

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. IX.—No 98. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
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APRIL 1, 1878.

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PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures and promoting petitions in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. Written petitions, ready for signature, and full information will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; or to Miss THORBURY, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

OXFORD.—A Public Meeting in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women will be held in the Corn Exchange, Oxford, on Thursday, April 11th. The chair will be occupied by Professor JAMES E. THOROLD ROGERS. Speakers: The Rev. Mark Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College; and other gentlemen. Miss Becker and Mrs. Liliash Ashworth Hallett will attend as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Further particulars in future announcements.

BOSTON.—A Meeting in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women will be held in the Town Hall, Boston, on Tuesday, April 9th. Further particulars in future announcements.

RETTFORD.—A Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10th, in the Corn Exchange, Retford, in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. Further particulars in local announcements.

BECKENHAM.—A Drawing-room Meeting will be held at the House of Mrs. Tinray, Beckenham, on Wednesday, the 3rd April. Mrs. Duncan M'Laren will open the Discussion, and Mrs. John Hullah, Mrs. Charles M'Laren, and others will take part in the Debate.

DARLINGTON.—A United Debate on Women's Suffrage, by the representatives of the various Mutual Improvement and Literary Societies of Darlington, will be held in the Mechanics' Hall, Skinnergate, Darlington, on Friday, April 5th, 1878. Chair to be taken at half-past seven o'clock, by DAVID DALE, Esq., J.P. Admission: a few reserved seats, 2s.; front seats, 1s.; back seats, 6d.; gallery, 3d. Tickets may be had of Mr. T. T. Sedgwick, Blackwellgate; Mr. G. Stephenson, High Row; Mr. J. Wilson, Horse Market, and Mr. H. C. Chadwick, Librarian, Mechanics' Institute. The proceeds to be devoted to the Darlington Distress Fund.

LONDON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.—A SCHOLARSHIP, value £30, will be OFFERED for COMPETITION on September 30. Apply to Mrs. THORNE, Hon. Sec., 30, Henrietta-street, Brunswick Square, W.C.

MOURNING REFORM ASSOCIATION.—Established in order to aid in bringing into general use Mourning Customs simple, rational, and free from ostentation or extravagance.—For particulars, apply to the Hon. Sec., Miss L. Whitby, Peckleton House, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

THE WOMAN'S GAZETTE; or, News about Work. Published Monthly, post free, 2½d., by Hatchards. Reviews topics of interest to women, and affords information and a means of advertisement respecting the Employments open to them, both paid and unpaid.—Office: 42, Somerset-street, Portman Square.

THE WOMAN'S JOURNAL.—A Weekly Newspaper, published every Saturday, in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., devoted to the interests of Woman—to her Educational, Industrial, Legal, and Political Equality, and especially to her right of Suffrage.

JULIA WARD HOWE . . . } Editors.
LUCY STONE }
HENRY B. BLACKWELL . . . }
T. W. HIGGINSON } Editorial Contributor.
MARY A. LIVERMORE }
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ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum.

CONTENTS FOR MARCH 15, 1878.

1. The Night cometh when no "woman" can work.
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Modern Chivalry.
Foreign Notes and News.
Paragraphs.

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

LA DONNA.—An educational periodical of contributions by Italian ladies, conducted by Gualberta Alaide Beccari. Published on the 15th and 30th of each month at Strada Stefano, No. 5, Bologna.—Price for each number, 50 centimes.

CHOICE OF SCHOOLS: English and Continental.—The *Educational Guide*, and *Literary Review*, post free 2½d. Liverpool: A. W. Gibbs, 99, Gladstone Road, E.

DR. ROOKE'S ANTI-LANCET

All who wish to preserve health and thus prolong life, should read Dr. Rooke's Anti-Lancet, or Handy Guide to Domestic Medicine, which can be had GRATIS from any Chemist, or POST FREE from Dr. Rooke, Scarborough.

Concerning this book, which contains 168 pages, the late eminent author, Sheridan Knowles, observed:—"It will be an incalculable boon to every person who can read and think."

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN IRELAND.

Thirty-nine Irish members of the present House of Commons have voted in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. This Bill, when it becomes law, will give a vote in the election of members of Parliament to women who possess the same qualifications as men, viz. :—

In Counties: To all women who are occupiers of land, or of houses and land, rated at the clear yearly value of £12.

In Towns: To all women who are householders rated above £4; or lodgers in separate apartments, at a rental of £10, unfurnished.

There are 4,127 women landowners (of one acre and upwards) in Ireland, or one to every seven men landowners.

It is calculated that the women to be enfranchised by this Bill would be in the proportion of one to seven of the existing electorate throughout the country.

In 1877, 268,428 persons signed petitions to the House of Commons in favour of the Bill, of whom 3,741 were Irish.

LET ALL PERSONS WHO APPROVE ITS PRINCIPLE DO THE SAME IN 1878.

Forms of Petition and all information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretaries of the Irish branches of the National Society for Women's Suffrage:—

Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, Dublin, } Hon. Secs. to
Miss M'DOWELL, 45, Mespil Road, Dublin, } Dublin Committee.

Miss TOD, 39, Rugby Road, Belfast, Hon. Sec. North of
Ireland Committee.

Mrs. ADDEY, 69, Patrick-street, Cork, Hon. Sec. South of
Ireland Committee.

The following Irish ladies and gentlemen have, amongst others, given their adhesion to the principle of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of Women:—

Richard Allen, Esq.	Sir Thomas M'Clure, Bart.
W. H. Archdale, M.P.	Rev. T. A. M'Kee.
Mir Aulad Ali, T.C.D.	Sir J. N. M'Kenna, M.P.
Sir Thomas Bateson, M.P.	Lord Talbot de Malahide.
J. G. Biggar, M.P.	Rev. C. L. Morell, Dungannon.
R. P. Blennerhassett.	Lady Murray.
Mrs. Blennerhassett.	Major Nolan, M.P.
Rev. F. Briscoe, Kilmessan.	W. R. O'Byrne, M.P.
Maurice Brooks, M.P.	Major O'Gorman.
Mrs. Brooks.	Keyes O'Clery, M.P.
George E. Browne, M.P.	Richard O'Shaughnessy, M.P.
P. Callan, M.P.	W. H. O'Sullivan, M.P.
Hon. E. R. Canning.	C. J. Parnell, M.P.
Rev. W. G. Carroll, M.A.	Richard Power, M.P.
Charles Cobbe, Esq., D.L.	W. A. Redmond, M.P.
Miss F. P. Cobbe.	J. G. Richardson, Bessbrook.
Eugene Collins, M.P.	Miss Anne Isabella Robertson.
Lord F. Conyngham, M.P.	Rev. Dr. Scott, Meth. College, Belfast.
Miss Corlett.	Abraham Shackleton, Esq.
Sir D. Corrigan, Bart.	J. Sharman Crawford, M.P.
M. R. Dalway, M.P.	Miss Sharman Crawford.
Captain Dawson Damer, M.P.	William Shaw, M.P.
James Delahunty, M.P.	Sergeant Sherlock, M.P.
T. A. Dickson, M.P.	Edward Shiel, M.P.
Kenelm Digby, M.P.	Rev. Dr. Smyth, M.P.
M'Carthy Downing, M.P.	P. J. Smyth, M.P.
Charles Eason, Esq.	Captain Staepoole, M.P.
Nicholas Ennis, M.P.	Rev. W. Fleming Stevenson.
Charles J. Fay, M.P.	Rev. James Stephenson.
Lord Garvagh.	A. M. Sullivan, M.P.
Mrs. Gradwell, Drogheda.	J. H. Swanton, Esq., J.P.
A. P. Graves, Esq.	Ernest G. Swifte, Esq.
S. M. Greer, Esq., Recorder of Derry.	Right Hon. Col. Taylor, M.P.
Mrs. Hamilton, Killileagh.	Mrs. Taylor.
Rev. S. Haughton, M.D., F.R.S.	Lady Emmeline Tennant.
Lady Hay, Dundalk.	J. F. Waller, Esq., L.L.D.
Rev. L. Hope, C.C., Co. Meath.	Dr. M. F. Ward, M.P.
Mrs. Johnson, Warrenstown.	Alfred Webb, Esq.
W. Johnston, M.P.	Benjamin Whitworth, M.P.
Sir Robert Kane.	W. Whitworth, M.P.
Lady Kane.	Henry Wigham, Esq.
Rev. W. B. Kirkpatrick, D.D.	John R. Wigham, Esq.
The Knight of Kerry.	Lady Wilde.
Rev. Eug. Lynch, P.P., Co. Meath.	

