared conviction of the majority of the House.

This consideration, with the analysis of the figures on which it is based, should surely prevail with the Government to allow an opportunity to be afforded to the House to enter on the discussion of the further stages of a measure, the principle of which it has so clearly and decisively adopted.

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Corn

Exchange, Bedford, on March 9th, under the presidency of the Mayor, Mr. E. RANSOM. Among the speakers were Mr. JAMES HOWARD (who represented the county in the last Parliament), Mrs. FAWCETT, Miss CAROLINE BIGGS, and Miss J. G. WILKINSON.

At Kingston-on-Thames a meeting was held on March 16th, in the Albany Hall. F. GOULD, Esq., J.P., presided. Mrs. FAWCETT, Miss BALGARNIE, the Rev. C. STIRLING (vicar of New Malden), Rev. Prof. MAYOR, and others took part in the proceedings.

A drawing-room meeting was held by invitation of Dr. and Mrs. BATEMAN at Kensington. Mr. JUSTIN M'CARNEY, M.P., presided, and the meeting was addressed by Miss BALGARNIE, Miss ORME, Mrs. LYNCH, Mrs. RUSHWORTH, Mrs. FRANK MORRISON, and others.

Mrs. FAWCETT, Miss BALGARNIE, and Miss WILKINSON have delivered lectures on women's suffrage in various places during February and March.

A LARGE number of petitions have been presented in favour of the Bill since the opening of Parliament. Among the most noteworthy of these is one from 4,520 women householders of Birmingham, being an actual majority of the women burgesses on the municipal elections. A similar petition has been presented from 2,198 women householders of Nottingham, and also one from 1,478 women inhabitant householders of Bolton-le-Moors.

Petitions in favour of the Bill have been already adopted by the following Town Councils in England and Wales: Batley, Brecon, Cardigan, Chester, Chesterfield, Chipping Norton, Colchester, Crewe, Dewsbury, Dunstable, Glastonbury, Glossop, Halifax, Hartlepool, Harrogate, Jarrow, Kidderminster, Kingston-on-Hull, Rotherham, St. Helens, Scarborough, South Molton, Southport, Sunderland, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. In Scotland the Councils of Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Dunfermline, Galashiels, Montrose, Wick, Kinghorn, Port Glasgow, Dunbar, Hawick, and Kirkcaldy have petitioned in favour of the Bill.

SOME confusion has been caused in the minds of our friends by announcements or reports that the House of Lords had rejected the Women's Franchise Bill. In order to disabuse the public mind of erroneous and injurious impressions, it is necessary to explain that the Bill which the House of Lords refused to read a second time was not the Bill on which the fortunes of the question depend, but a Bill introduced quite spontaneously on his own respon-

sibility by Lord DENMAN. Remonstrances were addressed to his Lordship representing that such action might serve to prejudice the question, and he was earnestly requested not to persevere with his Bill. But these remonstrances being unavailing, nothing remained but for the House of Lords simply to refuse to entertain Lord DENMAN'S Bill. Lord DENMAN brought it forward on March 16th when the question "that the Bill be now read a second time" was negatived without discussion. Consequently it remains on the order book of the House of Lords among the "Bills in progress" as "awaiting second reading." There appears to be nothing to prevent Lord DENMAN from bringing up the Bill as often as he likes to have it negatived time after time, should he be minded to pursue this course.

BUT although the Lords have decisively refused to look at Lord DENMAN'S Bill, and are not likely seriously to entertain any Bill for amending the representation of the people which does not originate in the House of Commons, there is every reason to believe that as soon as the Bill now before the House of Commons shall appear in the House of Lords, it will secure their most serious and favourable consideration, and be accepted either without opposition or by a considerable majority. Should the Bill pass the House of Commons in its present form, it is possible that some amendments may be proposed or made in the Lords. But any amendments that might be made in the Lords would probably be agreed to without demur by the friends of the Bill and would be accepted by the House of Commons. There is therefore good reason to hope that the Bill which was read a second time in the House of Commons at the beginning of the session may be presented for the Royal Assent before the prorogation of Parliament.

THE need of the franchise as a protection for women has never been more conclusively demonstrated than by the proposal in the Coal Mines Bill now before the House of Commons to abolish the labour of women in connection with the coal industry. There are in Lancashire large numbers of women working on the pit bank in screening and sorting coal as it is brought up from the mine. The work is rough, but well within the physical capabilities of the labourers, who are remarkable for their bright and healthful appearance, which contrasts favourably with that of workers in mills.

The head and front of the offence of the women in the eyes of those who would now take the bread out of their

mouths appears to be that they wear trousers while at work. The fact that over the trousers they wear a short skirt or tunic, and that their head covering consists of a handkerchief to keep the coal dust out of their hair and a large black bonnet, does not suffice to palliate the enormity of the offending garment. In the eyes of the sentimentalists the sight of a woman earning her living by healthy and honest work which necessitates some deviation from her ordinary costume is an offence which must be put down by the strong arm of the law. The sight of the same woman deprived, by legislation in which she is refused a voice, of her means of livelihood, and forced into the miserable ranks of "the unemployed," appears to be the result which the efforts of the promoters of such legislation are endeavouring to bring about.

The true reason for the aggression on the right of these poor workwomen lies however probably deeper than the superficial sentimentality on which it is ostensibly based, and may be found in the trades' unionism of the men. The trades' unions are as a rule opposed to the labour of women in many departments of industry in which they are perfectly capable of engaging if they were allowed. The rules of various trades' unions preclude women from employment in letterpress printing, and in many of the best paid branches of hosiery weaving, carpet making, woollen cloth weaving, etc. But not content with the power of exclusion given by their trade combinations, working men, who have just been admitted to electoral rights which have been denied to working women, now seek to drive women out of employment by positive law. The miners at a recent conference demanded the abolition of women's work on the pit banks, and the clause introduced by the Government into the Coal Mines Bill is the answer to that demand. Thus to him who hath the franchise all things that he asks for shall be given. From her that hath not the franchise shall be taken away even that which she hath.

THE proposed wrong will not be accomplished without protest. A remarkable meeting of pit-brow women was held last month at Pemberton, near Wigan, of which we give a report in another column. Mrs. PARK, wife of the Mayor of Wigan, presided. The Countess of LATHOM, who was unable to attend the meeting, wrote that she would have much liked to have joined herself in the protest that was being rightly made against the endeavour to deprive these poor women of their work. A letter was also read from the Bishop of LIVERPOOL (Dr. Ryle), who expressed

his warm sympathy with the object of the meeting. The vicar of the parish, the Rev. H. MITCHELL, said that at six collieries in the district 164 women were employed, 26 were married, seven widows, and the rest single. Their average earnings were from 1s. 6d. to 2s. each per day, or a yearly amount of £4,264. That money went all straight home and did not pay toll at the public-house. There were many at that meeting who had to support themselves and their children from their weekly earnings at that occupation. A most unjust attempt was being made to deprive them of that work. Amid the applause of the meeting a petition to Parliament was adopted protesting against that clause in the Coal Mines Bill which would deprive pit-bank women of their work.

