

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XI.—No. 123. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

APRIL 1, 1880.

PRICE ONE PENNY.  
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

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## Preliminary Notice.

L O N D O N .

A GREAT

## NATIONAL MEETING OF WOMEN,

To support the claim of women to the Parliamentary franchise, will take place in

S T. J A M E S ' S H A L L ,

on

THURSDAY, MAY 6TH.

The Chair to be taken at eight p.m., by the  
Viscountess HARBERTON.

The leading workers in the movement will take part in the proceedings. A list of those who have promised to attend will be published later.

Admission free to ladies to all parts of the Hall ; gentlemen admitted to the Gallery by ticket, price 2s. 6d. each. Seats on the Platform will be reserved for delegates.

Ladies who desire to take part in the Meeting or to aid it in any way are requested to communicate with Miss Thornbury, Secretary, Central Committee, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

**G**UNTER HALL, Gunter Grove, Fulham.—Mrs. Webster, of the London School Board, will give a Lecture on Women's Suffrage on Thursday, April 15th, at 8-30 p.m.

**M**AGDALA CASTLE COFFEE PALACE, Notting Hill.—Miss C. A. Biggs will Lecture on Women's Suffrage on Monday, April 19th. Chair to be taken at 8-30 p.m., by JOHN RAE, Esq., M.D., LL.D.

**A**NCHOR COFFEE PALACE, Hammer-smith.—Mrs. Webster, of the London School Board, will give a Lecture on Women's Suffrage on Tuesday, April 20th. Miss A. Shore, Miss C. A. Biggs, and other ladies will take part.

**P**ORTCULLIS HALL, Regency-street, Westminster.—A Public Meeting will be held on Monday, April 26th, to further the Great Meeting of Women in St. James's Hall. Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. Hallock, and Mrs. Foley will address the meeting.

**M**EMORIAL HALL, Farringdon-street.—A Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27th, to further the Great Meeting of Women in St. James's Hall. The chair will be taken at 8 p.m., by Mrs. LUCAS.

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Pleasant and effective remedy for Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption, and Diarrhoea, 13½d. and 2/9, of Chemists ; also in 6d. and 1s. boxes.

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**N**ORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The Annual Meeting will be held in the Lombard Hall, Belfast, on Friday, 9th April, at Two o'clock. Miss Downing, Miss Tod, and several local gentlemen will take part in the meeting.

## TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION.

Municipal Women Householdors pay the parochial rates and vote in the election of Town Councillors, Guardians, and School Board members. That is fair!

Women Householdors pay the Queen's taxes, but they are NOT allowed to vote in the election of the members who vote the taxes. IS THAT FAIR?

## ELECTORS!

Urge your Candidates to support justice by giving Women Ratepayers Votes when they pay the same taxes as men.

**B**IBLE TEXTS ON WOMAN'S PRISTINE POSITION.—Edinburgh: JOHN MACLAREN AND SON, Princes-street.

**N**ATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 64, Berners-street, London, W.—Persons requiring information, or desiring to sign a Petition, are requested to communicate with the Secretary, Miss THORNBURY, who will also gladly receive the names of friends who may wish to become members of this Society.

**S**OME OF THE FACTS OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE QUESTION. By HELEN BLACKBURN. Published by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, London, W.—Price 2d.

**C**OMMENTS ON THE OPPOSITION TO WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. By HELEN BLACKBURN.—Published by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, London, W.—Price 2d.

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as bad qualities are  
often substituted.

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

CONTENTS FOR MARCH, 1880.

1. Food Culture.
2. Women and Silk-dyeing.
3. Women in Leipzig University.

Reviews.

Correspondence.

Swedish Laws concerning Women.

Record of Events :—Society for School and University Education, Ireland—Girls' Public Day School Company—Memorial to Cambridge University—Technical Education—Medical Education—Nursing—Married Women's Property, Post-office Savings Bank—Silk-dyeing in Coventry—Women's Suffrage and the General Election—Working Women's Homes—Female School of Art and Art Homes—Vigilance Association—Poor Law Guardians—Miscellaneous.

Foreign Notes and News.

Paragraphs.

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

**F**UNERAL AND MOURNING REFORM ASSOCIATION.—Supported by the Earl of Essex, the Viscountess Harberton, the Bishops of Hereford and Ripon, Miss Becker, Mr. Ruskin, and many others. Its object is to aid in bringing into general use Funeral and Mourning Customs, unobjectionable on sanitary grounds, simple, rational, and free from ostentation and extravagance.—For particulars apply to the Hon. Secretary, Miss L. WHITBY, Peckleton House, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.**—Volume X. January to December, 1879. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—To be had at the Office, 23, Jackson's Row, Manchester, London: Trübner and Co.



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**CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**  
SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FROM  
FEB. 20 TO MARCH 20, 1880.

Name	£	s.	d.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Malleson	2	2	0
Dowager Lady Wharnclyffe	2	2	0
Miss F. Power Cobbe (2 years)	2	0	0
Miss Lillias Craig	1	1	0
Miss Estlin	1	1	0
Mrs. Lucas	1	1	0
Mrs. Lynch	1	1	0
The Misses Priestman	1	1	0
Miss Sparling	1	1	0
Mrs. Molyneux Taylor	1	1	0
Mrs. Charles Thomas	1	1	0
Miss Astley	1	0	0
Mrs. Beddard	1	0	0
Mrs. R. C. Carpenter	1	0	0
Mr. Samuel Courtauld	1	0	0
The Hon. Mrs. M. Drummond	1	0	0
Lady Drysdale	1	0	0
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Miss Wansey	1	0	0

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Mrs. Roberts	0	10	6
Miss R. Thomas	0	10	6
Mrs. Walter Bailey	0	10	0
Mr. Thomas Young	0	10	0
Mrs. Hall Anderson (Shilling League)	0	5	0
Miss Grove	0	5	0
Mr. Ernest Moore	0	5	0
Mr. William Payn	0	5	0
Mrs. Perrier	0	5	0
The Wimbeldon Athenaeum	0	5	0
Madam Foa	0	2	6
Mrs. Trautmann	0	2	6
Mrs. Flint	0	2	0
Miss M. Higgins	0	1	6
Mrs. Watts	0	1	6
Miss Major	0	1	0
Mrs. Müller	0	1	6
Mrs. Newland	0	1	0

£27 17 6

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64, Berners-street, London, W.

## THE CALENDAR.

**APRIL, 1880.**

MOON.	Rises.	SUN.	Sets.
2nd Last Quar., 6h 13m morn.	5 34	.....	6 33
9th New Moon, 3h 7m aft.	6 18	.....	6 45
17th First Quar., 7h 14m aft.	5 1	.....	6 58
24th Full Moon, 10h 56m aft.	4 45	.....	7 10

  

Day	Event
1 Th	Cambridge Easter Term begins.
2 F	Mary Carpenter born 1807.
3 S	Low Sunday. [Edward I. 1306.]
4 S	Abbesses summoned to attend Parliament by Alexandra College, Dublin, Easter Term begins.
5 M	
6 T	
7 W	
8 Th	
9 F	[in France] started Paris, 1860.
10 S	"Le Droit des Femmes" (first women's paper 2 after Easter. Margaret of Navarre born 1492.
11 M	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
12 M	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
13 T	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
14 W	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
15 Th	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
16 F	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
17 S	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
18 S	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
19 M	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
20 T	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
21 W	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
22 Th	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
23 F	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
24 S	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
25 S	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
26 M	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
27 T	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
28 W	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
29 Th	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]
30 F	Madame Guyon born 1648. [chester, 1868.]