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ONE phase of the question of women's suffrage came before the House of Commons on Wednesday, the 6th of March, in the Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Bill. There is a considerable difference in the conditions on which the municipal franchise is exercised in the two countries, and the object of the Bill was to assimilate the law and practice in Ireland to that which prevails in England. Major O'GORMAN, in introducing the measure, said that in England any person, male or female, who occupied a house rated for the relief of the poor, possessed the municipal franchise. In Ireland, with the exception of the city of Dublin, a man did not possess the municipal franchise unless he occupied a house rated for the poor of the value of £10, while women were excluded altogether. After comparing the numbers of the municipal voters in some Irish and English boroughs, the honourable member went on to say: "As for the Irish women, who were at present disfranchised, were they less fitted for the responsibilities attaching to the franchise than their English sisters? He thought not. Were they less prudent, or less careful of the interests of their friends and relations than their English sisters? He thought not. Were they less devoted to the political interests of their country than their English sisters? He thought not. He did not envy the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for Ireland his task of proving that Irish women were unfitted for the privileges which Englishwomen enjoyed." "For his part, he would not believe that his Irish sisters were incapable of exercising the franchise any more than he would believe that they were inferior in virtue or beauty to the women of any other country or the entire planet."

The objections of the opponents of the measure were directed solely against the proposed lowering of the qualification. Whether in consequence of the warning of the gallant Major as to the "curtain lectures" that might be in store for those members who might have the temerity to oppose the enfranchisement of the Irish ladies, or of the fact that the principle of women's suffrage is irrevocably accepted in municipal elections, certain it is that no member appears to have raised a note of dissent from this

portion of the proposed Bill. On a division, the Bill was lost by five votes only, the numbers being 160 for and 165 against the measure. The announcement of the numbers was received with satisfaction by the friends of the proposal as an earnest of probable success. We may, therefore, expect at no very distant date to see women's suffrage in municipal elections extended to Ireland.

THE work during the month has been carried on with its wonted vigour. At Chesterfield and Newark crowded and earnest meetings in support of the Bill have taken place, which were addressed by Miss BECKER, and Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD. At Leicester a meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, which was attended by Miss HELEN TAYLOR and Miss HELENA DOWNING, as a deputation from the Society; and drawing-room and other meetings have been held during the month.

In Scotland the annual meeting of the Edinburgh branch of the society took place under the presidency of Mr. DAVID DICKSON, master of the Merchant Company, and besides the gentlemen speakers, Miss WIGHAM, Miss NICOL, and Miss CRAIG took part in the proceedings.

In Ireland the annual meeting of the North of Ireland branch of the Society was held on March 18th, in Clarence Place Hall, Belfast, under the presidency of Mr. S. A. JOHNSTON. Miss TOD, Miss CAROLINE BIGGS, and others addressed the meeting. Next day a meeting, addressed by the same ladies, was held in the Presbyterian Church, Dundonald. In Dublin the Rev. Dr. CARMICHAEL delivered a lecture in the Irishtown Schoolhouse to a large audience, the Rev. R. STRONG, B.D., in the chair.

The petitions continue to be presented in due proportion to the numbers of other petitions this session. The petitions already presented are 175, with 36,524 signatures. The most noticeable feature this month is furnished by the petitions from Town Councils. Already petitions for the Bill have been presented from the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Edinburgh, under their corporate seal, and from the corresponding dignitaries of Aberdeen, Kirkcaldy, and Forfar. As women do not

vote in municipal elections in Scotland, the action of the Scotch Councils in desiring to have them among their constituents is very significant of the justice of the claim. We may expect more of these as well as of more general petitions, and we earnestly remind our friends that it is essential to keep up a steady stream of petitions without intermission, and gradually increasing in volume until the period appointed for the discussion of the Bill.

THE Medical Acts Amendment Bill, introduced in the House of Lords by the Duke of RICHMOND, contains clauses respecting the admission of women to medical degrees which, if they become law, will demonstrate anew the invincible inability of a legislature representing men only to do justice where women are concerned. Women ask to enter the medical profession on the same terms and with the same rights and privileges as men. They ask for the same education, the same tests as to qualifications, and that, when they have received the education and satisfied the tests, they shall enjoy every legal right and privilege which such education and examination tests would confer upon men. Women who do not wish to enter the medical profession themselves, desire to consult qualified practitioners of their own sex, and they ask from Parliament such guarantee as medical registration can give, that the women doctors whom they employ shall be in every respect equal as regards professional knowledge and training to men doctors.

Neither of these demands is satisfied by the Duke of RICHMOND'S Bill. At present, under the provisions of the Act known as Mr. RUSSELL GURNEY'S Act, a woman who receives a diploma from a medical corporation, is admitted to equal rights as a member of such corporation with a man. It is true that this was not intended by the promoters of the Bill, but the words they used did in effect confer the right. Parliament, therefore, being in the position of having unwittingly done an act of justice to women, is in haste to repent and withdraw the boon. Since women are unrepresented in the Legislature, they have no power to keep the advantage they have won, and it is more than doubtful if their friends in the House of Commons will be able to resist the proposal to take this boon away from them, unsupported as they are by women's votes in the constituencies. We believe that it would be impossible to take away from a represented class any legislative boon which had once been conferred upon them, even if Parliament were to discover when the Act was passed that it had done more than it had intended. No member of

either House would have ventured even to make the proposal, but the unrepresented half of the community is entirely at the mercy of legislative caprice.

The Duke of RICHMOND thus explains the retrograde provisions of his Bill as regards the rights of women practitioners. "The Board established for conducting the examination is to certify the names of the persons who pass both in medicine and in surgery, and those persons will be entitled to certain diplomas from one of the medical corporations. *As it will be possible for women to pass those examinations, it is provided that the obtaining a diploma under this provision is not to entitle a person to any right in connection with the corporation.*" "By this means a medical authority will be able to grant a diploma, enabling a person to be registered without granting to such person any rights in connection with that authority. The second paragraph of this clause is to effect the intention of 39 and 40 Victoria, c 41, commonly known as RUSSELL GURNEY'S Act, which has failed in effect from a technical mistake."

If the technical mistake had caused a failure to effect justice to women, Parliament might have been content to let the matter rest, but such a terrible mistake as a failure to effect injustice to women needs to be amended without delay. It might become a precedent!

The second noticeable point in the Duke of RICHMOND'S Bill is probably a device of the medical trades' unionists, who have been compelled to surrender the gates of the profession to women, to preserve their own monopoly of superior qualification by opening a separate entrance for women, and thereby stamping them as an inferior class. The rules for regulating the examinations provide for the admission to them of women, subject to two provisoes:—
1. That a medical authority who now is not bound to and does not examine women shall not be obliged to do so
2. That *women shall not be compelled, if they object, to pass the same examination as men.*

Should these two provisions become law, they will afford an opening for the men doctors to assume, first, that those medical corporations or authorities which exclude women from their examinations and diplomas maintain a higher standard than those which admit them. 2. That women who do obtain diplomas do not pass the same examination as men. It will be in vain for women to present themselves for the same examination as men, in order to maintain their equality of status. The fact that their diploma gave no guarantee that they had done so would be fatal to their pretensions to equality of education. We

remember that at the time Mrs. FRANCES HOGGAN obtained her M.D. degree from the King's and Queen's College of Physicians, Ireland, a report was industriously circulated to the effect that the examination had been altered to admit her. We can, therefore, easily estimate the disparaging influence on the value of their diplomas of a legislative provision that the usual examination might be altered for women.

Women students of medicine have not asked for any relaxation in the examinations. It is asked for them by men doctors in much the same spirit as legislative restrictions on women's labour are demanded by working men. The effect will be the same in each case—to depreciate the value of women's work, and to place them at a disadvantage in the competition for employment.