TEXT OF BILL, WITH AMENDMENTS OF WHICH
NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

[49 VICT.] *Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).*

A B I L L

FOR

Extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. A.D. 1886.

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Representation of the Short title.
People (Extension to Women) Act, 1886.

2. For all purposes of and incidental to the voting for Women to have same members to serve in Parliament women shall have the same rights as men, and all enactments relating to or con- rights- cerned in such elections shall be construed accordingly. as men.

Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall enable women under coverture to be registered or to vote at such elections.

Monday, 22nd March.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

IN COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.

Mr. Ruston:—Clause 2, page 1, line 8, after "women," insert "being bona fide householders."

Mr. Gregory:—Clause 2, page 1, line 8, after "women," insert "rated to the relief of the poor." Clause 2, page 1, line 9, after "shall," insert "as regards such women."

Mr. Raikes:—Clause 2, page 1, line 9, after "and," insert "the name of any married woman may, on the application of her husband, if his name is included in the register of electors for any county or borough, or division of any county or borough, in the United Kingdom, in respect of the occupation of any land or tenement of a clear yearly value of not less than twenty pounds, be placed also on such register of electors as joint occupier of such land, tenement, or premises, provided that all rates due in respect of such occupation have been duly paid before the date of such application."

Mr. Bradlaugh:—Clause 2, page 1, line 11, leave out from "Provided," to "elections," in line 12.

Mr. Crompton:—Clause 2, page 1, line 11, leave out from "Provided," to "elections," in line 12.

Mr. Crompton:—To move the following Clause:
Interpretation—The word "women" shall include women under coverture.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

CHESHIRE: ALTRINCHAM.

The lamented death of Mr. J. Brooks caused a vacancy in this division. The candidates were Mr. Leadam, Liberal, an opponent of women's suffrage, and Sir W. Cunliffe Brooks, Conservative, a friend. The polling took place on March 26th, when Sir W. C. Brooks was returned by 4,508 against 3,925; majority, 583.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BEDFORD.

A large and successful meeting in advocacy of the proposal to extend the suffrage to duly qualified women was held in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, on March 9th. The attendance was very satisfactory. All political parties were well represented, and the ladies obviously predominated in the audience. Contrary to the usual custom at political meetings in this town, they occupied the body of the hall as well as the platform. For the accommodation of the speakers a temporary platform was put up on the west side of the room. The MAYOR (Mr. E. Ransom) presided, and amongst those present were the Mayoress (Mrs. E. Ransom), Mrs. Fawcett, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss J. G. Wilkinson, Canon Haddock, the Rev. R. E. R. Watts, the Rev. G. A. Willan, Mr. J. Howard, Mr. F. A. Blaydes, Mr. J. E. Cutcliffe, Mr. Jabez Carter, Mr. G. Miller, Mr. G. Carruthers, Mr. J. Miller, &c.

The MAYOR said they had met to advocate once more the extension of the franchise—this time to women, who at present were not qualified by law to vote for Parliamentary representatives, although allowed to vote in other respects. The matter was now before the House of Commons, and they believed the verdict of that assembly would be favourable to their object, but in order to make it a thoroughly satisfactory verdict it was highly necessary to urge the matter persistently by holding these meetings about the country.

Mrs. FAWCETT stated that she proposed to point out some of the practical grievances and wrongs from which women suffered in consequence of their exclusion from the political representation of the country, which she did in a very able and eloquent address. Mrs. Fawcett concluded by moving the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by the passing of a measure extending the franchise to duly qualified women."

Mr. JAMES HOWARD, member for the county in the last Parliament, seconded the motion. He said some sixteen years had elapsed since he stood upon the same platform as Mrs. Fawcett to advocate the claim of women to the suffrage. The mind very naturally turned from the position which the question occupies at the present moment to that which it occupied at the period to which he had referred. Sixteen years ago the question of woman's suffrage was not regarded by the leaders of the two political parties as a serious question. It had not then entered into the domain of practical politics, and those politicians who then allied themselves with this movement were thought to be possessed of an amiable weakness—(hear, hear)—and they had to encounter a good deal of quiet banter from their political associates to whom woman's suffrage was more a cause of merriment than of serious consideration. However, the question had long passed the stage of either merriment or ridicule. Step by step it had won its way, and if they were not within sight of the goal they were certainly within measurable distance of victory. (Applause.) It might be said that if this was the present position of the question, the period for argument had passed, but it was never wise in any movement to relax the efforts which had been the cause of bringing the movement to the front until victory had been actually won. (Applause.) It might not be uninteresting to the meeting to be informed that on the Burgess list of the borough there were already the names of some 700 women who had a right to vote in municipal and other local elections. If the State recognised the fitness of women to exercise the franchise upon local matters, surely it must be conceded that they had an equal concern in the very much more important question of imperial or national legislation. (Applause.) A great many people said politics were no concern of women. Mrs. Fawcett had shown that there were some subjects in which they had a deep interest. If time permitted, he should like to pass in review the number and variety of

measures which came up for consideration during the time he was in Parliament. In one-half of those measures women were directly or indirectly interested. Mrs. Fawcett had alluded to one class of subjects, and he would allude to another. Had the women of the mining and manufacturing population no interest in the laws which regulated the working of mines, or in the Factory Laws, or in the Employers' Liability Act and a hundred other questions and laws for the protection of the lives and limbs of their husbands or brothers, the bread winners of the family? Take the women along the coasts of this sea-girt isle, had they no interest in the laws for the regulation of shipping, and those questions into which Samuel Plimsoll threw his energies? Had women no interest in the marriage laws—(laughter)—in the divorce laws, and in the burial laws? Singularly enough on arriving in London that day he was turning over some papers when almost the first he saw was a Bill for the amendment of the law relating to the maintenance of married women who shall have been deserted by their husbands. Was the present law satisfactory, when women who had been deserted by their husbands had to undergo the indignity of throwing themselves upon the parish before they could obtain justice? Then had women no interest in the laws relating to property, or in the question being discussed in the House that night—Church Reform and Church Disestablishment—or in educational legislation. When he was in the House of Commons nothing gave him greater pleasure, when the Endowed Schools Bill was before Parliament, than to stand up to advocate the claims of girls to a share in the endowments of the country. (Applause.) He was modest enough to ask for a moiety, though he knew he should not get it, but they got a substantial recognition, and the two girls' schools in this town were standing monuments of what was obtained for women when this Bill was before Parliament. (Applause.) Had women no interest in the laws for the protection of their own sex, or in the licensing laws and the multiplication of gin palaces? had they no interest in a free breakfast table, or in the question of taxed and untaxed food? and, above all, had they no interest in the question of peace or war? To his mind it was idle for people to contend that women had no interest in politics. It was more than idle, it was folly; and it was because he believed that women had a deep interest in the political affairs of their country that he came forward, as he did, with very great pleasure, to second the resolution which had been so eloquently proposed. (Cheers.)

Miss BIGGS supported the resolution, which was carried, with two dissentients.

