

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XII.—No. 142. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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as bad qualities are
often substituted.

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

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

"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY."

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

UGHT WOMEN TO HAVE VOTES FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT? The Question Answered. Price One Penny. National Society for Women's Suffrage, Central Committee, 64, Berners-street, London.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

ELECTORAL REFORM.—By WILLIAM COUNT, General Secretary of "The National Union of Working Women," and late Member of the "Bristol Trades' Council." Price 2d. London: George Vickers, Angel Court, Strand. Bristol: John Hayward, 1, Corn-street. 1880.

A HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN engaged in Social and Political Work, Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN. Contains an Account of the Public Franchises open to Women—Information as to Educational Resources—A Concise Statement of Statutes affecting Women, and other miscellaneous information. Price One Shilling; postage 1½d.—Orders may be sent to the Editor, 20, Park-street, Bristol; to the Publisher, Mr. J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11, Quay-street, Bristol; and to 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The Annual General Meeting to receive the Report, the Statement of Accounts, to appoint the Committee, and transact any other business which may arise, will be held in the Town Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday, November 9th, 1881. The Chair to be taken at Three o'clock by

HUGH MASON, Esq., M.P.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE
Mrs. OLIVER SCATHERD
Miss BECKER
Miss LOUISA CARBUTT
Miss ELLEN HIBBERT
J. P. THOMASSON, Esq., M.P.
HENRY LEE, Esq., M.P.
A. ARNOLD, Esq., M.P.
THOMAS DALE, Esq.
Dr. PANKHURST
CHARLES ROWLEY, Jun., Esq.
J. W. SOUTHERN, Esq.
H. SLATTER, Esq.
A. G. SYMONDS, Esq.
Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL
Dr. J. WATTS
W. T. WINDSOR, Esq.

And other ladies and gentlemen are expected to be present. The attendance of members and friends is invited. Admission free.

MANCHESTER.—CHORLTON ROAD ASSOCIATION, in connection with the Congregational Church.—At the weekly meeting of the Association, on November 29th, Miss BECKER will read a Paper on the "Right of Women to the exercise of the Parliamentary Franchise," in the Lecture Room of the Congregational Church, Chorlton Road. The chair will be taken at Eight o'clock, by S. WOODCOCK, Esq., M.D. Discussion will follow, and a vote be taken. The public are invited to attend the meeting, and may join in the discussion; but members of the Association only will be allowed to vote. Admission Free.

A POLITICAL CATECHISM FOR THE UNREPRESENTED MAJORITY. Price Twopence. Women's Printing Society Limited, 51b, Great College-street, Westminster.

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

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PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN

In connection with the National Society for Women's Suffrage, will be held in

ST. GEORGE'S HALL, BRADFORD,

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 1881,

At half-past Seven o'clock,

In support of a Memorial to Her Majesty's Government praying for the Extension of the Franchise to Women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

MRS. DUNCAN McLAREN,

Of Edinburgh, will preside.

Delegates and representatives are expected from the principal towns in Yorkshire; and ladies residing in other districts of the country, especially in the north of England, are invited to attend.

All who desire to be present or to assist in promoting the Demonstration are requested to communicate with the Secretaries of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 3, Spring Gardens, Manningham Lane, Bradford.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS PREACHED BY WOMEN.—See *The Westminster Review*, October, 1881. Price Six Shillings. London: Trübner & Co., 57 & 59, Ludgate Hill.

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Extract of a letter, dated May 31, 1879, from DR. NORMAN KERR, relating to the British Medical Temperance Association Dinner, London.—"Bell and Co.'s Unfermented Wines were largely patronised and much thought of. The French Imperial Liqueurs were admitted to be remarkably good."

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 64, Berners-street, London, W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

THE CALENDAR.—NOVEMBER, 1881.

MOON.		SUN.	MOON.	SUN.	
Rises.	Sets.	Rises.	Sets.	Sets.	
6th Full Moon, 2h 3m morn.	7 5	4 22	21st New Moon, 4h 21m aft.	7 31	4 1
13th Last Quar., 11h 1m aft.	7 17	4 12	28th First Quar., 0h 1m aft.	7 42	3 55

