

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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THE fifth annual meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage is fixed for the sixth instant, and the occasion is a favourable one for a review of the operations of the society, and of the general progress of the movement.

The society was formed in 1867, the year in which the question of women's suffrage was first broached in the House of Commons by Mr. JOHN STUART MILL. At the time of its formation a general impression seemed to prevail that the admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise was an innovation on the constitution which needed to be granted by express legislation. But further consideration led to the belief that the supposed constitutional restraint of the political functions of women did not in fact exist; that as there was neither statute nor judicial decision declaring them incapable of voting in the election of members of Parliament, all women who had paid their rates in conformity with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act of 1867, were entitled to be placed on the Parliamentary register. During the year 1868 the operations of the society were limited to the effort to test the soundness of this view, by urging women to claim their electoral rights, and by pursuing the claims in the registration and revision courts.

The general question as to the electoral rights of women appeared to have been often raised, but never authoritatively settled. Writs are in existence returning members to Parliament, to which the names of women are appended as electors or returning officers; and the validity of these writs is unquestioned. Mrs. COPLEY, as lady of the manor, returned the member for Gatton, and in an election petition referring to such a return, the question to be decided was whether the election should be by the lady and the inhabitants, or by the lady alone. Her right was not disputed.

Mr. CHISHOLM ANSTEY, in a paper on some supposed constitutional restraints on the franchise, quotes the

following case of an election at Aylesbury, which seems to be one of women's suffrage. The franchise was claimed and exercised by a single family of "inhabitants," and at one of these elections, the sole elector being a minor, his mother voted in his stead, elected the two burgesses, signed their indenture, and, as returning officer, made the following return, which was upheld as good:—

"To all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come. I, Dame DOROTHY PACKINGTON, widow, late wife of Sir JOHN PACKINGTON, knight, lord and owner of the town of Aylesbury, sendeth greeting. Know ye me, the said Dame DOROTHY PACKINGTON, to have chosen, named, and appointed my trusty and well-beloved THOMAS LICHFIELD and JOHN BURDEN, esquires, to be my burgesses of my said town of Aylesbury. And whatever the said THOMAS and GEORGE, burgesses, shall do in the service of the QUEEN'S highness in that present Parliament, to be holden at Westminster the 8th day of May next ensuing the date hereof, I, the said Dame DOROTHY PACKINGTON, do ratify and approve to be my own act, as fully and wholly as if I were or might be present there.—In witness, &c."

Sir SIMON D'EWES, in chronicling the events of an election in Suffolk in 1640, when he was High Sheriff, states that the votes of some women that were freeholders were taken; and although he forbade them afterwards, he says they might in law have been allowed. Among the arguments in the case of OLIVE v. INGRAM—tried in the reign of GEORGE II.—Justice PAGE declared that he saw "no disability in a woman voting for a Parliament man." This case turned on a woman's right to vote for a sexton, which was allowed; but the greater question of her right to vote for a member of Parliament was not authoritatively settled. There is an Act of Parliament which declares that in all Acts words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females, unless the contrary be expressly provided; and as the Reform Act of 1867 contains no provision to the contrary,

and as words importing the masculine gender were held to include women in those clauses imposing additional burdens on the ratepayers, it was not unnatural to suppose that the same rule would hold good in applying the clauses conferring the privileges for which the additional burdens were confessedly offered as an equivalent.

But these expectations were falsified by the final decision in the Court of Common Pleas in November, 1868, on the question of the consolidated appeal of five thousand women ratepayers who had claimed to be placed on the Parliamentary register for Manchester, and whose claim had been disallowed by the Revising Barrister. The appeal was rejected, and thus were women, for the first time in English history, authoritatively disfranchised, and judicially proscribed as out of the pale of the constitution.

The ban thus proclaimed can only be removed by Act of Parliament; and the efforts of the Society have been steadily directed towards the revival and restoration of the ancient right of women in regard to the franchise, to the preservation of such rights as were in course of being lost, and the recovery and establishment on sure foundations of such claims as had not been generally acted on or absolutely recognised, and which were ultimately extinguished by the judges in 1868.

From time immemorial women have possessed the same electoral rights as men in parochial affairs. In all Acts of Parliament providing for local government, such as the Public Health Bill, and special Acts for the government of particular districts, careful provision is made for the security of the franchise for women. The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 is the solitary exception. Based on the phraseology of the Reform Act of 1832, when for the first time the word "male" was used in defining the class of persons who were to be Parliamentary electors, the Act of 1835 limited the municipal franchise to men ratepayers, so that in every district in which it was adopted, the women ratepayers were deprived of the votes which they had hitherto exercised during a period coeval with that of the rights of the men. This process of disfranchisement was rapidly proceeding over large districts in the country, and would probably have been going on still but for the efforts made by the Society. In 1869 Mr. JACOB BRIGHT obtained the insertion of a clause in the Municipal Franchise Amendment Act, which restored to women the rights of which they had been deprived by the Act of 1835, and conferred upon them other rights which had been disused as completely, if not more so, than

the latent right to the Parliamentary franchise. By the passing of the Act of 1869, women were not only placed in a position as regards electoral rights much in advance of that which they occupied before the disfranchising Act of 1835, but they were brought into the sphere of active participation in popular elections, and made familiar with the habit of personal attendance at the polls. The grant of the municipal franchise is by most persons, whether friends or opponents of women's suffrage, considered to be a step leading to the Parliamentary franchise; and those who would deny the latter are, as a rule, those who would have denied to women the local vote.

In 1870 Mr. JACOB BRIGHT introduced the sequel to the measure of the preceding year—the Bill to remove the last remaining electoral disability imposed on women. For three successive years the Bill has been before Parliament, and each year it has received an increased measure of support. There is no other unsettled question which has obtained so many votes in the House of Commons, whether relatively, compared to the time that it has been before Parliament, or absolutely, in actual numbers. The increase of support out of doors, as shown by the number of petitions and public meetings, is also very remarkable. The petitions presented through the efforts of the various societies were, in 1870, signed by 134,561 persons; in 1871, by 186,890; and in 1872, by 355,806 persons. In these efforts the Manchester Society has had a proportionate share; though the aggregate amount of work of this kind done by the sister societies in England, Scotland, and Ireland is, of course, much greater than the quota of any one of them singly.

The increase of popular support for the question is manifested in another way by the increase in the subscription list. The amount received by the Manchester Society in 1871 was more than double that obtained in the preceding year; and the subscriptions for 1872 have again increased in nearly the same ratio. But the work increases faster than the funds; and that which is in prospect for 1873 cannot be satisfactorily accomplished unless an approximation to double the income of 1872 can be obtained.

There is every encouragement to persevere in the effort to obtain the establishment of the political rights of the feminine half of the nation. Sir CHARLES LYELL, in one of his public addresses, said that every great scientific truth had to pass through three stages of popular sentiment: first—it was absurd; next—it was contrary to religion; third—everybody knew it before. The women's suffrage movement appears to be duly progressing through these

stages, and the day seems not far distant when it shall take its rank among established laws, and lend that aid to the solution of other problems which is always afforded by the acceptance and application of a sound and just principle.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON LEGISLATION RESPECTING WOMEN.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL, in addressing his constituents at Dover, took occasion, in referring to law reforms which he desired to see introduced, to say that "he would blot out the laws which prevented a woman after marriage enjoying the benefit of her landed property just as before, unless she choose to settle it on her husband, or some one else."