The Rev. E. R. WATTS moved: "That petitions in accordance with the foregoing resolution be sent to both Houses of Parliament, and a memorial to Mr. Whitbread, M.P., to be signed by the Chairman and forwarded to him."

Miss J. G. WILKINSON seconded the resolution, which was then carried, with only one dissentient; and the Chairman said he had felt it a great honour to preside over a meeting of such a character, and to receive their instructions to sign that memorial. He should like to remark that at the first meeting held in that room a voice was raised in support of women's suffrage, and a pledge was given to support the measure—if he were returned to Parliament—by the late Capt. Polhill-Turner. (Applause.)

Mr. J. CARTER proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had given their time and talents in furtherance of the objects of the meeting.

Canon HADDOCK seconded, and said he thought the ladies had thoroughly established the claim they had urged for the right to vote for the qualified members of their sex.

The motion was then carried with acclamation, and Mrs. Fawcett, in responding, proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, and to the Mayoress for her assistance.

Mr. G. MILLER seconded, and the motion having been carried, the Mayor briefly replied, and the proceedings ended.—Abridged from the *Bedfordshire Times*.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

A public meeting was held in the Albany Hall, Kingston, on March 16th. There was a large attendance. F. GOULD, Esq., J.P., presided, supported on the platform by the Very Rev. Dean Bagot, D.D., the Rev. Professor J. B. Mayor, the Rev. C. Stirling (vicar of New Malden), Mr. W. R. Selway, M.M.B.W., Mr. B. S. Foster MacGeagh, J.P., Mrs. Henry Fawcett (widow of the late Rt. Hon. Henry

Fawcett), Miss Florence Bulgarnie (secretary of the National Society for Women's Suffrage), &c. The Rev. A. Cornford (vicar of St. Paul's, Kingston Hill) and many other influential inhabitants were present in the body of the hall.

The Chairman read letters of apology for inability to be present from the following, all of whom expressed warm sympathy with the movement: T. Hare, Esq. (of Hook), General Sir Orfeur Cavenagh, K.S.C.I. (of Long Ditton), Major-General Baird (of Surbiton), and Mrs. John Hullah.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his address, said: Was woman fit and qualified to vote? First of all, what was the fitness and qualification in the extension of the franchise to two millions of our fellow subjects? Was it an educational or a property one? Nothing of the kind. Persons of the least education, without property of any kind other than their wages, were enfranchised. Even special arrangements had to be made to enable illiterate men to record their vote, when at the same time the House of Commons denied the vote to women, some of whom possessed all the qualifications of some of our ablest men. According to the last census of Great Britain, there were 347 female blacksmiths. ("Oh, I say," and laughter.) That was a manly occupation if they liked. (Renewed laughter.) There were 2,738 brickmakers and dealers—and they must know something about business; 216 carpenters and joiners, 731 carriers, 216 coachmakers, 244 plumbers and glaziers, 1,880 artists, 462 authors, editors, and journalists, 10,592 bookbinders, 33,672 boot and shoemakers, 20,644 farmers and graziers, 61 medical students, 46 registered medical practitioners, 734 florists and nurserymen, 11,376 musicians, 1,309 photographers, 2,202 printers, 7,895 upholsterers and cabinet makers, and 94,241 school mistresses. (Cheers.) These statistics were not prepared for the purposes of that meeting, but were taken from the Government census, and proved the fitness of women for the important business duties of life. If they were competent for all that, were they not fit to vote for members of Parliament? (Cheers.)

The Chairman called up Mrs. Fawcett to move the first resolution. Mrs. FAWCETT, who was loudly applauded, concluded an able address by moving: "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."

Mr. W. R. SELWAY seconded the motion. The Chairman then put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried with but one dissentient.

The Rev. C. STIRLING moved the next resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Bill now before the House of Commons for extending the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women, which passed its second reading on the evening of Thursday, February 18, should become law during the present session of Parliament."

Mr. MACGEAGH seconded, and hoped the Bill now before Parliament would soon become the law of the land.

The motion was carried *nom. con.*

Miss BALGARNIE next addressed the meeting, after which the Rev. J. B. MAYOR spoke.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Bulgarnie brought the meeting, which was of a most enthusiastic nature throughout, to a close.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

KENSINGTON.

A drawing-room meeting was held on the 26th of February, at 64, Longridge Road, S. Kensington, by permission of Dr. and Mrs. Bateman. Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., presided, and there was a large audience. Mr. Justin McCarthy, having expressed the pleasure it gave him to preside, said the present was a most important time with regard to the suffrage question, on account of the wonderful and sudden victory gained a few nights ago, and unexpectedly alike by friends and enemies. The success was a real one, but it was not to be counted on too much. It was gained by something like a snap vote, and no effort must be relaxed, for there was a great deal of work to be done during the present session, and friends would have to be active and watchful. The time for argument was gone; it was a question of voting in the House of Commons, and agitation out of doors. Many obstacles had been overcome, and it

only rested with the friends of the cause to push it on to further successes. But if efforts be relaxed the stone would roll down again. Unfortunately for the cause its leaders had a way of getting absorbed into the Government. The only way would be to get some one so obnoxious that there would be no danger of his being carried off into the Ministerial ranks. To succeed in the House of Commons one must be troublesome and persistent, for nothing would be carried without working at it again and again. The men who are to succeed must be indifferent to the convenience of their friends and to Ministerial wishes. When a man becomes a member of a Government he yields to its convenience, so it was necessary to keep the friends in Parliament well up to the mark. They must be made to believe that this is a cause which demands their energy and attention. Most truly do I wish success to you and your cause (concluded the chairman), but from my experience in the House of Commons, I can assure you that meekness and quietness will never win success there. We must be earnest and aggressive. All that is now wanted is success in the House of Commons, and it only rests with us to say when that success shall be obtained. (Cheers.) Miss Balgarnie moved "That in the opinion of this meeting the Bill now before the House of Commons for extending the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women, which passed its second reading on the evening of Thursday, the 18th of February, should become law during the present session of Parliament." Miss Orme seconded the resolution, which was carried. Mrs. Lynch moved that a petition, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting and sent to the House of Commons. Mrs. Rushwood seconded the resolution, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Mrs. F. Morrison, Mr. McCarthy making a brief reply, in which he said that it was only of late he had supported the cause, because he was not before convinced that women were really in earnest about desiring the suffrage. He was sure the matter rested very much with themselves. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. and Mrs. Bateman for their kind hospitality.

LECTURES.

BEDFORD.

A lecture on the social and political position of women was given in the Temperance Hall, Bedford, on January 28th, by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, of London, to a good and appreciative audience. The lecturer was frequently applauded, and at the close the following resolution was spoken to by Mrs. Edwin Ransom: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Representation of the People's Act should be supplemented by the passing of a measure for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women householders." The chairman, Mr. T. Keep, put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried unanimously, as was also a cordial vote of thanks to the lecturer and Mrs. Ransom.