A short time ago, Dr. HENRY WINSLOW wrote a letter to the *Lancet* respecting the admission of women to medical degrees in the University of London, in which he proposed that "the medical graduates of the University should meet together, and see whether nothing can be done to prevent, even now, the admission of women to medical degrees." He writes: "I, as one of the medical graduates, having been put to much expense and trouble to procure my degree, consider that it is an extremely dishonourable thing that my degree should be by that vote rendered to me practically valueless." A writer in *Truth*, commenting on this letter and the "abject terror of the masculine doctors at the prospect of feminine rivals," says, "Of course (the good gentlemen aver) the women doctors are poor, silly, ignorant creatures, quite incapable of fathoming the abysses of medical lore, even when by some fortunate but inexplicable fluke they manage to pass the examinations, *which are scarcely likely to be made specially facile to smooth their path.*" The witty and accomplished lady who penned these lines guessed not that she was in these last words giving a cue to the enemy:—

But the lady little knew
What the wily doctors do.

Read "between the lines" the Duke of RICHMOND'S proviso stands thus: "Women shall not be compelled, if *men* object, to pass the same examination as men."

The doctors, having been effectually beaten in their endeavours to prevent women from obtaining medical degrees, now as a last resource seek to destroy the value of their degree by depriving them of the guarantee which the men's diploma offers—that all the qualifying examinations have been duly passed. We must trust to

our friends in Parliament to be on the watch to defeat this ingenious device, and we believe that the public conscience is sufficiently aroused on this particular phase of justice to women to enable them to take action with a fair prospect of success.

WE understand that a determined effort is to be made by the British Medical Association, at a special meeting summoned early this month for the purpose, to expel from the Association Mrs. GARRETT ANDERSON, M.D., and Mrs. FRANCES HOGGAN, M.D., for the offence of being women. It has been already resolved that no more women practitioners shall be elected, and this, we presume, is a measure indubitably within the right of the Association, whatever we may think of its justice to women doctors, to say nothing of the courtesy of which men so freely boast. But the case is different when they come to deal with members duly qualified and already legally elected, and who have done nothing to violate the rules of the Association, or to forfeit their status as members of the profession. The legality of a vote of expulsion, should such be given, seems fairly open to question, and no doubt this aspect of the matter will receive due consideration at the hands of the Association. It is announced that SIR WILLIAM JENNER has tendered his resignation of membership, but that he has consented to withhold it until the Association determine what action they will take respecting their lady members. SIR WILLIAM JENNER enjoys the highest consideration in his profession and in Court favour, but, like one of old, he says to himself that all these things profit him nothing so long as these two women are sitting in the gate. The worst wish we have for him is that the cause of his offence may not be removed from his path, but that he may learn to accept the inevitable, and reconcile himself with a good grace to the new order of affairs.

LAST month we recorded several instances where the killing of wives and sweethearts was held not to be murder. This month we have a judicial decision as to what is not a threat to murder. At the Central Criminal Court, on March 13th, WILLIAM HENRY MARKLAND, described in the calendar as well educated, pleaded guilty to having sent, knowing their contents, two letters to LUCY ROWE, threatening to murder her. The prisoner was a clerk residing with his parents at Manchester, and it appeared that he had for some months lived in London, where he made the acquaintance of the prosecutrix, who is a bar-

maid at the Peacock Tavern, Islington. She, believing that he was a young man of good character, became engaged to him, but she subsequently discovered that he had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment in Lewes gaol, consequently she declined to hold any further communication with him. After the expiration of his term of imprisonment he called upon her, and begged her to renew the engagement, but she declined to do so, and the prisoner then used language of a threatening nature. On the 20th of last month she received a letter, in which he said that he would think no more of shooting her than he would of drinking three-pennyworth of brandy. In a subsequent letter language of an equally threatening nature was used. Baron HUDDLESTONE, the presiding judge, said that it appeared to him that the letters did not contain threats to murder. The counsel which prosecuted said he thought the second letter did, but His Lordship said that was only a threat to "spoil the young lady's beauty." The threat which Baron HUDDLESTONE dismissed so lightly was in the following words: "I will buy a large hammer, and will wait for days and weeks or months until I see you. I will then knock out all your pretty teeth, and will smash in your little pug nose. You will see now what I am made of, and I will settle you and your bully." "That," said his Lordship, "was scarcely a threat to murder." After some further argument, the judge said the plea of guilty ought to be withdrawn, which was accordingly done. In a day or two the prisoner was again put on his trial for the offence—the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty," and the prisoner was at once discharged. He walks away from the dock a wiser man than to plead guilty the next time he threatens to smash a girl's face for declining his addresses, and with the lesson impressed upon him and through him on all ruffians at large, that the threat to "spoil a young lady's beauty" with a large hammer, which appears to be a man's mode of action for "breach of promise," is one which can be made with perfect impunity, and probably carried into effect without very much risk to himself.

CONSISTENTLY with the teaching of the foregoing case, we find that the month's list of outrages on wives and sweet-hearts comprises the following items: On February 28th, at the County Police-court, Blackburn, JOSEPH CHIPPENDALE was charged with attempting to murder his sweetheart, SARAH PARKER. PARKER was engaged as barmaid at the Cross Axes Hotel, Great Harwood, and for some time CHIPPENDALE had paid attention to her. One

evening she told him she did not care for him, and addressed herself to another young man. CHIPPENDALE went into the yard and said he would "do for her." He then came in, and with a knife stabbed the girl in the neck, inflicting a serious gash.—On the same day a labourer, named THOMAS FOSTER, was apprehended in Sheffield for a murderous assault committed on his wife. They quarrelled in the street, and FOSTER battered her face with his fists and knocked her down, afterwards repeating the offence. It is feared she will never regain the use of one of her eyes. This is the second terrible assault on a wife in this town during the week.—On the same day a master-mariner, named JOHN ROBINSON, was charged before the Gosport magistrates with attempting to murder. On returning home one evening he found his wife, her mother, and a young man, a clerk, named BULLEN, taking tea together. Drawing a revolver, he fired at BULLEN, and the bullet passed through his neck. A second shot missed. ROBINSON then attacked his wife with a knife, inflicting a deep cut on the head.—On the same day JONATHAN SHIPMAN was charged on remand at the Manchester Police-court with assaulting his wife by striking her on the head with a poker and inflicting a serious wound. A police-constable heard her screams for help, and going into the house saw her lying on the floor in a pool of blood. The man was committed to prison for six months.

We might pursue this ghastly catalogue throughout the month, but we have given a dose sufficient to sicken our readers. The victims of these atrocities do not live in Bulgaria, and no political or party purpose can be served by endeavouring to arouse the conscience of the nation with regard to them. We may therefore anticipate that the details will be received with the same callous indifference as heretofore, and that no effort will be made for the further protection of the lives and limbs of the unrepresented half of the people.

THE principle of one law for men and another for women received a striking illustration in a case recently dealt with by SIR ROBERT CARDEN, at the Guild Hall. Edward Crawley, a labourer, was charged with deserting his two illegitimate children. The prisoner recently left the mother, taking with him the two children, whom he said he would provide for. A few days afterwards he left them on the steps of the office of the City of London Union, in Bartholomew Close, with a label on the clothing of one of them, acknowledging the children to be his, and asking

the union officials to take care of them for a fortnight, while he was out of work. SIR ROBERT CARDEN severely reprovved the prisoner for his unnatural conduct towards his children, and expressed a strong desire to punish him. But he could not deal with him for the offence of desertion under the Vagrant Act, the children never having been formally affiliated to him. He reluctantly discharged him.

The *Times* thus comments on the inequality of the law. "The anomaly in this case is very striking. The acknowledgment by the mother of an illegitimate child is sufficient to fix her with the responsibility of maintaining it without a magisterial order, but the admission of the father of a bastard child is of no avail for that purpose without the additional formula of an order of affiliation."

The men who boast of the courtesy and favour shown to women in consideration of their deprivation of political rights, would do well to ponder on this and other illustrations of the strong tendency in human nature to lay burdens, not on those best able to bear them, but on those least able to resist them.