Mr. SOMERSET BEAUMONT, in addressing his constituents at Wakefield, on Oct. 17, introduced the following remarks on the proposal to fix legal restrictions on the hours of paid labour for women: "A Bill had also been brought in with reference to the female hours of labour in factories; but he was not quite sure that he agreed with the gentleman who introduced it as to the way in which he proposed to secure the object aimed at. Of course he thought that nine hours a day was quite long enough for a woman to work, but he had rather see such questions as were referred to in the two Bills he had mentioned settled without the intervention of Parliament. The men had secured their present privileges by combination and determination, and he thought the women might act in somewhat the same way, and attain similar results by their own efforts."

MARRIED WOMEN AND CONSOLS.

"A STOCKHOLDER," writing to the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, says:—"Sir,—I am not an advocate of women's rights in the abstract, but I do advocate that married women should be allowed, without unnecessary trouble, to avail themselves of the advantages which the Married Women's Property Act accords to them. I allude now to the annoyance which is given when a married woman, or a woman whose money is protected by a magistrate's order, buys into any of the national stocks. For instance, a married woman wishing to place her money, say, in Consols, is, before being permitted to do so, asked at the Bank of England whether she does so with or without the consent of her husband. Then, if without consent, a declaration is given her to sign, stating that unpleasant fact; if with consent, then another declaration is given which requires both hers and her husband's signatures. The declaration must then be stamped at Somerset House, and the married woman is considerably allowed to place her money in the safest of all securities. A married woman with a protection order is treated worse, as every time she sells any portion of her stock she has to assure the bank, and prove to her broker that the order is still in force. This, I maintain, is contrary to the spirit of the recent Act, and done, I expect, without the authority or knowledge of Government. Perhaps if this annoyance be brought to the knowledge of the proper authorities, they may not think it necessary to humiliate ladies by asking whether they are on good terms with their husbands or not. I should also like to be informed why a married woman, acting as an executrix, is not allowed to sell or receive dividends due on Government stocks without her husband, while, when authorised by a power of attorney, she can do so. Is this distinction merely one of the many legal riddles, or does it emanate from the brain of some Bank official?"

The paper read by Miss Becker at the meeting of the British Association, Brighton, on the attendance and education of girls in the elementary schools of Manchester, is printed *in extenso* in the *Englishwoman's Review* for October, 1872.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

CONGLETON, CHESHIRE.

A public meeting in support of the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, was held in the Town Hall, Congleton, on October 8th. The spacious hall was well filled by an attentive and orderly assemblage, nearly 1,000 persons being present. His worship the Mayor of Congleton, James Pearson, Esq., took the chair; among those present on the platform were the Rev. Benjamin Glover, Robert Beales, Esq., J.P., John Latham, Esq., D. Bradwell, Esq., T. Cooper, Esq., John Wilson, Esq., Miss Lydia E. Becker, Miss Wolstenholme, Messrs. H. Latham, Frost, B. J. Elmy, and other ladies and gentlemen. Resolutions affirming the principle of the representation of women, and adopting petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, and memorials to Colonel Legh and the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, members for Mid-Cheshire, praying that they would support the same, were proposed and supported by the Rev. B. Glover, of Manchester, Mr. Dennis Bradwell, and Mr. John Latham, of Congleton, Miss Becker, and Mr. Elmy, and carried almost unanimously, only two or three hands being held up against them. The Town Clerk moved a vote of thanks to Miss Becker and the Rev. B. Glover for their addresses. Mr. Councillor Frost and Mr. H. Latham supported the motion.

Captain MAY then rose, and while he supported the motion, and confessed that he had listened to the remarks of Miss Becker with very great pleasure, he was not convinced of the soundness of their movement, or the justice of their cause, and had voted against the previous motion. He thought also that the resolution ought not to go forth as an expression of opinion from the inhabitants of Congleton, inasmuch as the people had not had an opportunity of considering the question, and therefore could only be regarded as a partial expression of opinion. No doubt a great deal could be said on the other side of the question; nevertheless, he cordially supported the vote of thanks. The resolution on being put to the vote was carried with acclamation.

Miss BECKER, in acknowledging the vote, replied to Captain May, and said she had a right to consider that the meeting knew its own mind. A very decided and distinct preponderance of those present held up their hands in favour of the petition, and she was not without hope that on a future occasion Captain May would be convinced of the justice of their cause. She begged leave to return thanks for herself, Miss Wolstenholme, and Mr. Glover, and concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding and for granting the use of the hall.

Dr. BEALES seconded the motion. All just and right causes ultimately triumphed, and if the cause they then advocated was just and right, it would triumph too, sooner or later.

The motion was put and carried with applause, and a brief acknowledgement from the Mayor terminated the proceedings.—*Abridged from the Congleton and Macclesfield Mercury.*

LEEK, STAFFORDSHIRE.

A public meeting in support of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women was held in the Temperance Hall, Leek, on October 14. Mr. W. Sugden occupied the chair, and Mr. T. Hulme, of Dunwood, Miss Becker, of Manchester, and Miss Wolstenholme, of Congleton, were also on the platform. There was a very large audience, a fourth part thereof probably being ladies.

The CHAIRMAN briefly stated his own views, arguing in favour of female franchise that it was a recognised principle in the legislature of the country that Government had no right to exact obedience to a law from persons who were not repre-

sented, or to tax such, and that as women, equally with men, suffered from bad government, they had an equal right to have a voice in the making of a law by which they were to be governed. (Hear.)

Mr. HULME moved a resolution affirming the principle of women's suffrage.

Miss WOLSTENHOLME seconded the resolution. She illustrated the opinion expressed in the resolution that the exclusion of women from voting in the election of members of Parliament was injurious, by saying that laws had been handed down from times of comparative barbarism which placed women in a condition at least of inferiority, not to say of degradation, laws which were an outrage to the female sex; and when women appealed to members of Parliament, they were told that they had no voice in the matter. She urged that womanhood ought no longer to be the basis of disqualification for a voice in the government of the country, and argued that women were equally entitled to vote at Parliamentary, as at municipal, school board, and such like elections. (Hear.)

Mr. ARTHUR NICHOLSON proposed that petitions in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and forwarded to the county members for presentation to the Houses of Parliament; and also that memorials should be sent to Sir C. B. Adderley, gratefully acknowledging the value of the support he had given in speaking and voting for the measure in May last, and praying him to continue his support; and to Sir E. M. Buller, asking him to vote for the measure.

Miss BECKER seconded the resolution. She urged at some length the reasonableness of the demand for women's suffrage, and dealt with various objections to the proposed measure. She referred to the action taken by the members for North Staffordshire when the Bill for the removal of women's electoral disabilities was discussed in the House of Commons, and said that although Sir E. M. Buller had not voted for the Bill, if he had had the opportunity of attending that meeting that evening she thought that he would never vote against it. She concluded by urging the desirability of forming a committee to see what steps could be taken in North Staffordshire in support of the movement, and expressed herself of opinion that as Sir Charles Adderley had voted for the measure it would be well to show that he had the sympathy of his constituents in the action he had taken. (Cheers.)

The resolutions were agreed to.

Miss BECKER proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Sugden for presiding, which closed a very harmonious meeting.—*Abridged from the Staffordshire Sentinel.*

The following replies were received by the Chairman from Sir Charles B. Adderley and Sir Edward Manningham Buller, members for North Staffordshire, after forwarding the memorials adopted at the meeting:—"Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial from the meeting at Leek, in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, and beg to assure you that I will not forget so important a resolution on the part of so numerous a body of my constituents.—I remain yours faithfully, Edward M. Buller. Oct. 17, 1872." "Dear Sir,—I beg to thank you and the meeting of my friends at Leek, for the memorial you have sent me. I fully intend to maintain the view I expressed in Parliament.—Truly yours, C. B. Adderley. Oct. 19, 1872."

MACCLESFIELD.