ASPLEY GUISE, BEDFORD.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, Miss Wilkinson lectured on "Women and Politics" in the Mission Room, Aspley Guise, Bedford, Mr. Minter in the chair. There was a good attendance, and a resolution asking that the Parliamentary franchise should be given to women was passed unanimously. Mrs. Ransom (Mayoress of Bedford) proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. In the course of her remarks she said that if the evolution theory were correct, women instead of being inferior to men must be superior, as they came later than men. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Ransom for her kindness in organising the meeting closed the proceedings.

BRIGSTOCK.

Under the auspices of the local Liberal association, a lecture was delivered by Miss Wilkinson in the Schoolroom, Brigstock, Northampton, on Tuesday, the 16th February. The room was well filled. The Rev. Mr. Lord presided, and in the course of his remarks said that he had come to hear what the lecturer had to say, and that he thought she had made out a very good case, and so far as he was concerned he quite agreed with her. The resolution was passed without dissent. A hearty vote of thanks to lecturer and chairman closed the proceedings.

CAMBRIDGE.

A lecture was delivered on March 8th at the Working Men's Club, Fitzroy-street, Cambridge, by Miss Jeannette Wilkinson. The Rev. Dr. PORTER, Master of St. Peter's College, presided, and there were also on the platform in addition to the lecturer Mrs. Bateson, Mrs. Tillyard, Messrs. A. J. Tillyard, Shuckburgh, and Hammond.

The CHAIRMAN, in his introductory remarks, said he felt very much honoured when he was requested by their secretary to occupy the position he filled that evening. He considered it a great honour that he was permitted to bear testimony to the importance of that great movement—a movement which he believed was likely to produce more beneficial results than any other of the present century. He first learned from his friend, Professor Fawcett, whom he considered was not only one of the most honourable and most enlightened, but also one of the most far-seeing of our statesmen, to take an interest in the question. Professor Fawcett saw a long time ago the vast importance of this question, and he was always during his life a most consistent advocate. He (the speaker) was sorry that he had not lived to see the great success which had attended the movement. He remembered attending the annual meeting of their branch association and hearing a most interesting report read by Mrs. Bateson upon the prospects of the movement. The results were most encouraging, because they were understated, for the movement was now in a more prosperous state than it had been at any previous time. The Bill had passed its second reading and had a fair and reasonable chance of passing the House of Commons. No effort should be left unmade by the friends of the movement to overcome any obstruction that might be offered to the Bill, and every exertion should be used to secure the passing of the Bill in the House of Commons this year, for their friends were of opinion that it would meet with a favourable reception in the House of Lords.

Miss JEANNETTE WILKINSON then addressed the meeting, and was received with loud applause.

The proceedings terminated after votes of thanks had been tendered to the lecturer and the Master of St. Peter's for presiding.

CARDINGTON.

The ladies of Cardington, Beds, have held a meeting to listen to an address on "Women's Suffrage," by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, and have passed this resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented so that all duly qualified women should be in possession of the suffrage." Mr. R. H. Poynter, of Bedford, presided.—*Dunstable Gazette*.

DISS.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 17th, Miss Wilkinson lectured on "Women and Politics," in the Magistrates' Room, Diss, Norfolk. The Rev. G. W. Pope presided. After the address some questions were asked, and there was a rather lively debate on the resolution, which was, however, carried by a large majority.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

Miss Wilkinson lectured at the Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead, on February 2nd. The audience was appreciative, and a resolution in favour of conferring the franchise on duly qualified women was passed without dissent.

KEMPSTON.

On the 27th January Miss Wilkinson lectured at the Temperance Hall, Kempston, Beds, on "Women and Politics." There was a fair attendance. Mr. J. Keep took the chair. At the end of her address Miss Wilkinson moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by a measure conferring the franchise upon duly qualified women." This was seconded by Mrs. Ransom, and passed unanimously.

ROTHWELL.

A lecture was delivered by Miss Wilkinson, in the British School-room at Rothwell, Northampton, on February 3rd. The room was crowded in every part. The lecture (which had been arranged under the auspices of the Liberal association) was listened to with marked attention. After a resolution in favour of extending the suffrage to women had been passed, the secretary (Mr. F. Barlow) remarked that, though he had not thought much of the subject

before, he would take care to give it far more attention in the future. A vote of thanks to the lecturer closed the proceedings.

THRAPSTON.

Miss Wilkinson addressed a large audience in the Temperance Hall at Thrapston, on Monday evening, 15th February, the Rev. W. A. James, B.A., in the chair. At the end of her address Miss Wilkinson moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by the passing of a measure conferring the franchise on duly qualified women." The resolution was carried unanimously.

On the afternoon of the same day, Miss Wilkinson addressed a meeting of women only at Thrapston. The audience was a very attentive one. Mrs. Kidner, of Islip House, presided.

WANDSWORTH.

On Thursday evening, 18th February, Miss Wilkinson opened a debate on women's suffrage, at the Wandsworth Literary Society. After about two hours' discussion the motion was lost.

LONDON.

On Feb. 23rd, a lecture on "Women's Suffrage" was delivered in the lecture room, Commercial-street, Whitechapel, by Miss Florence Balgarnie. There was a resolution and petition in favour of Mr. Woodall's Bill, which recently passed its second reading in the House.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

HORSHAM.

Under the auspices of the Horsham Mutual Improvement Society, a meeting was held at the Albion Hall on February 1st, when a debate was introduced on women's suffrage by Mr. Alexander Wood, M.A., who moved "That, in the opinion of this society, female householders are entitled equally with males to the Parliamentary suffrage." The motion was opposed by Mr. A. C. Woodham, and, after being interestingly debated by the members, a vote was taken, which resulted in nine members voting for the proposition and twenty-nine against. Mr. R. H. Hurst was in the chair.

BRIGHTON AND PRESTON LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

The usual weekly meeting of this society was held at the Stanford Arms, Preston, on January 23rd. The proceedings took the form of a discussion on women's suffrage, Mr. J. E. Tourle advocating the extension of the franchise to women duly qualified in other respects. A resolution was ultimately passed in favour of the extension of the franchise to spinsters and widows only.

HASTINGS.

On February 19th a meeting was held at the Priory-street Institute, Hastings, in connection with the Young Men's Christian Union, when Mr. Keen presided, for the purpose of hearing a paper by Mr. William Slade, jun., on "Women Suffrage." Mr. William Slade, in his paper, advocated that Parliamentary franchise should be extended to unmarried women and widows who are owners of property or householders. Mr. Watt, by way of amendment, moved the extension should not be granted. An animated discussion ensued, after which the amendment was carried by a decided majority, some of the ladies voting for it and others abstaining altogether. By the show of hands probably a majority of the ladies who voted were in favour of the resolution.

CAMBRIDGE.
THE UNION SOCIETY.

Thursday, February 25th, 1886.

Mr. Ellis J. Griffith, Downing, President, in the chair. Mr. P. V. Capel Dunn, Trinity Hall, moved, "That this House is in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women."