## PETITIONS.

### THIRD REPORT, 19-24 February, 1880.

Brought forward, Petitions 19—  
Signatures 23

No.	Name	Chairman	Signatures
306	19 STRET福德, R. Dickinson,	chairman (Mr. Hardcastle)	1
307	NEWCHURCH, A. Lazenby,	chairman (Mr. Holt)	1
308	20 BRIDGEWATER, William Hol-	land, chairman (Major Lee)	1
309	23 ARDWICK, J. M. Bennett,	chairman (Mr. Birley)	1
310	24 BROUGHTON, G. Greenwood,	chairman (Mr. Ormerod Walker)	1

Total No. of Petitions 23—Signatures 27

### SUMMARY OF PETITIONS PRESENTED UP TO FEBRUARY 24th, 1880.

Women's Disabilities Removal—	No. of Petitions signed Officially or under Seal.	Total No. of Petitions.	Total No. of Signatures.
In favour ...	22	23	27

**UGHT WOMEN TO LEARN THE ALPHABET?** By T. W. HIGGINSON. Reprinted from "Atlantic Essays." Price 3d. A. Ireland & Co., Manchester.

**LA DONNA.**—An educational periodical of contributions by Italian ladies, conducted by Gualberta Alaide Beccari. Published on the 15th and 31st of each month at Strada Stefano, No. 5, Bologna.—Price for each number, 50 centimes.

**OPINIONS OF WOMEN ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.** Issued by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, London, W. This pamphlet was frequently referred to in the recent Parliamentary debate.

**"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY."** A Reply to Mr. Fitzjames Stephen's Strictures on Mr. J. S. Mill's "Subjection of Women," by LYDIA E. BECKER. Reprinted from the *Women's Suffrage Journal*. Price 2d. To be had at 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

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EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XI.—No. 123. PUBLISHED MONTHLY. APRIL 1, 1880. PRICE ONE PENNY. BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

EVENTS march in the present day with such huge and rapid strides that already the condition of things at the date of our last issue seems relegated to the dead and distant past. The country is called upon to give its verdict on the policy which has been pursued by Her MAJESTY'S Ministers. The forces which shall determine the issue are working secretly in the minds of men, and the existence of the Government and the future destinies of the country are staked for the moment on the incalculable chances of the ballot-box. No one can forecast the result; everyone must await in anxious expectation the lot that shall be cast by the secret and irresponsible power that has been entrusted by the law to the registered electors of the land.

ALL women, everywhere, are excluded from a share in determining this momentous issue. The idle and dissolute husband, the drunken and careless parent, the ruffianly wife-beater, the ex-garotter, when he comes out of penal servitude—all these may, in the secrecy of the ballot-box, cast in a voice of the same weight and value as the vote of the wisest and best of men; while the woman who may own half a county, and may contribute heavily to the local and imperial taxation of the land, who may spend her means and give her labours in promoting the welfare of her fellow citizens, is bidden to stand aside as unworthy to bear a part in the national crisis. She and all other women are compelled to see their dearest interests and the welfare of their beloved country committed to the absolute disposal of the masses of men—good, bad, and indifferent—while they are by the recent interpretation of the law deprived of the power or the right to influence the decision.

ON the 8th of March the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER announced that the Ministry would advise Her MAJESTY to dissolve Parliament. On March 24th, the QUEEN'S Proclamation appeared, and the fiat of one woman unmade that which no woman may have a share in making—the Commons House of Parliament. On the same evening the writs for the new Parliament were issued. On March

30th a large number of nominations in boroughs were made. On the 31st the polling took place in about forty districts, and as this sheet reaches the hands of our readers the result of these elections will be known, and afford some indication of the probable complexion of the yet inchoate Parliament. Within a week the elections will be mostly completed, and by the first of May the future political situation will have become the accepted order of things, and the blind uncertainty and expectation of the present hour seem as much a thing of the past as the quietude and tranquillity of the political horizon in February seems now.

THE great National Demonstration of Women at Manchester is to be appropriately followed by a great gathering in St. James's Hall, London, on the sixth of May, for the purpose of supporting the demand for the suffrage which will be presented to the new Parliament. The arrangements will be similar to those adopted at Manchester. The chair will be occupied by the Viscountess HARBERTON, who will be supported by the leading advocates of women's suffrage. The platform and the body of the hall will be occupied exclusively by ladies; gentlemen will be admitted to the gallery on terms which may be learnt by our preliminary advertisement.

We earnestly ask for the co-operation of women throughout the country who desire to see the suffrage extended to them to appear in their thousands in St. James's Hall, and to manifest in this unmistakable way the strength and reality of the demand for enfranchisement. No one who witnessed that magnificent meeting at Manchester could doubt the greatness and earnestness of this demand; but this manifestation needs to be given not only in Manchester, but elsewhere—not only in the country, but in the Metropolis, before the demand can be estimated at its true magnitude, and have its due weight in the counsels of the Legislature.

We give in another column a list of candidates who have voted or declared in favour of the principle of giving votes



to women who own or occupy property which would entitle a man to vote. The list does not pretend to be exhaustive; there are large numbers of candidates in the field respecting whose views we have no information, and there are doubtless many who have never yet been required to give sufficient attention to the subject to cause them to come to a judgment concerning it. We ask our friends to aid the cause by bringing our question to the notice of such candidates, not with a view of embarrassing their candidature, or of obstructing the immediate issue of the election, which is a purely party one, but, in a friendly spirit, to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the intercourse of candidates with constituencies to press upon their attention a question so deeply affecting the interest of the people of the district they desire to represent and of the community at large. Candidates should be asked whether they would support a measure giving votes to women who own or occupy property that would entitle a man to a vote.

THE country is called upon to perform a collective national action, and return to St. Stephen's the men who can most powerfully reflect the opinions and wishes working in the minds of the people. If, indeed, we can properly call that a collective action which is performed to the exclusion of a definite portion of persons interested equally with the persons included.

On the result of this action depends the honour of the country abroad, and the wisdom of the legislation which shall be set forth for the reverent obedience of the people at home. Yet the law of the land as at present interpreted enjoins that a portion of those who are not only vitally affected, but qualified according to its own measure of qualification, shall stand apart, mere passive beholders of the active multitude of electors. Law may enjoin, but patriotism, local interest, family affection, all combine to counteract the spirit of the law, and draw women within the wave of excitement which has passed over us, and which has by no means discriminated with such legal precision as to inundate men and leave women untouched.

H. B.

It is said that in the last general election a hesitating voter was forced to forego a convenient headache by the threat of his domestic factotum, that never another dinner would she cook for him if he did not go forth and vote for the right man; and many such stories doubtless have abounded and will yet abound. But the share women have taken in the present election has been of a more

systematic kind—such as we have not been used to see. Mr. GLADSTONE'S appeal to the women of the country "to play their own part in this political crisis" has been energetically responded to by many women who belong to the political party with which he is associated. At Leeds and York mass meetings of women have been held to promote the return of the Liberal candidates, and the ladies of Leeds subscribed £100 to the election expenses of GLADSTONE and BARRAN. In the metropolis many ladies have volunteered their services to the committees of the Liberal candidates, and their help has been gladly received. We have not heard of any such systematic action on the part of Conservative ladies, but we have no doubt that they are exerting themselves in their own way in the interests of the candidates with whom they are connected. The increased attendance of women at political meetings is a sign of their increasing interest in public affairs, and of the growing disposition of men to recognise their right to take an interest in politics. The conditions of modern life and thought tend towards greater organisation, and the movement for the franchise is showing its effect in this greater community of interest and action between women and men. B.

