

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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Occupations of Women in Scotland.

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In a few Days.
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PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures during the recess for petitions to both Houses of Parliament, in support of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women, which will be brought forward on the opening of the next Session of Parliament. Petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; Miss BALGARNIE, 29, Parliament-street, London; or Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, Dublin.

CONFERENCE IN BRISTOL (Preliminary Notice).

A GENERAL CONFERENCE of friends of the Women's Suffrage movement, in support of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill, will be held in the

CLIFTON DOWN HOTEL,

On Thursday, December 16th,

when papers on the present position and prospects of the movement will be read and discussed.

The Chair will be taken at 2-30 p.m.

Admission by ticket, to be had from the Secretary, 20, Park-street, Bristol.

A CONVERSAZIONE

to meet the friends and delegates attending the Conference will be held on Thursday, December 16th, 8 to 11 p.m., in the Clifton Down Hotel.

PATRONS AND PATRONESSES:—

The Countess of Ports- E. Stafford Howard, Esq.
mouth. W. K. Wait, Esq., J.P.

Lady Rachel Howard. Dr. Beddoe, F.R.S.

Lady Harrison. Mrs. Beddoe.

Sir Joseph Weston. Mrs. Emma Marshall.

Mrs. Yates Stevens. &c., &c., &c.

Tickets for the Conversazione 2s. 6d. each, to be had of the Secretary, 20, Park-street, Bristol.

A BUSINESS CONFERENCE FOR DELEGATES

will be held in the Society's Office, 20, Park-street, Bristol, on Friday morning, December 17th, 11 a.m.

Just Published.

A WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CALENDAR for 1887. Edited by Helen Blackburn. The information relating to Technical Classes, Examinations and Scholarships for Women, and Registered Medical Women, will be brought to date; a summary of Legislation affecting Women in the past year, and other fresh matter, will be introduced. Price 3d. Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith; London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co.

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London: Field & Tuer, The Leadenhall Press, E.C.; Simpkin, Marshall & Co.; Hamilton, Adams & Co. New York: Scribner & Welford.

THE WOMAN'S JOURNAL

A weekly paper devoted to the rights of women, to their work, wages, education, and especially to their right of suffrage. It is the official organ of the American Woman Suffrage Association. It is edited by LUCY STONE, HENRY B. BLACKWELL, and ALICE STONE BLACKWELL. Editorial contributors are JULIA WARD HOWE, MARY A. LIVERMORE, LOUISA M. ALCOTT. As a special inducement it is offered one month on trial for 1s. 2d.; three months, 2s. 4d. The price per year is 12s.

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

"WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL" PRIZE COMPETITION, No. 4.

It is said that there are at least three hundred Christian names of women in use at the present time in the British Islands.

A prize of Two Guineas will be given to the person who shall send in the best list of such names. They should be names in actual use, or such as might be reasonably chosen for use. Pet names and diminutives must not be sent, neither must names of distinctively foreign spelling nor surnames used as Christian names. Various spellings of the same name will be counted only as one name. The number of names included must be written at the beginning of each list. The names must be arranged in alphabetical order and in columns for convenience of counting.

RULES.

- Answers should be sent on or before December 24th, addressed to the Editor, *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester. Answers may be signed by a *nom de plume*, but the real name and address must be sent for registration. The result of the competition will be announced in the January number of the *Journal*.
- Every answer must contain the sum of one shilling and sixpence, in return for which the *Women's Suffrage Journal* will be forwarded by post for twelve months to any address indicated by the competitor, whether such competitor win the prize or not.
- The right is reserved of dividing the prize, if necessary, between two or more competitors.
- The prize will be given in money, subject only to the condition of the publication of the winner's real name and address in this *Journal*.
- On the announcement of the prize winner's name or *nom de plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within one month from the announcement of the award will forfeit all claim to the same.
- Prize winners are disqualified for two succeeding competitions.
- The decision and award once announced must be considered final and irrevocable.

PRIZE COMPETITION, No. 3.

A prize of two guineas was offered in our last issue for the best poetical quotation in praise of high and noble qualities in women. The following answers have been received:—

Let no man value at a little price
A virtuous woman's counsel: her winged spirit
Is feathered oftentimes with noble words,
And like her beauty, ravishing and pure;
The weaker body, still the stronger soul.
O, what a treasure is a virtuous wife,
Discreet and loving. Not one gift on earth
Makes a man's life more nighly bound to heaven.

Chapman, b. 1557, quoted in J. R. Lowell's "Essay on Pope."
RITA BROWN.

Thrice happier she that is so well assured,
Unto herself, and settled so in heart
That neither will for better be allured
Nor feared with worse to any chance to start,
But like a steady ship, doth strongly part
The raging waves and keeps her course aright;
Ne ought for tempest doth from it depart,
Ne ought for fayrer weathers false delight.
Such self assurance need not feare the spight,
Of grudging foes ne favour seek of friends;
But in the stay of her owne stedfast might,
Neither to one herself or other bends.
Most happy she that most assured doth rest,
But he most happy who loves such one best.

Spenser, Sonnet lix.—GLORIANA.

"Earth's noblest thing, a Woman perfected."
Yet sets she not her soul so steadily
Above, that she forgets her ties to earth,

But her whole thought would almost seem to be
How to make glad one lonely human hearth.
She hath not shrunk from evils of this life
But hath gone calmly forth into the strife,
And all its sins and sorrows hath withstood,
With lofty strength of patient womanhood.

James Russell Lowell, "Irene."

She never found fault with you, never implied
You wrong by her right; and yet men at her side
Grew nobler, girls purer, as through the whole town,
The children were gladder that pulled at her gown,
The weak and the gentle, the ribald and rude,
She took as she found them, and did them all good,
None knelt at her feet, confessed lovers in thrall,
They knelt more to God than they used—that was all.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "My Kate."

She kept her path amidst an evil world,
Diffusing light around her, gems and gold she would not wear,
But bore on clear bright brow the costlier crown
Of tranquil meekness. Clear and strong of will
She ruled her household in the might of love.

Rev. E. H. Plumtre, "Claudia and Pudens."—SPERO MELIORA.

Nor 'mid her duties, many though they be,
Must one, her first and chief, be unfulfilled:
To upraise to power, and social right,
Equal with man, the sisters of her sex.
Neglecting this, she lives for half her race,
Nor yet for them performs her noblest act,
Her surest means for elevating all.

William Lovett, "Woman's Mission."

NOTE.—William Lovett was a leading Chartist, and largely helped to shape the People's Charter.

Henceforward, rise, aspire
To all the calms and magnanimities,
The lofty uses and the noble ends,
The sanctified devotion and full work
To which thou art elect for evermore,
First woman, wife and mother.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Adam's Address to Eve, "A Drama of Exile."

Her heart it was lowly as maiden's might be,
But hath climb'd to heroic height,
And burn'd like a shield in defence of me
On the sorest field of fight.

In her worshipful presence transfigured I stand,
And the poor man's English home
She lights with the Beauty of Greece the Grand,
And the glory of regallest Rome.

Gerald Massey, "A Poor Man's Wife."—JONES.

All that life can rate
Worth name of life in thee hath estimate:
Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage, virtue, all
That happiness and prime can happy call.

Shakespeare, "All's Well that Ends Well," ii. 1.—HELENA.

'Tis thine to prove that strength of mind
May work, with woman's grace combined,
To shew how nature's debts are paid
In studies small, that sweeten life,
And how the loftiest thoughts may aid
The duties of a loving wife.

S. C. Hall, "A Love Letter to my Wife."—WILD ROSE.

(Continued on page 170.)

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THE further progress of the Women's Franchise Bill introduced by Dr. STIRLING in the Legislative Assembly of South Australia, is for the present arrested. The second reading was carried on Wednesday, October 13th, by a majority of two, but as amendments to the Constitution Act must be agreed to by an absolute majority of the House the measure could not be further proceeded with. The *South Australian Register*, in commenting on this result, says that "Dr. STIRLING will no doubt find encouragement in the fact that he has a majority of the House at his back, even though that majority is insufficient for purposes of practical legislation. His defeat under the forms of the House is in one sense a victory—a victory too which he may value all the more because it is in no way attributable to the effects of outside agitation. The nineteen members who voted with Dr. STIRLING may be assumed to have arrived at their conclusion in favour of women's suffrage as the result of purely abstract reasoning. The supposed right of the South Australian spinsters and widows has secured substantial recognition without any of the ordinary aids of women's suffrage societies," &c.

The same paper comments on this singular feature of the advocacy of women's suffrage in the colony, that it should have been thus far unaccompanied by any demand on the part of the women of the colony. One of the existing privileges of women is the right of petitioning Parliament, yet they seem never even to have thought of this means of strengthening the hands of their Parliamentary champions. Neither has a single public meeting been held, with or without the help of the ladies, to advocate their cause.

THE moral to be drawn from these considerations is twofold. First, how strong must be the justice of a case which, without the assistance of outside agitation, could, by the mere dead weight of reason and argument, be carried in a legislative assembly by a majority, however small, in the teeth of popular prejudice against apparently so fundamental a change. Secondly, if without such outside aid the measure has received such substantial support, a very little impetus from public opinion outside

might have sufficed to have increased the majority actually recorded up to the point required for the progress of the measure into law.

BUT although there may have been no local agitation for women's suffrage in South Australia, if we assume the solidarity of the interests of women throughout the British Empire it cannot be said that women have been indifferent to the demand for the recognition of their political rights. If there had been no women's suffrage societies in the United Kingdom, it is not probable that there would have been any women's franchise Bill in South Australia. The women who are asking for the franchise in the Imperial Islands are practically asking for it in every land where the banner of England flies. This thought should incite all who are interested in this great measure of justice to throw off all appearance of apathy and to join in a strong determined and united effort to demand from the present Parliament the recognition of the right of women to the franchise. So may the jubilee year of the Queen's reign be the beginning of the emancipation of her women subjects throughout the length and breadth of Her Majesty's dominions.

THE annual meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage took place on November 3rd, under the presidency of the MAYOR of MANCHESTER. Mr. WOODALL, M.P., Mrs. FAWCETT, Mr. ADDISON, Q.C., M.P., Professor ADAMSON, Miss BECKER, and others took part in the proceedings.

Two meetings have been held at Southport, principally through the efforts of Mrs. SHERBROOKE. At the public meeting in the Town Hall the MAYOR presided, and Dr. PILKINGTON, Rev. Dr. PORTER, Miss BALGARNIE, Dr. KATE MITCHELL, and others addressed the assembly.

