

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XVII.—No. 201. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
Yearly Subscription, Post Free, 1s. 6d.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1886.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
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Write out the form given below on a sheet of foolscap or other large paper.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned
SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes should have the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

It is, however, highly desirable that women householders should sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of
SHEWETH,

That your petitioners possess qualifications which would entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions to the House of Lords should run as follows:—
To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned
SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes ought to have votes for members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure which may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.
This form to be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

FORM FOR QUALIFIED WOMEN ONLY.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned
SHEWETH,

That your petitioners possess qualifications which would entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure that may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of
SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women in the United Kingdom would be an incentive to similar legislation in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, and would tend to raise the position of women throughout the civilised world.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions from the Colonies should be sent for presentation to the Commons to the Right Hon. Edward Stanhope, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, House of Commons, London, S.W. Petitions for the Lords should be sent to the Right Hon. the Earl of Dunraven, House of Lords, London, S.W.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and some signatures *must be on the same piece of paper as the heading*. If more room is required more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions prepared during the recess should be carefully preserved until the opening of Parliament, or they may be forwarded to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded at the proper time.

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THE Executive Committee of the above Society desire respectfully to call attention to its object and operations, and to make an appeal for subscriptions in view of the present critical period of the movement.

The Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women will be introduced by Mr. Woodall immediately on the opening of the next session of Parliament, and there is reason to hope that, if the action of the Parliamentary leaders be vigorously supported, the measure may soon become law.

In order to enable the Committee to carry on the work at this juncture with an energy adequate to the occasion, it is desired to materially increase the funds of the society. Donations and promises of annual subscriptions are very earnestly and respectfully invited. Donors and Subscribers are entitled to receive the *Women's Suffrage Journal* monthly, and the Annual Report of the Society.

LYDIA E. BECKER, Secretary.

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THE friends of women's suffrage will have learned with great satisfaction that Mr. WOODALL has accepted the charge of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill, and that from his place in the House of Commons he has given notice of his intention to introduce it. The Bill is identical in terms with that which passed the second reading in February last, and the same members whose names were then on the back of the Bill have again consented to endorse it, namely, Sir ROBERT FOWLER, Mr. HOULDSWORTH, Mr. ILLINGWORTH, and Mr. STANSFELD.

THE short session now in progress will, it is announced, be terminated by a prorogation, and during its continuance the whole time of the House will be given to the Government for the transaction of necessary financial business. There is therefore no possibility that the Women's Franchise Bill could be brought forward for discussion before the prorogation. But measures will be taken to obtain a day as soon as possible on the re-assembling of Parliament next year. The interval should be used by friends all over the country in promoting petitions, in discussion on the question whenever opportunity offers, and in bringing the subject before their Parliamentary representatives, and urging them to support the Bill whenever it shall be brought forward in the House of Commons.

THE question of women's suffrage is not to be allowed to rest in South Australia. Last year, in the House of Assembly, Adelaide, Dr. STIRLING moved a resolution in the following terms: "That in the opinion of this House women, except while under coverture, who fulfil the conditions and possess the qualifications on which the Parliamentary franchise for the Legislative Council is granted to men, shall, like them, be admitted to the franchise for both Houses of Parliament." After a comparatively short debate the motion was agreed to, and the honourable gentleman has now followed up his action by bringing in a Bill for giving effect to the resolution. The Bill was

introduced in the House of Assembly on June 16th, and the second reading fixed for the 21st of July.

WE judge from the reports of a recent case that the right of a lunatic to record his vote at a Parliamentary election has received some practical extension since the passing of the Ballot Act. In *The Times* of July 30th there is the report of a suit in which probate of the will of a certain Mr. WILLIAM BURTON was opposed by the defendant, who was one of his daughters, on the ground among others that at the time of the execution of the paper the testator was not of sound mind. Among the witnesses called to prove the mental incapacity of Mr. BURTON was one Mr. GEORGE WINSHIP, who deposed that in an election on December, 1885, after a conversation with a doctor, he fetched Mr. BURTON to the polling booth. Such was the state of his intellect then that he insisted that the election was not taking place at the time. Seeing that he was not fit to fill up a ballot paper, witness presented him as an illiterate voter; the booth was cleared, and Mr. BURTON's ballot paper filled up for him.