MEETINGS, &c.	
1 T	Drawing-room Meeting, Mottiner House, Clifton, 1880.
2 W	Lecture, Northampton, Mrs. Romiger, 1870. Meeting, Cardiff, 1873. Meeting, Broadmead (Bristol), 1880.
3 Th	Lecture, Stamford, Mrs. Romiger, 1870. Conference, Bristol, 1873. Public Meeting, Dover, 1873. Lecture, Miss Downing, Andover, 1873.
4 F	Demonstration of Women at Colston Hall, Bristol, 1880. Meeting, Coathbridge, 1872. Public Meeting, Monmouth, 1873. Lecture, Basingstoke, Miss Downing, 1873. Demonstration, Bristol, 1880.
5 S	Angelica Kaufman died, 1807. Miss Nightingale landed at Constantinople, 1854. Lecture, Beith, Ayrshire, Miss Tylour, 1872. Conference, Bristol, 1880.
6 S	21st Sunday after Trinity. National Society for Women's Suffrage formed, 1867. Lecture, Coventry, Mrs. Romiger, 1871. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1872. Lecture, Pe'ersfield, Miss Downing, 1873. Meeting, Keighley, 1876. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1878. Lecture, Lowestoft, Miss Downing, 1879.
7 M	Queen Mary died, 1558. Lecture, Helensburgh, Miss Tylour, 1872. Public Meeting, Bridgwater, 1873. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1877. Public Meeting, Norwich, 1878.
8 T	Women's Suffrage voted by House of Keys, Isle of Man. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1871. Lecture, Elgin, Miss Tylour, 1871. Lecture, Sandbach, Miss Stuart, 1872. Lecture, Strachan, Argyleshire, Miss Tylour, 1872.
9 W	Madame Roland guillotined, 1793. Women disfranchised by decision of Court of Common Pleas, 1868. Debating Society, Notting Hill, Miss Tomlinson, 1879.
10 Th	Lecture, Keith, Miss Tylour, 1871. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1875. Lecture, Somerstown (London), Miss Craigen, 1880.
11 F	Lecture, King's Cross, Miss Craigen, 1880.
12 S	Mrs. Opie born, 1769. Caterina Gabriella (vocalist) born, 1730. Eliz. Cady Stanton born, 1816. Hosmer came to Rome, 1858. Lecture, Rotherham, Bute, Miss Tylour, 1871. Lecture, Horsham, Miss Beedy, 1873. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1879. Lecture, St. Pancras, Miss Craigen, 1880.
13 S	22nd Sunday after Trinity. Public Meeting, Salford, 1872. Meeting, Woolwich, 1873. Lecture, Chichester, Miss Downing, 1873. Lecture, Lewes, Miss Beedy, 1873. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1874.
14 M	Madame Hensel (Fanny Mendelsohn) born, 1805. Vigilance Association formed at Conference in Liverpool, 1871. Meeting, Chatham, 1870. Lecture, Oldham, Miss Craigen, 1871. Public Meeting, Choriton, 1872. Lecture, Ryde, Miss Craigen, 1872. Meeting, Leeds, 1878.
15 T	Public Meeting, Hastings, 1872. Lecture, Openshaw, Miss Becker, 1880.
16 W	Public Meeting, Chester, 1874. Drawing-room Meeting, Stoke (Bristol), 1877. Lecture, Astley, Miss Becker, 1880.
17 Th	Elizabeth proclaimed Queen, 1558. Lecture, Poole, Miss Beedy, 1873. Meeting, Edinburgh, 1873. Meeting, Warrington, 1874.
18 F	S. Hilda, Abbess, 108. Public Meeting, Broughton, 1872. Meeting, Pontypool, 1872. Lecture, Portsmouth, Miss Craigen, 1872. Meeting, Southport, 1874. Meeting, Bridgwater, 1879. Meeting, Shakespeare-street, Nottingham, 1880.
19 S	S. Elizabeth of Hungary, 1231. Lecture, Queensbury, Miss Craigen, 1871. Lecture, Bournemouth, Miss Beedy, 1873. Meeting, Morley, 1873. Meeting, Nottingham, 1880. Meeting, Sandford-street, Nottingham, 1880.
20 S	23rd Sunday after Trinity. Meeting, Banbury, 1872. Public Meeting, Cardiff, 1872. Lecture, Ventnor, Miss Beedy, 1873. Meeting, Edinburgh, 1873. Meeting, Bedminster (Bristol), 1877. Miss Cobbe's Lectures to Ladies, Westminster Palace Hotel, began 1879. Drawing-room Meeting, Nottingham, 1880.
21 M	Lecture, Huddersfield, Miss Craigen, 1870. Public Meeting, St. Andrews, 1871. Public Meeting, Ashton-under-Lyne, 1872. Meeting, Sandowne, 1872. Public Meeting, Neath, 1872. Lecture, Crosshill (Scotland), Miss Tylour, 1872.
22 T	Lecture, Middleton, Miss Becker, 1871. Lecture, Northallerton, Miss Craigen, 1871. Lecture, Stirling, Mrs. Fawcett, 1871. Public Meeting, Bolton, 1872. Lecture, St. Helens (Lanc.), Miss Tylour, 1872. Meeting, Southampton, 1878. Drawing-room Meeting, Nottingham, 1880. Meeting, New Lenton (Nottingham), 1880.
23 W	Judgment given on Agar Ellis case, 1876. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1870. Lecture, Paisley, Mrs. Fawcett, 1871. Public Meeting, Huddersfield, 1875. Conference, Hyde, 1880. Meeting, Heathcote-street, Nottingham, 1880.
24 Th	First contested election for School Board under Mr. Forster's Act, 1870. Lecture, Dumfries, Miss Tylour, 1870. Meeting, Blackburn, 1874. Lecture, Kensal Road, London, Miss Biggs, 1878. Drawing-room Meeting, Beeston, 1880.
25 F	S. Catherine, Alexandria, 4th Century. American Women's Suffrage Association founded, 1869. Public Meeting, Hulme, 1872. Meeting, Haverfordwest, 1872. Meeting, Luton, 1872. Lecture, Miss Becker, Holmfirth, 1873. Meeting, Plymouth, 1873. Meeting, Stalybridge, 1875. Lecture, Scanthorpe, Miss Craigen, 1878.
26 S	Miss Lilly Maxwell voted for Mr. Jacob Bright, 1867. Lecture, Longwood (York), Miss Craigen, 1870. Meeting, Luton, 1872. Lecture, Daventry, Miss Beedy, 1872. Meeting, Pembroke, 1872. Public Meeting, Tavistock, 1873. Meeting, Bristol, 1877. Lecture, Miss Wade, Huddersfield, 1878. Meeting, Mansfield, 1880.
27 S	1st Sunday in Advent. Meeting, Swansea, 1872. Lecture, Dublin, Dr. Carmichael. Drawing-room Meeting, Nottingham, 1880.
28 M	Deputation, Birkenhead, 1872. Public Meeting, Barnstaple, 1873. Public Meeting, Tiverton, 1873. Lecture, Fallsworth, Miss Becker, 1876.
29 T	Louisa M. Alcot born, 1832. Meeting, Ardwick, Manchester, 1871. Meeting, Carmarthen, 1872. Annual Meeting, Manchester, 1876. Meeting, Newark, 1880. Meeting, Leeds, 1880.
30 W	Meeting, Wilton, 1876.