On October 16, by the permission of the Mayor, a meeting took place in the Town Hall, to consider the propriety of presenting a petition to Parliament in favour of the Bill of Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., to remove the electoral disabilities of

women. Mr. J. O. Nicholson occupied the chair, and Miss Lydia Becker, Manchester, and Rev. W. Glover, Middleton, attended as a deputation from the National Society. There were on the platform Rev. J. G. Allen and Mr. T. Johnson, Macclesfield; Mr. Wylde, Bollington, and Mr. Elmy. Admission was announced to be free, and some time before the hour appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the hall was well filled. Until eight o'clock, however, the people poured in, filling the large room in every part, with the exception of a few of the front seats, which, being reserved, were sixpence each. The audience consisted principally of working men. The front seats were occupied by a few ladies and gentlemen, and in the back portion of the hall was a good sprinkling of working men's wives.

After some remarks by the Chairman, the Rev. B. Glover moved a resolution affirming the principle of the society.

Mr. ELMY seconded the resolution. He referred to the objection of incapacity, in refutation of which he quoted the names of several eminent ladies, famed for their position in literature, science, and art, and asked if it could be said these were too ignorant to vote. He spoke in general terms of the managing ability of women, and enlarged the capacity of the fair sex for their knowledge of the fitness of things. He alluded to Queen Elizabeth, and asked if ever any man held more firmly the reins of Government than she did. Upon the whole he was willing to believe that an ignorant woman was as good as an ignorant man. (Laughter.)

The resolution was supported by Miss Becker. In the course of her remarks she said: There was another Bill considered by the House of Commons—that of securing to women the right to their own property. In all the debates that took place on this Bill in both Houses of Parliament, she did not remember one single allusion to what women thought about it. All the members and lords judged it entirely from a man's point of view. Their chairman had given several illustrations showing what women suffered in this respect. She appealed to the men present if they would like to live under such a state of the law; and if they would not like to live under it, then let them do to women as they would like to be done to, and assist them in amending it. (Applause.) If women had the power they would alter the law. An effort would be made to amend the law in the forthcoming session of Parliament, and the Attorney-General was very willing and anxious to bring in a Bill which would give to women the same property rights that men enjoyed, but he dare not promise anything very openly, because he was afraid what he said would commit the Government, and he could not be sure that Mr. Gladstone and his Government would be willing to bring in a Bill which proposed to do an act of justice to women. Women had no votes.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. THOMAS JOHNSON proposed the next resolution, "That from Macclesfield a petition be forwarded to both Houses of Parliament, and that a memorial be presented to W. C. Brocklehurst, Esq., M.P., and D. Chadwick, Esq., M.P., requesting them to support Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, to remove the electoral disabilities of women."

Mr. WYLDE seconded the resolution, which was carried, one hand only being held up against it, amid great laughter.

Rev. J. G. ALLEN, in a few well-selected remarks, proposed a vote of thanks to the deputation, which was cordially given.

Miss BECKER, on behalf of the deputation, thanked the audience, concluding her remarks by proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman.

This was seconded by Mr. GLOVER, and carried unanimously. The meeting then separated.—*Abridged from the Macclesfield Courier.*

WARRINGTON.

A public meeting was held in the schoolroom, Cairo-street, Warrington, on October 21st, Mr. E. Needham in the chair. After an address by Miss Craigen, a petition was adopted in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.

SCOTLAND.

DUNOON.

A public meeting, at which Miss T aylour (late of Belmont) delivered an address on the women's suffrage question, was held in the Free Church Academy, on the evening of Tuesday, September 24. Provost Thomson occupied the chair; and on the platform were Miss M'Laren, secretary of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, Edinburgh; Rev. J. C. Johnston, and Bailie R. L. Smith, Dunoon. The audience, which was large and respectable, listened with great attention to Miss T aylour's eloquent and graceful address, and frequently applauded her during its delivery. At the conclusion of the lecture the Rev. J. C. Johnston moved a resolution adopting a petition in favour of Mr. Bright's Bill, and appointing a committee. Mr. A. N. Arthur moved as an amendment "That the meeting leave the people of Dunoon to take what action they may think proper when the subject again comes on for discussion in Parliament." On being put to the meeting, the chairman declared the motion carried by a majority. A vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Miss M'Laren, concluded the business.—*Abridged from the Glasgow Herald.*

LOCHGILPEAD.

A meeting, under the auspices of the Edinburgh branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, was held September 30, in the Free Church Schoolroom, Lochgilpead, which was crowded to overflowing, a great many having to leave without gaining admittance. Mr. Archibald MacEwan, chief magistrate, presided, and on the platform were Miss M'Laren, Edinburgh, Mrs. M'Brayne, Councillors Donald Fraser and M'Brayne, Drs. Rutherford and Dougan, and Messrs. John Somerville, J. B. Douglas, Robert Stewart, and John Alexander. A great many ladies were in the body of the hall. Miss T aylour delivered an able and interesting lecture in advocacy of women's suffrage. Councillor Somerville moved, and Mr. Robert Stewart seconded, a resolution approving of the conferring of the right of franchise on women duly qualified as to rental or property, and also approving of Mr. Jacob Bright's "Electoral Disabilities Bill;" and authorising the Chairman to sign a petition in name of the meeting, in favour of the Bill, and have it presented to both Houses of Parliament. On the motion of Councillor Donald Fraser, seconded by Mr. J. B. Douglas, a committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the society in the district.—*Glasgow Herald.*

TOBERMORY.

Miss T aylour (late of Belmont) delivered a lecture in the Court House, on October 8th, subject: "The extension of the franchise to women, being householders, who are properly qualified." Sheriff Ross presided, and the meeting was one of the largest and most enthusiastic we have seen here. Miss T aylour in her lecture first brought forward, most fully and convincingly, arguments in favour of woman's claim to be represented, and then undertook the task of demolishing the objections which were urged against it—which, it need hardly be added, she did most effectively. A mere eloquent and able lecture it has not been our privilege to listen to for a long time. On the motion of Mr. Sproat, seconded by the Rev. D. Macfarlane, it was agreed to petition both Houses of Parliament in favour of the Bill extending the franchise to women. Mr. J. M. Murray moved that a committee to carry out the views

advocated by Miss T aylour be appointed. Both motions were unanimously carried, amid the greatest enthusiasm. On the motion of Mr. Macmillan, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to the lady lecturer. Miss M'Laren, Edinburgh, who accompanied Miss T aylour, moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, and briefly explained the circumstances which had brought them to this district. This movement has met with every encouragement in this quarter.—*Oban Times.*

OBAN.

On October 11, in the New Hall, Miss T aylour and Miss M'Laren appeared to advocate the principles they spoke about in Tobermory, Inverary, and elsewhere. Bailie Menzies presided. A vote adverse to one proposed in favour of women's rights was carried by a large majority.—*Oban Times.*

LARGS.

On October 14 a lecture was delivered in the Hall, Bath-street, by Miss T aylour, who was accompanied to the platform by Miss M'Laren. The chair was occupied by the Rev. J. B. K. M'Intyre, who introduced the lecturer to the audience. At the close of the lecture Mr. J. Y. Simpson, writer, proposed "That this meeting resolve to empower the Chairman to sign a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill for the enfranchisement of women in name of the meeting." Mr. S. Stewart seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. A committee was then formed for the purpose of getting up petitions to Parliament in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill.—*Oban Times.*

AYR.

Miss T aylour, late of Belmont, delivered a lecture on "Woman's Suffrage," in the Assembly Rooms, Ayr, on October 17. There was a crowded and respectable audience, comprising a large number of ladies. Miss T aylour was accompanied to the platform by Miss M'Laren, Edinburgh; Mr. H. C. Gray (who presided), Dr. Macdonald, Ayr Academy; and Mr. Thomas M'Murtrie, draper; &c. After the lecture the usual resolution was proposed by Mr. M'Murtrie, and seconded by Dr. Donaldson and carried unanimously. Miss M'Laren moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

INVERARY.