The witness was then cross-examined by Mr. INDERWICK.—You say you presented him as an illiterate voter, but as a matter of fact he was not illiterate. Could he not write? Yes, of course he could. Did you then make a declaration that he was illiterate? No; I said to the returning officer, "He can write as well as you or I." Then how came you to poll him as an illiterate voter?—I polled him as being without intellect. (Laughter.) You polled him as a lunatic? I polled him as not in his right mind. That is why I claimed him. (Roars of laughter.)

In spite of this testimony the jury found that Mr. BURTON was competent to make a will, and the President pronounced for the disputed document.

THE conditions on which, before the passing of the Ballot Act, a lunatic might record his vote are thus laid down in a text-book, ROGERS on Elections, published in

1868:—"With regard to a lunatic who, though for the most part he may have lost the sound exercise of his reason, yet sometimes has lucid intervals, it seems that the returning officer has only to decide whether *at the moment of voting* the person offering himself is sufficiently *compos mentis* to discriminate between the candidates, and to answer the questions and take the oath (if required) in an intelligible manner."

The italics are those of the author. But, although thus tender of the electoral rights of a man who may for the most part have lost the sound exercise of his reason, the law seemingly does not allow that a woman can have a lucid interval during which she is sufficiently *compos mentis* to discriminate between a Liberal and a Conservative candidate in a Parliamentary election.

OUR author gives the following case in support of his proposition: "Okehampton, 1 Fraser, 168. The voter was seventy-five years old, paralytic, and much affected by the noise at the poll. He had no clear idea of the names of the candidates, but he had of the side on which he wished to vote. When ordinary questions were put to him he merely repeated them, but his answers to his wife were more rational. When undisturbed it appeared that he was capable of performing any serious act. One witness declared that after the noise ceased he heard him name the sitting members in answer to the question whom he voted for, which was put a second time. A proposition was made to show him the names of the candidates in writing, but objected to. He said he voted for SLASHER and LASHER, but was rejected by the returning officer. Vote good."

THE same authority, on dealing with other "incapacities to elect," says: "An idiot is one whom the law regards to be *non compos mentis* from his nativity by perpetual infirmity." The vote of such a person ought not to be allowed.

THE exclusion from the Parliamentary franchise of women possessed of the statutory qualification can only be logically defended on the allegation that they, like idiots, are to be regarded as *non compos mentis* from their nativity by perpetual infirmity; an allegation so glaringly opposed to truth that the man who would venture to maintain it in these days might be reasonably suspected of being *non compos mentis* himself.

THE argument on this point was very ably maintained by

Dr. PANKHURST in an article published in 1868, on the Right of Women to Vote under the Reform Act, 1867. He says: "The nature of the presumption of the electoral incapacity of women deserves attention. It is the *sole reason* which is urged. If it is maintained that by the law of England women are incompetent to vote in Parliamentary elections, it is, and can be, maintained on only one ground—the same and only ground which disqualifies the insane and infants—mental imbecility. Lunatics and infants are under disability because they are not equal to the intellectual process, first, of knowing what the law is; next, of knowing the nature of the conduct they propose; and lastly, of comparing the terms of the law with the conduct proposed, so as to decide rationally whether the latter agrees or conflicts with the former.

"That this is really the position to which the opponents of women's suffrage are reduced is indisputable. In OLIVE v. INGRAM, the Chief Justice cited strong authority as to the right of women to vote; and PAGE J. said, 'I see no disability in a woman from voting for a Parliament man.' One of the judges, however, said, 'In the election of members of Parliament women are not now admitted, whatever they were formerly. They (women) are not allowed to vote for members of Parliament, because of the judgment required in it.' And further:—'This (the decision as to the office of sexton, which, it was held, a woman might fill, it being "a servile ministerial office, requiring neither skill nor understanding") cannot determine that women may vote for members of Parliament, as the choice requires an improved understanding, which women are not supposed to have.' In argument, it was urged that, 'by 7 & 8 Will. III. c. 25, infants cannot vote, and women are perpetual infants.' And again:—'In acts which concern the public, women are put in the same class with infants.' Therefore, to hold that women are incompetent to vote in the election of members of Parliament is to hold them to be the subjects of absolute and incurable mental defect, and, as it were, to sign against the duly qualified women of England a certificate of perpetual lunacy."

SPEAKING of persons born deaf, dumb, and blind, Mr. ROGERS says, "Although it is difficult to suppose that such persons should have understanding, still, if such a person can show by signs or otherwise that he knows the purpose for which he has come to the poll, and can also comprehend the obligation of an oath and the temporal dangers of

perjury, it is conceived that a returning officer would not be justified in rejecting his vote."