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AFTER the lull of summer the work for women's suffrage has been resumed with encouraging success and energy. The special work during October consists in work among the women municipal electors, and this work is of peculiar value in cases where the Council of a borough is elected for the first time. In the newly-enfranchised boroughs of Lewes, in Sussex, and Chorley, in Lancashire, meetings of women electors have been held, which have been most interesting and successful. At Chorley there are 620 women on the burgess roll, the proportion being one woman to 450 men; and about 500 women were present at the meeting, and listened with attention and approval to the addresses delivered by Mrs. SCATCHERD and Miss BECKER. At Lewes there are 212 women burgesses, and of these about 200 attended the meeting. Miss C. A. BIGGS and Miss DOWNING delivered the addresses.

At Bradford a meeting of women electors was held, which was addressed by Mrs. SCATCHERD, Miss CARBUTT, and Miss DOWNING; and Miss BECKER has addressed meetings of many hundreds of women electors in three contested wards of the city of Manchester. At York a similar meeting has been held under the presidency of Mrs. HENRY RICHARDSON.

Besides these special meetings, large and enthusiastic public meetings have been held in Penrith and Kendal, addressed by Miss BECKER and Mrs. SCATCHERD. Miss ORME and Miss BLACKBURN have been engaged in similar work at Truro and Penzance; and a drawing-room meeting, followed by an evening meeting, has been organised by friends at Plymouth.

Preparations are actively going on for the demonstration of women to take place on the 22nd inst. at Bradford; and the annual general meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage is to be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 9th inst., in the Town Hall, Manchester, under the presidency of Mr. HUGH MASON, M.P.

A WRITER in the *Cornish Telegraph*, who signs himself "A Whig of the Whigs, and a Liberal of the Liberals,"

commenting on the speeches made by ladies at the recent public meetings in that county, brings forward in opposition to them a quotation from BENTHAM'S *Principles of Legislation*: "Many persons do not inquire if a state is well governed, if the laws protect property and persons, if the people are happy. What they require, without giving attention to anything else, is political liberty, that is the most equal distribution of political power. Wherever they do not see this they see nothing but slavery. And if these pretended slaves are well satisfied with their condition, if they do not desire to change it, they despise and insult them."

We have not verified the quotation, but so far as we can gather the meaning and application of the words, they were intended as a reproof to men who were striving for political equality for their fellow citizens. Since the time when these words were written the reproof has lost its sting, because it is now acknowledged on all hands that the desire for political liberty or equality is laudable and beneficial wherever it is displayed by men. The claim of women for political rights stands now much in the same position as the claim of the masses of men did in the earlier part of the century; it was a claim which was not universally acknowledged; it needed to be enforced and established by persistent argument and agitation.

The writer in the *Cornish paper*, however, appears to complain that the speakers did not attempt to make out a case of suffering under the present laws, and he says that their arguments "concealed rather than expressed their foundation, *i.e.* the equal distribution of power." We do not understand how a refutation of the position of an opponent can be based on that which the arguments "concealed." If this were allowable one might attribute all manner of propositions to a speaker, and in controverting these might assume that the speaker was refuted. Certainly we never heard of any advocate of the enfranchisement of women who based the demand on the foundation of an equal distribution of political power generally among the people. What is asked is an equal share of representa-

tion for those who are required to bear an equal share in taxation. Political power in this country is shared very unequally by different classes of men, and by different men in the same class, according to their different fortunes, circumstances, and capacities; but the right to vote is granted to all men according to a statutory measure of qualification, and it is this measure which we ask shall be allowed to qualify women.

We have to thank the writer for quoting a definition of the suffrage given in a Resolution of the Parliament of 1628. He says the Commons of that day resolved: "That the elective right is not in the nature of a possession or privilege, but of a service for the public good." Therefore we ask for the suffrage. Women have a service to perform for the public good, more especially for the public good of women who now suffer through many and grievous wrongs which are remediable by just legislation, and by the improved social position which just legislation and the recognition of their political rights would confer. But men are very apt to confuse public spirit with party spirit, to assume that all public interests must necessarily be ranged in rival and hostile camps, and to regard the question of admitting fresh classes of persons to political rights not from the standpoint of whether the people themselves are to be benefited, but whether their admission would strengthen their own or the opposition camp. In short, the question is according to them to be determined, not on the broad grounds of justice and beneficence to those whose liberties are at stake, but on the narrow and exclusively party grooves laid down by "A Whig of the Whigs, and a Liberal of the Liberals."