WHILE the ladies of Leeds were manifesting by an enthusiastic mass meeting their desire to support the candidature of Mr. GLADSTONE, we learn, on the authority of Mr. O. BORTHWICK HALL, the chairman of a meeting at which Mr. GLADSTONE spoke at Gorebridge, that in the county of Mid-Lothian the opinion of the ladies is against the Liberals. If this allegation is true, it only proves that the opinions of the women, like those of the men of the country, are divided as to the merits of the great statesman in question. But the reason Mr. BORTHWICK HALL gave for his assertion is so peculiarly offensive and insulting, not only to the ladies of Mid-Lothian in particular, but to women everywhere, that we cannot be surprised that it was received, as the newspapers report, with "hisses from the ladies in the gallery." Mr. BORTHWICK HALL is reported to have said, "The ladies were so pleased with the honour conferred upon them by a personal call from the Earl of DALKEITH that they had used their influence with their husbands to induce them to put aside their old opinions." Now, if Mr. BORTHWICK HALL had been in possession of any authentic information on which to base that statement, he could only have obtained it by interfering in the domestic concerns of the electors of Mid-Lothian, and by picking up and circulating tittle-

tattle respecting the private communications of wives with their husbands. We are told forsooth—and by no one more emphatically than by Mr. GLADSTONE himself—that women should have "influence" both in social and political affairs. The loss of this "influence" is actually one of the penalties threatened by our opponents in case we persist in our demand for the suffrage. Yet we find that, in Mid-Lothian at least, for the presumed exercise of this influence in the most orthodox and unexceptionable manner by privately speaking to their husbands at home, women are subjected to the impertinencies of a political PAUL PRY, who in the same breath imputes the most unworthy motives to wives, and by implication the most unworthy weakness to husbands.

MR. GLADSTONE in reference to this incident said he had no reason to complain of the treatment he had received from the ladies of Mid-Lothian generally, or from that place in particular. The chairman had spoken of secret voting, but he did not think it would be necessary so far as the ladies were concerned. We are glad to assume from this observation that Mr. GLADSTONE desired to disclaim, for his own part, any aspersion on the good sense and good feeling of the ladies of Mid-Lothian in regard to the part they are taking in the election proceedings.

ONE of the persistent delusions which the advocates of an amendment of the laws relating to women have to combat—the belief that a husband is legally liable for a wife's debts incurred for "necessaries"—has received a rude shock at the hands of the High Court of Appeal, in the case of DEBENHAM v. MELLOR. Mrs. MELLOR, the wife of a man in a respectable position, manager of a railway hotel in Bradford, ordered some articles of dress of Messrs. DEBENHAM and FREEBODY on credit, which were sent on to her at her husband's house in the usual course. There was no contention that the dresses were unsuited to Mrs. MELLOR'S station, or overcharged. Nevertheless Mr. MELLOR refused to pay for them, alleging that he had forbidden his wife to buy anything upon his credit, that she had disobeyed his commands, and that consequently he should not pay for the dresses. Messrs. DEBENHAM and FREEBODY sued him for the amount, but the judges were unanimously agreed in the judgment that if a husband prohibited his wife from pledging his credit, that prohibition ended his liability, even though it were privately given, and

remained entirely unknown to the tradesmen concerned.

The *Spectator* thinks that had Messrs. DEBENHAM and FREEBODY suspected the state of the law they would never have taken the case into court, and so have warned every married swindler in London that he had a new opportunity open to him. He has only to give his wife a written order not to pledge his credit, and she may order what she pleases, for she as a wife is not liable, and he has by his instructions exempted himself from liability. The same paper, in speaking of the remedy by which the shopkeepers can protect themselves, namely, taking care to ascertain, in dealing with a married woman, that she has her husband's written authority to pledge his credit, says that she could not, without a sense of insult, be asked for such authority when she is ordering her gown or her little girl's frock. "Our manners forbid so open an assertion of the pecuniary dependence of the wife, even for articles of her personal convenience."

Now we cannot see why our manners should forbid what the law ordains if that law is a just and righteous law. If the law is so offensive that an assertion of it is felt to be insulting, it is high time there was a change.

There is no other relation which places any person in so absolutely helpless and dependent a pecuniary position as that of a wife under English law. Her money is given by the law to her husband. She has no credit of her own, and her husband can prohibit her from pledging his credit without being in any way bound to supply her with money. A married woman, even if she have money settled to her separate use, cannot be sued for any debt incurred since her marriage, although her separate property is, we believe, liable for her ante-nuptial debts. The husband has by recent legislation been relieved from these debts, in contravention of the dictum of old BLACKSTONE, that when a man took a wife he "took her and her responsibilities together." There is a ring of the chivalric spirit in this maxim which counts for something to balance the disabilities imposed on wives. But men nowadays have outgrown such ideas. While taking care to keep their grip on the purses and property of their wives, they have taken effectual means to relieve themselves from the ante-nuptial and post-nuptial responsibilities which formerly were held to belong to them as husbands.

THE society, L'Union des Femmes, in Paris, have sent a letter to the National Society for Women's Suffrage in England, with congratulations on the success of the



demonstration in Manchester, and inviting women in all countries to unite in their efforts for the emancipation of women.

ABOUT ten of the ladies connected with this society recently applied in Paris to the mayors of their respective districts to have their names entered on the register of electors. Each lady accompanied her claim by documents certifying to her possessing the necessary qualifications, and by a memorial setting forth at considerable length that her claim was founded on the existing law, which, by the constitution of 1848, declares that "sovereignty resides in the entirety of the French people" (*la souveraineté reside dans l'universalité des citoyens Français*): "all distinctions of birth, class, or caste are for ever abolished" (*sont abolis à toujours toutes distinctions de naissance, de classe ou de caste*); "suffrage is direct and universal" (*le suffrage est direct et universal*).

Arguing on these and other similar passages the ladies made their claim. In most instances their application appears to have been met by silence; in one *arrondissement*, however, the mayor replied, saying that to interpret the law so as to give women identical rights with men would be a political innovation, the worth or legality of which he was not able to determine; he could not, therefore, take on himself to allow the practice, and must declare the claim to be inadmissible in the present state of the law.

H. B.

THE BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS has addressed a letter to the Chairman of Mr. HERBERT GLADSTONE'S Committee in reply to a request that she would contribute towards the expenses of that gentleman's candidature for Middlesex. There seems an inconsistency in asking a woman to contribute towards the election expenses of a candidate, while women are by the present interpretation of the law adjudged to be without the pale of the constitution, and incapable of political rights. Lady BURDETT-COUTTS declines to comply with the request, not, however, on this ground, but for purely political reasons.

Whether Lady BURDETT-COUTTS is right or wrong in her views it is not for us to determine, this Journal being perforce strictly neutral as regards party politics. The significant fact is that this utterance of a woman has been quoted and noticed as an opinion worthy of consideration by the people, and as a valued contribution to the side on which it is declared. On the other side we have the

mass meetings of women in support of the Liberals in Leeds, York, and Darlington.

The political action taken by women in the present election is something quite unprecedented, and is the beginning of a new order of things in which the monopoly of past ages shall give way before the principle of freedom and equality, and in which the things that concern their peace should be deemed to be the concern not of half, but of the whole of mankind. Then, and not till then, shall we realise the ideal shadowed forth by Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, when a united and enfranchised people shall determine in favour of a just, and liberal, and righteous government.

A CURIOUS application was lately made at one of the London Police Courts, by an elderly man, who said he came from the curate of St. Peter's Church. There was, the applicant said, a woman in the district who exhibited on her door a plate bearing her name, and the words "Sextoness of St. Peter's." The applicant said the woman was nothing of the kind, but people were misled, and went to her with regard to church matters generally, marriages, etc. Then she induced them not to go to St. Peter's, but to get married at some other church. The curate wanted to know whether the woman could not be compelled to remove the plate. The magistrate said he could not assist him.

Although this woman may have falsely represented herself to be the sextoness of St. Peter's, it appears certain that a woman may be lawfully sexton of a parish. In the celebrated case of OLIVE *v.* INGRAM, the question arose whether a woman could be a sexton, and it was held that she could, inasmuch as it was "a servile and ministerial office, requiring neither skill nor understanding." But the fact that the people so eagerly seek the offices of a woman who announces herself truly or falsely to be an official connected with the parish, points to the desirability of appointing them to many parochial and other offices now usually filled by men.