Of drunkards, Mr. ROGERS says, "It seems difficult since the decision in the Wigan case, to determine what degree of drunkenness need be shewn to disqualify a voter. It is a question of fact for the returning officer to decide." This difficulty seems to be removed by the conditions of vote by ballot. No voter would be rejected by a returning officer if he was sufficiently sober to find his way into the polling compartment. It yet remains to be proved whether a man too drunk to mark his ballot paper could, like the alleged lunatic before referred to, be presented as an illiterate voter.

FELONS, after the expiration of their sentence, or after pardon, may both vote and be elected for Parliament. The Ballot Act has made special provision to enable men to vote who are unable to distinguish the names of the candidates in print. All this excessive care for the electoral rights of one sex, while wholly disregarding the claim of the other, cannot fail to produce a painful impression on the minds of the excluded class.

The poet says of Nature—

How careful of the type she seems,
How careless of the single life,

and we are tempted to think of the law as thus careful over the type of the masculine electorate, and careless over the personal qualifications of the individual voter. We do not complain of this, for with a widely extended suffrage there would appear to be some risk of individual oppression with little corresponding public advantage in the attempt to exercise too close a scrutiny or censorship over the voters. We trust that when the Parliamentary franchise is extended to women the same broad and generous view may prevail, and, once the justice of the principle is recognised, that it will not be thought more necessary in their case than in the case of men to consider how the masses of women are likely to use the vote conferred upon them, or to endeavour to discriminate among those possessing the statutory qualification for the franchise as to the mental or moral qualifications of individual electors.

ONE of the most remarkable signs of the recent advance of public opinion about women is the reception that has been given by the public press to the address of Dr. WITHERS-MOORE in opening the British Medical Congress at Brighton last month. In this address Dr. MOORE said

it was not for the good of the human race, considered as progressive, that women should be freed from the restraints which law and custom imposed upon them, and should receive an education intended to prepare them for the exercise of brain power in competition with men. He proceeded to draw alarming pictures of the ravages of education on the physique of women, and to prognosticate ruin for the future of the race if it were suffered to go on, inasmuch as he held that the "higher education" unfitted women for matrimony.

A few years ago utterances such as these would have been regarded as the warnings of scientific wisdom against new and dangerous courses. To-day, so far as we have seen, they appear to be generally condemned by public opinion as not far removed from nonsense. The *Saturday Review*, which on this point may be taken as representing the opinion of men of the world, says that "what Dr. WITHERS-MOORE asserts at the outset is that women ought not to be as well educated as men. What he deduces in his conclusion is that both boys and girls suffer from too much work and too little play." It is possible, continues the writer in the *Saturday Review*, "that when a girl's education has been almost completely neglected and she is suddenly pitchforked into Girton or Newnham, she may suffer from trying to compress into three years what ought to have been spread over ten. But that only shews that her mental training should have been more rationally conducted, not that there has been too much of it. No institutions have ever succeeded better than the Ladies' Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, and the notion of girls from Newnham or Girton as stooping, flat-chested, over-crammed monstrosities, is exceedingly diverting to anyone who knows anything about them."

IN a recent divorce case the husband obtained damages of one thousand pounds from the co-respondent for the "deprivation of the society of his wife and the loss of her services in managing his house and taking care of his children." This verdict of a court of law implies that the services of a wife as housekeeper have a distinct money value. Justice would therefore seem to demand that in all cases the wife should be credited with the money value of these services in appraising the family expenditure. If this estimate were universal we should not hear so much about married women being "supported" by their husbands, the fact being that in the majority of instances, at any rate in the classes which live by daily labour, the

money value of the services of the wife in household work exceeds the money value of the food she consumes by the amount which the husband would have to pay in wages over and above maintenance to any other woman than his wife for the performance of the same household services.

THIS understanding need by no means militate against the privileges of the husband as treasurer of the family firm, so long as the wife is allowed to draw "orders." It is recorded of the venerable LUCRETIA MOTT that on one occasion when Miss ANTHONY visited her, LUCRETIA said "Sister, I am going to give you fifty dollars to carry on the work." Then turning to JAMES MOTT she said, "Out of that corner of thy pocket-book where thee put my pay for keeping thy house, mending thy clothes, &c., please hand SUSAN the money." JAMES was too just a man to withhold his hand.