<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>SPEAKERS.</i>	<i>Noes.</i>
Mr. P. V. Capel Dunn, Trin. Hall	Mr. L. J. Maxse, King's	
" J. H. Moulton, King's	" J. E. McTaggart, Trinity	
	" A. W. Fox, Christ's	

Neutral: Mr. H. Boyd Carpenter, King's College.
At nine p.m., Mr. F. E. Garrett, Trinity College, moved the

adjournment of the debate to Tuesday, March 2nd. Carried. Mr. Garrett to open the adjourned debate.

Tuesday, March 2nd, 1886.

Mr. Ellis J. Griffith, Downing, President, in the chair.

<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>SPEAKERS.</i>	<i>Noes.</i>
Mr. F. E. Garrett, Trinity	Mr. W. H. Wilkins, Clare	
" G. C. Smith, Trin. Hall	" G. Ince, Trinity	
" L. B. J. G. Ford, King's	" W. H. Stables, Trinity	
" A. J. Evans, Christ's	" W. T. Farniloe, Queens'	
" H. S. Compton, Corpus	" J. H. Butterworth, St. John's	
" H. B. Williamson, Trinity	" C. V. Barrington, Trinity	
" D. Jenks, Pembroke	" J. T. Molteno, Trinity	
" R. H. Bigg, St. John's		

The Honourable Opener (Mr. P. V. Capel Dunn, Trinity Hall) having replied, House divided:—Ayes, 59; noes, 82; majority against the motion, 23.

CROYDON.

A debate took place at the rooms of the Church of England Young Men's Society, on February 15th, the subject being "Should unmarried women be admitted to an equal share of political liberty with men?" Dr. Coles occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members and friends. Mr. E. Garnet Man opened the debate. Messrs. Dell, Dormer, Rice, Collins, Wallis, Tonelli, Walton, Davis, Moody, West, and Fuller having spoken on the subject, the resolution in favour of the extension was put to the meeting, when it was found that an equal number voted for and against. Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Garnet Man for opening the debate, and to the chairman for presiding.

TOWN COUNCILS.

CHESTER.

On March 10th, at a monthly meeting of the Chester Town Council, the MAYOR (Mr. G. A. Dickson) presiding, the Deputy Town Clerk (Mr. S. Smith) reported to the Council that the Mayor had received a communication from Miss Lydia Becker, of Manchester, with respect to the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. Miss Becker begged to forward the Mayor a copy of the proposed Bill for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, which had been read a second time, and asked that the Council should consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament in favour of the measure, which, she stated, affected a considerable portion of the Chester constituency. The Deputy Town Clerk then briefly explained the object of the Bill, which, he said, was practically to extend the franchise to women.

Councillor W. C. DEELEY: What sort of women, unmarried or married?

Councillor T. Q. ROBERTS: No, spinsters. (Laughter.) Mr. SMITH proceeded to state that women under the Bill would have the same rights as men.

After some remarks had been passed between Mr. Deeley and Mr. Smith with regard to the marriage settlement question, Alderman LITTLE said: It will be a capital thing for the ladies, and the Primrose League ladies, and I move that there be a petition. (Laughter.)

Councillor W. C. DEELEY: He moves that it form part of the Primrose League.

The MAYOR asked the sheriff (Mr. G. Dutton) who was the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, whether he had any remarks to make, and he replied: I think Councillor J. Ellis is the champion of the women's rights, and I notice he has left the room. (Laughter.)

Councillor DEELEY: He would not stand the fire. Councillor T. Q. ROBERTS: This is a very laughable matter, it appears, and I am glad to see you are all smiling. I beg to move that the letter, &c., be laid under the table—(laughter)—and that Miss Becker, instead of being a politician, should go and learn to cook potatoes. (Laughter.)

Councillor W. WILLIAMS: I beg to move that the letter of Miss Becker receive every consideration from the hands of the gentlemen of this Council and those round the table. Many of you gentlemen have obtained your seats at this table owing to the votes of the ladies. I want to know in what way a lady of education and

property and influence is inferior to a man that was—a voice: “A ‘duffer’”—well not exactly a “duffer”—to the vast majority of the crowded in towns and counties who have votes. I think it is only right and fair that ladies possessing property, even if it is only a house, should have a voice in the representation of the country. They pay the rates and taxes; and the man who looks after the cows shall have a vote, whilst the lady who possesses a carriage shall not have one. I think it is preposterous. I think if we can do anything for them we ought to do it. (Laughter.) Have you never looked at the earnestness and zeal which they throw into the municipal elections? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) You know some of them have gone through a great deal, and yet when one of them sends a letter you turn round and say, “Put it under the table.” I say no; don't put it under the table. Miss Lydia Becker may be able to boil potatoes as well as some other people—(laughter)—and I think a letter of this character is deserving of some respect at the hands of the Council of the city of Chester; and I move that her prayer be acceded to—that the memorial in favour of the Bill be sent to the House.

Councillor T. W. GRIFFITHS: I beg to second that motion.
Councillor T. Q. ROBERTS: Good gracious me. (Loud laughter.)
Councillor GRIFFITHS said it was on account of the most ungallant manner in which Mr. Roberts had spoken of the ladies that he had chosen to second the motion.

Councillor GILBERT said he had been in the Council many years, and he always understood the rule was to take no part in such motions for either political party. He could not agree with what Mr. Williams had said. He had read a very powerful speech by Mr. John Bright, who asked why should they bring their wives and daughters into the turmoil of political elections. He (the speaker) thought they were best left alone to mind their own business, and he hoped the amendment would not be carried.

Alderman R. LITTLER said that the Council had entertained such a matter before, and they then passed a resolution. He then moved the resolution, and he was highly commended for it. (Laughter.) He had presided at municipal elections for many years, and he would say that there was not a better class than the ladies who came to the booths to record their votes. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SMITH said the previous speaker was quite right with respect to a previous resolution being passed on the subject, but on many occasions the Council had expressed a view that they should not pass any resolution.

On the amendment that Parliament be memorialised, on the question being put to the Council, it was carried.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CHESTERFIELD.

The monthly meeting of the Chesterfield Town Council was held on March 10th, at the Municipal Hall. The Mayor (Ald. T. P. Wood) presided, and there were present Aldermen Lambert, Gee, and Higginbottom, and Councillors Rollinson, Boot, Burton, Woodhead, Lomas, Marriott, Douglas, Wardle, and Booth. The question of adopting a petition in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was discussed.

Alderman HIGGINBOTTOM thought there was no good reason forthcoming why women who possessed the necessary qualifications should not be allowed to exercise a vote in Parliamentary affairs. He moved that a petition under the corporate seal in favour of the extension be presented.

Councillor WARDLE seconded the motion.

Councillor DOUGLAS, in supporting the motion, urged that the question was really an important one. As ratepayers, women were quite entitled to a vote in the election of a member of the House of Commons.

Councillor BOOTH said he was in favour of single women having a vote, but asked how far the Bill went. He objected to married women having the power to vote. They had plenty to do in educating their husbands how to vote.

The Mayor thought one objectionable feature in the Bill was that it proposed to grant a vote to married women with property in their own right. Until the members of the Council had mastered the Bill, he thought the petition should be allowed to lie on the table.