ARE women "adults?" Not, apparently, in the opinion of the Huddersfield Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, who, in a petition to the House of Commons for alteration in the Factories and Workshops Bill, after setting forth the injurious effects, in times of depression like the present, of the reduction of the hours of labour, say that they are "a great disadvantage to operatives employed in factories, for the effect of such restrictions has been not only to limit the hours of labour of women and children, but also of *adults*, whose employment is so connected as to be dependent on that of women and children."

It is evident that there are some authorities at Huddersfield who accept, without qualification, the diction of Mr. Justice PROBYN that "women," especially factory women, "are perpetual infants."

THE case of Hancock *v.* Lablache has caused some attention to be paid to the ridiculous and anomalous position as regards contract and liabilities in which married women were placed by the Lords' amendments to the Married Women's Property Act of 1870. MR. RUSSELL GURNEY'S Bill, as it left the House of Commons, provided that a married woman should be capable of suing and being sued as if she were *feme sole*. The Lords retained this provision so far as to allow married women to sue for the recovery of property or debts due to them, but they struck

out of it the power to sue a married woman for debts due from her.

MESSRS. HANCOCK, the well-known jewellers, possibly in ignorance of this state of the law, sold a locket to Madame LABLACHE. She undertook, in writing, to pay for it by periodical instalments out of money earned in her profession as an operatic singer. Such earnings are, by the Married Women's Property Act, secured to a married woman as her separate property; her husband has no control or interest in them except such as she chooses to give him, and she can maintain an action in her own name for their recovery if they are withheld from her.

Two of the instalments were duly paid to Messrs. HANCOCK, but the balance of £14 remained unsatisfied. Possibly the lady had discovered the legal immunity of the position secured to her by the inscrutable wisdom of the House of Lords, and this may have led her to the resolve to assert her legal right not to pay her debts. Messrs. HANCOCK endeavoured to sue her for the balance of the debt. Her defence was that as a wife she could not be sued unless her husband were joined in the action. The husband could not be joined in the action, partly because he could not be found and partly because the action was in respect of the separate property of his wife, in which he had no interest or share. The defence was held to be good, and the claim of Messrs. HANCOCK dismissed.

The anomalous condition of the law does not appear to be the result of inadvertence on the part of their Lordships in "amending" MR. RUSSELL GURNEY'S Act, because they allow married women to be sued alone in certain specified cases, namely, for debts contracted before marriage, and for the maintenance of their husbands and children, if they should leave these chargeable to the parish. It would therefore seem as if the Legislature deliberately intended to place wives with separate property in a position to defy their creditors.

Of course the incident of this state of the law having been forced upon public attention has given occasion for a certain portion of the press to taunt women with the supposed favour and immunity shown their sex. It is convenient to these writers to forget that these so-called immunities were foisted into the law against the most strenuous protest of women, a protest which—being unrepresented—they had no means of enforcing. Women ask for justice and not for favour in the laws regulating their property, and desire no artificial method of evading the discharge of their just obligations.

The restriction against suing married women operates

disadvantageously to them in engaging in business. It injures their credit and tends to obstruct them in obtaining employment, as they cannot be made liable for breach of engagement or contract. It is probable that this inconvenience might have gone on for an indefinite period so long as women only were the sufferers. But there is some hope of an amendment in the law now that a man has been victimised by it. The demand for a change will be seen to be irresistible when it is backed by the appeal, "Am I not a Man and a Creditor?"

MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD'S suggestive paper on "Equality" in the *Fortnightly Review* for March, is not without its suggestiveness for us also, when he distinguishes between the different lines of advance along which different nations progress towards a completer civilisation. Italy he describes as advancing by the sense of the power of beauty possessed pre-eminently by its people; France, by its preponderant power of social manners; while Germany is moved by the power of knowledge—the necessity of knowing things *scientifically*, by a right and regular process. Finally, England is characterised by the power of conduct, of which our feeling of religion, our industry, our public spirit and love of order and stability amidst all our liberty, are described as component parts.

Now, accepting, as we are quite ready to do, the general truth of these co-ordinate contributions of different races of men towards the common civilisation, "the humanization of man in society," we think we can see another and even broader application of the same idea. In each of these contributory nations we see a double line of pursuit, by which power of beauty and of social manners possessed by that nation is separated from its power of conduct and of knowledge, the former being consigned in ampler measure to the women, the latter being guarded by the men. Nevertheless, the completest culture requires union of all these lines, not only in the life of the nation, but in the life of the individual men and women who compose the nation. "Choose Equality!" says the philosopher. Let us before all things choose equality of culture. Let us not act as if the power of beauty and of social manner might be safely separated from that of conduct and of knowledge, when complete civilisation requires the presence of all these powers in each, making women

"One with men in power to feel
The loftiest passions of humanity,
The love of Justice, Liberty, and Truth."

Mr. ARNOLD speaks of "that instinct of perfection which

is the master-power in humanity," and it may be so; far be it at least from us to say it is not, seeing that we believe nations rise and fall according as they are true or false to that "instinct of perfection"—those who follow its lead make for progress, those who stifle it stagnate, dwindle, and disappear. But if this be true of nations, equally does it hold true of each unit in the nation.

THE current number of the *Contemporary Review* contains a powerful article from the pen of Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE on the subject of violent outrages upon wives, and some practical suggestions for amendments in the law. The writer traces the connection between the political disabilities of women and the evils they suffer in social relations. We are glad to observe that the subject of the protection of wives is likely to receive some attention in Parliament. Lord PENZANCE has proposed amendments on Mr. HERSCHEL'S Matrimonial Causes Bill, which will, if adopted, tend to repress crimes of violence against wives.

REVIEW.

Sonnets and other Poems by the Hon. Mrs. O. N. Knox. Smith and Elder, 1876.

Readers of poetry will not open this little work to merely close it again, or having read straightway think of it no more, for this is one of the small books which contain much. The promise made by the strength and tenderness of the opening sonnet is borne out to the end. We should not find it easy to choose a specimen to present to our readers amongst the numerous pieces which strike us as most possessed of the poet's power to reveal the hidden pains and hopes of other minds, were we not guided naturally to make our choice amongst those which especially touch the aspirations and strivings of women. Of such there are three. One, "A cry to men," appeared originally in these columns; another, beginning

"Breathes there a noble woman now on earth,"

we would gladly quote, but it will not bear abbreviation. We will therefore conclude this short notice with the following passage from "Woman's Future":—

Who is this woman waiting in the waste;
With empty fettered hands and pleading voice?
Why keep the many carefully apart,
And from the verdant lawns where they repose,
Why fling thy taunts at her who kneeleth there?
Look in her face: O England, this is she,
Aspirant womanhood, whom thou art wont
To scorn, to silence and repudiate.
What would she grasp that thou hast bound her thus?
What is her folly who receives such scorn?
Doth the desire of freedom rivet bonds
Here where thy boast is freedom? doth a cry
Raised in the hunger of the soul and mind
For generous nourishment, if raised to thee,
O England, merit such a shout of scorn?
For this is she; who craves a larger life,
Who loves the liberty thou holdest dear,
Who hands and head and heart would fain employ
Unlimited except by the Supreme,
Whose nature lower than thy son's perchance,
Yet yearns for wisdom and her prospect wide;
Who seeks the rest thy sons have sought and found
In labour definite for worthy aims;
Yet in her weakness wants the aid they have,
Needs emulation, high companionship,
The prizes and the rush of kindred strife.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

NEWARK.

A public meeting in support of the Bill for conferring a parliamentary suffrage upon women householders was held in the Town Hall, Newark, on Thursday evening last. Miss Becker, of Manchester, and Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds, attended as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. John Bullen, Esq., occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by the Rev. D. Jones, Councillors J. Crossley, J. Saunders, and Z. Wood, and Mr. G. Norledge. There was a large attendance, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings. Mr. Crossley moved and Mr. Wood seconded the first resolution, which was supported by Mrs. Scatcherd, and declared to be unanimously carried. Mr. Saunders proposed a resolution adopting a petition, which was seconded by Mr. Norledge, and supported by Miss Becker, and carried unanimously. The meeting concluded with the customary votes of thanks.