We are, however, happy in believing that when the time shall come to test the sincerity of the Liberal party they will not stultify themselves by rejecting the force of the arguments they have ever employed in urging the claims of the unrepresented classes to be enfranchised, when those arguments are used in defence of the right of women to representation.

A CORRESPONDENT from Reading sends us some interesting particulars of the labours of ANNE KNIGHT, of Quiet Home, Chelmsford, in the cause of women's suffrage during the agitation for Reform, which was the representative in this country of the revolutionary movement of 1848 which swept away dynasties, and laid the foundation of constitutional government on the continent of Europe.

It is probable enough that this storm might have overwhelmed existing political institutions of Great Britain

had the throne passed on the death of King WILLIAM IV. to the male heir, and been occupied by the King of HANOVER, an unpopular ruler of the uncompromising continental type. But happily for the peace of the country, the established political rights of woman, so far as Royalty is concerned, prevented the risk of this catastrophe, and the throne of a constitutional Queen stood firm, amid tempests which proved fatal to those of many Kings.

At that time the demand of earnest reformers was for what they were pleased to call "universal suffrage," a term which then was understood to mean the suffrage of half the people. Now the term has been abandoned by the not very numerous class of democratic reformers who would limit the application of the principle of representative government to men, and these describe their principle as manhood suffrage. But it has been found impossible, in any convention or public meeting called for the purpose of adopting this principle as a political programme, to resist the claim for votes for all adult persons, women as well as men; and as time progresses, and political education becomes more and more extended among the people through the agency of the newspapers and telegraphs, the claim of women to vote on the same conditions as men will become more and more difficult to set aside.

We give in another column an account of a meeting which took place at Sheffield during the time when Lord JOHN RUSSELL was Prime Minister; unfortunately the date has not been preserved on the slip which has been sent to us, but the meeting took place probably about the year 1849. The demand of the reformers of the present day is for household suffrage, and the present Government is pledged to introduce a measure based on this principle. We trust that the demand that this measure shall provide household suffrage, meaning thereby women as well as men householders, will be pressed with as much earnestness on Mr. GLADSTONE as was shown by the women's rights association of Sheffield in their application to Lord JOHN RUSSELL, and that the times are now ripe for such a demand to be urged with success.

THE Government have already begun to put in force against women the exceptional powers for the suppression of political offences leading to disturbance, with which they were entrusted by the Legislature in the Irish Peace Preservation Act. They have arrested and imprisoned Miss HOBNETT, a farmer in Ballydehob, the sole charge against her being that she had exhibited in her window a copy of the "No Rent" proclamation of the Land League

a publication which had been scattered broadcast throughout the land through the agency of the newspaper press with absolute impunity.

During the debate in the House of Commons on the Irish Coercion Bill, Mr. CORBET moved an amendment providing that "person" in the Bill shall mean "adult male person." Mr. FORSTER could not assent to the amendment, but he hoped the power would not be required against women. Mr. A. M. SULLIVAN believed that under the Bill there would be laid before the LORD LIEUTENANT very strong cases against women and children, and said that the CHIEF SECRETARY would not admit women to the franchise, but he would open the door of the Habeas Corpus Suspension to them. All the Irish members who took part in the debate supported the amendment to exempt women from the operation of the Bill. Mr. BIGGAR said he could not understand the principle on which women, who had no political rights in Ireland, should be brought within the operation of this Bill. Mr. PARNELL said it was admitted that ladies had banded themselves together for the purpose of giving assistance to the families of those who might be arrested under the Act. The object of the Bill had been stated to be the putting down of outrages, but had it been shown, or even asserted, that women had been mixed up in the commission of such offences? Mr. REDMOND said it was a mere calumny against the women of Ireland to pretend that they took part in any of the outrages. Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR asked if Mr. FORSTER intended to arrest any women under the Bill, and Mr. FORSTER replied that he did not expect to have to do so. Sir J. M'KENNA said there was a sensitiveness in Ireland on this subject, apart from any sympathy with the Land League.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that they did not propose on this occasion to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act with any difference of form from that which has been pursued on other occasions, and on no former occasion have women been excluded from the operation of a suspension Act. The question before them was whether there was a possibility that crimes of the kind contemplated by the Act would be committed by women—he repeated of crimes contemplated by the Bill. Even in the range of ordinary crimes there are instances in which women are implicated, not only in crime, but in atrocious crime. It was to be apprehended, if women were excluded from the operation of the Bill, that they would be used for the purposes of crime. He trusted that this power, which they earnestly hoped they might never be called upon to

exercise, but which they felt that it would be folly and even guilt to part with, might be granted to them.

The committee divided, and the numbers were—for exempting women from the operation of the Bill, 49; for including them, 230—majority, 181.

We do not question the justice of this vote, because our contention for the recognition of the political rights of women is based on the proposition that women are equal with men as regards responsibility in obedience to the law, liabilities to taxation, and that in respect to the duties of citizenship they are adults and not minors. Many of our supporters voted for the amendment on the ground that so long as women were denied political rights they ought not to be held accountable for political wrongs; but others equally zealous for the political rights of women took the bolder and, perhaps, more consistent course of voting for the imposition on them of the same political responsibilities as men, while claiming for them the same political rights. Had we been able to influence the votes of our friends we should have exercised such influence in this direction, coupled with this protest—that while fully recognising the justice of the proposition that the penalties for political and other offences should be extended to women on the same conditions as they are or may be extended to men, the necessary correlative proposition should be granted that the right of voting in the election of the Legislature which defines the offences and imposes the penalties, should also be given to women on the same conditions as it is or may be given to men.