WE have to thank our friends for their ready response to our appeal for subscriptions to defray the cost of the Demonstration in the Free Trade Hall. The actual expenses for the great meeting, including the hire of the hall, advertising, and expenses connected with the invitations and the reception in the Free Trade Hall, amounted to £179. 3s. The special subscriptions to the demonstration fund amounted to £165. 8s. 3d., and the sums received for

tickets for gentlemen were £19. 7s. 6d.; total, £184. 15s. 9d. This leaves a small balance to carry towards the expenses of the preliminary meetings, ten in number, which amounted to £101. 5s. 11d. We need hardly remind our friends that contributions are always welcome, and that we should be very glad to receive donations towards the expenses incurred in these preliminary meetings, which were valuable demonstrations in themselves, and contributed materially to the success of the great gathering.

THE Charter of the Victoria University, which has its seat at Manchester, has been approved by Her Majesty the QUEEN in Council. After reciting the constitution of the University, the charter has the following clause:—

IV.—UNIVERSITY DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES.

"The University shall have power to grant and confer all such degrees and other distinctions as now or at any time hereafter can be granted and conferred by any other university in our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to and on all persons, male or female, who shall have pursued a regular course of study in a college in the University, and shall submit themselves for examination.

"Provided that the University shall not grant degrees in medicine or surgery, unless and until authority in that behalf is given by our further charter or by act of Parliament."

The equality thus recognised between male and female students is maintained throughout the constitution of the University. There is no restriction against the women graduates being members of Convocation, and, as such, of voting in the election of members of the University Council, or of being themselves elected on the Council if the Convocation thought fit to send them there.

THE liberality of the constitution of the new University seems to be absolutely neutralised by the rigid exclusion of women from the Owens College, which is at present the only college in the University. We cannot, however, believe that the authorities of the College will permanently maintain a restriction which is in direct contradiction to the spirit of the charter which they have just obtained.

MR. GLADSTONE AND UNIVERSITY DEGREES FOR WOMEN.

Professor W. Steadman Aldis, of the College of Physical Science, Newcastle, communicates the following:—

Mr. Gladstone, having been asked to sign a memorial to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge in favour of granting degrees to women, has sent the following reply, which he allows to be published:—

Sir,—My rule is strict against subscribing memorials to be presented to our authorities. But, having had a daughter for some years at Newnham, my sympathies run strongly in your direction, though it is with deference that I submit any formed opinion. I do, however, lean to the opinion that the absolute restriction of university and college endowments to men is, under present circumstances, impolitic and unjust. I do not hereby imply that I am adverse to other aid and recognition.—Your very faithful and obedient,  
W. E. GLADSTONE.  
March 1st, 1880.

WOMEN'S ELECTION MEETINGS.

YORK.

The first of the series of meetings for women in connection with the York election was held on March 23rd, in the Walmgate Mission Schoolroom, Speculation-street. Mrs. Henry Richardson presided, and in her opening remarks gave an account of the origin of these meetings. They were planned by a few women, who, having watched with intense interest the course of events during the past few years, felt that, now the crisis had come, they could not remain inactive, so had decided to hold these meetings, hoping to diffuse a little information on political questions, and hoping also to help in some small degree in bringing about a triumph of the Liberal party in York.—Mrs. Edward Smithson followed, giving a sketch of the foreign policy of the Government, and explaining how women have reason to be interested in it, because of its tendency to promote war. She spoke of the heavy taxation which this war policy has brought, and will bring, upon the people, especially in a time of distress and bad trade such as we have been lately passing through.—Miss Swaine spoke of the great importance to women of the questions at issue between the two parties, and urged every woman to use all her influence to promote the return of the two Liberal candidates, above all begging them to set their faces against bribery of every description.—Mrs. Watson gave a short address on temperance, and mentioned that the two Liberal candidates had declared themselves in favour of legislative measures for the promotion of temperance. There was a large and most attentive audience, who showed their appreciation and approval of the views of the various speakers by frequent and hearty rounds of applause.—*York Herald*.

The second meeting of the course was held on March 24th, in the Mission Room, Nunnery Lane. The room was filled with a large and intelligent audience. Mrs. Henry Richardson presided.—Mrs. Edward Smithson expressed an opinion that women, who constitute one-half of the nation, must be interested in politics, and even in the foreign policy, which forms a branch of politics.—Miss Swaine said she wished to enlist the sympathy of women for the Liberal party, because it was the party of progress, and, being so, was most likely to undertake the alteration of unjust laws, many of which press heavily on women. She then referred to the Bill just passed, legalising the use of cabs in elections, and begged those present to suggest to their husbands that it was much more manly to walk to the poll and vote without solicitation or assistance.—Mrs. Spence proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Richardson for presiding, and suggested that as we were governed in this country by a woman, it was very strange that it should be considered an impropriety for women to interest themselves in politics. The motion was seconded by Miss Wilkinson, who regretted very much that women had not been granted the suffrage before this election, so that their voice might have been heard in the great questions now before the country.

The third meeting, which was similar to the others, was held on March 25th, in the Adnell Schoolroom, Lady Peckitt Yard. After addresses from the same ladies who were at the others, the proceedings terminated by an earnest invitation to attend the great meeting in the Victoria Hall on Thursday next.

LEEDS.

On March 25th a mass meeting of women was held in support of the candidature of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and Mr. Barran, the adopted Liberal candidates for Leeds. The chair was occupied by Mrs. JOHN WHITING, and a large number of ladies occupied the platform. The audience, which



consisted entirely of women, filled the whole of the vast hall. Mrs. WHITING opened the proceedings by reading a portion of scripture and prayer. Afterwards, in addressing the meeting, she said they had met under a very deep sense of responsibility. They had nothing to do with making the laws, but they had to suffer from the effects of those laws.

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD moved the adoption of a memorial to Mr. Gladstone, expressing the earnest desire of the meeting to see him returned as one of the members for the borough.—The resolution was seconded by Mrs. BYLES, and agreed to unanimously, amid cheering and waving of handkerchiefs.

Mrs. FORD moved the second resolution as follows:—"That this meeting pledges itself to use every legitimate means in its power to secure the return of the Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone and Mr. John Barran as members of Parliament for the borough of Leeds." Mrs. Whiting said the women of Leeds had subscribed £100 to the funds of the Liberal Association for the expenses of the election. Many working women had given 2d. and 3d., which subscriptions were quite as valuable as the pounds of the rich.—Miss CRAIGEN seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mrs. WM. ELLIS and agreed to.

Mrs. EDWARD WALKER moved, and Miss GOODALL seconded, a vote of thanks to Mrs. Whiting for presiding.

Mrs. SCATCHERD, in putting the resolution, said that no one would dare now to say that the women of Leeds took no interest in political matters. She thought that meeting was a complete contradiction to any such assertion. (Applause.)

The resolution was agreed to, and Mrs. WHITING was acknowledging the vote when Mr. Barran entered the hall. He was received with loud and prolonged cheers, and briefly addressed the meeting. He remarked that in calling the meeting he thought their friends had done a wise, judicious, and patriotic thing.—Mr. J. W. WILLIAMS moved a vote of thanks to the ladies who had originated the meeting. He added that, on behalf of the Liberal Association, he had to present their best thanks to those ladies.—Mr. BARRAN seconded the resolution, which was adopted, and the proceedings terminated.

#### DEPUTATION TO THE CANDIDATES FOR WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

On March 19th a number of the members of the executive of the Bristol and Clifton Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society attended as a deputation to solicit the candidates' support of the proposal for extending the franchise to women. The deputation consisted of Mrs. Colman, Miss Priestman, Miss Sturge, Mrs. Walker, Miss Tribe, Mr. A. Greenwell, Mr. Tribe, and Mr. Bartlett, and they were introduced by Mr. Herbert Thomas.

Mr. HERBERT THOMAS said the deputation had come to ask the candidates—should they be elected, as he believed they were going to be, the future representatives of West Gloucestershire in Parliament—if they would give their support to a measure for extending to women the electoral rights now held by men.

Mrs. COLMAN, in a short speech, argued that in pressing for this privilege they were acting quite constitutionally, and that, in common justice, they were entitled to receive the same privileges as men, upon whom it rested to prove that women should not have the same rights. They were there to deny the truth of the statement often made in the House of Commons that women did not care for this privilege. They sought it as a matter of justice and right. They acknowledged that men had the power to keep it from them; but they denied that that was the same thing as their having any moral right to do so.