A public meeting was held in the Courthouse, Inverary, on Friday evening, 4th October. Bailie Malcolm in the chair. At the close of Miss T aylour's address a resolution adopting a petition was moved by the Rev. Neil M'Pherson, seconded by T. Douglas, Esq., and carried by acclamation. A resolution appointing a committee was moved by D. M'Niven, Esq. This was seconded by the Rev. G. Meetle, and unanimously agreed to by the meeting. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

Respecting these meetings, Miss M'Laren, secretary to the Edinburgh Society, reports: "During this month we have had eight meetings, six in Argyleshire, two in Ayrshire; seven of these have been in every sense very successful, all of them were crowded, and attended chiefly by the upper middle class, a great many more ladies coming out than have ever done before. The one exception to our success was Oban. It was a crowded meeting, after resolutions were moved and seconded in favour of Mr. Bright's Bill, an amendment was proposed by the editor of the *Oban Times*, a young man who is secretary to a debating society. He made a long speech as to what he thought was involved in giving the suffrage to women, it would put an end to war, capital punishment, and flogging, and therefore to all government. The meeting hissed and tried to put him down, but as the speech was a lengthy one two-thirds of the audience left, his own followers remained, so when the vote was taken he had the majority."

DECISION UNDER THE MARRIED WOMEN'S
PROPERTY ACT.

TRANSFER OF A LICENCE FROM A HUSBAND TO HIS WIFE.

At the Downpatrick Quarter Sessions, on October 10th, an application was made by Margaret Phaire, a married woman, for a transfer of licence from her husband to herself. The application was of rather a novel character, and excited considerable interest in Downpatrick, where the parties reside.

Mr. Gardner appeared for the applicant, and Messrs. Crawley and M'Mordie resisted the application on the part of the applicant's husband.

The service of the necessary notices were then proved.

Mr. M'MORDIE: This is the strangest development of the Women's Rights agitation that I have ever heard—a woman seeking to take a licence from her husband.

Mr. GARDNER: I am very glad that I have the advantage of opposition in this case, as it will no doubt enable me to conduct the case better than I could do if I had no opposition. But, until I am provoked, I won't make any statements which it would be better to avoid; but when I am provoked, I will certainly not spare the person who comes forward here, through his attorney, to oppose this application. As your worship has heard, this is an application for a licence to a married woman whose husband is still alive. At a recent Petty Sessions I applied, under 17 & 18 Vict., for a transfer of the licence from the husband to the wife. I may state now, as I see Mr. Pilson here, who was on the bench on the occasion, that the magistrates were most anxious to do all in their power for my client, Mrs. Phaire, and they would at once have transferred the licence if they had thought they had power to do so. They felt there was some little difficulty, in consequence of the existence of the relation of husband and wife. However, that difficulty, I think, is nothing more than apparent; and I think there is no real difficulty why this woman should not get the licence.

His WORSHIP: Who has the licence now?

Mr. GARDNER: It is in her husband's name. Your worship is aware that, by an Act passed in 1865, married women deserted by their husbands are enabled to have their earnings protected, and also any other property acquired by them after the desertion. We don't come within the words of that Act—there has not been a regular desertion—but we come within the spirit of it. There was another Act passed in 1870 for the benefit of married women, and we come within the very words of it, which, in its first section, provides that the earnings of a married woman, acquired by her after the passing of the Act, in any trade which she carries on separately from her husband, shall belong to her for her separate use. In the present case, the applicant was the widow (before she married her present husband) of a man called Magee, who occupied a posting establishment and a public-house in this town, in Market-street. He died some years ago, and left his wife in possession of his public-house, and she carried on the concern creditably and well, and to the satisfaction of the local magistrates. Unfortunately, she thought proper to marry her present husband. By a settlement which was made on their marriage all the property was settled on the wife, to her separate use; so that, under that settlement, the wife had a right in equity to carry on the business separately from her husband. Probably, under the strict rule of law, the husband and wife would be considered as one person; and, as they stood before the Act of 1870, we might not have been able to come into this Court to ask your worship for the carrying out of that settlement. In equity, a decree would have been made to carry it out. Under this Act of 1870 we are enabled and recognised in law, and in every court, as entitled to carry on trade, and to have our earnings protected

from our husband. That being so, we come before you to ask for—what? Simply, the right to carry on our trade, and to have our earnings protected. We have clearly a right to use the means of earning. Under the Act of 1870 we have a legal standing in any court, and we now come to ask your worship, as we could clearly carry on the business of a baker, or butcher, or grocer, why we should be prohibited from carrying on the business of a publican? The Licensing Act of 1872 re-enacts what was the law before, in the third section, which declares that no person shall sell intoxicating liquor without being licensed for the purpose. Now there was no way in which we were disqualified. We were subject to all the penalties under that Act, and there is nothing which I can conceive which prevents us carrying on this public-house. I should state that, for convenience, the licence was continued on us, the owner of the licence. Now a separation has taken place between the parties by a regular deed of separation. All the property and business belong to the wife, and all I now ask is that the licence shall be transferred from the name of the fictitious owner to that of the real owner.

His WORSHIP: Who is carrying on the business now?

Mr. GARDNER: The wife.

His WORSHIP: Where is the husband?

Mr. GARDNER: He is here, but not living in the house at all. He signed a regular deed of separation, and got a sum of money to enable him to do better in the world. He acknowledges that everything belongs to the wife, and she takes all the profits.

Mr. M'MORDIE said Phaire had done nothing for which he should lose his licence.

His WORSHIP said he had never been entitled to the licence—the licence was only in his name through courtesy. He could not conduct a house to which he had not access. It would seem a sort of absurdity if a man was to be excluded from a house and the profits of it, and still to have his name appear as the owner of the licence. He saw no legal difficulty, and it rested with the magistrates to say what they would do.

After some further discussion, the licence was unanimously granted.—*Northern Whig*.

MAINTENANCE OF WIVES.

The following is taken from the *Staffordshire Sentinel*:—

"MARRIED EIGHTEEN MONTHS.—William Forrester, plate-maker, was summoned by Mr. Unett, relieving officer, for having allowed Jane, his wife, and her child to become chargeable to the parish. The young woman said that Forrester, who was now under sureties for having threatened her, left her last June, and had not contributed anything towards her maintenance. They had been married eighteen months, but her husband seemed to have a fondness for some other woman.—In reply to Mr. Dutton she said that Forrester had offered to get a house, but she did not care to live with him, she was afraid of her life.—Defendant said he would take the child, but his wife would not allow him. The complainant said she knew he could not force it from her until it was seven years old. Defendant agreed to pay 3s. 6d. a week to his wife. She exclaimed: Why they can get 5s. a week for a bastard child now! (Laughter.)"

We do not see the joke in this case—nor, we suspect, did the unlucky Jane Forrester. We wonder if it occurred to her how much better off she would have been had her child been illegitimate, for then the father might have been made to pay more for its maintenance, and he would not have power to take it away from her under any circumstances. For she is completely

in error as to his not being able to force it from her until it is seven years old. The law gives him the right to claim it at once—to tear the sucking child from its mother's bosom. Should he choose to do so, the only remedy a mother has is a petition to one of the judges in London—an expensive procedure, altogether beyond the reach of the masses of the people. Poor wives are absolutely at the mercy of their husbands as to the custody of their children. Those who can command money may obtain the right to suckle their own babes, by suffering a heavy pecuniary fine. It may be that working women will begin to consider the relative advantages of unwedded and wedded wife and motherhood, should the property and personal disabilities of married women be maintained much longer, especially if, in addition to those already in existence, the proposal to prohibit them from working in factories should become law.