CHESTERFIELD.

On March 12th the large Assembly Room, Market Hall, Chesterfield, was crowded with a highly-respectable audience, amongst whom were many ladies, to hear addresses from Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd and Miss Becker, in favour of extending the suffrage to women householders. The chair was taken by J. STORES SMITH, Esq., J.P., who was supported by Alderman Lambert, Councillors Pearson and Higginbottom, R. Parker, Esq., Revs. J. F. Smith and G. Snashall, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause, read a letter of apology from Mr. R. P. Jeffreys, surgeon, sympathising with the objects of the meeting. He expressed his regret that it had fallen to his lot to occupy the chair, instead of their worthy mayor, who at first intended to do so, but afterwards found other engagements would prevent him. In the brief words of introduction he should use he would say what this cause was not. It was not a party cause or a political cause, but it aimed, and in so doing commended itself to his mind, at giving a large extension of the suffrage without referring to party. Any other scheme divided the nation into two camps, the one in favour of a democratic extension of the suffrage, and the other opposed to any further lowering of it. This cause had, however, never been a party measure in the House of Commons, but had found its most eloquent supporters on the Tory side, as well as some of its most bitter opponents, and the same could be said of the other side of the House.

The first resolution was moved by the Rev. J. F. SMITH, seconded by Mr. Alderman LAMBERT, supported by Mrs. SCATCHERD, and carried unanimously. The second resolution, adopting petitions in favour of the Bill, was moved by Mr. Councillor HIGGINBOTTOM, seconded by the Rev. G. SNASHALL, supported by Miss BECKER, and carried *nem. con.* A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

LEICESTER.

A meeting in support of the extension of the franchise to women was held in the Temperance Hall, Leicester, on March 21st. A large number of ladies were present. Mr. F. T. Mott presided, and there were present Messrs. W. Stanyon, D. Merrick, T. Windley, Revs. J. Page Hopps, W. Evans, Miss Gill, Mrs. F. Livens, and Miss Brocklebank; Miss Helen Taylor (member of the London School Board), and Miss H. P. Downing attended as a deputation.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said they were there that night to discuss a serious and interesting question, which must arise in a highly civilized state of society, namely, the proper position of women.

The Rev. J. P. HOPPS moved, and Mr. D. MERRICK seconded, a resolution affirming the principle of the society, which was supported by Miss DOWNING, and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. STANYON moved "That a petition in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and forwarded to Mr. Taylor, M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons."

Rev. W. EVANS seconded the motion.

Miss HELEN TAYLOR supported the motion, and said the main interest of the question to her was from the point of responsibility. The suffrage should be used by women not as a matter of right but of duty, and a woman who had been successful in life, and who said she did not want the vote, had a very low idea of the responsibility attaching to her. There were questions affecting a large class of women in the country, which women could understand better than men, however noble they might be, and upon which they should be allowed to exercise their opinions. The interests of the whole nation would profit by the franchise being extended to women, and she hoped the time was not far distant when their prayer would be granted.—The motion was carried. A vote of thanks was passed to the deputation and the proceedings terminated.

WESTMORELAND.

Miss Craigen has held meetings, on February 27th, at KIRKBY STEPHEN, in the Temperance Hall, Mr. Troughton in the chair; and on March 15th, at the Baptist Chapel, WINTON, Mr. John Hutchinson occupied the chair, and there was a very good attendance. Petitions in favour of the Bill were passed unanimously at both meetings.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The annual business meeting of the above society was held on March 15th, in the Bible Society's Rooms, 5, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. Mr. DAVID DICKSON, Master of the Merchant Company, occupied the chair, in the absence of Mr. Hugh Rose.

Miss WIGHAM submitted the annual report from which we make the following extracts:—

The petitioning work has not been neglected during the past year. 183 petitions were sent up from Scotland, signed by 18,503 persons. Among these were, one from 14 members of the Faculties of Advocates residing in Edinburgh; one from 52 physicians, surgeons, and medical practitioners of Edinburgh; one from 5 ministers of various denominations; one from 14 publishers and printers of Edinburgh; one from 189 rectors, headmasters, schoolmasters, and teachers in Edinburgh; one from 1,012 female householders and ratepayers in Edinburgh, 100 of whom were ladies residing in the principal streets and paying rates from £30 to £200 rental; nineteen from drawing-room meetings held in Edinburgh and various parts of the country; one from 600 women-householders and ratepayers in Aberdeen; eleven from Town Councils; eighty-seven from country towns; and fourteen from public meetings. Public opinion has been educated and advanced by holding meetings throughout Scotland of a more or less public character. We rejoice that there has been many manifestations of the recognition of the equal value of women as workers in the various walks of life—for example, their admission into the London Hospital, their eligibility for degrees by the London University, their election as poor-law guardians in the city of London in larger numbers than at any previous election, their important positions in the Social Science Congress, the Trades' Union Congress, and the great International Congress on the subject of morality held recently at Geneva. The report concluded by referring to the deaths of several friends of the movement, among those mentioned being Mr. William M'Crie, and Mr. Arthur Trevelyan.

The treasurer's statement showed that the income during the year, including a balance of £85. 11s. 8d. from last year's account, and subscriptions and donations to the amount of £221. 18s. 9d. had been £308. 6s. 2d., and the expenditure £146. 16s., leaving a balance in hand of £161. 10s. 2d.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and the re-election of the office-bearers and committee, said they were all proud of the principle of self-government. The responsibility of the franchise was one that ought to be discharged, and, he believed, it would greatly tend to the purifying of our electoral system if they had women's suffrage introduced. There was, he had always observed, an appreciation in women of the moral aspect of questions which was often deficient in the other sex. He believed there would be a conscientious use of the suffrage, and that it would end in the best results.

Mr. DOWNING seconded the motion. He thought that the report taken as a whole was encouraging, and that the cause was making quiet progress.

The motion was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

Mr. BROWN DOUGLAS, in rising to move the second resolution, said he had been surprised that the claims of women, so just and so defensible, should not have been at once acknowledged and conceded. There was no doubt of the influence which women exercised in political matters, and there was as little doubt of their ability to use that influence well. They saw it in different forms. He did not know whether there was as much lady-cavassing as in former days, but it was one manner in which ladies might exercise their influence. In the debate which occurred last year one of the opponents of the measure said that ladies had not the opportunity of making themselves acquainted with political matters. He differed from that opinion, for surely they had the same opportunity of reading all the newspapers and information on the different subjects that men had, while they naturally took the greatest interest in the candidates, especially in their own districts. There were just two objections that he had seen to this very reasonable and just claim. The first was, that it took women out of their sphere to record their votes at a Parliamentary election. Women, however, could judge pretty well of what their own sphere was, and that was an objection that ought not to come from the opposite sex. He was afraid of the argument going too far. Our gracious Queen did not go out of her sphere because she took a natural interest, as the sovereign of a country must do, in political matters, and so, on the same principle, no one could say that the female subjects of the Queen went out of their sphere when they took a like interest in political questions. The other argument was that women were easily led, and very easily misled. That argument, if allowed to have its due weight, would have an enormous influence in diminishing the electoral roll of this country, for most of those who voted on the opposite side from ourselves were "easily led and very easily misled." (Laughter.) It did not take a woman out of her sphere to pay taxes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would be surprised at such an argument being adduced against a woman paying taxes, and so it could not take a woman out of her sphere to record her vote. The resolution which he had to submit was as follows:—

That seeing taxation in this country is the basis of representation, it is a manifest inconsistency to exclude from the parliamentary franchise a large number of ratepayers, who are duly qualified to be electors in every other respect, simply because they are women; that this exclusion is unjust to them, and acts injuriously on the community at large; therefore, it is resolved that this meeting is of opinion that the parliamentary vote should be given to women on the same conditions as it is granted to men; and further, that a petition to this effect be prepared to be adopted by this meeting, and signed by the chairman on its behalf, praying the House of Commons to pass Mr. Leonard Courtney's Bill "to remove the electoral disabilities of women."