Miss PRIESTMAN and Mrs. A. GREENWELL also spoke in advocacy of the claims of women to the suffrage.

Colonel KINGSNOTE, M.P., said he was most pleased to meet such a deputation of ladies. He must frankly tell them that he had hitherto acted in opposition to their views. What they had now said would have due weight with him; but he must decline to pledge himself, as he had always declined to pledge himself, to any particular measure. They told him that women were now taking a very much greater interest in public affairs, and were taking a foremost part at the Universities and competitive examinations in higher education; and if this were the case, perhaps it was time to think that they should not only have the suffrage, but—as Mr. Thomas seemed to think—that they should come into the House of Commons too. (Laughter, and cries of "No, no.") Well, he was not quite prepared to see that himself. He could promise the deputation to give the matter his consideration, but he declined to pledge himself.

Lord MORETON thought that at the present moment, when we were living in a state of such unrest, amidst wars and rumours of wars, they could hardly expect this question to come to the front. There was no doubt that at some future day it would have to be dealt with, and it would have to be carefully considered. At present he declined to pledge himself to any course of action with regard to it. It should, however, have his best attention.

The deputation thanked the hon. candidates and then withdrew.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### NORWICH.

St. Andrew's Hall was filled to overflowing on March 16th, by an audience composed of both sexes, in order to hear several lady speakers discuss the claim now being made on behalf of women householders to the parliamentary franchise, and to support a petition to the House of Commons asking that properly qualified women should be relieved from the electoral disabilities under which they now labour. The DEPUTY-MAYOR (J. D. Smith, Esq.) presided, in the absence of the Mayor; and amongst those present were a large number of influential ladies of Norwich and district, and the Revs. W. H. Cooke, J. Wilson, W. B. Hull, H. W. Perris, A. Chalmers, and Councillors Hunter, Stanley, White, Fisher, Kent, Dakin, and Messrs. S. Reeve, J. S. Skipper, E. Burgess, H. C. Ninham, E. Bennett, J. B. Allen, R. A. Cooper, and E. K. Harvey. His Worship, in a letter regretting his inability to attend through illness, expressed his sympathy with the object of the meeting, which he considered to be a matter of such importance as to call for thorough inquiry and investigation. (Applause.)

The DEPUTY-MAYOR, in opening the meeting, after expressing regret at the Mayor's absence, said it was not the first time he had had the honour of presiding over a meeting of this kind. He agreed with giving women the franchise, believing there was a principle involved in it of the utmost importance. They were all aware that the basis upon which men possessed the vote was the property qualification; and while this was the basis, all who possessed property had a right to vote therewith. (Applause.) All knew there were many ladies whose property was unrepresented. This was most unjust; and any effort they could put forth to bring about rights of which the ladies were deprived would have in a Norwich audience an earnest and unanimous support. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. WILSON, vicar of St. Stephen's, in a few earnest words, moved the following resolution: "That as it is contrary to the principles of free and constitutional govern-

ment that any class or number of persons should be permanently deprived of direct representation in Parliament, this meeting is of opinion that the parliamentary vote should be given to women on the same conditions as it is granted to men."

Mr. Councillor WHITE, in an energetic speech, seconded the proposition.

Miss LYDIA BECKER, of Manchester, who on rising to support the resolution was warmly received, expressed her gratification at the numerous audience which was present. They took great credit to themselves in Lancashire for the large meetings which they gathered together, but she must confess that the meeting which she was addressing was one of the largest she had ever been present at. In advocating this question of woman suffrage, she wished to offer one or two practical considerations why it was desirable to confer it. The first that came to hand was an illustration from the debates in the House of Commons on the previous night. They knew that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had got a deficit to provide for, and he has to look about for a class to tax. What class did he tax? Why the widows and the orphans. He actually put an increase on the probate duty, which pressed with peculiar hardship on widows. (Hear, hear.) When a man died worth say about £5,000, the widow and children were deprived of his professional and industrial services, and had perhaps only just sufficient to maintain themselves out of the realisation of the estate, and yet now the Government stepped in and put a serious increase of taxation on that estate. ("Shame.") She thought if the women and families were properly represented in the Legislature the Chancellor of the Exchequer might have looked elsewhere when he wanted to put such a tax on the widows. (Applause.)

Mr. TILLET, who was received with loud and prolonged cheering, said that every political system should be logical and consistent. The arguments which Miss Becker had put before the meeting were the very same which commanded his vote during the few weeks he had the honour of representing the city in Parliament. (Cheers.) During that brief period he was called upon to listen to a very interesting debate, when he heard arguments for and against the proposal; but the one argument which he did not hear answered was—that as women had interest and intelligence enough to vote for members of Town Councils, Boards of Guardians, and School Boards, and even to be members of the latter bodies, why should they not have interest and intelligence enough to vote for members of Parliament? (Hear, hear.) He could see no answer to that argument. Where was the line to be drawn? What sort of interest and intelligence was required in the choice of a member of Parliament that was not required in the other cases to which reference had been made? Therefore, for consistency's sake, we must go further and complete the system—we must either take away from women the rights they had, or give to them rights which, as yet, they do not possess. (Hear, hear.) Upon that ground of logic and consistency he was constrained to give his vote for the motion of Mr. Jacob Bright in the House of Commons. (Cheers.) It was under the influence of the same argument that he attended to support the resolution. In conclusion, Mr. Tillet said that as they could hear him any day, and as they had come to hear the ladies advocate their cause, he would content himself by supporting the resolution. (Cheers.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted amid loud cheering. The Rev. G. S. BARRETT moved the next resolution as follows: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him."

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. W. B. HULL, and supported by Miss C. A. BIGGS, Miss DOWNING, and the Rev. A. W. CHALMERS, and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the ladies and the chairman concluded the proceedings.

##### KING'S LYNN.

A largely-attended meeting to consider the claim of women householders to the parliamentary franchise was held in the music hall, Athenæum, on March 8. Mr. J. D. THEW occupied the chair, and was supported by Miss H. P. Downing and Mrs. Leach. Amongst those present we noticed the Revs. Gordon Calthrop, W. M. Allen, and W. R. Shanks, and Messrs. A. P. Allen, W. A. Cooper, G. Bridges, J. J. Coulton, C. B. Plowright, A. Jermyn, B. T. Birch, Dr. Dale, D. C. Burlingham, R. Jones, F. Kendle, A. M. E. Tuddenham, &c.

After a speech from the Chairman, Mr. COULTON moved the following resolution: "That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of members of Parliament is injurious to this country, and contrary to the principle of just representation and to the laws now in force relating to municipal, parochial, and other representative government."

Mr. BIRCH seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss DOWNING, and carried unanimously.

Mr. C. B. PLOWRIGHT then moved: "That this meeting pledges itself to use every legitimate means towards securing for properly qualified women the right of the parliamentary franchise."

Mr. A. P. ALLEN seconded, and, in the course of his observations, expressed his opinion that, although Lord Claude Hamilton had refused to advocate the cause, the two Liberal candidates, whom it was hoped to return, would uphold the rights of women. (Applause.)

Mr. R. JONES rose at the extreme end of the room, and contended that it was not at all necessary for women to be admitted to the franchise. Their proper place was at home attending to their domestic matters. It was an army of women against an army of men. (No, no.) Why had politics been introduced at the meeting?

The CHAIRMAN: Do you move an amendment?

Mr. JONES: Yes.

A VOICE: You should have written it out and brought it with you. (Laughter.)

Mrs. LEACH next addressed the meeting in a quiet but effective speech.

The resolution was then carried, two only voting against it.

Mr. NOKES: Why don't you put the amendment?

The CHAIRMAN: No amendment has been moved.

Mr. JONES then proposed: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is inexpedient that women be admitted to the franchise."