It is stated in the public prints that the Empress Regent of China has issued a decree announcing that, acceding to the prayers of the memorials which have been presented to her, she will, after the Emperor assumes the administration of government, on the seventh of February next, still continue for some years to direct his actions.

The government of China has been in the hands of Empresses for the last twenty-five years. On the death of the Emperor HIEN-FENG in 1861, the Dowager Empress TSI THSI having no children, a son by one of the Imperial wives was raised to the throne by some of the high officials, who attempted to get the government into their hands by this means. They gave the boy a new name, which is usual with all Emperors of China on coming to the throne; it was TSHAI-CHUN, or Good Fortune. The first indication that the Dowager Empress possessed power was given by her leading a party which overthrew the leaders of the reactionary faction that ruled at Peking. She then, in concert with the mother of the young Emperor, had the boy placed on the Dragon Throne, and proclaimed him under the title of TUNG-CHIH, or "Combination of Law and Order." Having thus succeeded, she took measures to preserve the position which had been attained, and she became the actual ruler of China. On the death of an Emperor it is the custom to place the Empress and all the wives of the deceased monarch in a state of seclusion, where they are strictly guarded from contact with the outer world, so that this conduct on the part of the Empress is remarkable for its exceptional character. On official days the Boy-Emperor sat on the Dragon Throne,

but behind him, under the cover of a screen, sat his mother and the Dowager Empress. When documents were brought forward for consideration the two ladies could hear their import, and decided what was to be done. As they dictated, the Emperor used the "Vermilion Pencil," with which are signed all Imperial decrees. To entitle the Emperor's mother to this position she was raised to the dignity of an Empress. Her name is TSI-AN, and she was called "The Most Illustrious and Blessed Empress," while the Dowager TSI-THSI was called "The Most Illustrious and Merciful Empress." The latter was also called "The Empress of the East," while TSI-AN, the mother of the Emperor was called "The Empress of the West."

This peculiar regency continued till the end of 1872, when TUNG-CHIH became of age. In that year he took to himself an Empress named AH-LU-TE and four second-class wives. But he did not live long to enjoy his honours or his superabundance of domestic bliss. He died in 1875, and the young Empress quickly followed him to the tomb. The result of these events was that another boy, the son of Prince CHUN and the nephew of Prince KUNG, was placed on the throne, and the regency of the two Empresses was restored as it had been during TUNG-CHIH's minority.

THE Empress of the East died in 1881. We gather the particulars given above from a correspondent of the *Daily News* at that time, who had travelled in China, and who gave much curious and interesting information on the affairs of the government. He gives credit to the then recently deceased Empress of the East for the merit of the good government of China for the preceding twenty years. When she began the Regency the country was distracted by the war with England and France. Peking had been taken, and a treaty signed with Lord ELGIN allowing the "outer Barbarians" to have Ministers at the Capital. Up to that period the Chinese army was little altered from its primitive model; bows and arrows being its principal weapons. During the Empress' rule a new era began, and the arms of the modern soldier were introduced. War junks have been superseded by gunboats; building yards and arsenals have come into existence; all this implying a most radical change to carry out in an old and conservative country like China, and indicating resolution of a high kind at the head of affairs. Among the leading points of interest and difficulty dealt with during the Regency were the negotiations

arising out of the murder of Mr. MARGARY, the Taeping rebellion, the Chefoo convention arranged with the Chinese government by Sir THOMAS WADE, the difficulties which threatened war with Russia respecting the occupation of Kuldjab, etc. All these matters have been managed by the Chinese government in an able and satisfactory manner, as has been admitted by the foreign nations who have had to treat with them. How far the two Empresses may have exercised their own ability in these negotiations, and how far they were the work of Prince KUNG and other Ministers, it is impossible to say. But in a country which has nothing resembling Parliamentary or representative government the Ministers are selected and maintained by the Throne; and the Empresses cannot be denied the credit of the enlightened policy which the Ministers whom they have chosen and supported have carried out.

At the time of her death the Empress of the East was said to have been only forty-five years of age, making her only twenty-five at the death of her husband, when she had opponents in power to face and to conquer. It is not, therefore, surprising that after having given such proof of courage and ability to govern she should have been credited with the chief part of the merit of the good government of China during the joint Regency, and that some misgivings should have been felt as to the ability of the Empress of the West to carry on the Regency alone. But, if any such doubts existed, they have been proved to be unfounded. The present Empress Regent has not deviated from the policy of the joint Regency, nor shown diminished vigour and sagacity in guiding the Chinese Empire in the path of progress.