Miss NICOL seconded the resolution, which, on being put to the meeting, was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Miss CRAIG, a vote of thanks was given to the chairman, after which the meeting separated.

IRELAND.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

On March 18th, the annual meeting of the North of Ireland branch of the Society for Women's Suffrage was held in Clarence Place Hall. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, the chair was taken by Mr. S. A. JOHNSTON.

The CHAIRMAN said he occupied a very unexpected position that evening, the Mayor, who was to have presided, being prevented from attending. He thought the subject was a very important one; and, although he was not so well posted in it as others present, he believed it was well worthy of consideration. No doubt many of the ladies of the country would bring a great deal of intelligence and judgment to bear on the subject of elections that would prove very useful indeed. (Hear, hear.) For instance, in our own town they had the Harbour Commissioners, in election of which the ladies had a voice. There were many ladies who had votes in the Harbour Board elections in Belfast—on what grounds he did not know, as he was not sufficiently informed in town matters—but it seemed to him that the board was as well selected as any in Belfast. He would go further and say he did not know any board in the United Kingdom in which there were a more honourable and respectable body of gentlemen as in the Belfast Harbour Board. (Applause.) It spoke well for the judgment of the ladies, for he believed the Harbour Board was the only public body in the election of which they had a voice. (Hear, hear.) He would call upon Miss Tod to read the annual report. (Applause.)

Miss Tod, who was received with applause, then came forward, and said she had received letters of apology for non-attendance, and expressing sympathy with the movement, from the Mayor (Sir John Preston, J.P.), Mr. Dalway, M.P., Carrickfergus; Mr. Johnston, M.P.; Mr. Dickson, M.P.; Sir John Savage, Rev. Mr. Black, Dundalk; Rev. Mr. Berkeley, Lurgan; Mr. T. Lindsay, and several others. She then read the report as follows:—

Your committee have unfortunately a very brief report to make of the work done during the past year. They, however, promoted the obtaining of petitions from all the principal towns in Ulster in favour of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. They distributed a large quantity of suitable literature in connection with this suggestion of petitioning, which is carried on by voluntary canvassers, and they kept the friends of the cause supplied with information as to important meetings elsewhere, and other events bearing upon the progress of the work. The hon. secretary of your committee has also during the last, as in previous sessions proceeded to London to take part in laying before the Irish members of Parliament the desire of so many of their constituents that they should support the Women's Electoral Disabilities Removal Bill. Your committee earnestly call upon all friends of the cause to assist them in their efforts to give it a fresh impulse during the present session.

The Rev. JAMES ROBERTSON, in moving the adoption of the report, said he did so with regret and yet with pleasure. He regretted that it was not in the hands of a better informed person; and he felt pleasure in moving it because of the character of the report. Anybody would see that it had been prepared by careful hands, and was a very full and faithful record of the work of this branch of the society during the past year. So far as he understood the question, his judgment and heart were thoroughly with it, and he was glad to have the opportunity that night of increasing his information on the question, and stimulating his zeal.

Miss CAROLINE BIGGS seconded the motion, and the report was unanimously adopted.

Dr. BURDEN moved a resolution adopting a petition for the Bill. He said, with reference to a remark made by Miss Biggs as to the Act recently passed limiting the working hours of women and children, particularly women, he had consulted with some of the manufacturers in Belfast on the subject, and they considered the Act a serious obstacle for the purposes of trade.

Miss TOD, in seconding the resolution, said she thought they had some reason to believe that the cause of justice to women, especially in the department of equal electoral rights, had taken good root in the North of Ireland. She referred to the fact that in England the women who were duly qualified had the privilege of voting at every public election, with the exception of that for a Parliamentary representative; while in Ireland the municipal system was not a little confused in that respect. In Belfast, women who had houses sufficiently rated could vote in the election of Poor-law guardians, and, with the necessary qualification—and it was a high one—they had a voice in the election of Harbour Commissioners; but they could not vote at the Town Council elections. In towns governed by a Mayor and Council, like Dublin and Belfast, women have not the municipal vote. In towns governed under the Town Improvement Act of 1840, such as Lisburn and Coleraine, women householders can vote for Town Commissioners. In towns coming under an older Act, of which Galway and Downpatrick are instances, women, again, cannot vote for Town Commissions. These anomalies would have been removed by the Irish Municipal Franchise Bill, brought in by Major O'Gorman. By his Bill, and his speech upon the second reading of it, he has done his best to place Irish women on the same level as their English sisters. He was beaten by the merely nominal majority of five, which seems to show that they shall not have long to wait for this instalment of justice. They had heard the main arguments on behalf of the claim of duly qualified women for the franchise which had convinced women themselves, first, of its justice and desirability, and by which they had since endeavoured to convince others. She would call attention to the principles which underlaid their claims, and which induced them to believe that its success would be beneficial not only to women themselves, but to society at large. It was sometimes said that the spheres of morals and politics were so distinct that they touched each other at very few points. Now, she believed that no idea was more mistaken. Every true statesman, and every politician who had a statesman's idea, acknowledged that morals underlaid politics, and it stood to reason, for nothing that was morally wrong could be politically right. (Applause.) If that broad ground and basis of politics be a province in which the opinions and convictions of women were of very great value, was it not worth the consideration of such minds whether the success of their claims would not really be the best means for redeeming politics from coldness? She thought the question a very important one and wondered that it was not taken up more generally by religious women. To redress the wrongs, to heal the sufferings, to remove the causes of wrong and suffering, to give impetus and strength to every plan for the improvement of the people, or any section of the people—the desire to do these things had always been felt to be an elevating motive in political life. Ladies who had many of the advantages of life had this motive of political action in a strong degree, and that not only as regarded their poorer classes and weaker sisters, but as regarded all the suffering and disabled classes of the community, for they were all their natural clients. They had reason to believe that the success of their claim would give strength to many of the

higher motives of political life, and make conscience a more authoritative factor in it than it sometimes was at present. (Applause.) They did not merely wish that a few women of every rank should have the power once in a few years of filling up a voting paper and dropping it into a ballot box, even though that vote should be felt to have an effect upon the election then in progress; but it was partly the nature of the effect so to be produced, and partly the effect of the knowledge of this power to vote should have upon the present electors and upon the whole body of women which they believe to be so useful. They desired the success of the movement for a double reason—first, to obtain certain specific reforms, and then to raise the whole status of women by the removal of a conspicuous disability resting upon them and upon them only permanently, and under all circumstances a great many social reforms were being promoted at the present time, but these reforms were too slow, and they were not as efficacious as they would desire. When they looked at the women's suffrage movement they saw year by year a widely-increased interest in the question on the part of women and of men for the sake of women. (Hear, hear.) They regretted that their progress was somewhat unequal to that attained by men. Women gained, but they gained less regularly than men. They worked by influence only, while men had influence and the parliamentary vote besides. People sometimes told them that their influence was to do all that men achieved both by influence and vote, and that reminded her what the poet said of memory which was in some persons—

"As dim and sweet
As moonlight in a solitary street,
Where the same rays that lift the sea are thrown
Lovely, but powerless, upon walls of stone."

No doubt, influence was a very good thing with some people, and in some cases, but it was useless, weak, and worthless in other cases, and those precisely the cases in which it was most needed. Nevertheless, every advance in constitutional freedom had helped women, although more slowly and more imperfectly than it had helped men. If the Women's Suffrage Bill were passed to-morrow it would not lessen the interest of any woman in any duty she had at present, but, on the contrary, she would greatly increase her power of performing some of these duties properly, and greatly deepen her interest in others. She saw among the gentlemen connected with the great universities a feeling, not only of the moral equity, but of the material equity of doing something for women. This was not to be wondered at when they looked at the princely list of royal and noble ladies who had in past times given magnificent gifts to the great universities of Oxford and Cambridge and our great educational institutions for the benefit of men. In all these points there was a perceptible improvement, but women needed the parliamentary vote to guard against the inadvertent creation of new grievances. Having referred at some length to the progress of the movement in and out of Parliament during the past year, Miss Tod concluded an interesting address by expressing a confident hope that the Bill providing for women's suffrage would, at no distant date, be entered in the Statute-book of the British House of Parliament as the law of the land. (Applause.)