At Wotton-under-Edge, Miss BLACKBURN, Miss MARY PRIESTMAN, and the Rev. T. GREY attended as a deputation from the Bristol and West of England Society, at a public meeting presided over by Dr. C. M. HARRIS.

Lectures on women's franchise have been delivered by

Miss BECKER, at Longsight, Manchester, and at Longwood, Huddersfield, the latter on behalf of the National Reform Union; by Miss BALGARNIE, at Oswestry and Croydon; and by Mrs. FAWCETT, at Richmond.

The annual meeting of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association took place on November 17th, in the Aldermen's Parlour of the Guildhall, Cambridge, under the presidency of Prof. E. C. CLARK.

The annual meeting of the Edinburgh Society was held on November 27th, Mrs. FAWCETT in the chair.

A meeting was held in the Mansion House, Dublin, on November 1st. Mr. H. WIGHAM presided, and Mr. W. A. MACDONALD, M.P., Sir CHARLES CAMERON, M.D., Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT, Professor MIR AULAD ALI, and others took part in the proceedings.

THE great success of the Primrose League seems to have induced the formation of a league of men and women in connection with the Liberal party. It is well that the common interest of men and women, in matters of public policy, should receive practical recognition in the organised machinery of both political parties, and we cannot doubt that the recognition of the right and duty of women to use their influence in the selection and election of Parliamentary candidates will hasten the arrival of the period when they shall be allowed to vote for such candidates.

A CURIOUS incident occurred at a meeting of the Liverpool Select Vestry last month, on the occasion of the appointment of a select vestryman in the room of a member who had retired. After the nomination of Mr. PEET to fill the vacancy had been moved and seconded, Mr. CROPPER said he did not rise for the purpose of opposing the appointment, but he wished to make one or two observations. He wished a lady to be appointed as a vestrywoman and a member of the Board. There were many questions with which the ladies were more conversant than any man could be, and the parish would receive very much benefit if they had a lady on the Board who would enter into the details and the working of the establishment. The Vestry would save a large sum of money, and the change would be of benefit to the poor people in the workhouse.

After the motion for the appointment of Mr. PEET had been put and carried, Mr. CROPPER formally moved that on the occasion of the next vacancy the Vestry should appoint a lady to be a member of their body. Mr. CROSFIELD seconded the motion. He had for many years felt

that there were matters in connection with the workhouse which would be better done by a lady. At the same time he did not think a lady would face a contested election.

Mr. WOODCOCK said it would be most unwise and undesirable to introduce a lady to a position on that Board. His idea was that she should remain the "ministering angel" at home. Mr. W. RATHBONE supported the motion. He thought lady members would be much more firm in dealing with matters of public business than they were. He, however, asked for the appointment of two ladies to the Vestry, one as companion to the other. Mr. BOOTE opposed the motion, which, on being put to the vote, was lost by fifteen votes to six.

ALTHOUGH the abstract motion was lost, we presume that there would be nothing to prevent the election of a lady at the next vacancy should a suitable candidate be forthcoming. We trust that the matter will not be lost sight of, and that the members of the Vestry who are desirous of seeing women in the office will endeavour to find one or more ladies competent for the position and willing to be nominated for election either at the next vacancy or at Eastertide, when the annual election by the ratepayers takes place. We do not believe that any lady capable and willing to serve on the Vestry would be deterred by the prospect of a contested election. Ladies do not find the ordeal of a School Board election beyond their powers of endurance, and elections of vestrymen are usually attended with much less publicity and excitement than contested elections for a School Board.

A REMARKABLE strike is reported from Bolton. The operative cotton spinners at the Lostock Mill in that town struck work because the employers introduced into one of the rooms three women spinners. The matter was laid before the local spinners' association, and it was decided to uphold the men.

The excuse alleged by the men for objecting to the women spinners—spinsters would perhaps be the correct designation—is similar to that brought forward against the employment of women on pit banks, namely, a question of attire. It will be readily imagined that ordinary women's dress is unsuitable for use among machinery in motion, as it is liable to become entangled in the gear. But the employers altogether dissent from the views of the men that the attire of the women in the spinning room is objectionable on the score of decency. They say the women they employ are clad exactly the

same as those who now work in the wheelgate with the men spinners. They have employed one woman spinner for fourteen or fifteen years, and they contend that owing to the very fine counts they spin and the slowness at which the mules have to be run women are fully competent to do the work, and in some respects more so than men.

The real reason for the objections of the men is probably to be found in the difference of wages between men's and women's work. The average wages of spinners throughout the district may be taken at thirty-five shillings per week, but the women spinners receive fourteen and sixteen shillings a week.

"Go spin, you jade, go spin," was said to have been the rejoinder of King James I. to a lady who ventured to approach him with some petition for the recognition of what she held to be her right. In those days spinning was a purely domestic industry, and as every thread woven by every man, woman, and child throughout the land was spun by the busy fingers of women, the production of a supply equal to the demand required something like forced labour on the part of the female portion of the community. But with the transference of this great domestic industry from the house to the factory, a corresponding transference of the occupation of spinning from women to men has taken place. We therefore now find as strong an opposition to the demand of a woman of modern days to be allowed to spin as there was to that of the woman of old to be allowed to do anything else.

AFTER the controversies as to the value of University education for women, it is a refreshment to meet with words so far above impatient questioning and hasty experiments as those of Prof. HOLDEN in his inaugural address to the students of the California University. In this address we find the functions of a University described as "to perpetually prove to its students that general principles—laws—govern man, society, nature, life, and to make unending war on the reign of temporary expedients." Applying this principle, Prof. HOLDEN asks, "How then are we, the faculties of this University, to send forth from our midst men and women who are genuine, true, high, noble, sincere, simple? Men and women whose natures are such, and whose training has developed, harmonized, and rounded out their natures? We must be constantly on the watch to put the genuine issues of life before ourselves and before our pupils." Again he says, "We grant the degree of A.B. to

successful candidates. But A.B. does not really stand for what we have tried to teach. What we wish to teach our students and ourselves is to be complete human beings. Nothing less than this. There can be nothing more. We wish them to be H.Bs. first—human beings—and A.Bs. afterwards. Let anyone of us try and see what is meant by a deserved title such as this. What is a human being complete in every way? Is there a manly virtue, is there a feminine grace, is there a divine aspiration which we can conceive to be lacking to such a personality?"

The question whether it "pays" to give their daughters the benefit of University training is hardly the question which will perplex parents who test the value of such training by the principle enunciated by Prof. HOLDEN.

H. B.

IT is well known to all who have studied the subject that the United States of America are far behind the United Kingdom as regards the electoral rights of women. Such rights as women possessed under the common law in England while the States were British colonies, have been extinguished since the Declaration of Independence. From time to time efforts have been made to restore these rights, but with such ill success that we believe there is not a State in the Union in which women possess the municipal suffrage.

The latest effort in this direction has just been made in Vermont. A Bill to extend the municipal suffrage to women passed the House of Representatives, but has been rejected by the Senate. It is very difficult to conjecture on what conceivable ground the women citizens of Vermont are denied a right which has not only been recognised from time immemorial by English law, but which has recently been secured to women in several provinces of the neighbouring Dominion of Canada.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. ANNUAL MEETING.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the supporters of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on November 3rd, in the Mayor's Parlour, at the Town Hall, Manchester. The MAYOR of MANCHESTER (Mr. Ald. P. Goldschmidt) presided at the opening of the meeting, and subsequently, the Mayor being obliged to leave, Mr. W. WOODALL, M.P., took the chair. Among those present were Mr. J. Addison, Q.C., M.P., Professor Adamson, the Rev. Dr. Thomson, Dr. McCall, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Becker, Mrs. Joseph Cross, Miss Atkinson, Mr. Joseph Atkinson, Mrs. James Eccles, Miss C. Fothergill, Mrs. Sherbrooke (Southport), Mrs. Handley (Blackpool), Miss Hibbert (Hyde), Dr. Anna Dahms, and Miss Backhouse. Miss Becker

announced that letters of apology for non-attendance had been received from Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P., Mr. Jennings, M.P., Mr. Wm. Summers, M.P., Mr. R. Peacock, M.P., Mr. W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., Mr. W. M'Laren, M.P., and Mrs. Eva M'Laren, Mr. J. W. Maclure, M.P., Captain Cotton, M.P., Alderman and Mrs. Heywood, Mr. V. K. Armitage, Mr. Alderman Bennett, Lady Florence Dixie, Mr. W. T. Windsor, Mr. N. C. Schou, Mr. J. Phythian, Mr. J. Roberts, and others.

Miss Becker read the annual report.

Professor Adamson, on behalf of the treasurer, submitted the statement of accounts, from which it appeared that the income of the society, including a payment of £327. 15s. 4d. by the late treasurer to meet liabilities up to October of last year, was £1,345. 12s. 4d., and the expenditure £1,335. 6s. 2d., leaving a balance in hand of £10. 6s. 2d. The liabilities were stated as £205. 15s. 8d.

The MAYOR said that in the abstract and on strict logical grounds he could not see how the right of woman to exercise the Parliamentary franchise could be disputed. (Hear, hear.) Representation and taxation ought to go together, and until women were relieved of the latter they had an equal claim with men to the franchise. (Hear, hear.) We had a woman occupying the highest position in the land, and women took part in municipal and school board elections. How, then, could they consistently be disqualified for taking part in Parliamentary elections? He must confess that there were some aspects of political life which would make him reluctant to see the females of his own family take an active part in politics. There was unfortunately an element of strife and bitterness in political contests from which he would prefer to keep them free. This, like every other question, required thorough discussion and ventilation. There was no doubt that enormous progress had been made in the movement of late years, and the granting of women's suffrage was now no longer regarded as a wild and impossible dream. That this progress was due to the Manchester National Society, under the excellent guidance of Miss Becker, could not be doubted, and, as a Manchester man, he was proud to remember that this city was the cradle of the movement, as it had been of many other great political movements. He heartily congratulated them on what they had already achieved, and earnestly hoped that their efforts to bring about the solution of this question might redound to the advantage of the whole country. (Applause.)