The CHAIRMAN remarked that it was out of order to move an amendment after the resolution had been carried, but he would put it to the meeting for their satisfaction.

There were only three votes in favour of the amendment.

Mr. JERMYN proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman; and Miss DOWNING, in seconding it, remarked that it was absurd to talk of an army of women against an army of men. They could not possibly have such a thing. (Applause.) If the Lynn members found four hundred letters pouring in upon them on this subject, they would take an interest in the matter. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.)

The Rev. W. SHANKS and Dr. DALE supported the motion, and, the Chairman having replied, the meeting terminated.

##### WISBECH.

On March 15th a very enthusiastic meeting was held in the



hall of the Working Men's Institute, Wisbech, in support of the women's suffrage movement. George Dawbarn, Esq., J.P., presided, and was supported upon the platform by Mrs. Allen, of Lynn, and Miss H. P. Downing, of London, who had been announced to lecture upon the "Duties of women towards the State." There was a good attendance of ladies, with a fair sprinkling of the sterner sex. Both political parties were fairly represented, and amongst those gentlemen present we noticed the Revs. H. B. Robinson and J. Smith, Messrs. Leach, Bothamley, J. Gardiner, J. Kerridge, etc. The Chairman made some interesting remarks and called upon Miss H. P. Downing, who was received with cheers and who delivered an address. The Rev. J. Smith, in the course of an able speech, expressed his opinion that Miss Downing had proved her case, and concluded by supporting the resolution moved by the chairman, namely, "That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments." Mrs. Allen, of Lynn, seconded the resolution. The motion on being put to the meeting was carried by an overwhelming majority, only three or four hands being held up against it. The Rev. H. B. Robinson proposed and Mr. J. Gardiner seconded a vote of thanks to Miss Downing, which was unanimously adopted. Miss Downing, in responding, thanked the meeting for the manner in which her remarks had been received, but regretted that no questions had been asked, as important information was often elicited in such a way. She concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried *nem con.*, and the proceedings terminated.

## HYDE.

On March 2nd a public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Hyde, for the purpose of furthering the movement for obtaining the parliamentary franchise for women, when Miss Becker, of Manchester, delivered an address on the claims of women to the parliamentary franchise. The chair was occupied by Mr. CHARLES HIBBERT, and on the platform were Miss Becker, Miss Backhouse, Mrs. M'Cormick, all of Manchester, Miss Hibbert, Mrs. J. K. Smith, Miss Smith, Mrs. Curfew, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Tweedale, Mrs. Rowcroft, Mrs. Thorley, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Sidway, and Mr. John Rowcroft.

The CHAIRMAN, after briefly referring to the inclemency of the night, which had militated somewhat against the attendance, said: It gives me great pleasure to preside this evening, and to introduce Miss Becker to you. The people of Hyde ought to be much obliged to Miss Becker for her kindness in coming amongst us to enlighten us upon one of the great questions of the day. The question we have to consider to-night is the claims of women to the parliamentary franchise. We give women votes at municipal elections, the elections for Local Boards, Poor Law guardians, churchwardens, overseers, and auditors. The question is, if women are considered entitled to vote for the members of these various offices, why are they not fit to vote for members of Parliament? And I will ask you another question. Why are we who live in the Hyde Local Board District, with its 30,000 inhabitants, compelled to remain satisfied with its present restricted county franchise? Miss Becker must excuse me for bringing the last question before you, but I consider the two of equal importance, and they will help one another.

Mr. ROWCROFT next read a petition, of which the following is a copy.

"That in the opinion of this meeting women are entitled to the parliamentary franchise on the same grounds of expediency and justice as those on which they have been admitted in England to the municipal and school board franchises.

"That the experience of the action of women in the discharge of the trusts of the municipal and school board vote warrants their claim to become parliamentary voters.

"Wherefore your petitioners pray that your honourable House will pass a measure whereby women may be admitted as parliamentary voters on the conditions that have been approved by experience, and they respectfully urge that women should be enfranchised before another general election, so that in consulting the judgment of the nation their wishes and opinions might be heard, and allowed their due weight in questions affecting their interests and wellbeing as taxpayers and subjects of the Crown.

"And your petitioners will ever pray.

"Signed on behalf of the meeting."

Mrs. MOSS proposed the adoption of the petition, which was seconded by Miss ELLEN HIBBERT, and supported by Miss BECKER.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried without a dissentient. The next resolution was: "That a copy of the memorial be sent to W. J. Legh, Esq., and W. C. Brooks, Esq., representatives for this division of the county, asking them to present the petition and to support the Bill for the enfranchisement of women."

Mrs. THORLEY said they had heard the resolution read; she had very great pleasure in proposing it.

Mrs. JOHN KERRAIN SMITH briefly seconded the motion, which was put and passed unanimously.

After a question had been asked and answered, the chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Becker, which was carried with acclamation. A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Miss BECKER, who personally thanked the ladies who had come forward to support her, seconded by Mr. ROWCROFT, and carried with applause.

## CORSTORPHINE.

A meeting of women was held in the parish schoolroom, Corstorphine, on the 17th of March, to consider the claim of women householders and ratepayers to the electoral franchise. There was a good attendance of the ladies of Corstorphine and neighbourhood. Mrs. Wellstood, Miss Wigham, Miss Burton, and Miss E. Kirkland attended as a deputation from the Edinburgh Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and explained the nature of the demand and the object of the association. At the close of the proceedings, on the motion of Mrs. Dobson, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to the deputation for their able address.

## DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

## LONDON.

In response to the invitation of Miss Jane E. Cobden, over 200 ladies and gentlemen—mostly ladies—assembled on March 15th at 14, York Place, W., to consider the question of the electoral disabilities of women, to discuss two resolutions, and to adopt a petition to the new Parliament setting forth the claims of women to the electoral franchise. Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN presided, and amongst those present in Miss Cobden's drawing-room were Lady Buchan, Mrs. Denman, Mrs. Pennington, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Thomas Taylor, Madame Bodichon, Mrs. Arthur Cohen, Miss Williams, Mrs. W. Morris, Mrs. Humphrey Sandwith, Mrs. W. B. Richmond, Miss Orme, Miss Müller, The Misses Cobden, Lady Harriet Harding, Miss Irby, Miss Thornbury (secretary), Sir David Wedderburn, Bart., M.P., Rev. Brooke Lambert, Mr. Albert Dicey, Mr. Lowes Dickinson, Mr. Frank Dicksee, Mr. Hugh Williams, and Mr. Price Williams.

Mrs. M'LAREN, in drawing attention to the object of the meeting, referred to the fact of Mr. Cobden's daughter calling

them together to discuss a question on which they had the strongest sympathies of her father. She read an extract from a letter written by Mr. Cobden, in which the great free trader said of women:—"I wish they had the franchise, because many of them could make a better use of it than their husbands." Mr. Cobden had truly said there were some persons that required educating from the beginning of the alphabet—especially in politics. Many laws that operated against women should be changed, and men should be educated to act justly towards women. Women had learnt that a political education was the only way to get unjust laws abrogated and good laws substituted.

Miss ORME moved the first resolution: "That, by the exclusion of women from the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament, a considerable portion of the property, intelligence, and industry of the nation is deprived of representation in the House of Commons; and that the extension to women of political rights, by strengthening in them the sense of the responsibilities and duties of citizenship, would be conducive to the highest welfare of the State."

Miss MULLER (member of the School Board for Lambeth) seconded the resolution.

Mr. ALBERT DICEY moved the next resolution: "That, in a system of government avowedly representative, the interests of an unrepresented class are certain to suffer." In a speech of some length, Mr. Dicey urged that when a representative system is once accepted, all classes are entitled to representation. Not only does the unrepresented class suffer, but all the other classes must suffer from the nonrepresentation of any one. Women are an unrepresented class. All arguments against the representation of women cut against the arguments in favour of representation at all. He went on to say, it was a familiar expression, "I insist upon my rights." For his part, he was tired of hearing so much of women's duties. (Laughter.) There were many points to be considered in this question, but the balance of good was so great that he was a sincere advocate of this cause.