REVIEWS.

(From the *Globe*.)

Woman's Wrong. By Mrs. Eiloart. 3 vols. (*Bentley*).—The aim of this novel is to attack a point whereon English law undoubtedly does shameful injustice to women, and nothing can better develop in a short space the grievance in question than an outline of Mrs. Eiloart's plot. A pure-minded young girl is induced to marry a man who is much older than herself, and, as she soon discovers, is unfaithful, cruel, avaricious, and heartless. His mother is nearly as bad as himself, and the young wife's only happiness is found in her infant boy. Within a year or two the husband dies, after being persuaded by his mother to make a will giving her the sole charge of the child, and taking him wholly away from his own mother. In agony, the younger lady learns that—"The law gave her dead husband the right to dispose of his child just as if that child had no mother living to whom he might be dearer than her very life. . . . She must let him go from her to be made such a one as his father; there was the law—the law which gives us our children only as a grace and favour, and confers upon their fathers the entire right of their disposal. Her boy did not belong to the living mother, but to the dead father; she who had borne him, nursed him—to whom he was all in all—was to have no part in him." Horrified and half incredulous, the young mother questions the solicitor, and learns further that "if her child had been base born—nobody's child—the mother might keep him. It is only stainless, honourable women whom this good and gracious law seeks to despoil of their children." With the courage of despair the mother takes her resolution that very moment, flings her reputation to the winds, and defies her mother-in-law to prove that a marriage ceremony ever took place. It is the legitimate province of the novelist to contrive the plot so that the difficulties in the way of this proof are insuperable for many years, and the story is cleverly worked out, without violation of probability. Meanwhile the heroine, though successful in her one great object of retaining her child, pays a heavy price for the triumph—her mother-in-law taking care to blast her reputation wherever she attempts to live. The last, and perhaps the cruellest, blow is when her boy, grown up to manhood and wooing a wife, is upbraided with the stain of bastardy; but great as is the shock to him, he refuses, after the first moment, to believe his mother's dishonour, even when asserted by herself, and the opportune arrival from foreign parts of a witness to the disputed marriage establishes the youth's right to name and fortune now, when his years relieve him from the provisions of his father's will. That a mother can be subjected to such cruelty is a foul blot on the English statute-book; and if the advocates of women's

rights turned their efforts to reform on this point, they could hardly fail to carry with them the sympathy of both sexes. Mrs. Eiloart's heart was evidently in her work, and she has pleaded her cause in a manner at once interesting and forcible.

Medical Women: Two Essays, by Sophia Jex-Blake. 1. Medicine as a Profession for Women. 2. Medical Education of Women. Edinburgh: William Oliphant & Co. London: Hamilton, Adams, & Co.

In the first of these two able essays before us, Miss Jex-Blake has given an historical sketch of the practice of medicine by women in former ages, and considerations urging the need for such practice. The essay begins by attacking the outworks of the citadel—the popular prejudice among men that the practice of medicine and surgery is unsuitable for women.

"We are told so often that Nature and custom have alike decided against the admission of women to the medical profession, and that there is in such admission something repugnant to the right order of things, that when we see growing evidences of a different opinion, among a minority perhaps, but a minority which already includes many of our most earnest thinkers of both sexes and increases daily, it surely becomes a duty for all who do not, in the quaint language of Sharpe, 'have their thinking, like their washing, done out,' to test these statements. Miss Jex-Blake proceeds first to appeal to the testimony of Nature. "If we go back to primeval times, and try to imagine the first sickness, or the first injury suffered by humanity, does one instinctively feel that it must have been the *man's* business to seek means of healing, to try the virtue of various herbs, or to apply such rude remedies as might occur to one unused to the strange spectacle of human suffering." Taking domestic experience she asks, "If a child fall down stairs, and is more or less seriously hurt, is it the father or mother (where both are without medical training) who is most equal to this emergency, and who applies the needful remedies in the first instance?" Most people's experience will bear out the opinion of the author that when both man and woman are without technical training it is the woman who would have the most natural skill and gift to succour, and the inference seems not unnatural that were both equally well trained in the medical art, that the same superiority would be preserved in at least some branches of medical practice. A doctor in Manchester lately informed us of a circumstance which seems to confirm this view. He was suffering from deafness, accompanied by pain in his ear. He consulted a brother in the profession, who could neither discover the source of the mischief nor relieve him. He went to another doctor with the same result. He then applied to a young lady friend. She found out what was the matter and cured him. The two gentlemen had put him to much pain—the lady's manipulation was so light and dexterous that, far from feeling pain, he never felt her touch. The Essay goes on to demonstrate the need for women doctors, and shows the frightful misery that is endured by women for want of properly qualified practitioners of their own sex. The legal obstacles to the medical education of women and registration of women are set forth. The second Essay narrates the gallant struggle so long maintained in the Edinburgh University by the small band of ladies who are bent on overcoming these barriers to their entrance on a professional career. Both are interesting and valuable contributions to the history and discussion of the question which they relate, and we trust they will be extensively read.

Three hundred young Russian women have, it is stated, claimed admission as students in medicine and surgery at the newly-opened Medical School of St. Petersburg. The number of admissions being fixed, however, at seventy, there will be a great many disappointed.—*British Medical Journal*.

LADY-PHARMACISTS.

A further important step has this week been made in the scientific education of women, and their admission to useful and privileged callings. At the last meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, it was moved by Mr. Hampson "that ladies be admitted to attend the lectures and the laboratory of the Pharmaceutical Society." Mr. Hampson said that ten years ago a resolution was passed by the Council prohibiting the admission of ladies, and that during the attendance of Miss Garrett this prohibition was unrescinded; but the professors, finding that her presence increased the order and decorum observed in the classes, raised no objection to this irregular proceeding. By the Pharmacy Act of 1868, ladies were admitted to the examinations and were legally qualified to practise pharmacy, and he could see no valid reason why they should be excluded from the instruction enabling them to pass these examinations. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, adding that, if women were thus educated in pharmacy, a father might train up his daughter to take a part in his business, and a lady might be able to carry on the business after the death of her husband. Objections were made by other members to the laboratory being open to ladies; the principal objection urged was that possibly they would come in such numbers that new accommodation would have to be sought. Mr. Brown therefore consented to withdraw the word laboratory; and it was finally "resolved unanimously that the resolution passed in 1862, prohibiting ladies from attending the lectures, be rescinded, and that ladies be admitted as students to the lecture-classes of the Pharmaceutical Society." At present, but one lady has taken advantage of the privilege offered; but, as soon as the resolution becomes more widely known, it is probable that the liberality of the Society will be recognised by ladies, who will avail themselves of this excellent opportunity of studying practical chemistry and botany. The courses of instruction in these sciences at the Pharmaceutical Society are remarkable for their excellence, completeness, and cheapness. The lectures on chemistry are by Professor Redwood; those on botany, by Professor Bentley, commencing early in October. The chemical lectures are continued three days a week until the end of July; the botanical lectures, lasting for the same period, being delivered on two days in the week. During the summer months, they are delivered in the Botanical Gardens, Regent's Park. The fees for the entire course are only £2. 2s. They are probably the most complete courses delivered in London.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE MEDICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

At a meeting of the managers of the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh, held on October 14, a letter was read from Miss Jex Blake, renewing, on behalf of the lady medical students, the application for tickets of admission to the educational advantages of the Infirmary, in accordance with the statute of January 1, 1872. Mr. George Harrison moved—"That the managers being of opinion that it is desirable to admit female medical students to the Infirmary wards, remit to the House Committee to make arrangements for that purpose, and to report." The Lord Provost seconded the motion. Professor Muirhead moved as an amendment—"Having again heard read the letter of Miss Blake, the managers, without any admission of the regularity or validity of the statute referred to, remit to a committee to consider and report whether, and to what extent, it is practicable to give instruction to females within the wards of the Infirmary." On a division the amendment was carried by 8 to 4.