A recent article in the *Scotsman*, commenting on the approaching majority of the young EMPEROR of CHINA and consequent termination of the government of the Empress Regent, says of the two Empresses: "As their record on Asiatic history these two remarkable women have left the Chinese Empire internally pacificated and restored to practically the limits given to it by the great KIEN-LUN. Eastern Turkestan has been reconquered; Russia baffled in its diplomacy, and France in its aggressive action; a 'new China' created in the outer wilds of Mantchuria; and last, and most important of all, this most ancient and exclusive of Eastern monarchies has apparently entered fairly on the path of competition with western nations."

The young EMPEROR of CHINA will be only sixteen years of age in February next, when he attains his

majority, and is formally invested with the reins of government. It is not therefore surprising that there should be a strong desire that the direction of affairs should remain for a time in the able and sagacious hands of the Empress Regent, and it is to be hoped that the memorials which have been presented to that effect may be found sufficient to secure this result.

DEPUTATION TO MR. WOODALL, M.P.

A deputation from the central committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage waited upon Mr. Woodall at his residence, Queen Ann's Gate, on August 5th. There were present Miss Becker, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Blackburn, Mr. C. H. Hopwood, M.P., Mr. Walter M'Laren, M.P., and Mrs. Eva M'Laren. Miss Becker, on behalf of the deputation, explained its object, and conveyed to Mr. Woodall the request of the committee that he would again take charge of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill. Mr. Woodall returned thanks for the honour of the request, and asked for a little time to consult his friends before committing himself absolutely on the subject. Subsequently Mr. Woodall announced to the committee his formal acceptance of the charge of the Bill, and on the first day of the session he gave notice of his intention to introduce it.

COLONIAL PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, ADELAIDE, June 15th.

NOTICES.

Dr. Stirling to move on June 16—For leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Constitution Act and the Electoral Act (giving a measure of suffrage to women).

June 16th.

Dr. Stirling introduced a Bill to further amend the Electoral Act. Second reading July 21st.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

LANCASHIRE, NEWTON.

At a meeting held at Penketh, August 13th, Mr. Parker asked the candidate, Mr. J. C. French, his views on women's suffrage. He replied that he was strongly in favour of any measure which would place woman in a position to protect her own interests, and he thought that the women who paid rates and voted in school board, municipal, and other elections, should certainly not be denied the right to vote for members of Parliament.

WOMEN'S FAWCETT MEMORIAL.

Lady Goldsmid, the Treasurer of the Memorial Fund, has received the following letter from Mrs. Fawcett, and, in order that it may be readily circulated among subscribers to the fund, has obtained Mrs. Fawcett's permission for its publication:—

Alde House, Aldeburgh, July 28th, 1886.

Dear Lady Goldsmid,—I have just read in *The Times* the account of the unveiling of the Fountain on the Embankment, and I should like to tell you how deeply I feel the great appreciation of my dear husband's services to women, which has been shown by yourself and those who have co-operated with you in putting up this memorial to him.

I thank you and all concerned with this Memorial, not only for the sympathy and consideration shown to me by yourself and others at every stage of the undertaking, but especially for embodying in a lasting form the appreciation of his country women, of one of the most prominent qualities of my husband's character, I mean his

power of sympathising with the wants, difficulties, and sorrows peculiar to the lot of women.

I think his blindness helped him to understand how hard it often is to have the ordinary avenues of knowledge, of employment, and of an honourable career closed by a physical accident; and this made him specially anxious to remove from the lives of women those hindrances to their education and employment which rested only on artificial social arrangements. His blindness, too, caused him to be indebted to women for a number of little kindly offices, his gratitude for which he often spoke of. On all grounds then, public and private, I think there is no title he would have been prouder to bear than that of the "Friend of women." All this makes the women's memorial to him peculiarly appropriate, and let me, once more, dear Lady Goldsmid, thank you from my heart for the active part you and the other members of the committee have taken in it. I am looking forward very much to see the fountain towards the end of this week.—Believe me, yours very sincerely,
MILLCENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

LADY MEMBERS OF THE COBDEN CLUB.

The committee of the Cobden Club have elected Miss Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Cobden Sickert (daughter of Richard Cobden), Mrs. G. M. Crawford, of Paris, and Mdlle. Sophie Raffalovich members of the club. The latter lady has been elected in well-deserved recognition of her French translation of Mr. Fawcett's life, with an original introduction, and of her study of economic questions. These are the first ladies whose names have been enrolled as members of the Cobden Club.