Mr. WOODALL, M.P., then took the chair, and moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, and that they be printed for circulation under the direction of the Executive Committee. He said that on all hands the reasonableness of the claim in the abstract was admitted. With regard to the Mayor's remark as to the female members of his own family, he would point out that the interposition of woman might ameliorate and perhaps banish many of the evils that existed in connection with politics, as it had done in connection with other matters. Already great improvements had been effected in the conduct of elections, and the ballot had secured order and tranquillity. The women householders of Manchester had been able to exercise their municipal franchise that week with perfect decorum. There was no logical defence for the exemption of women from the Parliamentary franchise, and the onus now lay upon their opponents of showing why that exemption should continue. Under the present condition of things it was all but impossible for a private member to pass any measure through Parliament, however strong might be the feeling of the majority of the House of Commons, without the friendly assistance of the Government. The present leader of the House had on previous occasions voted against the Women's Suffrage Bill, but in recent utterances he had guarded himself very carefully against being supposed to be stubbornly and immovably fixed in his particular opinions, and he (Mr. Woodall), who had very carefully watched his career, did not despair of seeing him support the Bill when next it came before the House of Commons. (Laughter.) The Bill would be re-introduced in the same form as that in which it was read a second time in the last Parliament, and would be backed by the same members with one exception. Some objections had been urged against the form in which the Bill had been drafted, but he might say that the drafting had been a matter of very serious and anxious consideration, and he was certain that the chance of obtaining legislative success was best served by the particular form in which it had been put, and that it would be

highly impolitic to deviate from it in the least particular. (Hear, hear.) He believed the chances of the Bill were extremely good if only an opportunity of making progress with it was presented. He believed, too, that it would receive some support from the Conservative party through their leaders, for there had been evidence of a marked change in the feeling of the members of that party. (Hear, hear.) The report closed with an appeal for additional funds, and he could not but feel that that appeal might be pressed with great force at the present moment, because surely they were approaching the close of what had been a long, arduous, and very earnest struggle for a great political act of justice. (Hear, hear.) We were about to celebrate the jubilee of the Queen's reign, and he thought one of the most graceful forms in which the nation could acknowledge the service Her Majesty had rendered the country, and the fact that we were indebted to a woman for a most sagacious and constitutional rule, which had carried us through many intricacies and great difficulties, would be by admitting to the simple rights of citizenship the sisters of one who had been so wise a ruler. (Applause.)

Mrs. FAWCETT seconded the motion. She said the friends of the movement had many reasons for congratulating themselves. They held a strong position, numerically, having in their favour a majority of the members of all the parties, with one exception, of which the House of Commons was composed, and they had an excellent leader in Mr. Woodall. (Hear.) The opponents of women's suffrage had been defeated both as regards fact and argument. It was almost universally admitted that logically the claim of women to representation was undeniable. The argument therefore was on their side; but it had been said "an ounce of fact is worth a pound of argument," but she contended that the facts also were on the side of the enfranchisement of women. There had now been a considerable amount of experience of the results of extending the suffrage to women. At one time people were always talking about the dreadful state of things that would arise if women concerned themselves with anything beyond their homes. In England women had received the municipal franchise, and they took part in school board affairs and in Parliamentary elections in the Isle of Man, and yet children were not neglected, wives and mothers did not leave off cooking dinners or attending to domestic duties, which it was one of the chief pleasures of most women to fulfil. Experience had shown that the fears that were formerly expressed in this respect were entirely chimerical. There was a strange want of confidence in the laws of nature on the part of those who thought, for instance, that mothers only loved their children when they had nothing else to think about. The love of a mother for her children, and the desire of all good women to do their duty in their everyday life, rested on a basis which could not be shaken by any act of Parliament. Women did not love their children because they did not possess the franchise: their love rested on something much deeper and more eternal than that; and all the fears that had been expressed in these and similar respects had been falsified by experience so far as it had at present gone. Nevertheless, with all these reasons for encouragement there was still a certain amount of opposition to the movement, and this seemed to proceed not so much from moderate men and women as from the extremists on all sides—people who had taken up some particular fancy to which they made all other causes subservient. There were Liberals who cared for no liberal principle so much as to obtain a majority for the Liberal party. These were afraid to extend the suffrage to women because they were not quite sure that all women, or the majority of women, were Liberals. They put their principles in their pockets, and said, "We won't enfranchise anybody unless we can be quite sure that the majority of them think as we do." To these half-hearted Liberals, too afraid of their own principles to put them into practice as regards women, she would commend an epitaph she had once seen in a country church near Windsor. After reciting the name and age of the deceased, the epitaph concluded with the words, "She was a woman who dared to be just in the reign of George II." If their Liberal friends would "dare to be just," even to women, in the reign of Queen Victoria, she thought Liberalism would be strengthened by the evidence it would give that Liberals believed in their own principles. In the same way extreme Tories were not quite sure that they could support an extension of the suffrage to women because they were not absolutely certain that the majority of women householders would be Tories. They had a misgiving that there were a

good many Liberal women, especially in the North of England. Then again there were some members of the Peace Society who opposed women's suffrage because they were sure some women were jingoos; and the jingoos opposed women's suffrage because they were quite sure that every woman would be a peace-at-any-price man. Again, there were advocates of temperance who opposed women's suffrage because the natural hospitality of women led them to press wine and other alcoholic drinks upon their guests. While brewers and publicans were opposed to it because they believed every woman to be at heart a follower of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. Secularists opposed women's suffrage because they asserted that women were in the power of the priests; and the priesthood opposed it because they were afraid that political might lead to spiritual independence. So in many ways there were a number of cross currents thwarting the progress of the movement, mainly proceeding from those who had some particular view of their own which they wished to promote, and who feared they could not count on the unanimous support of the women it was desired to enfranchise. The last thing that seemed to occur to any of the different sections she had named was that justice ought to be done whichever way the newly enfranchised would vote. (Hear, hear.) She believed, notwithstanding the number of cross currents working against them, that the great mass of sober, moderate-minded people were in favour of the extension, and that in course of time the movement would succeed. (Hear, hear.) There was one great counterbalancing advantage to set against the number of thwarting influences to which she had alluded. She referred to what might be called the solidarity of the women's movement. A very great social change was taking place with regard to the position of women. Numbers of men and women were working in various ways to elevate the social status of women. There were many branches of this work: some worked to procure the means of improved education for women; some to improve the laws relating to their property, and their relation to their children, and their industrial position; some to bring about a higher moral standard; and some to obtain for women a recognition of their claim to citizenship in their native country. Now whoever worked for any one of these causes in reality was working for them all, and in particular the political movement benefited all the others and was benefited by them in turn; because with every improvement in the education of women and in their legal status, their exclusion from the right of voting for representatives in Parliament became a more and more glaring anomaly. There had been lately some foolish talk about the supremacy of women. It was said that what women wanted was not a share in the management of their own affairs, but power to rule over men. These charges were mere assertions that bore no relation at all to facts. If Mr. Woodall's Bill were passed about twelve per cent of women would be added, on an average, to the existing constituencies. The Bill would enfranchise 800,000 women, and to say that this was giving the supremacy to women, in a country where there were nearly six million electors, was to twist language from its natural meaning to an extent which could not be justified. Women did not want supremacy; they only asked for equality with men in some respects, and for power to have a hand in the management of their own affairs. (Applause.) There was a Hungarian saying that she thought might be very usefully brought to mind in this connection. "Woman," it says, "was not taken from man's heel, for he was not to trample on her; nor from his head, for she was not to rule over him; but from his side, that she might be near to him and necessary to him, his friend and companion in every action of his life."

Mr. ADDISON, Q.C., M.P., moved: "That this meeting hereby express their cordial satisfaction that Mr. Woodall has consented again to take charge of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill, and assure him of their hearty support in such action as he may find it desirable to take with a view to bringing the question before Parliament at the earliest practicable date next session." He said he thought there was some fitness in entrusting that motion to him as member for Ashton, because his distinguished predecessor was a very warm and earnest supporter of the Women's Suffrage Bill; and, further, it was approved of by both political parties in Ashton. (Applause.) The Bill had almost passed out of the region of argument, and what its supporters had now to look for was an able tactician who could steer it through the shoals and troubles of Parliamentary life. He was, therefore, very pleased when he heard that Mr. Woodall had consented to take charge of

the Bill again, for he was as well acquainted as Mr. Courtney with all the forms of procedure of the House of Commons, he had held a very high office in the last Administration with great distinction to himself, and he was respected and liked by all parties in the House. (Applause.) Whatever theory of representation was taken, women were entitled to possess the franchise, and now that it had been reduced to almost as low a level as possible, this was the time when the Legislature ought to try to improve it, and he knew of no better way of improving it than by introducing to it women who formed the most intelligent part of the community. It had been said that if women were given the franchise they would take no interest in politics. An answer to that was found in the fact that sixty per cent of the women on the register voted in municipal elections as against seventy per cent of the men. He thought the introduction of politics to the home would lead to political questions being discussed, and would result in the better education, politically, of the male voters. He could imagine no greater compliment that could be paid to the political sagacity which the Queen had shown for the last fifty years than the granting to her female subjects of the right to take part in the government of the country by the exercise of the franchise. (Hear, hear.)

Professor ADAMSON seconded the resolution, and pointed out that although there might be a majority of the members of the House of Commons in favour of the principle of the Bill, considerable pressure would need to be put upon them before the movement could be brought to a successful issue.

The Rev. Dr. THOMSON also spoke in support of the motion.

Miss BECKER said that at the last annual meeting she had said that perhaps the first important division in the new Parliament would concern the question they had at heart, and that she looked with confidence for a favourable verdict. That hope had been justified by the events, for almost the first act of the new Parliament had been to pass the second reading of the Women's Franchise Bill. When John Stuart Mill first brought forward the subject he gave it as his opinion that it would take twenty years to get an Act of Parliament passed giving women the Parliamentary franchise. The first division in the House of Commons on the subject took place in 1867, and she hoped Mill's prophecy would be fulfilled, and that the twentieth year from that date would see success crown the efforts of the supporters of that society.

The resolution was adopted, and Mr. WOODALL briefly replied.