THE LACE GIRLS OF NOTTINGHAM.

Every lace machine employing two men requires 20 to 30 women, to wind the silk or cotton first, and to dress, finish, clip, and scollop, and card or fold, and pack up the goods at last. The above is a moderate estimate of the proportion of girls over 16 years old required. "Pattern girls," who make up pattern books, and post up and prepare, ticket and number, little packets of patterns to go abroad, and who therefore must have some education, or at least write fairly, get about £1 a week. From three or four to 30 or 40 of these smart girls are employed in each warehouse. They must be dressed well, and sometimes rather smartly, because they are constantly in and out of the sale-rooms, and seen by the buyers. "Jenniers," who wind the lace on the cards, get about £1 a week, and finishers generally 12s. to £1. 5s. These are "warehouse hands," and they consider themselves superior to "factory hands," though they do not, *I should think*, get on an average higher wages—if so much—for a clever frame clipper, or winder, in a factory can earn from 18 to 25 shillings a week. "Dressing" is dirty work, done in intensely hot rooms, in enormously large buildings, but the girls' wages are very high.

This immense demand for female labour the town, of course, cannot supply. The work is so lucrative, and so light and agreeable, especially the *warehouse* work, that young girls are attracted from all the towns and villages round, and even from a considerable distance. These girls live, remote from their friends, in lodgings. Sometimes one or two join and rent a house, and live together.

WOMEN PRINTERS IN FRANCE.

Extract (translation) from *L'Imprimerie* of August, 1872.

M. Theotiste Lefevre was, thirty-five years ago, chosen by the celebrated house Didot to establish a printing-office at Mesuil, near Dreux. Under the direction of his son, this has now become one of the most important in France. At Mesuil, the work is almost entirely performed by women. M. Theotiste was able to teach the peasant women to read and compose not only French and Latin manuscripts, but also Greek ones. It was women whom he taught to stereotype, to feed and receive the sheets. Women print from copper-plate the numerous plates which adorn the encyclopædia works of the great publisher Firmin Didot. Whatever may be the opinion which one entertains respecting women's work, it is impossible not to be astonished at the results obtained here. It is a woman who arranges the pages of the enormous work known under the name of the Didot-Bottin, or *Annuaire de Commerce* (Directory), the completion of which requires every year an incredible rapidity. Women perform at Mesuil the most complicated and the most simple tasks.

At a meeting at Darmstadt last month it was resolved to form an International Association for Protecting the Rights of Women, of which the Princess Alice was chosen first president, and several Englishwomen, including Miss Carpenter, Miss Nightingale, Miss Hill, and Miss Merewether, as corresponding members.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—On October 22nd a discussion on Women's Suffrage took place at a meeting of the Working Men's Mutual Improvement Society, at Leighton Buzzard. A paper was read by Miss H. P. Downing. After the discussion, a petition in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was adopted almost unanimously, and was signed by the chairman, Mr. Joseph Glaisyer, on behalf of the meeting.

HISTORIC WOMEN.

Yes! they have lived! These women whose great names
Are graven deep on the world's history;
Strong, splendid souls that chafed at human wrong,
And tyranny and servile servitude,
And bonds that strangle nations to the death;
So flung their lives down with a passionate waste,
As incense upon altar sacrifice,
For glory, country, love, or some great cause,
For a whole people merged in nationhood,
Or one, more loved than nations or the world.
Annihilating even womanhood,
With all its soft tears and compassionate grace,
When Heav'n had need of hero-hands to strike
For vengeance, people's rights, or liberty.
And who dares judge these women, God-possessed,
With wild prophetic eyes, on whom was laid
The mission to avenge? Strength from the Lord
Was given them. Their words had priestess power,
And their deeds, tho' red with crimson cruelties,
Had yet the deep significance of justice,
Teaching the world by many a dreadful sign
That sin must be struck down with resolute hand,
E'en tho' it wear a monarch's mighty crown,
Or plead for shelter in our very tent,
Or feast with us at purple festivals.

See Miriam clashing cymbals in the dawn
For bondage broken and a people freed,
While Pharaoh's hosts are drowning at her feet,
Till up through crimson folds of morning clouds,
By desert Temples and by purple seas,
Loud hymns of freedom echoed back her words,
And the grand rhythm of the march of men!

Thus, 'mid the clustering palms of Ramah
Arose great Deborah's tragic song of scorn;
While Jael stood by fallen Sisera
Fearful to see—the hammer in her hand—
Even as she smote him sleeping in her tent;
The awful inspiration still upon her
Of that fierce deed by which "the land had rest."
So, Judith, gorgeous in her golden tire,
And loveliness that dazed men's eyes to see,
With jewels twined amid her perfumed hair,
Passed like a glorious vision through the gate
Of sad Bethulia to th' Assyrian's tent,
And slew him with her beauty ere she took
The glittering falchion from the golden bed
And freed her people by one mighty stroke.

This much at least be granted to the sex,
That Woman is no coward fronting fate.
Sublime in love, in suffering, in death,
She treads all terrors down with calm disdain,
As stars tread out the blackness of the sky,
In silent grandeur, like the Roman wife
Who drew the dagger from her husband's hand
And stabbed herself, to teach him how to die;
Then, smiling, said, "It is not painful, Pætus;"
Or the proud queen, who would have flung away
A kingdom for her lover, like a pearl,
Yet scorned to wear the Victor's gilded chain,
Or trail her royal robes in Roman triumphs,
So, from the asp took swift and sudden death,
Self-slain, in all her splendour like a queen,
With Egypt's crown still resting on her brow.

For strength is in the woman's pliant nature
As iron in the bending grasses. These
The softest wind may prostrate to the earth,
Tho' storms will fail to break. We trace it plain,
Through all her sad, vain, feeble outward life,
Like steadfast threads of gold in gossamer.
And never failed the race in heroines
When God had need of martyrs, or the world
Of ministrants to pour the wine of life
For the pale athletes weary with the strife,
And fainting in the dust of the Arena.
Through Pagan, Christian, Feudal, Modern times
The Woman is the synonym for courage;
From Artemisia to the Orleans maid,
Whose pyre was lighted with her victor palms;
Or her who stabbed the tyrant in his bath
For love of France, then bowed her fair young head
Beneath the guillotine—content to die—
So Marat's yoke was lifted from the nation;
Or Roland's wife, who stood amid the storm
Of surging passions sweeping down a throne,
Calm as the sculptured goddess, on whose brow
The whirlwind drives the drifting Libyan sands.
We see her yet! Her proud, pale features lit
With glory of such dreams as Plato loved,
And scorn of death that men had doomed her to,
Strewing red rose leaves on the wine cup drained
That last night with the fated Girondins;
Still true to Freedom, holding it absolved
From all the desecrating crimes of man;
Still to the last invoking Liberty,
E'en on the blood-stained scaffold as she died,
The Martyr-Priestess of the Revolution.

But there are gentler memories of Women.
Let us take up the bead-roll reverently,
As holy hands count rosaries with prayer,
Of those whose influence on glorious minds
Have made their own names glorious evermore,
Shining in splendour on the poet's page
Like bright initial letters on a scroll
Made consecrate by saints; or some fair bordering
Woven of shimmering lights like powdered gems
On dark, discoloured leaves of human life.
Vittoria Colonna's marble brow
Still bears serenely as a Phidian Muse
The laurel wreath of Michel Angelo;
Petrarca's crown is laid at Laura's feet;
While Leonora by that trembling kiss
On Tasso's lips one gentle summer's day
In the duke's garden, as he read to her
His own great poem of Christ's Sepulchre,
Has bound the poet's soul with hers for ever.
And radiant Beatrice with starry eyes
Guiding great Dante up from Hell to Heaven,
Until they reached the glory of the Throne,
And saw the circling saints in their white stoles;
Stands yet within the everlasting light,
Her gaze fixed on the sun, immovable,
As Dante saw her in the Paradiso,
The glorified ideal of the Woman.