SUCCESS OF GIRLS IN SCIENCE EXAMINATIONS.

At the recent Science Examinations in the Central Higher Grade Board Schools, Manchester, two girls, Mary E. Blackwell and Amy Simcock, gained first class honours in Practical Inorganic Chemistry. We understand that this position has never been gained before by a girl at these examinations.

THE SIMPSON MEMORIAL AT MOSTON.

The late Mrs. Fay bequeathed money and property to the value of £21,600 for the benefit of the people of Moston, near Manchester. On August 14th a step was taken in the carrying out of the deceased lady's intentions, when the foundation stone of a building to be called the Simpson Memorial was laid at Street Fold, Moston. The ceremony was performed by Dr. A. W. Ward, Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University. By her bequest the late Mrs. Fay desired to further education and to provide means for reasonable recreation among the people of the neighbourhood where her girlhood was passed. Her first gift was that of the small freehold upon which the memorial buildings will stand. A few years afterwards a sum of £8,500 was handed over by Mrs. Fay to certain trustees, who were authorised to expend £3,000. By her will the deceased left a further sum of £10,000, with the residue of her personal estate, if any remained, for purposes of education, without distinction as to the class or religious belief of those who were to benefit. Lastly, there was set aside a sum of £2,100 to found four scholarships, two for boys and two for girls. Each of those held by boys is to be known as "The William Simpson Scholarship," and each of those held by girls, "The Alice Fay Scholarship." These scholarships are open to all boys or girls who, or whose parents, shall have resided in the township of Moston for seven years at the time of the examination. The memorial building will comprise a reading room and library, and a lecture room to seat about sixty students, which will be devoted to such courses of lectures as may be considered most beneficial and acceptable to the requirements of the people of the district. A gymnasium will also be provided, and it is intended to provide for open-air recreation during the summer months. There will also be a large hall, capable of seating about 500 people, in which will be given public lectures and concerts, and where social gatherings will be held. Two rooms will be set apart for technical education. The series of lectures arranged by the Oxford, Cambridge, and Victoria Universities are considered

peculiarly adapted to such an institution, and it is proposed to organise definite courses of study to be followed by examinations. Briefly the trustees and committee "wish to assist in the development of a truly educated and healthy community."

GIFT BY A LADY TO THE CITY OF MANCHESTER.

At the last monthly meeting of the Manchester City Council the Mayor read a letter from Mr. Alderman Heywood informing the Council that his wife (Mrs. E. S. Heywood) had caused to be placed in the sculpture-room of the Town Hall a valuable collection of Japanese *cloisonné* enamels (late the property of Mr. W. T. Mückley), which she presented to the Corporation of Manchester, with the desire that they be added to and form a part of the public art treasures of the city. "Mrs. Heywood," the letter proceeded to state, "relies with confidence upon the public spirit of the members of the Corporation to preserve and place them for inspection by the people, as she has reason to believe the collection is unique in character, each year becoming more and more valuable, such rare examples of art manufacture being difficult, if not almost impossible, to acquire."

Mr. Alderman THOMPSON proposed, and Mr. S. CHESTERS THOMPSON seconded, a resolution tendering the cordial thanks of the Council to Mrs. Heywood for her valuable gift. It was stated that the collection would be deposited, for the present at least, in the Queen's Park Museum.

Mr. Alderman HARWOOD, Mr. MARK, and Mr. FAULKNER also bore testimony to the rare character of the enamels and the Council's appreciation of Mrs. Heywood's generosity.

The Mayor, observing that he most cordially supported the resolution, put it to the meeting, and it was passed with acclamation.

Mr. Alderman HEYWOOD replied, and in doing so said that although he might in some measure have been instrumental in obtaining the collection for the Manchester Corporation, yet the honour which there was in connection with the presentation solely belonged to Mrs. Heywood. (Hear, hear.)

THE MAINTENANCE OF WIVES ACT.