On the motion of Mrs. JAMES ECCLES, seconded by Mr. J. ATKINSON, the following resolution was passed: "That the following persons be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number: J. E. W. Addison, Q.C., M.P., Captain E. T. D. Cotton, M.P., W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., H. H. Howorth, M.P., J. W. Maclure, M.P., W. S. B. M'Laren, M.P., R. Peacock, M.P., W. Summers, M.P., W. Woodall, M.P., Professor Adamson, Miss Maria Atkinson, Miss Barton, Miss Becker, Thos. Chorlton, Mrs. Joseph Cross, Miss S. Isabel Dacre, Thos. Dale, Mrs. James Eccles, Miss Edith Lupton, Mrs. Eva M'Laren, Rev. H. A. Noel, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Phillips, J. Phythian, N. C. Schou, H. Slatter, Miss Eliz. Smith, Rev. Dr. Alex. Thomson, Dr. John Watts.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor for the use of his room was passed, on the motion of Miss ATKINSON, seconded by Miss HIBBERT, and this concluded the business of the meeting.

SOUTHPORT.

Two meetings in support of the extension of the household suffrage to women were held, on November 8th, in Southport. One meeting was held in the afternoon at the Bank Parlour of the Cambridge Hall, and the other took place at the Town Hall in the evening.

The afternoon meeting, which was attended by a large number of ladies, was presided over by the Rev. C. S. HOPE, and the ladies on the platform were Mrs. Dale, Mrs. MacMillen, Mrs. Sherbrooke, Miss Tatham, Miss Feugh, Miss Nicholson, and Miss Balmorie.

In opening the meeting the Rev. C. S. HOPE said, in the course of his address, was it fair that in Queen's Road, where the householders were twenty-one women and sixteen men, that the sixteen should have a vote and the twenty-one have no vote? Mrs. Hesketh, who was now the first lady in the district and the owner of a good slice of Southport, while her butler, coachman, gardeners, and other man-servants had a vote, had no vote at all. That was not logical.

Mrs. MACMILLEN moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle

men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting; and that a petition be signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting."

Mrs. Sherbrooke seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss Baggallie, and carried unanimously. Mrs. Dale moved and Mrs. Crawford-Logan seconded a vote of thanks to the lady speakers, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE EVENING MEETING.

The evening meeting was held in the Town Hall. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. J. Unwin) presided, and there were also present Alderman R. Nicholson, Rev. Dr. Porter, Rev. J. Williams, Mr. J. J. Cockshott, Dr. Pilkington, Mr. W. Warburton, Miss Florence Baggallie, Mrs. Dale, Mrs. MacMillan, Dr. Kate Mitchell, Mrs. Sherbrooke, Mrs. Crawford-Logan, Mrs. Unwin, Miss Tatham, Miss Feugh, Miss Nicholson, Mrs. Haamer, and the Rev. J. G. Candelet, and many others.

The Mayor announced that he had received telegrams, stating their inability to be present, from the Hon. G. N. Curzon, M.P., Mr. W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., and Mr. Summers, Q.C.

The following letters were read:—

Liverpool, 6th November.

Dear Madam,—I thank you for writing me so fully about the proposed meeting in favour of woman suffrage. I am with you so far as spinsters and widows go, but I do not think married women should have a vote. They have in their husbands a proper representative at the polls. I am sorry I cannot attend on Monday, as I am leaving town for Windermere.—I am, very faithfully yours,

WILLIAM B. FORWOOD.

Burslem, Stoke-upon-Trent, November 1st, 1886.

Dear Madam,—I am very sensible of your kindness and of the honour you do me in asking me to visit Southport. I am, however, extremely busy, and have an important engagement here for the 10th. You are doing real service in addressing yourselves, as I understand to be the case, to the 1,559 woman householders of Southport. We are so often told that those we propose to enfranchise do not care for, or are even hostile to the proposal, that every evidence of what we ourselves know to be the contrary, is materially helpful in the Parliamentary contest.—Believe me to be, dear madam, yours faithfully,

WM. WOODALL.

Letters were also read from the Rev. Canon Clarke, the Rev. Thomas Buxton, the Rev. James Mellis, Mr. Charles Hopwood, Q.C., the Rev. J. J. Fitch, Mr. Henry Litton, the Rev. T. Cooper (Banks), the Rev. Robert Stephenson, the Rev. John Chater, the Rev. W. Millington, the Rev. Edward Hobson, the Rev. C. Hesketh Knowlys, and Dr. Barron.

The Mayor, in his opening address, said he was glad to see so large a meeting interested in this important question of women's suffrage, for of all places in this country Southport had a most direct interest in this question, for he knew of no town where there was so large a proportion of women householders—of independent means or engaged in business on their own account—who had the privilege of being taxed for the government of our country, without the duty and the right of saying how they wished to be represented, for he held that there should be no taxation without representation, and he thought it was only an illustration of might against right that the latter had been withheld so long. He thought the present time was most opportune for agitating and rousing public opinion on this question, and with a majority of the present House of Commons in its favour—341 out of 670 members—with a leader in that House who was not bound down by the traditions of this country, or even by events of the recent past, but who was ready and willing usually to adopt what might seem to him to be for the present public good, and with such an able advocate and pilot of the Bill as the hon. member for Stoke—Mr. Woodall—backed by the 341 other members, this measure, the agitation for which had not yet attained its majority, would, he ventured to think, pass both Houses of Parliament next year; and this granting of the franchise to women would be a graceful compliment to Her Majesty, who had ruled so wisely and beneficially for now nearly fifty years over the destinies of this great country. (Applause.)

The Rev. Dr. PORTER moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be

extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting, and that a petition be signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. COCKSHOTT. Mr. Warburton asked to be allowed to support it, but the Chairman ruled that the order of speakers must be adhered to. Dr. KATE MITCHELL supported the resolution, which was carried.

Dr. PILKINGTON said he had great pleasure in proposing the following resolution: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and be sent to the Hon. George Curzon, M.P., for presentation in the House of Commons." He was present to testify to his adherence to the movement. His experience in the House of Commons showed him that it was a foregone conclusion that before long ladies would be admitted to the suffrage. He had taken a small part in connection with the measure when it was last brought forward, and he was one of those who aided in preventing it from being relegated to the dim vista of the future, which would have taken place in the event of the adjournment being carried. The future of the Bill was absolutely assured.

Miss BALGARNIE seconded the resolution.

The Rev. J. G. CANDELET supported, and the proposition, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks to Miss Baggallie, Dr. Kate Mitchell, Mrs. Sherbrooke, and the Mayor concluded the proceedings.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE.

A public meeting was held on Thursday in the Town Hall, Wotton-under-Edge, in support of the extension of the franchise to women householders and ratepayers. Dr. C. M. Harris, who presided, read the following letter from Mr. Holloway, M.P. for the Stroud division of Gloucester:—

"Farm Hill, Nov. 11, 1886.

"My Dear Sir,—I approve of widows and spinsters who are in the position of owners or occupiers of property having the franchise, but I could not support a bill to give married women votes as well as their husbands.—I am, yours truly, GEO. HOLLOWAY. To Clement M. Harris, Esq."

The Rev. J. Temperley Grey, Miss Mary Priestman, and Miss Blackburn attended as a deputation from the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage, and after their addresses a resolution adopting petitions to both Houses of Parliament was carried with few dissentients.

CAMBRIDGE.

On November 17th, the annual general meeting of the Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage was held in the Aldermen's Parlour of the Guildhall, Cambridge. Prof. E. C. Clark was voted to the chair, and there were also present Mrs. Bateson (hon. sec.), Mrs. Peile, Miss Rhodes, Mrs. Wiffen, Mrs. Cayley, and Messrs. B. E. Hammond, P. T. Main, and J. Rae (hon. treasurer). The customary business was transacted.

LECTURES.

LONGSIGHT.

A lecture on the claim of women to the Parliamentary franchise was delivered by Miss Lydia E. Becker, on November 2nd, at the St. Clement's Ward Liberal Club, Gorton Parliamentary division, Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester. The Rev. H. A. Noel was in the chair, and there was a good attendance, which included a number of ladies. The Chairman said that he considered the cause a good one, and one which would add to the electoral strength and importance of the country. (Hear, hear.) Miss Becker, who was very warmly received, then delivered her lecture, at the conclusion of which resolutions in favour of the principle and adopting a petition were carried. The proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

OSWESTRY.

In connection with the Christ Church Young Men's Literary Association, a lecture on women's suffrage was given in the Assembly Room, Arthur-street, Oswestry, on November 10th, by Miss Baggallie, of London. The Rev. J. J. Poynter presided, and

there was a good attendance. The Chairman in his opening address said the association of which he had the honour to be chairman, had accepted the principle of women's suffrage. Mr. Philip Minshull moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle man to vote, and who in all matters of local government have a right to vote, and that a petition to the House of Commons based upon this resolution be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and sent to Mr. Stanley Leighton, member for the Oswestry Division of Shropshire, for presentation in the House of Commons." The resolution was seconded by Mr. W. W. Coulson, supported by Miss Baggallie, and carried unanimously. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Miss Baggallie for her address.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETING.

By the kind invitation of Mrs. R. S. Wyld, a drawing-room meeting was held at Weston Colton, Oswestry, on Wednesday, November 10th. Mrs. Wyld presided and introduced Miss Baggallie, whose address was listened to with great attention. At its close questions were asked and a discussion ensued. A petition was finally adopted by the ladies present in favour of the enfranchisement of women. Mrs. Wyld was requested to send it to the member, Mr. Stanley Leighton, for presentation in the House of Commons.

CROYDON.

On November 15th, a meeting was held in the lecture room of the Croydon Conservative Club, to hear an address by Miss Baggallie. Mrs. Peard, Dame Pres. of the Grantham Habitation of the Primrose League, occupied the chair, and in a few appropriate remarks introduced Miss Baggallie, who gave an address in advocacy of the movement which she said was now enlisting the support of Conservatives to a very great extent. At the conclusion of the address a resolution to present a petition to Parliament, signed by the women householders of Croydon, was carried unanimously. A committee was formed with the object of obtaining signatures to the petition, the work being readily undertaken by the Wardens of the Grantham Habitation. A cordial vote of thanks to Miss Baggallie for her lecture, and to Mrs. Peard, concluded the meeting.

STRATFORD.

On November 6th, Mrs. Ashton Dilke delivered an address on women and politics, at the rooms of the Radical Alliance, Stratford. There was a crowded attendance. After the lecture, the usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

RICHMOND.