Alderman HIGGINBOTTOM said nineteen-twentieths of the women who would have a vote were spinsters and widows.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried.

SCARBOROUGH.

The monthly meeting of the Scarbro' Town Council was held on March 8th, at the Town Hall. There were present the Mayor (Mr. Joshua Rowntree), Aldermen Hick, Forster, Woodall, Fowler, Williamson, and Champley; Councillors Petch, Woodhouse, Hutton, Barry, Whittaker, Smith, R. H. Peacock, Featherstone, Hart, Land, Gawne, Brockwell, W. Peacock, and Kitching.

A letter was read from Miss Lydia Becker, asking the Council to support, by petition, the second reading of the Women's Franchise Bill.

Mr. R. H. PEACOCK moved that the petition be signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council.

Major BROCKWELL seconded.

Mr. WHITTAKER thought the matter was outside the work of the Council. They might as well be asked to discuss the question of the Disestablishment of the Church.

After some discussion the motion was put to the vote, and carried by a majority of one.

SUNDERLAND.

At the meeting of the Council in March, a communication was read from Miss Lydia E. Becker, asking the Council to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill. Miss Becker pointed out that, if the Bill became law, 2,594 women, now on the list of burgesses for the borough of Sunderland, would be entitled to be placed on the register of Parliamentary electors.

Mr. DIX moved that the petition be signed, and Mr. JOHN CAMERON seconded with great pleasure.

The motion, on being put, was carried by a large majority.

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB.

A debate on the question “Should the Liberal party support the passing of the Bill now before Parliament for extending the franchise to women” was held on March 10th, at the National Liberal Club, Trafalgar Square, London, Mr. O'CONNOR POWER in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN explained that his mind was still not made up on the question of the advisability of admitting women to the franchise, although he had sat in Parliament for eleven years, and had heard the subject debated several times.

The debate was opened by Dr. C. R. DRYSDALE in the affirmative. Dr. PANKHURST said women were certain to come into the franchise, and why not at once? He could not understand how any Liberal could oppose them. He would support the Bill in its present form, although it was an ill-advised alteration of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill. For eighteen years the Tories had opposed it, but now they would allow it to pass, and the House of Lords was also favourable to the Bill, so that it was to be hoped it would pass this session.

Mr. CORNER followed on the same side; Mr. BRYANT and Mr. BANTOCK opposed. Mr. BASNETT HOPKINS spoke in favour.

Mr. CONYBEARE, M.P., said he had made up his mind in favour of the Bill and had voted for it. Chivalry and other influences had made women gradually become the equals of men, whereas in the times of Saint Paul they were in a far different position. Women were continually being legislated for in the House of Commons, sometimes to their great detriment. Political life had nothing demoralising in it, and women would tend to make it more moral than it was at present, if they took an interest in public affairs. It was a mistake in the Bill to exclude married women, and he would therefore vote for the amendment, since a single woman or a widow would naturally complain greatly that marriage should make them abandon their power of voting.

Mr. JOHNSON objected to the exclusion of married women from the Bill.

Mr. WILSON would not support the Bill as it stood; it would, if passed, give a very strong addition to the Conservative vote.

Mr. NEVINS thought that until they were fit for the franchise women should not be admitted to the franchise.

The Rev. STUART HEADLAM supported the Bill.

Mr. O'CONNOR POWER explained that it was not the usual custom for the chairman to take part in the debate, and called on Dr.

Drysdale, who, in his reply, said the course of the debate had clearly shown that the National Liberal Club was, as a body, in favour of admitting women to the electoral franchise. The only difficulty, apparently, in the passing of the present Bill would be in disposing of the rider, which related to married women. For his part, he thought it a blot on the Bill; but as some of the speakers had been against the enfranchisement of married women on the plea that it would promote dissension in married life if women had a vote, he would, personally, vote for the Bill as it stood rather than have the measure of justice delayed, just as he would have voted for a Bill which would only have enfranchised women over the age of forty, possessing a degree in arts or medicine, or with any other qualification. The essential in his mind was that some woman should get the franchise as soon as possible, and he would take all he could get and then ask for the rest on another occasion.

PROPOSED METROPOLITAN RADICAL FEDERATION.

On March 25th a conference of delegates from various metropolitan Radical associations was held at the Hall of Science, Old-street, City Road, to consider the report of a sub-committee appointed at a delegate meeting held on the 18th January at the United Radical Club, Kay-street, Hackney, on the constitution of a proposed Metropolitan Radical Federation. Thirty organisations altogether were represented. Mr. W. R. CREMER, M.P., having been voted to the chair, the first recommendation of the committee, “That the title of the proposed association should be ‘the Metropolitan Radical Federation,’ and that the word ‘Metropolitan’ be taken in its widest sense, viz., as the Metropolitan Police District,” was adopted; an amendment that it should comprise the four home counties being rejected. The preamble, which stated that “the object of the federation is to combine for political purposes all the bonâ fide Radical organisations of the metropolis,” was also passed, and the meeting then proceeded to the consideration of the preliminary programme, the first item of which was “Adult suffrage, one person one vote.” To this a delegate objected, on the ground that “adult suffrage” included women suffrage, to which he and many others were opposed, and he moved as an amendment to substitute “manhood” for “adult.”—Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, who was a delegate from the Peckham Radical Club, of which she is president, spoke in support of the original motion, expressing the hope that she was not out of place in so doing. She could vote, she said, for candidates for the School Board, and she did not see why she could not vote for a member of Parliament.—The Chairman said he was formerly in favour of women having the suffrage, but on reflection he had changed his mind. He believed that giving the suffrage to women would have a reactionary effect and prevent progress for many years to come. If all the women were of the same type as Mrs. Ashton Dilke, he should not hesitate to give them the suffrage to-morrow, but the vast majority of the women were given to frivolity, apathy, and indifference. The amendment was lost, less than a third of those present voting for it, and the resolution carried by a large majority.

CIRENCESTER.

After two nights' protracted discussion on March 11th and 18th, a resolution in favour of the franchise for women was carried at the general meeting of the Liberal Association held at Oakley Downs, Cirencester.

SCOTLAND.

TOWN COUNCILS.

ARBROATH.

The Town Clerk at the meeting of the Town Council on March 5th read a letter from Miss Eliza Kirkland, Secretary of the Women's Suffrage Society, requesting the Council to petition in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill.

Mr. DICKSON moved that no action be taken in the matter.

Baillie M-WATTIE seconded, remarking that he thought the women would be better employed darned stockings. (Laughter.)

Mr. BREMNER considered that women were as much entitled to have the suffrage and to exercise that power as many Town Councillors—(laughter)—and he moved that the Council petition in favour of the Bill.

Mr. JOHN STRACHAN seconded, holding that if women paid rates they ought to have as many privileges as the opposite sex.

On a division the motion that no action be taken was carried by eleven votes to five.

DUMBARTON.

At the meeting of the Council in March, Mr. Allan (Clerk) read a letter from Miss Eliza Kirkland, Edinburgh, asking the Council to petition Parliament in favour of a Bill to extend the franchise to women.