The Rev. BROOKE LAMBERT seconded the resolution.

Sir DAVID WEDDERBURN, Bart., M.P., supported the resolution. He spoke as a representative when he said that the House of Commons did not endeavour very carefully to find out the views of members on this subject. There seemed to be much indifference. To his thinking the Bill to confer the franchise on women was only a step in a long series of progress, and a step in the right direction. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously, and a petition to the new Parliament, based on the resolutions, agreed to by the meeting.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. M'Laren for presiding, and to Miss Cobden for the use of her drawing-room, brought the proceedings to a close.

## DUBLIN.

An influential and most successful drawing-room meeting was held on March 16th, at No. 8, Harcourt Terrace, the residence of the Rev. W. A. Macdonald. There were over 100 present. Amongst those present were the Rev. T. A. McKee, LL.D. (Wesley College), Rev. B. Gibson; Mrs. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, A. Shackleton, J.P., Rev. S. J. Whitmee, F.R.G.S., Mrs. Stoker, Miss Johnston, Alfred Webb, Esq., and Mrs. Webb, Rev. P. Hunt and Mrs. Hunt, Miss Meyrick, W. Wilkins, Esq. (High School, Harcourt-street), Rev. S. King and Mrs. King, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Miss Helen Webb, Rev. D. D. Jeremy and Mrs. Jeremy, Miss Cusack, the Misses Adams, Miss Lagrange, Miss Hutchins, &c.

The chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. M'KEE, who, having expressed his strong sympathy with the objects of the meeting, called upon Mrs. LYNCH to open the discussion.

The Rev. W. A. MACDONALD proposed the following resolution: "That the interests of justice and good government demand that the parliamentary vote should be given to women on the same conditions as to men."

Mr. T. BROWN seconded the resolution, and, in the course of a very able speech, argued from recent successes of women in university examinations their fitness to exercise the franchise, and exhorted ladies to persevere in this agitation, reminding them that those "who would be free themselves must strike the blow." (Applause.)

The resolution was opposed by Mr. W. H. WINTER, T.C.D., and Mr. W. WEBB (London University), and supported by Rev. Mr. WHITMEE, Mr. SHACKLETON, and Mr. WEISSE, T.C.D.

On being put to the meeting, the resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority, there being only two or three dissentients.

Mr. P. A. JOHNSTON then proposed the next resolution:—"That this meeting has observed with satisfaction the increased interest taken by women of all classes in this movement, and desires to thank those Irish members of Parliament who by their speeches and votes supported Mr. Courtney's resolution."

Mr. WILKINS seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mrs. HASLAM, honorary secretary, who gave an interesting account of the national demonstration of women at Manchester, at which she had been present as representing the Dublin committee.

The resolution was put and carried.

On the motion of the Rev. B. GIBSON, seconded by the Rev. P. HUNT, and supported in an eloquent speech by Miss M. A. MEYRICK, a warm vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. W. A. Macdonald and Mrs. Macdonald, both of whom acknowledged the compliment in suitable terms.

## YARMOUTH.

A drawing-room meeting was held in the house of Mrs. Leach, Great Yarmouth, on March 12th. Between 40 and 50 persons, mostly gentlemen, were present. Mrs. Leach read a paper on the right of women to the franchise, after which a very animated discussion followed. Although many opposed, the interest shown on the subject was so great that Miss Downing was urged to visit Yarmouth again, and promises were given of help towards arranging a public meeting.

## DEBATING SOCIETIES.

## HOXTON.

A debate was opened by Mr. A. T. Hillyard on women's suffrage at the Barbican Literary Association, New North Road, Hoxton, on the 13th March, when the following resolution was carried by a majority of 21: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that the restrictions disabling women possessed of the statutory qualifications from voting in parliamentary elections should forthwith be removed."

## QUEENSTOWN.

At the usual monthly meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association on the 20th February, the justice of the claims known as "Women's Rights" was discussed, the leader on the affirmative side being Mr. F. G. Toaker, and on the negative Mr. Ginn. After a very energetic debate, in which many members took part, a vote was taken, when the affirmative was carried by a considerable majority. On the motion of Mr. G. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Richardson, it was resolved to suspend the ordinary rules, and request Miss Tod, of Belfast, who was present, to address the meeting on the subject. She accordingly answered some of the objections that had been raised, and gave information on various points which was much appreciated. A cordial vote of thanks to her for her address closed the proceedings.



## SOUTH SHIELDS.

At a meeting of the South Shields Literary and Debating Society, held March 24th, Mr. R. B. Peverley in the chair, the debate on the question, "Ought women who pay their own rates and taxes to be qualified to vote for members of Parliament?" introduced at the previous meeting by Mr. Alex. Scott, B.A., was continued. At the close of the discussion a vote was taken, those on the affirmative side proving to be in the ratio of more than three to one. Several ladies were present at both meetings, and appeared highly interested in the proceedings.

## A HUSBAND'S NON-LIABILITY FOR HIS WIFE'S DEBTS.

The case of "Debenham v. Mellor" has been heard in the Court of Appeal, before Lords Justices Bramwell, Baggallay, and Thesiger. It was an action brought by the plaintiffs, warehousemen at Wigmore-street, against the defendant, an hotel proprietor at Covent Garden, to recover the value of goods, consisting of articles of attire supplied to the defendant's wife. At the trial, which took place before Mr. Justice Bowen, the learned judge directed that judgment should be entered for the defendant, and against this decision the plaintiffs appealed to this Court, who now delivered judgment.

Lord Justice Bramwell said the substantial question involved was whether the plaintiff should be paid for goods supplied to the defendant's wife without his knowledge and authority. They were admittedly articles suitable to the position in life of the wife, but they were not "necessaries" in the sense that she stood in need of them or had not the means of paying for them. This was not the case of a man who had turned his wife out of doors, or who had so conducted himself that she could not live with him, for if so he would be liable for her food and lodging, and perhaps medicine. Nor was it one in which there might be an implied authority under which a wife might deal with a butcher, for instance, in a neighbourhood where it was not the practice to pay for a joint or a steak on delivery. (Laughter.) It was not, moreover, a case in which the wife had the authority of the husband to spend the ready money he allowed her, for if the husband said to the tradesman, "I always pay for these things myself," the latter might reply, "Then why do you allow your wife to have your ready money?" (Much laughter.) All these matters were in the hands of the tradesman himself. They had nothing to do with the law, for a husband might say, "You may pledge my credit to as deep an extent as your love of finery dictates." (Laughter.) And the law could not interfere. Again, the tradesman might say, "Mine is a ready-money business, and I decline to give credit at all;" or he might ask a wife if she had the authority of her husband to pledge his credit; but then it was said during the arguments that ladies would be so offended at such a question that they would not come to the shop again. That was an excellent reason why such a question should not be asked, but it was no reason why the unhappy husband should be made to pay. (Laughter.) It would be a very mischievous law, indeed, which would enable a foolish woman and a tradesman to combine together and do that which a husband had expressly forbidden, as in the present case. His Lordship was, therefore, of opinion that the judgment of Mr. Justice Bowen at the trial should be affirmed, and that the appeal should be dismissed. Lord Justice Baggallay concurred.

Lord Justice Thesiger was of the same opinion, observing that it would be both against law and public policy if a responsibility were cast on a husband from which he could not be relieved, unless he publicly advertised that he would not be liable for his wife's debts.

Judgment for the defendant, and appeal dismissed with costs.

## THE MEMORIAL OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE TO CANDIDATES IN THE GENERAL ELECTION, 1880.

SHEWETH,

That the disability which precludes women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of members of Parliament is anomalous, injurious, and contrary to the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, School Board, and all other representative governments in this realm.