On October 25th, Mrs. Fawcett gave a lecture at the Richmond Athenæum, on the influence on character of political conditions, with especial reference to women's suffrage. Mrs. Fawcett, who was conducted to the platform by the chairman (Mr. Edward King), was accompanied by Miss Fawcett, the Hon. Rollo Russell, and Lady Agatha Russell. At the conclusion of the address a discussion took place, in which the chairman, Dr. Cook, Mr. J. Corkram, Mr. W. J. C. Miller, and Mr. Thos. Cave, J.P., took part. A hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Fawcett concluded the proceedings.

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

DARWEN DIVISION LIBERAL LEAGUE.

LECTURE BY MRS. FAWCETT.

An address was given at the Theatre Royal, Darwen, on November 1st, under the auspices of the Darwen Division Liberal League, on the subject of "The influence on character of political conditions." There was a large and representative audience, both sexes being well represented. Mrs. J. G. Potter took the chair, and there were also present on the platform the Mayor (Mr. T. Lightbown), Councillor Grime (mayor-elect), the Revs. R. Nichols, W. C. Russell, and H. Irving; Mr. James Dummock, J.P., Alderman Snape, Alderman Edwards, Messrs. J. Clarke, C. Greenwood, W. H. Clare, W. H. Place, R. Yates, H. Simpson, G. D. Walmsley, J. C. Ashton, N. Smith (Great Harwood), and F. G. Hindle. Amongst the ladies present were Mrs. C. Shorrocks (secretary), Miss Potter, Mrs. Snape, Mrs. and Miss Dummock, Mrs. J. Eccles, Miss Biggs, Miss

Holden, Mrs. Armitage, Mrs. and Miss Ashton, Mrs. W. H. Place, Mrs. Ralph Yates, Mrs. G. D. Walmsley, Mrs. Russell. Mrs. Fawcett, who was warmly received, delivered her address, which bore special reference to women's suffrage, and was enthusiastically applauded. At the conclusion a vote of thanks was moved by the Rev. R. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Dummock, supported by Alderman Snape, and carried by acclamation. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Potter for presiding was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Mrs. Hindle, and carried amid prolonged cheering, after which the assemblage dispersed.

SOUTHPORT.

The inaugural meeting of the Southport Women's Liberal Association took place on November 8th, in Victoria Hall, London-street, Southport. The attendance was exceedingly large, between 300 and 400 ladies being present. The association was formed a little over twelve months ago. One of the conditions of membership is adherence to the principle of women's suffrage. At the meeting Mrs. PILKINGTON (the newly-elected president of the association) presided, and was supported among others by Miss Ryley, Mrs. Wellbeloved, Mrs. Ryley, Miss H. Cheetham, Miss Young, and Miss Wubbe, and Dr. Pilkington, J.P.

In the course of the proceedings, Miss H. CHEETHAM said as Englishwomen we have a share in the greatest destiny that ever fell to a nation, and as the mothers and educators of the English race to be, it is our duty to study and inculcate those principles which, in the region of practical politics, make for true liberty and "the righteousness that exalteth a nation." (Applause.) But why organise? Why not let our influence as intelligent women be quietly felt? Because, though women's quiet influence is a very good thing, their influence with power behind it is still better. In union is strength, but in organisation is effective force. Women with a just cause in one hand and a vote in the other will obtain a respectful hearing where all persuasive arts would meet with no response. Their opinions would then be a serious factor with which all legislators would have to reckon, and create an "effectual demand" no statesman would dare ignore. (Applause.)

Dr. PILKINGTON, who was member for Southport division in the Parliament of 1885, said: In looking over the rules of the association I notice that an adherence to the principles of the extension of the franchise to women householders is made a *sine qua non* with regard to membership. Well, as you all know, I am in favour of women's suffrage, and when I was in Parliament I took some little part in bringing the question to the most favourable and hopeful position it has yet occupied. (Applause.) I am rather astonished it is made a *sine qua non* for admission to the association, and why? Because I don't believe there are many ladies nowadays but will own that it is to their advantage, and desirable from every point of view, that they should have a vote. But there are some who still cling to the principles so admirably cut to pieces by Miss Cheetham, and who I should like to see admitted to the association, because I am convinced that when once in they would soon be converted. If you say, "No, you cannot be admitted till you think as we do," they might be tempted to reply, "We still think that the franchise should not be extended to women, and we will, therefore, stop out."

LIBERAL MEETING AT HUDDERSFIELD.

On November 20th, at the annual meeting in connection with the Lindley Liberal Club, Mr. Woodall, M.P., referred to the women's suffrage question, and remarked that if in a large number of the municipalities the women had given their support to the Conservatives it must be remembered that the Conservatives gave a good deal of attention to securing that they should have votes, while the Liberal party had neglected the question.

SIR J. KITSON ON THE POLITICAL WORK OF LADIES.

In his address as president of the National Liberal Federation, held last month at Leeds, Sir J. Kitson said: There were other signs of encouragement which he might mention. One was the activity of many ladies. (Cheers.) Women's Liberal Associations were being actively founded. He heard that already there were twenty-three such associations, and in view of the decorated orders of ladies established by the other side, he thought it was their duty as Liberals to encourage the formation of Women's Liberal Associations. (Hear, hear.)

IRELAND.

PUBLIC MEETING IN DUBLIN.

A meeting was held on November 1st, in the Oak Room of the Mansion House, Dublin, in furtherance of the movement for the extension of the franchise to women ratepayers. There was a very large attendance, consisting principally of ladies. Mr. HENRY WIGHAM, J.P., presided, and amongst those present were the Lady Mayoress, Sir Chas. Cameron, M.D., Mrs. Ormiston Chant, W. A. MacDonald, M.P., Mrs. Sharman Crawford, Sir John Barrington, D.L., Mr. Alfred Webb, Miss Shackleton, Abraham Shackleton, J.P., Mrs. Murphy, Mr. S. N. Elrington, Mr. J. J. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, Professor Mir Aulid Ali, Mr. L. Carty, Miss M'Dowell, Rev. T. A. M'Kee, D.D., Mr. John A. Davis, Mr. E. T. Cummings, Mr. J. F. Mannix, Mr. J. Dennehy, Miss Johnson, Miss L. La Touche, Mrs. MacDonald, Miss Oldham, Miss Edmundson, Mr. Thomas H. Guinness, J.P., &c. Mrs. Haslam mentioned that a letter of apology for non-attendance had been received from Mr. David Sherlock, in the course of which he said they had reduced the question to this, that the only argument the avowed opponents of the movement had left was to say, "We have not time to grant you your just rights."

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his remarks, referred to the encouraging results of the last general election.

Mr. W. A. MACDONALD, M.P. for the Ossory division of the Queen's County, proposed: "That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of members of Parliament is unjust to those excluded, and injurious to the welfare of the entire community; and that the extension of the franchise to such women is necessary to complete the equitable representation of all classes of the people." He was an old friend of the movement, having been connected with it when it was in a much less hopeful condition than it was at present. He denied altogether the allegation that women are indifferent to politics. He congratulated Mrs. Haslam and those other friends of the cause in Dublin who had been working so zealously and, he would say, so successfully for the promotion of an object which they had all so much at heart. (Applause.)

Sir CHARLES CAMERON, in seconding the resolution, said it was a rooted conviction that women labour under many serious disabilities and much injustice that induced him to accept the invitation that had been sent to him to take part in this meeting. Women had been admitted to the medical profession. (Hear.) It was his good fortune to be able to carry a measure, after some opposition, throwing open not only the examinations of the College of Surgeons, of which he happened to be president at the time, but every office up to the presidential chair, to women. (Applause.) And he must say that the statement he then made in vindication of his action had been fully verified; for although there had been only one candidate up to the present, she had been a most distinguished one, and her answering was far above the standard of the male candidates who presented themselves. (Hear.) He believed the experience of the other medical corporations that admitted women had been similar. (Hear.) There were nearly a million more women than men in the United Kingdom, and this was an all-important fact in the discussion of this question as to the rights of women. A large number of women must remain unmarried, and, therefore, have to provide for themselves, and was it anything but the merest justice to place these women on fair terms with the members of the other sex whom they would meet in the world as competitors? (Hear, hear.) It was an acknowledged fact that the longevity of man was increased by marriage—he was improved morally and physically by the good advice, care, and attention his wife bestowed on him. If women could exercise such a wholesome, beneficial influence in the domestic affairs of life, was it not natural to conclude that her influence would be equally productive of good in the councils of the nation. (Applause.) He was an advocate of the all round emancipation of women—they did not want protection. All they wanted and all they asked for was a fair field and no favour. (Applause.)

Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT, who was received with hearty applause, spoke to the resolution. She contended that women had as much right to the franchise as men, and said that in the name of their common humanity what was good for one was good for another. Women desired to cast aside their shackles, and they demanded freedom. They took an interest in questions of education, and in various movements for the benefit of mankind, and to show the

interest that they took in political questions, she pointed to the Primrose League and to the Liberal Association.

The resolution was adopted amid applause.

Mr. A. SHACKLETON moved the following resolution: "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based upon the resolution just adopted, be signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and be duly forwarded to both Houses for presentation."

Professor MIR AULAD ALI in seconding the resolution said the cause had been already won, and he pointed to the progress which the question had made during recent years.

The resolution was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. ALFRED WEBB, seconded by the Rev. Dr. M'Kee, a vote of thanks was passed to the Lord Mayor for granting the use of the Oak Room for the meeting, and the Chairman asked the Lady Mayoress to convey to his lordship the unanimous feeling of the meeting.

On the motion of Mr. THOMAS GUINNESS, J.P., a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman for presiding, and to Mrs. Chant for her address.

The proceedings then terminated.

PRESENTATION TO MISS TOD.

On November 12th, a large number of the friends of Miss Tod assembled at her residence, Prospect Terrace, University Road, Belfast, to present her with a portrait of herself as a token of their admiration for her and of appreciation of her work in connection with the women's suffrage and other movements. Mr. R. W. Murray, J.P., presided. The portrait, which was painted by Miss Rothwell, was formally presented by the Rev. Mr. Kingham. Miss Tod replied in a short speech, thanking all the friends who had joined in getting up the presentation. A vote of thanks to Miss Rothwell for the admirable way in which she had painted the portrait, and another to Mr. Murray for presiding, terminated the proceedings.