The resolution was passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. J. R. NEILL, seconded by Mr. J. F. CALDER, a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for his kindness in presiding, and

The proceedings then terminated.

DUNDONALD.

A lecture on "Women's Rights from a Christian point of view," was delivered on the evening of the 21st inst., in the Presbyterian church, Dundonald, by Miss Tod of Belfast.

There was a large attendance, and the Rev. E. T. Martin occupied the chair. The lecture dealt with the subjects of the claims of women to higher education, more opportunities of remunerative employment, the removal of restrictions on work, and the rectification of the laws on many questions affecting both the interests and the convictions of women. The meeting was then addressed by Miss Caroline Biggs, who pointed out in what ways the reforms needed could be powerfully assisted by the granting of the parliamentary franchise to qualified women. On the motion of S. Symington, Esq., seconded by Rev. W. Todd Martin, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to both ladies.

DUBLIN.

A lecture was delivered on March 12th at the Irishtown Schoolhouse, the Rev. R. STONEY, B.D., in the chair, by the Rev. Dr. Carmichael.

The Reverend Gentleman said:—We live in a country where the principle is established that taxation and representation should be co-extensive. Where women possess a large amount of property, and pay a large part of the taxes—where the home, which is the unit of society, is almost wholly under their management, and the education of children in their tenderest and most susceptible age entirely so—where most important institutions of various sorts are worked by them, a great and growing intellectual activity displayed by them—and where the Sovereign upon the throne is a good, wise, and noble woman; and yet in this country, where women hold so high a place, they are not allowed a vote in respect of the laws which govern them, or of the taxes which are imposed upon the fruits of their labour. They are shut out from the public educational advantages, from professions, from many ways of earning a livelihood open to men. They are almost wholly deprived of such securities as to property which men possess, and have not a legal right even to their own children. The arguments urged in support of this state of things are as feeble as the state of things itself is outrageous. The subjection of women, it is said, is justified by experience and sanctioned by the practice of every age and place. So was slavery for many an age—the same brute force that subjected the Negro subjected the woman—but as man grows in freedom all slavery disappears. The majority of women, it is said, do not desire the suffrage, but then the minority that does desire it is a growing one. It is doubtful whether the statement is true at all, and the argument in any case is that by which slaveholders have always justified slavery. Again, women do not want the suffrage, for their interests are identical with those of men. If so, why make such a matter of refusing it. Again, women ought not to get the suffrage because they are morally and intellectually distinct from men. If so, then it is idle to pretend that there is a fair representation of all classes in the community while women's opinions are unrepresented. Women should have nothing to do with the business of elections on account of the grossness, violence, and corruption inherent in our political system. Query—If our political system be such, is it well for men to have anything to say to it? Would it not be better to reform it altogether and make it decent work for men and women?

These and such like are the objections urged against an obvious and righteous demand for political equality. Now, what are her alleged sets-off against her state of disability, in which she is politically classed with criminals, lunatics, and idiots? The grand one is this—She has the homage of chivalry, which, it is said, she would surely lose if she got political rights. But how hollow must be that homage if it depend on woman preserving a position of dependence and slavery; and after all, who but women of the drawing-room

really receive it. It is the monopoly of a privileged class; the poor hard working wives and mothers, the thousands of courageous single women who are fighting a hard battle of life—often for others as well as themselves—don't get much of it. Then come the three special advantages of her disability according to Mr. Bright: 1st. Women servants, not been taxed, have a greater chance of employment than men. This fact concerns England only, but even then it must be remembered that if women servants are not taxed it is not for their benefit, but for their masters, for, as a rule, they are paid but half what men get, and work as hard again. 2nd. Women get high damages in breach of promise cases, not the nicest women by any means, and even that dubious privilege is about to be taken from them. 3rd. Female criminals are not so often hanged as male ones. Servants, jilted women, and murderesses may take comfort from the present state of things, but the vast majority of British womankind will hardly regard Mr. Bright's sets-off as closing the question. The facts still remain, that married women are at the mercy of brutal husbands; that mothers may be robbed of their children; that primitive barbaric notions of women prevail; that evil conventional customs are preserved; that women are excluded from numerous offices and employments for which they are well fitted; their exclusion from political rights has an injurious influence on the minds of men, leading them to make little of women, and a still more injurious influence upon the minds of women leading them to make little of themselves; and all these things are certain to continue till woman can make her wishes known, and her voice heard in the Imperial Legislature.

TOWN COUNCILS.

KIRKCALDY.

At the monthly meeting of the Town Council and Police Commission, on February 25th, in the Town Hall, Provost SWAN presiding, the Clerk having read a letter from the secretary of the Women's Suffrage Association (Miss E. Kirkland), requesting the council to give its influence to the movement by petitioning in favour of the Bill, the Provost asked if anyone had a motion to make in favour of the Bill; Bailie Dowie used to do so, he thought?

Bailie Dowie said the object of the Bill was not to enfranchise women generally, but only such of them as happened to be fighting the battle of life alone—those engaged in business or otherwise maintaining themselves and keeping house on their own account. It had become an axiom in this country that representation and taxation should go together, and he thought it was only a simple act of justice to single women and widows who were assessed over and paid both local and imperial taxes, that they should enjoy the privilege of representation if they desired it. (Hear, hear.)

Councillor JOHN LOCKHART: I have much pleasure in seconding Bailie Dowie's motion. There is not a widow or spinster in the extended burgh occupying a house or holding property in her own right, which gives the legal qualifications to vote for a member of Parliament, who has not as good a right to the franchise as I have, and it is a mere act of justice to grant the parties those rights which such property confers. Last year the council unanimously petitioned in favour of this measure, and I hope the same will be done on the present occasion, and I therefore beg to second the motion which has been proposed.

Bailie BARNET: If nobody is prepared to move an amendment I will do so myself, even although it is not seconded. To enfranchise women was altogether at variance with their position in life; the sphere in which women should move is the house, and to mind household duties, and leave representation and taxation to their better halves.

Councillor DAVIDSON: I second the amendment.

Bailie DOWIE: If no other councillor has anything to say, I have a few words in reply to Bailie Barnet. The Bill is not to enfranchise married women. It is quite true they are represented through their better halves, and when there is a want of decision on their part in whose favour to record their vote, every candidate for parliamentary honours knows if he can get an audience of the wife in such cases, the resolution of the husband is quickly determined. (Laughter.) There is no need for the franchise being conferred upon married women. The Bill, as I have already said, is to enfranchise spinsters and widows. A large number of these, and the number is constantly increasing, are obliged to engage in business; they are assessed and rated, they sue and are sued at law in every respect as males are, and if their interests are different why should they not be protected by representation as others are. (Hear, hear.) The tendency of legislation, though tardy, is in their favour. The Women's Conjugal Rights Act confers on married women the right to hold property made by their own industry; and also to will it in any way independent of their husband. And the Education Act has not only given spinsters and widows the franchise, but made them eligible to administer the law and enforce its sanctions. At the last School Board election I am quite sure of this, Bailie Barnet would consider every woman who trudged to the poll to record a vote in his favour did a right thing in exercising that privilege—(laughter)—and would also express the opinion that they exercised a wise and judicious discretion if they gave him a plumper. (Loud laughter.) I have much pleasure in moving that the council petition in favour of the Bill.

Councillor JOHN LOCKHART: I beg to supplement what has been said by stating that in England women vote at municipal elections, and there is not a bank or Joint Stock Company in the country where women hold stock are not allowed to vote as well as men.

The Provost: I call you to order, Mr. Lockhart.

A division then took place in the following result: For motion, Bailie Dowie, Bailie Speedie, Dean of Guild Muckersie, Treasurer Herriot, Councillors Beveridge, Black, Fairholm, Hutchinson, John Lockhart, Mackenzie, Shepherd Westwater, and Martin—13. For the amendment, Bailie Barnet, Councillors Davidson, James Lockhart, Nairn, and Young—5. There declined to vote, Bailie Stocks, who said it was "nonsense," and Councillor Hendry. The motion was then declared carried.

HAWICK.