Mr. PETER DENNY: Can we petition against the Bill? (Laughter.)
The PROVOST: Yes. If we can petition in favour of the Bill it will be quite in form for us to petition against it. The custom of the Town Council is not to interfere in Imperial politics. This is a matter of Imperial politics, and I think the Council should not interfere in it.

Mr. A. DENNY: The ladies have quite sufficient control already. (Laughter.)

The PROVOST: We had better be very cautious, because the ladies have votes in municipal elections. (Laughter.)

The letter was allowed to lie on the table.

GALASHIELS.

At the meeting of the Council in March, the Clerk read a request from the Women's Suffrage Association, Edinburgh, asking the Corporation to petition in favour of the Bill to give Parliamentary votes to females rated as householders.

Mr. ANDREW BROWN moved that the Corporation comply with the request.

Mr. FRATER seconded the motion, on the ground that as the women were subject to the same rating liabilities as male householders, they should have the same rights.

Mr. SHAW moved the previous question, the Corporation being there for other business than to take part in such nonsense.

Provost HALL said they were there for other business, and seconded the amendment.

Mr. FRATER said they were there for other business, but it had been a practice from time immemorial for Town Councils to petition in favour or against Parliamentary Bills.

It was agreed that the Provost sign the petition for the Corporation.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

EDINBURGH.

The Grange House Debating Society held a debate on the 18th February on the question, “Should women ratepayers be entitled to vote for members of Parliament?” There was excellent speaking on both sides. The debate resulted in a vote being carried in favour of female suffrage by a majority of eighteen to nine against.

IRELAND.

COOKSTOWN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN AND LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

The weekly meeting of this society was held on Feb. 16th in the Lecture Hall, attached to the Third Presbyterian Church. The programme for the evening was of a novel description—the committee having arranged to have a Parliamentary night in lieu of the annual political debate. In the course of the proceedings Mr. John Glasgow moved “That in the opinion of this House all the political privileges at present enjoyed by men should be granted to woman, that the subject is ripe for legislation, and demands the immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government.” He adduced many facts in support of his resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Warnock in a speech of more than ordinary merit. Mr. J. L. Corney moved as an amendment, “To omit words after ‘House’ and to insert the words ‘the social and domestic condition of woman would not be improved by according to them all the political privileges at present enjoyed by men.’” He heard that the extension of the franchise to woman would lead to many differences in families and result in misery. Mr. W. Anderson supported the resolution, and Mr. W. Ballantine spoke in favour of the amendment. Mr. Joseph Geddis moved the adjournment of the debate.

NORTH OF IRELAND SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Committee of the North of Ireland Women's Suffrage Society, held on the 23rd February, 1886, Mrs. Lindsay in the chair, the following resolution was moved by Miss M'Glade, seconded by Miss Hardy, and passed unanimously:—"That this Committee, composed of members of every variety of religious and political opinion, declare that the omission of women householders from the Franchise Act (1884) has proved injurious to the interests of women throughout the whole kingdom. They especially declare that the women householders of Ireland have the right to be consulted in regard to all alteration in the form of general and local government under which they live, and to the funds of which they contribute in the same proportion as men. They therefore claim the immediate attention of the Legislature to the duty of enfranchising in the present session of Parliament women who possess the statutory qualifications.

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE FOR IRELAND.

The Bill introduced by Mr. Johnston and Mr. De Cobain to assimilate the municipal and Parliamentary franchise in Ireland has been issued. It contains the following clause relating to women:—

"18. In this Act and the said Acts, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender, the same shall nevertheless be held to include females for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to vote in the election of councillors, aldermen, auditors, and assessors."

MEETING OF PIT-BROW WOMEN.

On Saturday evening, March 20th, there was a gathering of pit-brow women at St. John's School, Pemberton, near Wigan. The object of the meeting was to protest against a clause in the Coalmines Bill, now before the House of Commons, by which it is sought to abolish all female labour in connection with coalmines. The gathering was a large one, and, except for the presence of a few friends, was composed entirely of pit-bank workers. Pemberton, it need hardly be said, is one of the great centres of colliery life. It is rather more than a village, yet has not the full dignity of a town. Within its borders are several large mines, notably those belonging to Colonel Blundell, M.P. The women workers number close upon 200, whose average earnings are over 10s. each per week. Not only were the Pemberton people well represented on Saturday, but also the outside villages for six miles on each side. From Brinsop Hall, Westhoughton, Bryn, Aspall, Winstanley, and many other places, women had trudged the distance on foot, through wet field and miry lane, to give voice to their protest. It was a pleasant, cheerful gathering. Fully half the women were young, from 18 to 22 or 23 years of age. They had come out in the little fineries reserved for Sunday wear. Their cheeks were bright and ruddy, and told only of healthful toil. One young girl, who had her place on the platform, worked for some time in a mill. Her health suffered so much that she had to leave that occupation. Work being necessary, she turned to the pit-bank, with the result that the roses have returned to her face, and that she is restored to health and strength. Six young women, from Colonel Blundell's collieries, appeared in their working costume. The whole, or at any rate the chief part, of the garments are, it should be stated, provided by Colonel Blundell. They are so shaped as to give freedom to every limb. A better working dress could hardly be wished for. The head covering is a handkerchief tied over the hair and a large black bonnet, the shape of which is not easy of description. Beneath a rough jacket and apron is a skirt, fitting closely above woollen or serge trousers. This is practically the ordinary costume adopted in all mines, the only difference being in material.

The meeting was called by the Rev. Harry Mitchell, vicar of Pemberton, who has taken an active part in defending the interests of the pit women. The proceedings began at half-past seven, when Mrs. Park, Mayoress of Wigan, took the chair. The meeting was wonderfully enthusiastic, nearly every sentence in Mrs. Park's opening speech and in the subsequent addresses being cheered. Several letters of apology for non-attendance were first of all read

Lady Lathom wrote: "I am truly sorry to be unable to accept Mr. Mitchell's invitation to be present at the meeting to be held on Saturday. I should much have liked to have heard what was said, and, if possible, to have joined myself in the protest that is being so rightly made against the endeavour to deprive these poor women of their work. It appears to me to be as you say—both an iniquitous and unjustifiable proceeding to prevent women from earning their livelihood in a way which is, as far as I know, quite consistent with morality and decency. Will you kindly express my regret to Mr. Mitchell at not being able to join openly in this righteous movement, and also explain how much Lord Lathom's and my opinion are in accord with the protest to be made."

Mrs. Bright Lucas, wrote: "I am glad to see Mr. Mitchell is taking up this question on behalf of the pit-brow women. It is important that they should be supported in their right to labour in whatever their hands can honestly find to do."

Mrs. A. M. Lucas, of Sunderland, wrote: "I do feel full of sympathy for these poor women, and it seems to me that to debar them from gaining an honest living on the ground that it is an immodest work, and then allow ladies to go to a drawing-room or a ball with the most delicate part of their bodies fully exposed, is 'straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.' I hope you will have a good meeting to cheer and encourage the women."