SUPPRESSION OF LADIES' LAND LEAGUE MEETINGS.

The first suppression of a Ladies' Land League meeting has taken place at Ballintra, County Donegal. A number of women from the Drimholm district assembled in Ballintra, when a constable of police entered the room, and intimated that the names of those who remained against his warning would be taken down by him. The women were obliged to retire.—On Thursday evening a body of police, accompanied by two head constables, suddenly made their appearance in the committee rooms of the Derry branch of the Ladies' Land League. The door was open at the time, and there was no secrecy about the proceedings of the branch. One of the head constables read the proclamation, to which a woman present replied that they had got no intimation that it applied to their association. The police then took the names of all present, told them they were liable to arrest, dispersed the meeting, and took formal possession. A great crowd gathered in the street, and the affair caused much excitement.

The death is announced of Mr. Henry Fay Durant, an eminent American lawyer, who founded Wellesley College for Women in the State of Massachusetts. The college, which is designed for the higher education of women, was built and equipped at an expenditure of a million of dollars, and since it was opened, six years ago, has cost its founder not less than fifty thousand dollars a year. All the professors are ladies, and the pupils in the college at present number 432.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

PENRITH.

A meeting was held on October 3rd, in the Exchange Hall, Penrith, for the advocacy of the movement which seeks to admit women householders or property owners to the privileges of electors of members of Parliament. The deputation from the association were Miss Lydia E. Becker, of Manchester, and a member of the School Board of that city, and Mrs. Oliver Scatterd. There were also present upon the platform Mr. and Mrs. McDougall, the Rev. J. Tannahill, Mr. T. Lester, Mr. Wm. Seatree, and Mr. W. Bell. The spacious hall was crowded to the door, and many were unable to gain admission.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that it might be asked, "What do the ladies desire they do not already enjoy?" His reply was, "That they should be allowed to vote in the election of members of Parliament." They already had a right to vote in the election of local representatives, such as members of town councils, local boards, guardians of the poor, and members of school and burial boards. Possessing this privilege they contended for the other, and he thought they ought to have it. (Applause.)

Mr. M'DOUGALL moved the first resolution, which was as follows: "That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments." He quite agreed with that resolution. He was not so sure about the first part of the resolution, that the exclusion of women from the franchise was injurious to those excluded, but he was quite sure it was injurious to the constituency that excluded them, for it must be injurious to exclude an element of intelligence, of conscientiousness, self-sacrifice, and keen susceptibility to duty, which were the qualities that women would bring into any constituency. (Applause.) The demand was a reasonable and a modest demand. They already voted for members of school boards. Was the school board injured by the suffrages of women? The very reverse. (Applause.) In all the qualifications of a voter, women stood pre-eminently above a great majority of men, and to receive them to the franchise and identify them with it would be an elevating, purifying, and ennobling element in the constituency. (Applause.)

Mr. BELL, in seconding the resolution, said the demand was not a small one. In Penrith there were no less than 600 women voters in our local elections, and this fact would show them how large a proportion was excluded. In a logical speech of some length, the speaker combated the objections usually raised, and said that there was no more reason to exclude ladies from the franchise than the Queen from the throne. (Applause.)

Mrs. SCATHERD heartily supported the resolution. On the resolution being put to the meeting, it was carried almost unanimously, there being only three dissentients.

The Rev. J. TANAHIILL then moved 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 that a memorial to Mr. E. S. Howard and Mr. G. J. Howard, the members of Parliament for East Cumberland, requesting them to support the Bill removing the electoral disabilities, be signed by the chairman and forwarded by that meeting."

Mr. SEATREE seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss BECKER, who was received with loud applause.

The resolution was carried *nem. dis.*, and the usual votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

KENDAL.

On October 4th a meeting was held in St. George's Hall, in furtherance of the claims of female householders to the parliamentary franchise. Considerable interest in the subject was evident from the fact that almost every seat in the large hall was filled, and the proceedings were of the most orderly character throughout. Mr. Alderman WILSON presided, and on the platform were the principal speakers, Miss Becker, of Manchester, and Mrs. Scatterd, Leeds, who were accompanied by the Rev. J. Macdonald, Mr. Councillor Robinson, Mr. Councillor Blacow, Mr. Councillor Monkhouse, Mr. Councillor Winder, Mr. G. B. Greenall, Mr. J. R. Tanner, Mr. T. Heap, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he was very

glad to see so many of the men of Kendal present, for it looked as though their better halves had been exercising their influence upon them, while the better halves themselves were also present in considerable force to look after them. (Laughter.) It was always gratifying to see the men and women of Kendal evince an interest in important public questions, and it was particularly gratifying to see the earnest interest they took in questions of this character. (Hear, hear.) The subject before them that evening partook of a double character, as it was both a social and political question. As the former it went down to all the springs of our social life, and as a political question it stood out pre-eminently strong, inasmuch as it recommended itself to all sections of the thinking public, being in no respect a party question. They new very well that in this country women occupied a higher social position than in any other country in Europe, a fact of which they were convinced as soon as they passed the narrow seas in any direction. They were glad of this and were proud of it when they saw that the women of England were not condemned to that constant toil and labour which in some countries amounted almost to the toil of beasts of burden. (Hear, hear.) We were reigned over by a good and excellent Queen, and they had seen the Queen of England, the heiress of a resplendent line of kings and queens, condole with that lady on the other side of the Atlantic, a lady who like an angel attended the bedside of the stricken President of the American people. (Cheers.) Their hearts had been moved by what they had seen, and the highest honour of these two distinguished ladies was this, that they were representative ladies—representatives of the highest type of woman-kind in the Old and the New World. (Loud cheers.) He was glad that such a meeting as the present had been convened to receive the ladies who would address them on the occasion, and he called upon

Mr. BLACOW, who proposed the first resolution: "That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified for voting in the election of members of parliament, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments."