And still are with us women who can guide
The souls of men to calm, clear heav'nly heights
Where clouds and mist roll down beneath the feet.
Heroic hearts are near, deep spirit eyes
Gleam on us in the darkness of our lives,
As on the shepherds in the midnight gleamed

The star that lit them to the feet of Christ.
The race can never die. Still on our ears
The clear "Excelsior" from a woman's lips
Rings out across the Apennines, altho'
The woman's brow lies pale and cold in death
With all the mighty marble dead in Florence.
For while great songs can stir the hearts of men,
Spreading their full vibrations through the world
In ever-widening circles till they reach
The Throne of God, and song becomes a prayer—
And prayer brings down the liberating strength
That kindles nations to heroic deeds—
She lives—the great-souled poetess who saw
From Casa Guidi windows Freedom dawn
On Italy, and gave the glory back
In sunrise hymns for all Humanity.

And others, great as heroines of old,
Still breathe our common air. Do we not see
Imperial, beautiful, and gifted women
Reigning by right divine of womanhood,
By angel goodness, or by queenly grace,
Claiming instinctive homage from the crowd?
Some Sibyl with her shadowed, mystic eyes
Seems fresh from commune with Divinity;
Or some sweet Sappho with her passionate lute
Wakes the deep inner music of the heart.
Others recall the glory of the Greek
Who ruled with the Olympian Pericles,
And, with Aspasia's genius-given power
They gather round them in a zone of light
Poets and sages and philosophers,
Golden-mouthed orators, and all whose souls
Burn with the proud ambition to be great.
And some bear high above the people's heads
The starry oriflamme of nationhood,
Chanting their solemn songs of Faith and Hope,
Till all the masses tremble as the leaves
Of forests when a tropic storm sweeps by,
While from the Pythian passion of their eyes
Flow mighty inspirations, such as fired
The souls of Greeks—made heroes when they gazed
On great Athené of the Parthenon.

But, above all creation Woman stands
Sublimely consecrated by His will
Who chose the Maiden-mother of the Christ,
To manifest the full Divinity;
And placed the glorious hieroglyph on high
Of the crowned Woman by the Throne of God,
Clothed with the sun, the moon beneath her feet,
And on her brow a coronal of stars.
Some lesson from the far Infinity
Is shrined within this everlasting sign,
Teaching, perhaps, to all in Earth and Heaven
That far above all might of intellect,
All thrones, dominions, grades, and powers,
Of angels with the trumpets and the seals,
The moral nature symbolised by woman
Is nearest God's similitude, and shows
The Soul's divinest excellence of beauty.

And still the true Divine is born of Woman,
Still, as of old, she kisses wounded feet,
Cleansing the earth-stains with her pitying tears,
Still pours sweet spikenard upon weary brows,
Still stands beside the Cross to weep and pray
Through the deep gloom of crucifixion hours,
Still watches by the sepulchre to greet

With tender, trustful, radiant words of love
The uprisen soul that casts its grave-clothes by
And springs to freedom from the bonds of sin.
Priestess and victress! through the world's dark ways,
Up the great altar stairs that lead to Heaven,
The torch of Love in her uplifted hand,
Woman still guides Humanity, and best
Fulfils the woman's mission when she tends
The sacred fires of Glory, Faith, and Truth
In human hearts. True helpmeet for the Man,
When with a holy, pardoning, saintly zeal
She draws the erring nature back to God
With hands of love. Still pleading for the Right
In words that weep and tears that speak like prayers;
The guiding angel of a darkened world
Whose only light can come from Faith and Love.

SPERANZA (LADY WILDE).

MATILDA OF TUSCANY.

The following sketch of "The Great Countess" is taken from an essay by Dr. John Henry Newman, on the Reformation of the 11th Century, describing the struggle for supremacy between Pope Gregory VII. and Emperor Henry III. of Germany. It illustrates the political position of women in the middle ages, before the rise of the modern notion of their unfitness for political functions. There are many grand figures among the historic women of Europe, but few that exceed the noble lady whose deeds and character are here portrayed.

"Matilda goes by the name of the Great Countess. She inherited Tuscany from her mother, and was the enthusiastic friend and servant of Gregory; to him and to his principles her energies, her influence, and her treasures, were dedicated. Her talents and learning were as remarkable as her rank and devotion. Amid the various occupations which her extensive territories occasioned, she found time and opportunity to become the encourager and in some degree the restorer of ancient literature. She was acquainted with the more recent languages spoken in France and Germany, as well as in her own country. She was active and energetic in the enforcement of justice and the maintenance of her authority, nor was she unequal to the task of eliciting the military resources of her territory, and bringing well-disciplined armies into the field. She was munificently charitable to the poor, systematically kind and hospitable to the exile and to the stranger; and the foundress or benefactress of a great number of churches and conventual institutions. Throughout her eventful life, she never suffered secular matters to interfere with the frequency or regularity of her exercises of devotion, and in adversity, of which she was allotted her share, she found her consolation in the society of holy men, and the perusal of Holy Scripture." "Such," says Mr. Bowden, "was the Great Countess—such was she who—too proud or too humble to recapitulate the roll of her titles—was wont to subscribe herself 'Matilda, by the Grace of God, what I am,' and at the present moment she was especially fitted to undertake the mediation between Gregory and Henry, being a relative of Henry, as well as the host of Gregory."

Mademoiselle Louise Michel, condemned to exile—is on the point of departure for New Caledonia. The firmness of which she gave proof before the Council is still unimpaired. She has made arrangements with the Geographical Society to send them the results of the observations which she expects to make on the climate and productions of this hitherto unexplored region.—*Les Etas Unis de l'Europe.*

FAIR AND UNFAIR.

From *The Ladies.*

The colour of the skin has ceased to be regarded as a reason for denying the negro population of America their right to the franchise, and although there may be some folk who regret that religion is no longer regarded as justifying the withholding of political rights, nothing very dreadful to the country has yet resulted from the voting of Jews and Roman Catholics. We may hope, therefore, that the day when sex will be no greater obstacle to the granting of the franchise than a dark skin and religious opinions have been is not very far off. The anger and contempt with which some of our contemporaries regard the political demands of women are good signs. Several excellent letters from ladies upon this subject have reached us, and we regret that up to the present time the demands upon our space have been so urgent and so many that we have been constrained, most unwillingly, to omit them. We now insert one of the best of these able letters, and feel sure that our fair readers will at once recognise the unfair treatment of which it complains:—