COLONIAL PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, ADELAIDE, *September 22nd.*
CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL
(FOR EXTENDING THE FRANCHISE TO WOMEN).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

Mr. CALDWELL complimented Dr. Stirling on his able and logical speech, and said the only member who had opposed the Bill was Mr. Scherk, and there was very little in the objections brought forward by that hon. member. It was urged by the hon. member that the women themselves did not ask for the privilege. The slaves of America did not petition for freedom, but the wrongs and injustice done them petitioned for them, and so the injustice done to the intelligence of a large section of the human family demanded that the provisions of the Bill should be carried. He regretted that the Bill did not go as far as it ought, but, as the Attorney-General had pointed out, legislation was conservative and advances were made by slow degrees. The time was, however, just about ripe for giving women the privilege men had so long enjoyed. Many of the most intelligent women in England, on the Continent, and in America had been insisting on their rights being recognised in this direction, and in a recent article in one of the reviews the Countess of Galway showed clearly that an injustice had been done to the female portion of the human family, and that the time had come when the female possessed of property should receive the same consideration at the hands of legislation as the male who was entrusted with the rights and privileges of property. The idea entertained hitherto as to women's discernment was half Mohammedan, and should not be tolerated by the Anglo-Saxon race. There had been indubitable proof that the intelligence of women, when fair scope had been given for its development, had been very little inferior to that of man. The ages of subjection women had had to endure had had much to do with the state of mind in which she was born at the present time. Qualities were transmitted, and the patient endurance of the female portion of society had been inherent in them during the subjection which they had been forced to submit to for numbers of ages. The time was coming when that subjection would be relieved. It had been said that the Bill

would have the effect of giving disreputable women who owned property votes, and this would be an injustice to the more respectable class of the community. But if men who helped to make women disreputable, and keep them so, had votes, what injustice was there in permitting the women to enjoy the same privilege? Until men and women were put on the same footing there would not be anything like satisfaction as far as the adjustment of the rights and privileges and the regulation of society was concerned. He had much pleasure in supporting the second reading, and thanked Dr. Stirling for having introduced the Bill in such an intelligent manner.

The TREASURER (Hon. J. C. Bray) moved the adjournment of the debate.

The motion was declared carried.

The Hon. G. C. HAWKER called for a division, which resulted as follows:—

Ayes, 16: The Attorney-General, Commissioner of Public Works, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Minister of Education, Messrs. Basedow, Castine, Catt, Copley, H. E. Downer, Harvey, Krichauff, Moody, Scherk, Smith, Ward, and the Treasurer (teller).

Noes, 19: Messrs. Beaglehole, Bews, Bucknall, Burgoyne, Caldwell, Coles, Duncan, Fox, Glyde, E. W. Hawker, Johnson, Moule, Newland, Rounsevell, Dr. Stirling, Messrs. J. L. Stirling, Symon, and the Hon. G. C. Hawker (teller).

Majority of three for the Noes.

Mr. WARD said he did not wish to treat the matter seriously, because he could not imagine it to be within the range of practical politics. He would not have spoken had it not been that the Attorney-General defied any hon. member to show that there was any difference between giving a vote to a female ratepayer for a corporation or district council and giving a vote for the House. (Mr. Bews: "A very good one.") He thought he would show the hon. member that there was a very wide distinction. In a municipality or district council the vote of the female ratepayers was simply for the election of a person to deal with the local interests in the expenditure of the rates raised in that district alone. (The Attorney-General: "A great deal more than that; to make by-laws.") Yes, but the by-laws had no force of law till they had been confirmed by the House. (Mr. Gilbert: "We are proposing to give district councils larger powers.") Yes, but in that case the members of the shire councils would be elected to do shire councils work, whereas votes given for the House were to control the representation of the people in matters of national importance. (Mr. Gilbert: "It is a question of degree.") The one was merely parochial while the other was national. The cases were not analogous, and the argument of the Attorney-General had no weight at all. Then the Bill was in itself an attempt to give a property vote for the election of members for the House of Assembly, and he thought hon. members were not prepared to support such an invasion of the constitution as that. Twenty years ago an attempt was made to give a property vote in addition to the manhood suffrage vote. The debates were long and able, but only a very small minority of the old conservative House of thirty-six members ventured to vote for the proposal. Was it right to say we should undermine the constitution under which we lived by in any way giving a vote in respect of property for members to serve in the House of Assembly? Property was represented in the Upper House, and if females possessing property were to vote at all it should be for that House. Then, undoubtedly, as the Bill was drawn it enabled ladies who were eligible to vote to be elected as members of the House. (Mr. Rounsevell: "No." Mr. Castine: "It must follow.") Clause 5 gave ladies the same privileges as male voters, and one of those privileges was to be elected and take a seat in the Legislature. He would like to know what would become of hon. members then. (Laughter.) He had so keen an appreciation of the influence of fascinating ladies that although he had maintained his political independence in past years against all the fascinations any male persuaders had brought to bear on him, he was not quite so sure that he should be able to uphold his independence in the same way if he were exposed to the well-known powers of lady members of the House. (Laughter. Mr. H. E. Downer: "The Chairman of Committees would be nowhere.") He thought it was a temptation he ought not to be exposed to. (Laughter.) Other hon. members might well pause to consider whether their political judgments would not sometimes be liable to be warped if they were subjected to influences of that kind. Another argument he had to use against the Bill was that it would

revolutionise the whole basis of society. It would be encouraging women to leave that better life for which they were specially adapted—the higher and more sacred duties that pertained to them than to men—and unfitting them for being as good mothers to their children and wives to their husbands as they otherwise would be. (Dr. E. C. Stirling: "Do all have the opportunity of being wives and mothers?") He did not say that all had, but most women lived in the expectation of having that opportunity. If women were to have votes at all the franchise should not be limited to property, but all should have the right to vote. (Hear, hear.) Much as he appreciated and admired the great ability and high purpose which had animated Dr. Stirling in introducing the Bill, and great as was the skill of his argument when he moved the second reading, he hoped the matter would be regarded simply as one of debate and not of practice, and that the hon. member would not take a division on it at all. As an alteration of the constitution the Bill would have to be carried by an absolute majority of both Houses on the third reading. There was not much chance of that; and even if there were, it would be fairer to first allow the people whom it affected so deeply to have a voice in the matter.

Mr. SYMON said he had always felt strongly disposed to support the Bill. The only thing which had slightly shaken his conviction in that respect was the exceedingly powerful and pathetic appeal made by Mr. Ward as to the possible consequences to himself. (Laughter.) When the Bill was in committee he would—as the hon. member would not be able to protect himself—introduce an amendment that would secure him, so long as he held a seat in the House, from the possible intrusion of those influences he felt himself unable to resist. (Laughter.) He did not agree with the hon. member that the Bill would revolutionise social life; and, contrary to the hon. member, he thought the question was an eminently practical one. It had two sides to it, and those in favour of the views entertained by Dr. Stirling fully recognised the very strong arguments which might be urged first of all against the giving of the suffrage to women at all, and then as to the particular form in which it was proposed to be given by the Bill. He quite agreed with the hon. member that women had higher and more sacred duties in life than recording their votes in municipal or Parliamentary elections; but if the suffrage were conferred on women, he did not believe that they would be in any way induced to disregard those sacred and social duties, and plunge themselves into other and inferior pursuits in connection with politics or municipal affairs. The highest and noblest ambition any woman could have was to be married and be the mother of her children. There was no purer nor better thing in life, no more perfect spectacle than that of a mother in the midst of her family, dispensing those little nameless unnumbered acts of kindness and of love which made the name of woman and mother hallowed amongst everybody in every community. (Hear, hear.) But while we should by every means in our power try to maintain that high and pure standard, he did not agree with the hon. member that the passing of this measure would interfere with the discharge of those higher and holier duties which raised women far above the position in which the sterner duties of men had placed them. He did not agree with Mr. Ward that there was a difference between the municipal and the Parliamentary franchise. It was only a question of degree. True, the functions of persons elected by a municipal vote were not nearly so extensive or powerful as those by persons who were elected by a Parliamentary vote; still the functions were the same in principle. The whole body politic was one, there being a division of labour. One division was undertaken by the authorities of the realm constituted by Her Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament, and another division—which was a very important one too—was attended to by the municipalities throughout the country; and if they drew a distinction between the municipal and Parliamentary vote, they might just as well do so between the district council vote and the municipal vote. There was no difference in principle, only a difference in responsibility. Therefore he thought the challenge thrown out by the Attorney-General was exceedingly just, and was one which Mr. Ward had not satisfactorily answered. He saw no reason why women who had a municipal vote because their property was affected by the rates imposed should not equally have a vote in the election of representatives to Parliament, where their property was equally affected by taxation, and where their liberty and rights were dealt with in various ways. He admitted that the other reason given by the hon. member was more important, and required

greater consideration. That was the argument in relation to giving property a vote for the Lower House; but he did not look at it from the same point of view as the hon. member, and if he did he should not regard it as a reason for voting against the second reading of the Bill. The principle of this measure was the recognition of the right of women to the franchise. (Mr. Ward: "On a property basis.") Not necessarily. He would vote for the Bill because it was an assertion of the principle that women were entitled to vote. As Mr. Ward had pointed out, if it became law in its present shape it would sanction the introduction of women into Parliament. That was not contemplated by Dr. Stirling, nor did he believe his convictions went as far as that. (Mr. Ward: "Clause 5 says so.") That clause came under the Constitution Act, which provided that any person entitled to vote should be entitled to become a candidate, so that without clause 5 the effect would be the same. His views had not gone so far as to admit women to the House; perhaps they might at some future time. At the same time the fact that clause 5 might be taken in conjunction with the Constitution Act would not deter him from voting for the second reading. It would be better to assert the principle, get the Bill into committee, and then discuss it in detail; and although they might not pass the Bill in a form to meet with general approval they would make the question ripe for legislation hereafter. Now as to the property qualification, Mr. Ward had asked what right one section of persons—a section whose claims were unanswerable—had to a vote. Well, if Dr. Stirling had brought down a Bill giving a vote to all women he would have gone with him. He would even give a vote to married women, especially if they owned property. Women's quickness of apprehension was keener than that of most men, and their perception of politics would be more likely to be just than the elaborate theories which the "lords of creation" fudged. But if it was admitted that women should have a vote, why object to those who had property? Why disenfranchise one section? (Mr. Ward: "Preserve the manhood principle.") That was, they were to disenfranchise those who possessed the double qualification. (Mr. Ward: "They are enfranchised in the other House.") But they would not interfere with the manhood suffrage principle because one section had a double qualification. (Mr. Ward: "You neutralise manhood suffrage.") He failed to see it. Take the argument a little further. In England there was the household suffrage, but there were a good many limitations; and there were the lodger franchise and other franchises. (Mr. Ward: "Not the female franchise.") But they are going to get it. (An hon. member: "When?") Soon, and he hoped we should anticipate their triumph by enacting it here first. (Hear, hear.) There were limitations in South Australia, because the man guilty of larceny was disqualified. Surely Mr. Ward did not think property should not be represented in that House. (Mr. Ward: "Not on this basis.") Why should not women whom they protected under the Married Woman's Property Act, who were entitled to buy and sell in the markets, who were entitled to ascend our pulpits and do as they pleased—why on earth should they be subject to taxation through the Customs and on their property without having a voice in the matter? (The Hon. Mr. Playford: "They do not ask for it.") Surely they should not withhold a boon simply because it had not been asked for. The hon. member would not reject a boon if he did not ask for it. (The Hon. Mr. Playford: "I would if I did not want it.") Sometimes the best boons were those which at the moment we did not appreciate. (Mr. Ward: "Would this not be a double-edged weapon?") He did not see any double edge about; but it would be a matter of perfect justice towards a section of the community for whom they expressed the greatest admiration and other tender sentiments, and whose blandishments they were supposed to be unable to resist. (Laughter.) Yet while extending to them this lip service they refused a voice in that which affected them directly. Holding these views he hoped they would affirm the principle, and any little shortcomings in the Bill could be rectified in committee. On the motion of Mr. GILBERT the debate was adjourned until Wednesday, October 13th.