Numerous cases continue to be reported in the newspapers showing the importance to women and their children of the recent amendment in the law. Among others, at Woolwich Police Court, July 3, a young man was summoned by his wife for maintenance for herself and child. He earned £3 a week in the Ordnance Committee Office, and he paid her 15s. a week ago. The wife: A fortnight ago, your worship. The fact is, he spends his money on rings and bracelets for other ladies, and cannot spare sufficient for his wife and child. He is a general lover, and I don't know where he has been to lately. The Magistrate: Do you think it is Constantinople? (Laughter.) Wife: I cannot say, but I have heard of some queer places. Defendant: I shall be glad to allow her a fair sum for her support. Mr. Balguy: Are you willing to allow her 15s. a week? Defendant: Certainly not. I would sooner die on a door mat. (Laughter.) Mr. Balguy: I shall make an order of 15s. a week. Defendant: I shall not pay it, sir. Mr. Balguy: Then you will be sent to prison. Defendant: That will be very unpleasant. Mr. Balguy: Not so unpleasant as dying on a door mat. (Laughter.)

A MAN'S VIEW OF THE LOT OF WOMEN.

The whole history of woman seems somehow contained and summed up in those four short words, "It is a shame." If you think of it, the chivalrous sentiment and the Christian sentiment and the humanitarian sentiment, all combined, have done but little as yet to remove the truth and force of those four little words. Everywhere the woman gets the worst of it. She is the hardest worked, and has to do all the nastiest kinds of work; she is the worst paid; she is always bullied, scolded, threatened, nagged, and sworn at: she has the worst food; she has the lion's share of the trouble and the lamb's share of the pleasure; she has no holidays; she has the fewest amusements. Even in those circles where women do not work and are never kicked, she has the worst of it. Beautiful things have been written about womanhood, damsels, and gracious

ladies. Girls do, in fact, enjoy a brief reign while they are wooed and not yet won. And after that the men take for themselves everything that is worth having, save only in those well-appointed and desirable establishments where there is enough to go round for man and wife too. But for the great broad lower stratum of the social pyramid, there is but one sentence that will express the truth. You will hear it from the lips of women and girls wherever working women and girls meet together; on the pavement and outside the shops it is cried aloud; in the shops and work-rooms it is only whispered; one short sentence, in four short words, "It is a shame."—*"Children of Gibeon,"* by Walter Besant.

THE BEGUM OF BHOPAL.

Early in the present year, during the visit of Sir Lepel Griffin, a Durbar was held for the purpose of presenting Bukshi Mahomed Husan Khan, Commander of the Bhopal Army, with the Order of the Indian Empire, and a duplicate of the Mutiny medal, the original of which he had accidentally lost. After speaking in terms of the highest praise of Bukshi's loyal services during the mutiny, Sir L. Griffin proceeded to refer to recent events concerning the administration. He said that it had fallen into a disgraceful condition; a reign of terror existed; the chief power was in the hands of officials who were at once magistrates, police officers, and superintendents of jails. The land assessments had been raised so high that upwards of 7,000 ryots had fled, while justice was bought and sold. He mentioned these painful matters because he desired publicly to acknowledge the wise, generous, and patriotic spirit in which the Begum had determined to remove the evils introduced. She had resolved that all occasion for reproach should cease; that the guilty magistrates should be tried and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment; and that a Mahometan gentleman of the highest character should be appointed Prime Minister, taking his orders from herself alone. There was no State in India, Sir L. Griffin continued, which the Queen and the Viceroy regarded with more affectionate interest than they felt in Bhopal, which in bright and dark days had stood before the world as the sincere and hearty ally of the British Government; and he warmly congratulated the Begum on the measures which she was now taking to restore the former good order and prosperity.

WOMAN'S RULE IN CHINA.

The following is an extract from an article in the *Scotsman* on the approaching majority of the young Emperor of China, and the consequent termination of the government of the Empress Regent: "Since the beginning of the century, weaklings have worn the purple. China has been torn by internal rebellions; it has been exposed to the resistless impact of foreign influences upon the immemorial usages; under the double pressure it has shown signs of disintegration and decay. Confusion and disaster seemed to have reached their height when, in 1862, the Allies entered Peking and burned the Summer Palace, and the Emperor Hsien-feng fled beyond the Great Wall to his gardens and hunting grounds at Jehol, and soon after laid him down to die. It was then that China's good genius interposed, and placed the destinies of one-third of the human family for a generation under petticoat government. It was a 'palace revolution' that brought it about. The charge of the young child, who nominally reigned for thirteen years as Tung-chih, was taken from the Board of Regency, composed of reactionaries who would soon have completed the ruin of their country, and was assumed by the Empress Dowager, Hsien-feng's principal wife, and by the Empress Mother, with Prince Kung, the uncle of the boy, as their adviser. These ladies are understood to have had none of Kang-hi's talent for turning sententious aphorisms of State lore, or of Kien-lun's too facile art of verse-making, which he exercised to the extent of composing 33,950 highly-lauded poems. They are even said to have been illiterate, or at least miserably posted up in the 'Book of Ceremonies' and the 'Book of Poetry.' But they had the good sense to rule the Empire firmly in stormy times, and to choose and to trust wise counsellors. They brought China safely through the crisis of the Taeping, Panthay, and Dungan rebellions, and of collision with Russia and other Western Powers. The Empress Dowager, Tsi