Rev. J. MACDONALD seconded the motion with pleasure, and spoke hopefully of the higher education of women and of the future opening of the Universities to lady students.

The resolution was supported by Mrs. OLIVER SCATHERD in an address which was greatly applauded. On being put to the meeting the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Councillor ROBINSON then rose to move the second resolution, to this effect: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman of this meeting, and that memorials to the Hon. W. Lowther and the Earl of Bective, members for the county, and to Mr. J. Cropper, member for Kendal, requesting them to support the Bill removing disabilities, be signed by the chairman and forwarded by that meeting." He said that if one thing could be more clear than another it was that the excellent speech just made rendered it unnecessary for him to say much on the subject. He thought that speaker must have convinced everyone that women had rights equally with men. They had duties to perform infinitely more arduous than men generally supposed, and they treated them as they ought to be treated. (Hear, hear.) More than forty years ago he stood on a platform in Kendal, and asked that the working classes should be admitted to the franchise. That had since been done, and was the country any the worse off? Was not the position of the working classes infinitely superior to what it was before? (Hear, hear.) If then they would place the ladies of England in the same position of political influence they would improve not only the position of the ladies, but the condition of the country at large. (Hear, hear.)

Miss Becker was then introduced by the CHAIRMAN, who remarked that the lady had been to Kendal before, and that her services were so valued at Manchester that she had four times been elected to the School Board in that city. (Applause.)

Miss BECKER, who received a flattering reception, then addressed the meeting, and remarked that her former visit was a sort of pioneer meeting, which had borne fruit. She thought they now understood what it was women were asking for; it was the removal of the disability of sex in voting at parliamentary elections. Miss Becker seconded the resolution.

The resolution was supported by Mr. TANNER, who said he had

heard it remarked by a gentleman that one objection against ladies having votes was they contributed very little to the revenue, as they neither drank nor smoked—(laughter)—but he would say that they liked a good cup of tea, and that was a very large increase to the national income. The speaker gave the result of a census he had taken in that portion of the town in which he resided, and where there were many women who had to pay rates equally with the male population, but who had no voice in political affairs. He strongly advocated their claims in this matter.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson for the way in which he had performed the duties of chairman, which was proposed by Mr. MONKHOUSE, and seconded by Mrs. SCATHERD.

PENZANCE.

Despite the unpropitious weather, a large and influential gathering assembled in St. John's Hall, Penzance, on October 12th, to hear addresses from Miss Orme and Miss H. Blackburn advocating the extension of parliamentary suffrage to women.

Prebendary HEDGELAND, who occupied the chair, said the attempt to enlist their sympathy on behalf of this question was made with the idea that there were certain grievances which might have a better chance of being remedied if women had a share in sending members to Parliament. When asked to take the chair, he saw no sufficient reason why he should refuse, because it seemed to him that if any class of English people thought they had a grievance, the legitimate way of getting rid of that grievance was to enlist the intelligence of public opinion, and to appeal to that public opinion by holding such meetings as this. They could then have the subject put fairly before them, and endeavour to arrive at a right understanding as to what ought to be done. It might be thought out of place that he, a clergyman, should preside at what appeared to be a political meeting, but he maintained that the question was one of a social rather than party politics. Never in his life before had he taken the chair at a meeting of a political tendency, but as the politics were social rather than party, he did not think he could be really out of place as a clergyman in holding his present position, because the social question was one of great importance. And he confessed that if he had not a sort of lurking sympathy with the object of the meeting he should not have been present. He had not studied the question sufficiently to give an opinion upon it, and he had only those general ideas which they who read the newspapers could hardly fail to have. He had never been able to see why women should not have a vote for members of Parliament. (Applause.) He looked around and saw what sort of men were allowed to vote, and speaking as one who was never an advocate of universal suffrage, it seemed to him that a vast number of men were entrusted with the suffrage who could hardly safely be entrusted with it, but everywhere he saw a number of women whom they held in highest honour, women of property, and in some instances a large amount of property, and of the highest intelligence and culture, who were really more familiar with the questions of the day than half the men were—(applause)—and that they should have to pay rates and taxes like the rest of the community, and yet have no share in voting for members of Parliament, was a matter he had never been able to see in his life. (Hear, hear.) The matter might be attended with difficulties, but these would be explained by the ladies about to give addresses. He asked that the ladies might be given a fair hearing, and at the close of the addresses he would call upon any who wished to reply to do so. He was sure the more the subject was discussed the better pleased the ladies would be. (Applause.)

Miss ORME then delivered an address, which was most cordially received, and listened to with close attention.

At the conclusion of her address discussion was invited, when Sir Paul Molesworth, Mr. W. Bolitho, J.P.; Mr. J. R. Branwell, J.P., pointed out some of the usual objections.