Wednesday, October 13th.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

The TREASURER (Hon. J. C. Bray), while joining with other hon. members in congratulating Dr. Stirling upon the careful and intelligent speech which he had given them, must say that he was unable to arrive at the same conclusions. He thought every hon.

member who had spoken had agreed that if they gave the suffrage to woman it must be granted on the same terms as to men. There was a great deal of force in the objection to the Bill that it raised a property qualification that did not exist with regard to men. He would go further, and say that if they gave women the right to vote they should also have the right to sit as representatives in Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Stirling did not propose anything of the kind, but if the Bill were passed in its present form women would have the right to sit in the House, because clause 14 of the Constitution Act provided that every voter was eligible to be elected as a member. (An hon. member: "Put them on the exemptions.") The exemptions were very small at present, and they would not like to place women in the same category as some of them. (An hon. member: "Ministers of religion?") Well, ministers of religion and the judges were really the only exemptions. There was another objection to the Bill. He could not conceive why single women should have a vote and that married women should not. (Dr. Stirling: "I stated my reasons.") The hon. member stated some reasons that influenced him, but he could not imagine how he could attach the least importance to those reasons. For his part he believed that married women were more capable of taking part in politics than single women. (Mr. Symon: "They have not the time.") Laughter.) The chief reason the hon. member gave was that married women would be so much influenced by their husbands. John Bright for a long time had advocated the woman's suffrage principles, but he had changed his mind, because he recognised that they all had either wives, mothers, or sisters, and that they surely could be trusted to look after their interests. It was urged that as women were liable to the same burdens as men, they ought to have the same privileges. Women did not serve on juries, nor were they sworn in as constables, nor did they serve under the District Councils and Corporations Act. (Mr. Kingston: "Nor in the militia.") He believed it a very proper thing to acknowledge the distinction between the sexes, which can never be removed. Women were very fitted for particular spheres of work, but it would be unseemly to give them the suffrage at the present time. If we gave it, it must be done ungrudgingly, and on the same terms as men. If they had the right to vote, they must also have the right to sit in this House, or in a separate chamber for female representatives. Although a resolution had been passed affirming the principle of women's suffrage, no division was taken, and he believed the House was really opposed to the hon. member's scheme. He believed those who were in favour of the Bill considered it did not go far enough, and he would be no party to giving the vote to single women to the exclusion of those who are married. (Mr. Coglein: "Could you legislate with one on each side of you?—that is the question.") He believed he could, but he did not think the hon. member—who was gifted with all the fine susceptibility of his countrymen—could undertake such a task. The hon. member would do well to withdraw the Bill, which had not been considered by the country, and would make a material change in our constitution.

Mr. SMITH joined in asking the hon. member to withdraw the Bill, which had, as far as he knew, never been asked for by the widows and spinsters it was proposed to enfranchise. All the ladies who had spoken to him on the question had assured him that they hoped the hon. member would withdraw the Bill. He had not met one who had any desire to mix in active politics at all. He asked the hon. member why he should make a property qualification? He knew of one case where a man stunted himself to give his daughters the best education, but did not leave them enough to enable them to vote, while in another case a stableman saved up and left his daughters sufficiently well off to exercise the franchise under this Bill. If women were to have votes they must also be accorded seats in Parliament, and in committee, if the measure passed its second reading, he would move an amendment to that effect—(the Attorney-General: "Do it by degrees;") and Dr. Stirling: "Are you prepared to go the whole length?")—in committee, but he would not support the second reading. Why should not wives have a vote as well as spinsters? (The Attorney-General: "Why not?") He was quite sure that one's wife was far better qualified to vote than one's daughter. Let this be made a test question at the next election, and if he found his constituents wished it he would look on himself as a delegate in the matter.

Mr. BURGOYNE hoped the hon. member would not withdraw the Bill, if only for the reason that they might see the progress made in the opinions of hon. members on this movement, which would find more and more supporters as men's views grew more

and more enlightened. It appeared that on the merits of the question nothing could be said by the opponents of the Bill, who had confined their objections to matters of detail. He did not say whether women should or should not sit in the House; but the Bill neither gave them that right nor necessarily implied its being given, because there were male voters—such as ministers of religion and judges—who cannot be elected to Parliament. An hon. member had said the male electors could be trusted to look after the interests of women, and he had no doubt that if the case was reversed and only women voted they could be trusted to return members of good character, owing to their intuitive sense of what is right and noble. He agreed with the Treasurer and Mr. Smith that the Bill does not go far enough; but he believed the hon. member had done right in getting what he could now in the hope of getting what is due later. Mr. Smith's argument with regard to the qualification would apply equally well to any property qualification for any elected body. He hoped the hon. member would press the Bill to an issue.

Mr. COGLIN was sorry to be compelled to oppose the measure; but he liked to see the ladies looking after their domestic duties at home. No doubt they were capable of filling positions of trust; but if he had one or two of them alongside him he could not legislate. (Laughter.)

Dr. STIRLING, in reply, felt that all had been said pretty well on this subject that could be said so far as regarded the present time, but he would like to say that the tone of the debate had been to him eminently satisfactory. There had been a desire on the part of hon. members to treat the subject as a serious one, and members had been good enough not unduly to obtrude their humorous proclivities. The question was a serious one, and one that was not to be laughed out of court. It seemed to him, as had been suggested by Mr. Burgoyne, that the objections which had been raised had been almost entirely to the limitations and exceptions that appeared in the Bill. Hardly a word of any value had been said against the principle that underlies the motion. He believed a majority of members were in favour, if only the measure could be brought forward in a form that would not alarm some of their susceptibilities, of the principle if they were sure that they could select the right sort of women upon whom to confer the votes as a first instalment of a general measure. It had been in deference to an opinion of this sort that he had endeavoured to limit the measure; and it had been entirely with a view of making a selection of the best class of women on whom to confer the franchise that he had been actuated to make the limitation. It had not been with the desire to give any special predominance to property, but to recognise the special qualifications which it appeared to him lay behind the acquisition and the preservation of a certain amount of property. He thought it would have been fair at all events on the part of those members who had challenged the limitations to have made some sort of suggestion as to how they thought the limitations should be made. No suggestion had been made which in his opinion was as good as that contained in the Bill. Another objection that had been much dwelt upon had been the fact that by this Bill a woman possessing the right to vote would also have a right to be elected a member of this House. There was no doubt according to the wording of the Bill that this was the case, but he asked members whether that was a reason for the rejection of the Bill. It had been quite possible in the case of men to exclude some of them from a seat in the House, although they possessed a right to vote for members, and there was no reason why a clause similar to that in the Constitution Act regarding men should not be inserted in this Bill with regard to women. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Scherk suggested that the property qualification was the greatest objection to the Bill. He confessed that the remarks made by hon. members had made it abundantly clear that that was an objection. His opinion, and he had not refrained from stating it, had been that it would be perfectly safe to go the whole length, and give women the same rights and privileges as were given to men, but he had found himself between the horns of this dilemma—on the one hand if a Bill of that wholesale character were brought forward it would certainly excite the suspicion and antagonism of a great number of members; on the other hand, although he knew the property qualification excited the suspicions of members, he would have thought the proper thing to do was to pass this Bill, which contained the instalment of a wholesale measure, and then to have extended the measure at some future time. Members must surely

remember that precisely the same gradual means of extending the franchise had been adopted in other countries. The extension of the franchise had not yet reached its limit in England, and the extensions that had been made from time to time had been gradual ones. There was obviously some danger in too sudden dislocations of legislative machinery, and members could see that the effect of at once conferring the franchise upon the whole of the female sex would be to double the electorate by the addition of a number of voters, many of whom had not been accustomed to any responsibility at all, and it was reasonable to suppose that such a state of affairs might lead to political difficulties and dangers. That had induced him to introduce this Bill in such a way that it should gradually confer the franchise to women. Mr. Ward had made the surprising statement that he did not consider this question was within the bounds of practical politics. It could not be said that it was not within the bounds of practical politics when it had been before the public for twenty years, and eleven or twelve times discussed in the House of Commons, and twice passed. That seemed to him to bring the question reasonably within the bounds of practical politics, and he and those who would vote with him knew that time was on their side, and it was only a matter of a few years that such a measure would be passed. (Mr. Caldwell: "Hear, hear.") Mr. Smith stated that he had not come into contact with any women who were anxious for this Bill to be passed. He (Dr. Stirling) had come into contact with a great many, and those women who had been anxious for it had been invariably the most intelligent, the most independent, and the most high-spirited of his female acquaintances. (Hear, hear; and Mr. Smith: "Why have the property qualification?") The hon. member was absolutely opposed to the Bill in any shape or form, and that ought therefore to be the ground of his objection, and not the mere question of property qualification. It was a remarkable fact that very nearly every woman who had achieved eminence in literature, science, and art had at one time or another expressed herself in favour of a measure of this kind. The exclusion of married women was not entirely in harmony with his own feelings. He believed with some members that married women, so far as his experience went, were better able to exercise greater responsibilities by reason of their greater knowledge than their unmarried sisters. But the prejudices of mankind had to be considered, and there was in the minds of many men such an inveterate objection to the idea of a vote being possessed by their wives that they had been unwilling to assent to any measure that contained a possibility of this kind. The advocates of this measure, those who were interested in the extension of the franchise to women, had abandoned this proposal on account of that prejudice, not because they believed that the claim of married women was not a just one, but because they did not wish the general question to be prejudiced by the introduction of an exception of this kind which would excite the prejudices of men. The object of the Bill was to seek to remove the disabilities of sex. The principle would be gained if only the franchise were conferred upon one single woman. He was not able to consent to the suggestion that he should withdraw the Bill, but would press the second reading to a division in order that he and the supporters of this measure might know who were friends of this movement, and as some means of testing the progress of public opinion on this matter. He was quite confident that the day was not far distant when they would be surprised that they had looked upon a measure of this sort as revolutionary or extravagant, and that it would not be very many years before the measure came into law. He had hoped, and he still hoped, that South Australia would be, as it had ever been, well in the forefront of reforms of this character, and although it might fall to the lot of others to pilot a measure similar to this to a successful issue, he would feel that the seed sown in this debate would bear good fruit some time in the future. (Cheers.)