At the monthly meeting of the Council on March 1st a letter was read from the Secretary of the Women's Suffrage Association, asking the Council to petition Parliament in favour of electoral privileges being granted to female ratepayers.—Mr. Blaine: Let them remain in the kitchen, their proper place. (Laughter.)—The Provost, though approving of the movement, did not think a Council meeting a proper place to discuss a question of the kind.—Mr. Blaine moved that it lie on the table. (Hear, hear.)—Mr. Ferguson moved that it be laid on the fire. (Laughter.)—Mr. Watson protested against such a cavalier dismissal of the matter. The letter was very respectful, and ought at least to be acknowledged, whatever might be their opinion on the merits of the question.—The Provost, the Town Clerk, and Bailie Milligan pointed out that women had votes in School Board and other matters, and there was no reason why they should be excluded from the franchise.—Mr. Eckford: Will they go to fight the Turks or the Russians? (Laughter.)—The Provost: Will you do it? (Great laughter.)—On a vote being taken, the Provost, Bailie Milligan, Treasurer Murray, and Mr. Murray voted in favour of a motion to petition Parlia-

ment for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. Messrs. Blaine, Eckford, Blaikie, Lawson, Hardie, and Ferguson voted against the motion. Bailies Inglis and Turnbull, and Messrs. Turnbull and Watson declined to vote.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

SCARBOROUGH.

A public debate took place at the Mechanics' Hall, Scarborough, between three members of the Scarborough Mechanics' Institute Debating Society and three of the Bishop Auckland Mechanics' Institute. The subject was "Ought women to be admitted to the Franchise?" the visitors taking the affirmative and the home team the negative. Dr. J. W. Taylor presided, and in a few brief remarks explained the procedure. Mr. Allan opened the debate in the affirmative. Mr. T. P. Whittaker, junior, was the first speaker in the negative. The debate was continued by Mr. Boyes and Mr. Briggs for the affirmative, and Mr. Fryer and Mr. Hugh Watson for the negative. Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Allan having replied upon the whole question, the Chairman, in a few brief remarks, in which he expressed his own feelings on the subject—viz., that intellectually women were entitled to the franchise, but that socially he objected to their possessing it—put the question to the vote, when a majority of the hands were held up in favour of the negative. It may be added that the majority was only a small one, the vote having to be taken twice before a final decision could be arrived at. Votes of thanks to the debaters and the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

It is hardly necessary to observe that none of the class whose rights were in question were permitted to offer either an argument or a vote upon the subject.

SOUTH NORWOOD.

On February 5th, Mr. C. H. Mounsay, the hon. secretary of the South Norwood Literary and Scientific Society, opened a debate advocating the admission of women to the franchise and to the professions and employments monopolised by men. He was supported by Messrs. Edward Markwick (Elboro'), G. G. Milne, Woods, and Vennell. Mr. Churchward opposed, followed by Messrs. Wockham, Jones, Marshall, and Rowsell. The proposition was lost by about two to one in a hall of about 150 persons. If the motion had been restricted to the admission to the suffrage, it would have been carried by a large majority, as many of those voting against it signed the petition in favour of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SAMUEL BAILEY ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Bonaly Tower, Colinton, by Edinburgh,
23rd March, 1878.

Dear Madam,—In a pamphlet on "Parliamentary Reform" published in 1831, by that eminent thinker and writer, Samuel Bailey, of Sheffield, and now very scarce, I find the following passage on Woman's Suffrage. I admire Mr. Bailey's books so much that I should have been greatly disappointed had his opinion on this subject been other than it was. He says: "The same arguments which are addressed in support of universal suffrage amongst men, will prove that it ought also to be extended to women. It has been said, in order to justify their exclusion, that their interests are so plainly the same as those of their fathers, brothers, and husbands, or are so closely involved in them, that the whole sex may be clearly set aside without any detriment to themselves. Every one, however, who has paid the least attention to the history of women in various ages, and

in various parts of the world, must be sensible that this is a fallacious representation. The disadvantages, cruelties, and oppressions which men have heaped upon them, loudly proclaim that the cases of their interests ought to be in their own hands, as much as those of any other class" (p. 20.) This is a sufficient reply, by anticipation, to Mr. John Bright's reasoning. Yours most truly, Miss Becker.

W. B. HODGSON.

SEX IN CRIME.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—The extent to which our judges hold that marital rights cover crimes of violence is well illustrated by two cases reported in this day's Times. Both were tried by Mr. Justice Brett on the Northern Circuit. Thomas Tweedale, a mechanic, was charged with the wilful murder of his son, he having, after a brief altercation, pulled out a knife and inflicted a fatal stab. The jury convicted him of manslaughter; the judge characterised the sentence as a "most indulgent one," and sentenced the prisoner to penal servitude for life. In the other case, John Burns, a labourer, "had a few words" with his wife on account of his bringing home no wages, seized a poker and stuck her in the throat, thereby causing death. For this he is also convicted of manslaughter; and, the same judge sentences him to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.—I am, madam, yours faithfully,

March 26th, 1878.

WATCHDOG.

Obituary.

We regret to record the death of Mr. ALEXANDER CLUNES SHERIFF, M.P. for Worcester. Mr. Sheriff was a staunch supporter of Women's Suffrage, having voted in nearly every division that has taken place. He was the brother of Mr. William Grey and Miss Emily Sheriff. He was born in 1816, was a Liberal in politics, and has represented Worcester since 1865.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.—The second reading of Mr. George Anderson's Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill, which stood for the 1st of May, has, in consequence of the extension of the Parliamentary Easter holidays, been postponed to May 14th.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, AND THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN.—At the meeting of the Irish Governesses' Association, on March 19th, at the Alexandra College, Dublin, Mr. Tarleton, F.T.C.D., urged that all the sizarships, scholarships, and other prizes of Trinity College should be thrown open to ladies.—The Dean of the Chapel Royal said as he read the ancient statutes of Trinity College, there was nothing to exclude women, and he advised the more daring spirits in the Alexandra College to try the experiment of presenting themselves for matriculation in Trinity College, and see what would come of it.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING MARCH, 1878.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including names like 'Popgun', 'Mrs. Winkworth', 'Miss Jessie Boucherett', etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from Chesterfield, including names like 'Rev. A. S. Dyer', 'Mrs. Patterson', 'Mr. Ralph Padgett', etc.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from Newark, including names like 'Mr. Bullen', 'Mr. W. Olive Quibell', 'Mr. John Crossley', etc.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from Hanley, including names like 'Mr. Thos. Worthington', 'Mr. J. W. Walker', 'Mr. J. W. Hamshaw', etc.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from Stafford, including names like 'Mr. H. Bruce', 'Mrs. Gibson', 'Mr. W. F. Woolley', etc.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from Batley, including names like 'Messrs. Parker & Sons', 'Mr. Samuel Jubb', 'Mr. Blamires', etc.

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, and may be sent either direct to him at the Limes, Nelson-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock; or to the Secretary, Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester. Post Office Orders payable at the head office, Brown-street, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM FEB. 20 TO MARCH 20, 1878.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Central Committee, including names like 'Mrs. Branch', 'Dowager Lady Wharnclyffe', 'Mrs. Bruce', etc.

NORTH OF IRELAND COMMITTEE. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Table listing subscriptions for the North of Ireland Committee, including names like 'Mrs. Hamilton (Killyleagh)', 'Mrs. J. Brown (Donoughmore)', 'Mrs. Byers (Belfast)', etc.

MISS TOD, HON. SECRETARY, 39, RUGBY ROAD. MRS. BLACKWOOD, TREASURER, 6, COLLEGE GREEN, BELFAST.

PETITIONS.

SIXTH REPORT. 20—26 Feb., 1878.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.—In favour.

Table listing petitions for the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, including dates, locations, and numbers of signatures.

EIGHTH REPORT. 6—8 March, 1878.

Table listing petitions for the Eighth Report, including dates, locations, and numbers of signatures.

NINTH REPORT. 11—15 March, 1878.

Table listing petitions for the Ninth Report, including dates, locations, and numbers of signatures.

TENTH REPORT. 18—19 March, 1878.

Table listing petitions for the Tenth Report, including dates, locations, and numbers of signatures.



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