Miss ORME replied to the various points raised, after which Mr. JOHN MATHEWS proposed that a petition, praying for the extension of the suffrage to women, be presented to the House of Commons. He thought most of those present had been convinced by the arguments of Miss Orme.

Mr. RICHARD DALE seconded the proposition, which was supported by Miss BLACKBURN.

Sir PAUL MOLESWORTH did not think the hustings was any place for a woman, and he thought they were better at home and in their

own departments, but ladies were now inclined to step over those lines.

Mr. R. H. PRESTON thought the feeling of a meeting could hardly be taken as the feeling of the town, as in general cases the meeting is composed, to a great extent, of supporters of the question advocated.

Mr. BRANWELL also thought the meeting was not quite convinced on the subject, and that it would be better to let persons sign the petitions rather than take the chairman's signature as the feeling of the meeting. He thought people should first be educated, then enfranchised.

Mr. JOHN TRENWITH advocated the extension of the franchise, and thought the gentlemen who had objected to the petition should make a formal amendment.

Miss ORME cleverly replied to the objections which had been raised.

The CHAIRMAN then read the petition and put the motion, which was declared carried.

Mr. J. R. BRANWELL, in proposing a vote of thanks to Misses Orme and Blackburn, trusted the former would on another occasion further explain the matter in question, as he did not think the meeting was yet quite convinced on that subject.

Mr. W. COPELAND BORLASE, M.P., seconded the vote of thanks, and said he had refrained from voting that evening as he might be called upon to do so elsewhere on some future occasion. He complimented Miss Orme on her address. He had come to the meeting not to speak but to learn, and that lady had given him a full understanding of that particular point which the advocates of the cause had in view. They had not any matter in view outside the realm of practical politics. Those views must come to the front when the franchise came to be reconsidered; and it would be for the people of England to say all who pay rates and taxes, irrespective of sex, should vote. The meeting had been pleasant and cordial, and that was due to the cordial manner in which Miss Orme had spoken. There had been no offensive element in her address; it was so constituted as to disarm opponents. He would go far beyond even what Miss Orme proposed. (Mr. J. R. Branwell rose to a point of order—the proposition was to pass a vote of thanks to Miss Orme, and was not for the purpose of enabling the honourable member for East Cornwall to deliver a political address.) He (Mr. Borlase) was much obliged to Mr. Branwell for calling him to order, for he did not know to what extent he might go on. (Cries of "Go on, go on.") He would, therefore, merely sit down by seconding the vote.

The vote of thanks was then unanimously carried, and a similar vote to the chairman concluded the meeting.

TRURO.

On October 15th, Miss Orme and Miss Blackburn addressed a meeting in the Town Hall, Truro, on the subject of women's suffrage. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. NORRIS, and there was a numerous attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said they had met to discuss a question which seemed to be becoming yearly of more importance. It was a great question, and not a question for Liberal or Conservative. It was not a party question at all as he took it. Women voted already in many elections. They could vote for overseers of the poor, for poor-law guardians, for churchwardens, for overseers of roads, for boards of health, and at municipal elections, and why, then, should they not be allowed to vote at parliamentary elections? Numerous petitions had been sent to the Government in favour of it, and in 1875 the number of signatures was 415,622, so that the question was one that had already received a large amount of attention, and his opinion was that before long we should see women voting at parliamentary elections. The difficulty was to bring any potent reason to show why women, who have the necessary qualifications such as would entitle men to vote, should not be allowed to vote also. While we have on the throne a lady as Queen who has given universal satisfaction as the Sovereign of this realm, and while a woman may occupy such an exalted position and be entrusted with the business devolving on the Crown, surely we should not deny to women the parliamentary franchise. He then introduced Miss Orme.

Mr. ROBERT TWEEDY said he could not see why single women and widows should not have a vote the same as men. They voted for school boards, and sat on school boards, and he thought they were capable of assisting in school boards were men could not. He

then moved the following resolution: "That this meeting petitions in support of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. The resolution to be signed by the chairman on its behalf."

Mr. THOMAS CRAIG seconded.

The petition to which the resolution referred to was then read, and the CHAIRMAN asked Miss Blackburn to say a few words in its favour, after which it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Miss ORME proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for the use of the hall, and in doing so remarked that the meeting had been very satisfactory to them, although it would have been better if they had had some of the enemies within the walls. They could only congratulate themselves on the very unanimous meeting.

Mr. G. H. CHILCOTT, in seconding the resolution, said he was glad to be there to hear what arguments could be adduced in favour of that proposal. He was not a supporter of the movement. Women might extend their usefulness by profession, but they had no grounds for supposing that they were quite or well fitted for performing that great and serious trust by having a voice in the governing of the country. The whole matter appeared to be a matter of logic which he could not follow out, for they might be well qualified to vote at municipal elections without being fit to vote at the greatest of all elections.

Mr. W. J. HUGHAN intimated that if Mr. Chilcott was ready to make known his objections, a similar meeting might be held in the coming winter, when he would find many who would take opposition to them.

This concluded the proceedings.

PLYMOUTH.