The MAYORESS delivered an address, in the course of which she said the women working on the pit brow were most robust and healthy, and that the work had developed and strengthened their muscles and physical powers in a remarkable degree; and who that understood the laws of health and nature could for a moment doubt that employment in the fresh air and with, in most cases, all the bright surroundings of the country about them must be infinitely more wholesome and elevating than any work in close buildings, amid the din of machinery, with heated atmospheres and strong sickly smells. As to the suggestion of immorality, she could not see how the word could be used in connection with the work. The women, when their work was done, returned home to their household duties, which had a greater charm for them through having been occupied out of doors all day. Perhaps the charge was brought in connection with the other one of indecency, which was the term used by the supporters of the clause with regard to the dress of the women. Their dress was peculiar, but it was necessary, because petticoats would be in the way of the work and a source of danger, and because the strong trousers were needed on account of the rough nature of the work, and helped to keep the women warm on the elevated and exposed positions on which they worked. The men and neighbours who saw these women in their work-a-day dress thought no more of it than of the dress of other females. As to the effects of colliery work upon women, she had had many opportunities of visiting the pit girls, and found them very respectful, bright, and pleasant, and their rosy beaming faces a pleasant contrast to the pallid, sickly hue always observable on the countenances of the workers in the cotton mills. If she had to choose between the two occupations for any one in whom she was interested, she should, she believed, choose the work on the pit brow. The Mayoress, who was frequently applauded, concluded by quoting the opinion of many ministers of religion against "the absurd outcry against pit girls and their occupation."

Several other addresses were given during the course of the evening. The Rev. H. MITCHELL read a letter from the Bishop of Liverpool (Dr. Ryle), who expressed his warm sympathy with the object of the meeting. Mr. Mitchell said that at six collieries in that district 164 women were employed, 26 being married, seven widows, and the rest single. Their average earnings were from 1s. 6d. to 2s. each per day, or a yearly amount of £4,264. That money all went straight home, and did not pay toll at the public-house on the way, nor was any of it spent in pigeon-flying or such-like things. There were many at that meeting who had to support themselves and their children from their weekly earnings at that occupation. An attempt, a most unjust attempt, was being made to deprive them of that work. If the worst came to the worst he would endeavour to raise a fund to take all the 1,300 pit-bank women of Lancashire to London, there to put themselves in evidence, to show their rulers they were not the poor, degraded creatures they were represented to be. For his own part he thought pit-bank women were a fine example of the honourable and vigorous womanhood which this old country could produce. In conclusion, Mr. Mitchell moved the adoption of a petition to

Parliament protesting against the clause in the Coalmines Bill which would deprive pit-bank women of their work.

Mr. J. C. ASHTON, of Darwen, seconded the adoption of the petition, which was agreed to amid a great deal of applause.—Mr. Taylor and Mr. Wogan afterwards spoke, and with the singing of "God save the Queen" the gathering broke up.—*Bolton Evening News.*

MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE IN TASMANIA.

An Act passed in 1884 by the Legislature of Tasmania, entitled the "Rural Municipalities Amendment Act, 1884," has the following clauses relating to

Municipal Electors.

4. Every person (whether male or female) of the age of Twenty-one years whose name is on the Assessment Roll as the owner or occupier of any property within the Municipality shall be a Municipal Elector of such Municipality: Provided that no person being an Alien shall be a Municipal Elector unless he has received Letters of Denization or a Certificate of Naturalization.

5. Every Municipal Elector shall have a number of votes proportioned to the annual value, as ascertained by the Assessment Roll, of the property within the Municipality owned or occupied by him according to the scale mentioned and set forth in "The Rural Voting Act, 1884." And every Municipal Elector entitled to such vote or votes as aforesaid is hereby empowered to give, and shall if he votes give, the number of votes to which he is so entitled to any number of persons not exceeding the number of Councillors to be elected.

Election of Councillors, &c.

6. With the written nomination of any Municipal Elector or Electors for election as a Councillor or Councillors, there shall be delivered to the Returning Officer a statement in writing under the hand of the Elector or Electors nominated, declaring the consent of such Elector or Electors to become a candidate or candidates at such election; and the Returning Officer shall not recognise any nomination of any Elector or Electors in the absence of such written declaration of consent; and every such nomination and consent may be in writing or printed, or partly written and partly printed, in the form in the Schedule (1): Provided that no female shall be nominated or eligible to sit or act as a Councillor.

PETITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SECOND REPORT.—Continued from page 42.

Table of petitions to the House of Commons, including entries for Feb. 25th (Hammersmith and district, Inhabitants of (Major-General Goldsworthy) ... 16) and Mar. 1st (Bristol and other places, Inhabitants of (Sir Michael Hicks Beach) ... 23).

Mar.

Table of petitions for March, including entries for 267 (Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage, Attendants at the Annual Meeting of the, held in the Saloon of the Royal Hotel, Princess-street, on the 23rd December, 1885; Mary Kuston, president (Mr. Buchanan) ... 1) and 274 (Bridge of Allan, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at Home Bank; Agnes Burn, president (Mr. Courtney) ... 1).

Total number of Petitions 69.—Signatures 5,127

THIRD REPORT, 2 March—12 March, 1886.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.—For Alteration.

Mar.

Table of petitions for March, including entries for 394 (Vigilance Association for the Defence of Personal Rights, Members of the, in meeting assembled; Mark E. Marsden, chairman (Mr. Bradlaugh) [APP. 44] ... 1) and 396 (Congleton, Inhabitants of (Mr. Bryce) ... 4).

Total number of Petitions 3.—Signatures 4

The petitioners pray that the House will not consent to the final passing of the measure while it contains the provision relating to women under coverture.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.—In Favour.

Brought forward, Petitions, 69—

Mar.

Table of petitions for March, including entries for 397 (Fishguard, Inhabitants of (Mr. Henry Allen) ... 104) and 403 (Redland, Bristol, Attendants at a Lecture in Anglesey Schoolroom, on 23 February, 1885; Emily Sturge, president (Sir Michael Hicks Beach) ... 1).

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, March 1886. Columns include date, location, petitioner details, and number of signatures.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, March 1886. Columns include date, location, petitioner details, and number of signatures.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Table of subscriptions and donations for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, March 1886.

THOMAS DALE, TREASURER, 29, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Table of subscriptions and donations for the Central Committee, from Feb. 28th to March 28th, 1886.

SPECIAL FUND FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS AND LECTURES.

An offer has been made by Mrs. Frank Morrison of £50 towards a fund of £500, if the remaining £450 be raised within a few weeks.

Table of donations already acknowledged for the special fund.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM FEB. 23RD TO MARCH 23RD, 1886.

Table of subscriptions and donations for the Bristol and West of England Society, from Feb. 23rd to March 23rd, 1886.

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 26, College Road, Clifton. Office: 20, Park-street, Bristol.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, FROM 22ND JANUARY TO 22ND MARCH, 1886.

Summary table of public petitions presented to the House of Commons from 22nd January to 22nd March, 1886.

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