Sir,—In a recent number of your paper you quoted some paragraphs from a contemporary, in which the remark was made that in the newspapers and periodicals of the day every topic is treated as simply a *man's question*. How much truth there is in this remark has occurred to me whilst reading an article in one of the last issues of the *Spectator*. This newspaper is deservedly respected for its liberality and fairness. In writing of the "woman's question" its tone is generally in accordance with its reputation. Even when opposing our claims—to the franchise, for instance—it writes with an earnest desire to be fair and just, and always refrains from badinage and frivolity on so important a subject. But contrast the tone of the *Spectator*, when opposing the extension of the suffrage to women, to that which it adopts with reference to another oppressed class—viz., the agricultural labourers. Writing of the debate on female suffrage last May, the *Spectator* said:—"The true object of the movement avowed at every street corner is to invest women with serious political power, that they may be able to compel men to do things which, as Mr. Jacob Bright alleges, men are unwilling to do: to alter the law of property, the law of divorce, the law of the custody of children, and many other laws of the same fundamental kind. With some of these objects we heartily sympathise, maintaining, for instance, as strongly as any woman in England that our law of property is, as regards women, iniquitous; that they are the daily victims of legalised theft; but are we to remedy that wrong by a radical transfer of the whole power of the State?" The very idea appears to the *Spectator* absurd. But listen to its views when a large and as yet unfranchised class of *men* complain of grievances. Writing recently of the oppressions to which the agricultural labourer is subjected, the *Spectator* says: "There is but one remedy for all this. . . . It comes to this, that we must give these men the *vote*. We regret the necessity; we see perfectly well that, if we could put off the change for ten years, the labouring electors might be a Conservative force, and that if they get the vote now they will be driven without the needful instruction to swell the great army of labour against capital. But there is no help for it. Nothing but the vote will give them enough respect from those above them to ensure them fair play, or the first right of freemen, that of selling their property in an open market. Nothing but the vote will make Parliament attend to them, even so much as, by an abolition of the law of settlement, to release them from the obligation to stay in the district in which they were born. . . . There is nothing for it but to arm him (the labourer) as the Americans under the same circumstances armed the negroes, with the *only peaceful weapon of self-defence strong enough to do its*

work." On August 10, the *Spectator* says: "These men must have the vote, if it be only to enable them to defend themselves with peaceful weapons, otherwise the contempt entertained by them for dukes and bishops will lead to a catastrophe. . . . Everybody with a grain of sense knows that this would be the effect of that new power in the hands of the cultivating people, that *they would be dealt with as human beings*—men entitled to an opinion about their own value in the market, and expected to get it, if they could." The difference of tone in discussing the claims of men and women to be dealt with as human beings cannot fail to strike the most cursory reader. Now, we women claim the privileges of human beings, seeing that the Creator has endowed us with free will, conscience, intelligence; consequently the assumption of man to be sole master, legislator, and judge with regard to woman, absolutely as if she had no soul, and were incapable of moral liberty, is a gross oppression and wrong. The right of having a voice in the laws which one is expected to obey is the great privilege of freemen. To deny the right to woman, places her in the position of a serf.

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OXFORD.

UNION DEBATING SOCIETY.—At the meeting of this society, on Thursday, the 17th October, 1872, Mr. T. Lacey, of Balliol College, proposed:—"That, in the opinion of this house, it is extremely undesirable that the franchise in parliamentary elections should be extended to women." An amendment was moved by the librarian:—"That reason and nature demand for women the complete rights of citizenship." On a division, the original resolution was lost, 18 voting for the amendment, and nine against it.—*The Oxford Guardian*, Oct. 23, 1872.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, King-street, on Wednesday, November 6th, 1872, at Three o'clock p.m.

Mrs. Lucas, Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Miss Stuart, Dr. Pankhurst, Miss Becker, and other Ladies and Gentlemen are expected to take part in the proceedings.

JACOB BRIGHT, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

Friends are invited to attend.

LYDIA E. BECKER, Secretary.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING
OCTOBER, 1872.

	£	s.	d.
Misses Ashworth	100	0	0
"Two Lady Friends"	50	0	0
Mr. W. Romaine Callender	25	0	0
Mrs. Jacob Bright	20	0	0
"A Father of Seven Daughters"	7	7	0
Mr. P. Goldschmidt	5	0	0
Miss Bostock	5	0	0
Mrs. Pochin	2	2	0
Dr. W. B. Hodgson	2	0	0
"A Friend to Justice"	1	1	0
Dr. Samelson	1	1	0
Miss R. Thomas	1	1	0
Sir W. Lawson, Bart., M.P.	1	1	0
Rev. Dr. M'Kerrow	1	0	0
The Dowager Countess of Buchan	1	0	0
Mrs. Tewson	1	0	0
Mr. John Scott	1	0	0
Miss Theodosia Marshall	0	10	0
Hon. Mrs. Thos. Liddell	0	10	0
Mrs. Gay	0	10	0
The Lady Lytton	0	10	0
Mrs. Coppock	0	10	0
Mrs. Donkin	0	8	6
Miss A. Wilson	0	5	0
Mr. R. Sutcliffe	0	5	0
Mrs. R. Sutcliffe	0	5	0
Mr. Fitzadam	0	5	0
Miss H. Lupton	0	5	0
Miss S. F. Miall	0	5	0
Miss Annis Nixon	0	3	0
Mrs. Brine	0	2	6
Miss Mary Hargreaves	0	2	3
Miss Jenny Thorburn	0	2	0
Mrs. Prideaux	0	2	0
Miss Wade	0	1	3

£229 14 6

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF
PERSONAL RIGHTS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE JULY, 1872.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Williams	10	0	0
A Friend to Virtue	1	1	0
Miss Rose Hall	1	1	0
Mrs. Tyndall	1	0	0
Mrs. Ruxton	1	0	0
Mr. B. Dowson	0	10	0
Miss H. Lupton	0	10	0
Mrs. Jane Richardson	0	5	0
Mrs. Wilson	0	5	0

£15 12 0

LYDIA E. BECKER, TREASURER.

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

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

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The Treasurer of the Committee for amending the law with respect to the Property of Married Women, reports with pleasure that of the £500 asked for by the Committee to enable them to carry on their work during the ensuing session, £330 has been already promised. Among the larger contributions, they gratefully acknowledge £105 from Mr. R. B. Kennett; £50 from Mrs. Crawshay; £50 from Mr. James Heywood, F.R.S.; £50 from Mr. Samuel Watts; and £20 from Miss Brooke. Mr. Kennett's donation is conditional on £400 being made up from other sources, a condition which the committee confidently hope the liberality of their friends will enable them to fulfil. The sum of £170 is still required to entitle them to claim the promised hundred guineas. The following subscriptions and donations have been already received. The first two sums belong to the last financial year, and are included in the balance sheet presented to the annual meeting at Plymouth:—

	£	s.	d.
The Rev. Dr. Dewes	1	1	0
Mrs. Collimore	0	4	0
Mrs. Crawshay	50	0	0
Mr. James Heywood	50	0	0
Mrs. Abel Heywood	10	0	0
Miss J. Boucherett	5	0	0
Miss Reddall	3	0	0
Miss Rigbye	2	2	0
Miss Rose Hall	2	2	0
Mrs. Ogden	2	0	0
Mrs. Macdougall Gregory	2	0	0
Mrs. Layton	1	5	0
Mrs. Harriet Martineau	1	1	0
Mr. H. Nicol	1	1	0
Mrs. Geo. Sims	1	1	0
Mrs. Evans	1	1	0
Miss Estlin	1	1	0
Mrs. C. A. Biggs	1	0	0
"A Lady in Scotland"	1	0	0
Mrs. Carroll	1	0	0
Mr. James Haughton	1	0	0
Mrs. Campbell	1	0	0
The Dowager Countess of Buchan	1	0	0
Dr. F. R. Lees	1	0	0
Mrs. Pogson	1	0	0
Miss Priestman	0	10	0
Miss A. Priestman	0	10	0
Mrs. de Hersant	0	10	0
Mrs. Green	0	5	0
Mrs. Moore	0	5	0
Miss H. Lupton	0	5	0
Mr. Philip Dwyer	0	2	6

£144 6 6

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MEDICAL WOMEN.—TWO ESSAYS. By SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE. Including a brief History of the Past Three Years in Edinburgh. Price Three Shillings.—OLIPHANT & Co., Edinburgh.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL. Edited by LYDIA E. BECKER.—Volume II, 1871.—In coloured cover, price 1s. 6d., post free, 1s. 10d.

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