That the old laws regulating the qualification of electors for members of Parliament do not limit the franchise to male persons, that the laws under which women exercise the parochial franchise are couched in the same general terms as those regulating the parliamentary suffrage, the former not expressly including women, nor the latter expressly limited to men; there is therefore a strong presumption that the exclusion of women from the parliamentary suffrage is an infringement on their ancient constitutional rights, as freeholders and householders, to the franchise of the Shire and Borough.

That a single decision of the Court of Common Pleas in 1868, from which there is no appeal even to itself, far less to the High Court of Justice, has disfranchised all women, however qualified to vote, and has deprived them of the most clearly established of public rights, the right to be represented in return for taxation.

That women, collectively, being debarred in regard to their public rights from that appeal from the judgment of the Court of Common Pleas to that of the Supreme Court, which would be open to an individual woman on a question of private right; the only means to recover their ancient constitutional privileges lies through an Act of the Legislature.

That a Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women in regard to parliamentary elections will be submitted to the new Parliament at an early period, which Bill provides as follows:

*"A Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."*

"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. That in all Acts relating to the qualification and registration of voters or persons entitled or claiming to be registered and to vote in the election of members of Parliament, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender, the same shall be held to include females for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to be registered as voters and to vote in such election, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding."

You are earnestly requested, if returned to the House of Commons, to give your support to the measure on every occasion on which it shall be brought forward until it shall have become law.

The above Memorial has been adopted by the committees of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and sent to all candidates.

## MEDICAL INTOLERANCE.

At the late election of medical officers at the National Hospital for the Paralyzed and Epileptic, Queen Square, London, to fill three vacancies, one for an out-patient physician, the other two for assistant physicians, at the hospital (where all diseases connected with the nervous system are treated), four candidates presented themselves. The first in professional seniority was Dr. Ferrier, and it was understood that on account of his well-known professional and scientific reputation, the out-patient physicianship would be given to him. The next in order was Dr. Allen Sturge, who had devoted himself entirely to the work of the hospital during the years 1875-6, first as registrar, afterwards as resident medical officer and registrar, and received from the committee, on leaving, their most warmly-expressed thanks for the manner in which his work at the hospital had been done. In order further to qualify himself for special practice in diseases connected with the nervous system, Dr. Sturge spent six months in Paris in 1877, where he studied with Professors Charcot and Fournier, the leaders of that department in the Paris school and hospitals. Since his return, Dr. Sturge had on various occasions spoken before the medical societies, and published several papers on different forms of nervous disease. He had found time also to attend Moorfields Eye Hospital in order to work, with Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, the senior oculist, at those nervous diseases in which the eye-symptoms play a prominent part.

Neither of the remaining candidates had ever been connected with the hospital, nor had they done any work in the department of nervous diseases. It was expected that Dr. Ormerod, the senior of the two, would be appointed to the third vacant post of the hospital. When the staff met to consider the applications and testimonials (five out of the six members then composing the staff were present) they unanimously agreed to recommend three candidates to the managing committee, in the following order:—Dr. Ferrier, Dr. Allen Sturge, Dr. Ormerod, which was done.

The committee elected Drs. Ferrier and Ormerod, and sent to request Dr. Sturge to meet them the following week, in order to ask him a question. Dr. Sturge was told by one of the committee privately that some members were not willing to elect him, on account of his being married to a lady doctor. When he attended, as requested, the following week, the chairman came out and said that the committee could come to no agreement, and that nothing Dr. Sturge could say would help them. A few days later the committee deputed one of the staff to call on Dr. Sturge, and suggest that he should withdraw his application, as they could not get over the difficulty of his being married to a lady doctor, and did not wish to have the onus of refusing him.

Dr. Sturge declined to comply with their request, and the committee then appointed Dr. Ormerod to the post of senior assistant physician, and elected the fourth candidate, whose diploma is not yet three years old, to the junior post.

## THE WOMAN QUESTION.

JOHNNY ROGERS AND HIS PA TALK IT OVER.

Johnny. Pa, mother says she thinks she has a right to vote; has she?

Pa. Why no, my son!

J. But why?

P. Because she's a woman!

J. But our teacher says because is not a reason. I knew she was a woman all the time.

P. Well, my son, I'll try to make it plain to you, there's too much voting now.

J. Is there? Well then, pa, you can stay at home next election day and let her vote, then it won't make any more; you know you always teach me that turn about is fair play.

P. Hum! hum! don't bother me, child!

J. But pa, lots of people are getting to think women ought to vote. I want the reason why they can't.

P. The best reason of the wisest man that has lately written on this new and most remarkable problem is this, that the advocates of the pernicious delusion all see it from the most selfish standpoint. A republican government is for the good of the governed, and not simply an establishment for the exercise of the rights of the individual.

J. But, pa, my history says our government is of the people, by the people, and for the people; and so if women voted, they would be voting for the governed wouldn't they?

P. Don't be impertinent sir, to me sir, try and respect your father's authority—a pretty story for a boy of thirteen to try to upset the finest argument brought forward by the ablest champion of—of—

J. Of what?

P. Impudence!

J. Are you angry? oh, pa, I didn't mean to make you angry. I wasn't fooling; I wanted to know why my mother couldn't vote as well as you.

P. Well, you are fooling when you talk on a subject you can't understand. I gave you the last reason evolved by the necessity of the times; but my own personal reasons lie still deeper—they are out of the Scriptures, for my ancestors were Puritans, and found Scripture reasons and used Scripture language for everything. What are you laughing at?

J. Oh, nothing, only thinking of that old Puritan who killed the honey-bee when it came to suck sweets from the flower he was smelling; and, as he crushed it, said, "I'll teach you that there is a God in Israel!"

P. Away he goes. Well, I'm glad I got him switched off from that useless question. Strange he's so much like his mother.

LOUISE V. BOYD.

American Paper.

## ADRESSE AUX CITOYENNES ANGLAISES DE LA LIGUE NATIONALE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.

CITOYENNES,

Le Comité de la Société l'Union des Femmes Société dont le but est l'émancipation économique, avile, intellectuelle et politique de la femme, offre ses plus vives félicitations aux citoyennes courageuses et convaincues qui viennent de proclamer dans le grand meeting National de Manchester le droit politique de la femme.

Nous, membres du comité de l'Union des Femmes, nous nous unissons à elles de cœur et d'intention et nous nous réjouissons solidairement avec elles du grand succès qu'a obtenu le meeting du 14 Février.

Nous aussi, nous hâterons de tous nos efforts l'émancipation civile et politique de la femme et nous convions les femmes de tous les pays à s'unir entre elles en une ligue fraternelle et à entretenir des relations internationales fréquentes.

L'Union des Femmes à l'honneur d'informer la Société Nationale Anglaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes que plusieurs de ses membres viennent de réclamer à Paris, dans leurs mairies respectives, le droit d'être inscrites comme électeurs sur les listes municipales politiques.

Salut et solidarité,

La Secrétaire de séance Citoyenne van der Heyden,

La Présidente de séance Citoyenne Lemesle,

Paris, le 12 Mars, 1880.



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND CANDIDATES IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The following candidates are known to be in favour of the principle of giving votes to women who are owners or occupiers of property which would entitle a man to vote. Candidates who voted or paired for the measure during the late Parliament are distinguished by a (\*).

Table listing candidates for the general election across various counties in England and Wales, including names like Professor Fawcett, Hugh Mason, and Arthur Williams.

Table listing candidates for the general election across various counties in Ireland, including names like S. Black, C. Bradlaugh, and J. Richardson.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, MARCH, 1880.

Table listing subscription names and amounts for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including Mrs. William Hargreaves and Mrs. W. S. Browne.

DEMONSTRATION FUND.

(Third List.)

Table listing names and amounts for the Demonstration Fund, including Mrs. Charles Holland and Mrs. Catherine M. Taylor.

SCOTLAND.

Table listing candidates for the general election in Scotland, including names like Sir Charles Forster and J. G. M'Innes.

The following candidates have promised not to vote against the bill:—

Table listing names of candidates who promised not to vote against the bill, including J. Bryces and M'Arthur.

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