Thsi, died some three or four years ago, before the difficulties with France had attained a formidable character; the Empress, Tsi An, will now, it is said, retire into private life; in any case the days of the Regency must soon be numbered. As their record on Asiatic history these two remarkable women have left the Chinese Empire internally pacified and restored to practically the limits given to it by the great Kien-lun. Eastern Turkestan has been reconquered; Russia baffled in its diplomacy, and France in its aggressive action; a 'new China' created in the outer wilds of Manchuria; and last, and most important of all, this most ancient and most exclusive of Eastern monarchies has apparently entered fairly on the path of competition with the Western nations. Much of the praise is no doubt due to the able men who have conducted the administration of the Empire, and carried out its military enterprises—to politicians like Prince Kung, Li-Hung-chang, and Tseng, and to Generals like Tso. But the Empresses-Regent may claim a just share of the honour, and their sex may boast that in Oriental as in Occidental politics it is as far as possible from being a 'neglectable quantity.'

SOJOURNER TRUTH.

(From the *Women's Journal*, Boston, U.S.A.)

Sojourner Truth died at Battle Creek, Michigan, on Monday, the 26th November, 1883, aged 110 years. This remarkable woman has been well known during the last half century. She was born in Africa, was held as a slave in New York State, and was the mother of many children who were sold from her. She herself bore the marks of the lash till her dying day. She was a tall, muscular woman with a face as black as night. She had no education, but her mental ability was far above the average. Those who have heard her on the anti-slavery or women's rights platforms will never forget her wonderful power of expression and the logic which toppled down the defences built on lies. A single sentence often changed the whole tone of a meeting. On one occasion Frederick Douglass had given way to despair for his race, and his hopeless utterance made every spirit sink. Sojourner rose, and asked, "Frederick, is God dead?" The tone of her voice was full of faith. There could be no failure, for God was on his side. She never doubted, God was to her an omnipotent personal friend, always at hand.

An incident is told of her by Mrs. Frances D. Gage. It was at a woman's rights meeting in Akron, Ohio, in 1851, where this strange-looking woman was present. Some of the managers of the meeting thought their cause sufficiently unpopular without any addition of discredit that might come if Sojourner shared in the meeting as one of them. She sat crouched against the wall on the corner of the pulpit stairs, her sun-bonnet shading her eyes, her elbows on her knees, her chin resting upon her broad, hard palms.

Mrs. Gage said, "She moved slowly to the front, laid her old bonnet at her feet, and turned her great speaking eyes to me." Hisses came from the audience. But she looked the disapproval down. Nearly six feet high, her head was thrown back, and her eyes 'pierced the upper air like one in a dream.' At her first word there was a profound hush. She spoke in deep tones, though not loud, which reached every ear in the house, and this is part of what she said:—

"Dat man ober dar say dat womin need to be helped into carriages, and lifted ober ditches, and to hab de bes' place eberywhar. Nobody eber helps me into carriages, or ober mud-puddles, or gibs me any bes' place!" And, raising herself to her full height and her voice to a pitch like rolling thunder, she asked, "And a'n't I a woman? Look at my arm!" (and she bared her right arm to the shoulder, showing her tremendous muscular power). "I have plowed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me. And a'n't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it, and bear the lash as well. And a'n't I a woman? I have borne thirteen chilern, and seen 'em mos' all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me. And a'n't I a woman?"

"Den dey talks 'bout dis ting in de head—what dis dey call it?" ("Intellect," whispered some one near.) "Dat's it, honey. What's dat got to do wid womin's rights or nigger's rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yourn holds a quart, wouldn't ye be mean not to let me have my little half measure full? Den dat little man in black dar,—he says women can't have as much rights as

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Printed by A. IRELAND & Co., Manchester, for the Proprietors, and Published by Messrs. Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London, and Mr. JOHN HEYWOOD, Manchester.—September 1, 1886.—Entered at Stationers' Hall.