The second reading having been declared carried, Mr. SMITH called for a division, which resulted as follows:—

AYES, 19.—The Attorney General, Minister of Education, Hon. G. C. Hawker, Messrs. Bagot, Basedow, Bews, Burgoyne, Caldwell, Castine, Coles, Duncan, Fox, Johnson, Newland, Rees, Rounsevell, J. L. Stirling, Symon, and Dr. Stirling (teller).

NOES, 17.—The Treasurer, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Hon. T. Playford, Messrs. Bagster, Bower, Bucknall, Catt, Coglein, Copley, H. E. Downer, Handyside, Kingston, Landseer, Mattinson, Scherk, and Smith (teller).

Majority of two for the Ayes. Pair—For, Mr. E. W. Hawker; against, Mr. Beaglehole. The SPEAKER: There are nineteen votes for and seventeen against. There not being an absolute majority the Bill cannot be further proceeded with. (Cheers and counter cheers).

MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN IN DENMARK.

On November 6th Mr. Frederick Bajer, member of the Danish Folkthing, brought forward a proposal for "amendments in the laws affecting the election of municipal representatives in the city of Copenhagen."

Article 1 of the Bill is as follows:— The right of voting for the town representatives in Copenhagen belongs to all inhabitants of the city who are in possession of the qualifications prescribed for the election of the Folkthing (Parliamentary representation) if they are domiciled in the same place when the registration lists are drawn up. Moreover, this same right shall belong to women who hitherto have been excluded by reason of sex from its exercise, when they in other respects fulfil the legal conditions for the same. A married woman shall not in this respect be considered to have lost authority over her own dwelling even if she lives in community of goods with her husband.

On the first reading of the Bill, on November 9th, Mr. Bajer said that only women, children, and criminals were excluded from the right of voting. It ought to be proved either that women had not sufficient intelligence to use the vote or that they would misuse it.

Mr. Ström said that the woman's movement was so backward in Denmark that it would be a long time before Danish women would take part in public life. It was especially dangerous that married women should have the right of voting. What would become of the union of families if husband and wife voted on different sides?

The Minister of the Interior supported Mr. Ström's views. He thought, however, it would not matter so much if husband and wife voted differently, but it would be unfortunate if both had seats in the town council. Not only were women, children, and criminals excluded from the vote, but also all people who were minors in person or in property; and in the Icelandic law upon the municipal votes of women this exception had been under consideration.

Ultimately it was agreed that the Bill should pass to its second reading, and a committee of eleven members was chosen to consider it.

(Continued from page 158.)

She that would raise a noble love must find Ways to beget a passion for her mind— She must be that which she to be would seem, For all true love is founded on esteem.

John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, b. 1649.

Among the many rare and special gifts, That in the female sex are found to sit, This one is chief that they at merest shifts, Give best advice and shew most ready wit; But man, except he chew, and think, and sift, How every part may answer to their fit, By rash abuse doth often over-shoot him, And doth accept the things that do not boot him.

J. Weever, b. 1576.—HENRIETTA.

Woman too, frank, beautiful, and kind As the free heaven which rains fresh light and dew On the wide earth—gentle radiant forms, From custom's evil taint exempt and pure, Speaking the wisdom once they could not think, Looking emotions once they feared to feel, And changed to all which once they dared not be, Yet being now, made earth like heaven.

Shelley, "Prometheus Unbound."

I meant each softest virtue there should meet— Fit in that softer bosom to reside— Only a learned and a manly soul I purposed her; that should,

With even powers, the rock, The spindle, and the shears control Of destiny—and spin her own Free hours . . .

Ben Jonson, from an "Ode to Lucy Countess of Bedford." J. SLATTER.

Strong minded is she? Better so Than dulness set for sale or show; A household folly, capped and belled In fashion's dance of puppets held; Or poor pretence of womanhood, Whose formal, flavourless platitudes Is warranted from all offence Of robust, meaning violence.

J. G. Whittier, "Lines on a Fly Leaf."

Through her his civic service shows A purer-toned ambition, No double consciousness divides The man and politician.

In party's doubtful ways he trusts Her instincts to determine, At the loud polls the thought of her Recalls Christ's Mountain Sermon.

J. G. Whittier, "Amongst the Hills."—A. M. Box.

A full, rich nature, free to trust, Truthful and almost sternly just, Impulsive, earnest, prompt to act, And make her generous thought a fact, Keeping with many a light disguise The secret of self sacrifice.

J. G. Whittier, a sketch of the elder sister in "Snow Bound."

Talents were thine Softly and bright, the subtle shaft of wit, And that keen glance of intellect which reads Intuitive the deep and mazy springs Of human action. Yet such meek regard For others' feelings, such a simple grace And singleness of purpose, such respect To woman's noiseless duties."

Lydia H. Sigourney, "To the Memory of a Young Lady."

'Tis woman alone, with a purer heart, Can see all these idols of life depart; And love the more, and smile and bless Man in his uttermost wretchedness.

B. W. Procter (Barry Cornwall), "Woman."—SUSALIE.

The woman's cause is man's: . . . As far as in us lies, We two will serve them both in aiding her— Will clear away the parasitic forms That seem to keep her up but drag her down— Will leave her space to burgeon out of all Within her—let her make herself her own To give or keep, to live and learn and be All that not harms distinctive womanhood.

Tennyson, "The Princess," Canto vii.—MAX.

How reverent in our midst she stood, Or knelt in grateful praise! What grace of Christian womanhood Was in her household ways!

For still her holy living meant No duty left undone; The heavenly and the human blent Their kindred lives in one.

J. G. Whittier, "The Friend's Burial."—ELIZA M. STURGE.

ATTRIBUTES OF WOMAN.

Faithful—as dog, the lonely shepherd's pride; True—as the helm, the bark's protecting guide;

Firm—as the shaft that props the towering dome; Sweet—as to shipwreck'd seamen land and home; Lovely—as child, the parents' sole delight; Radiant—as morn, that breaks a stormy night; Grateful—as streams, that, in some deep recess, With crystal rills the panting traveller bless.

Yonge.—Mrs. WINSLOE.

Oh, woman! whose form and whose soul Are the spell and the light of each path we pursue; Whether sun'd in the tropics, or chill'd at the pole, If woman be there, there is happiness too.

T. Moore, On leaving Philadelphia.

Charming woman can true converts make, We love the precepts for the teacher's sake; Virtue in her appears so bright and gay, We hear with pleasure, and with pride obey.

Benj. Franklin.—WALTER MAY.

Is it a grief to you that I have part Being woman merely, in your male might and deeds Done by main strength, yet in my body is throned As great a heart, and in my spirit, O men, I have not less of godlike.

A. C. Swinburne, "Atalanta in Calydon."—ATALANTA.

Vanity, weakness, folly, may be writ Too legibly upon these features marred; Yet, is there naught beside? no struggling soul In conflict with traditional misdeeds? Oh, well for thee* should such a soul be there! If now thy daughter might be formed to lift The aspiring generations as they rise, If she, while justly differing from man Through greater modesty and more reserve, Through love of taking what man loves to give, The strong support of natures more robust, Should be at one with him in power to feel The loftiest passions of Humanity— The love of Justice, Liberty, and Truth, All variation sweet 'twixt her and him That make the chord of human life preserved, Her womanhood not ending but begun.

Hon. Mrs. O. N. Knox, "A Woman's Future."—HIBERNICA.

Answers have also been received from Ajax, Gertrude Noble, Mrs. Winsloe, and Guelder Rose. The quotation from "Prometheus Unbound" was also sent by Rita Brown and A. M. Box; that from the "Princess" by Guelder Rose; that from "Irene" by J. Slatter, and in part by Eliza M. Sturge, who has also sent part of that from "Among the Hills." Many competitors whose quotations are printed are disqualified for various reasons, but the passages are given on account of their intrinsic merit. Passages besides those printed have been sent by many competitors. We regret that the limits of our available space preclude us from printing all the quotations received.

After careful consideration we have resolved to divide the prize between the following competitors:—

- J. SLATTER ... 10/6
SPERO MELIORA ... 10/6
JONES ... 10/6
SUSALIE ... 10/6

from whom we shall be happy to receive applications for the amount.

Obituary.

MRS. ADDEY.—We regret to record the death of Elizabeth Poole Addey, of Cork, one of the very earliest supporters and workers in the women's suffrage movement, and in many other questions of the day. She was a member of the Society of Friends. Her death took place in October from low fever, and her loss leaves a gap in many lives.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, NOVEMBER, 1886.

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, November 1886.

ROBERT ADAMSON, TREASURER, 23, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM OCTOBER 28TH TO NOVEMBER 28TH, 1886.

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Central Committee, October 28th to November 28th, 1886.

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

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM OCTOBER 25TH TO NOVEMBER 23RD, 1886.

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Bristol and West of England Society, October 25th to November 23rd, 1886.

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

DUBLIN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED UP TO NOV. 20TH, 1886.

Table listing names and donation amounts for the Dublin Women's Suffrage Association, up to Nov. 20th, 1886.

ANNA M. HASLAM, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, 91, Rathmines Road, Dublin.

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