On October 17th, Miss Orme and Miss Blackburn gave addresses in the Borough Arms Coffee Tavern, in support of women's suffrage. Mr. Bishop presided. He expressed himself as long an advocate of the movement, which, he believed, to be now only a question of time. He had received a letter from Mr. Wm. Collier, regretting his ill-health prevented him from being present, and adding that "he had never yet heard an argument against the claims of women to the franchise; what passed for arguments would be equally applicable in support of a despotic government." Miss Orme and Miss Blackburn having addressed the meeting, a discussion was raised by Mr. Balkwill, who was followed by Mr. Joseph Elliott, Mr. Radford, and others, all in a tone favourable to the object in view. A vote of thanks, moved by the Rev. W. Sharman, seconded by Mr. Goard, was then carried unanimously.

On the afternoon of the same day, October 17th, the Misses Bragg had invited a meeting of ladies at their residence, Weston Lodge, Mannamead. The room was quite full, about forty-six being present. Much interest was shown in the question. A petition was adopted, and suggestions considered for furthering the movement in Plymouth.

DUBLIN.

On Wednesday afternoon, October 5th, at four o'clock, a meeting was held in the Leinster Hall, Molesworth-street, to promote the extension of the franchise to women ratepayers. The Viscountess HARBERTON presided. There was a large attendance. Amongst those present were Mrs. Hollond, Brighton; Sergeant Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Allen, Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Rev. A. C. Murphy, Miss Sharman Crawford, Miss Downing, Mrs. Maurice Brooks, Mr. H. Sharman Crawford, Rev. H. M. Waddell, Mrs. A. Shackleton, Mr. and Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Johnston (Inspector of fisheries), Miss Johnson, Miss Stubber, Rev. Dr. Eccles, A. Shackleton, Esq., J.P.; Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Hatchell, Mr. Eason, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, Miss Richardson, Miss Robertson, Rev. Mr. McKee, Wesleyan College; Miss McDowell, Mr. Alfred Webb, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Gough, Dr. D. Haddon, Dr. and Mrs. Love, Henry Wigham, Esq.; Mrs. Kavanagh, Miss Meyrick, Mr. Vere Foster, Rev. J. S. Fletcher, Miss Corbett, Mr. T. H. Webb, Miss Smithson, Mrs. Gardiner, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Allen, Professor Barrett.

Mrs. HASLAM, Hon. Sec., read letters expressing sympathy with the movement from Lord Denman, Dr. Cameron, M.P., Glasgow, Mr. Thomas A. Dickson, M.P., Rev. Dr. Carmichael, and others who were unable to be present. Mr. J. A. Blake, M.P., would have taken part in the meeting, but the crowd was so great he was unable to obtain admittance. Many were excluded from the same cause.

The Viscountess HARBERTON said the subject which they met there to discuss was one which always appeared to her to gain in force the more it was thought and talked about. At first sight it might possibly seem to some people a small matter whether a given set of people had the power or not of going every seven years, more or less, to say whether Mr. A. or Mr. B. should have a seat in the House of Commons, but that was merely a surface view of the matter. The real question was whether one set of people alone among a nation could be placed in such a position denoting such a distinct opinion of inferiority in the eyes of the law without their interests suffering. That was the point. That woman's interests did suffer under the present system was what she thought few thinking people would deny. There was one thing required, and that was, in her opinion, representation. (Hear, hear.) One difficulty that women had to contend with in getting the franchise was the want of organisation. Their work generally was more separate than men, and therefore they naturally combined less easily and readily to place their views before the public. She had said it before, and she did not mind saying it again, that to have one law for men and another for women was an abominable tyranny, and the height of injustice. (Applause.) What had they to set against this? Nothing in the world. Her ladyship pointed out the unequal and unjust sentences which were imposed upon women, as compared with men, when convicted of crimes which were often committed under temptations that men had probably very little idea of, and asked was that paying respect to women, about which they heard so much? To give one-half of the ratepayers a voice in public affairs, and then artificially to deprive the other half from having a voice in the matter was highly unconstitutional and most unjust. (Applause.) One of the objections to giving the franchise to women was based on the theory that it tended to bring them too much forward out of their retirement, but it appeared to her that to force them to agitate on the subject did quite as much to bring them out of their retirement, and certainly the mere going into a room and making a mark with a pencil did not tend much to interfere with the retirement associated with the sex. It was nothing compared to the writing on a post-office order or a telegram, which they did every day, and nobody ever thought anything about it. (Laughter and applause.) In conclusion, she recommended increased and united effort on this question, which was one of such vital importance. (Applause.)

Sergeant SHERLOCK proposed the first resolution, as follows: "That the exclusion of women possessing the statutory qualifications from voting in the election of members of Parliament deprives a large part of the property, intelligence, and industry of the country of all participation in its government, and is therefore injurious both to them and to the community at large." It was said that women were inferior to men, but if they judged men by many actions constantly coming under their notice that was a very doubtful proposition. Property was not always given to men of superior intelligence, yet a man might be perfectly incapable for practical purposes and still have the right to a voice in the selection of his representative; but when a woman becomes possessed of the property all representation of that property ceased. He advocated the claim of women on the ground of common sense and of justice. (Applause.)

Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL (Manchester) seconded the motion. He said the great meetings held in different parts of England gave an assurance that what they had asked would yet be gained. They argued the question on no political ground, but on the ground of common sense. Some of them believed that their Legislature would be improved and its tone raised if the voice of woman could be heard. They were not arguing the question that women were to sit in Parliament and to join the learned profession. Let justice be done now, and let the other question be settled in due course. On what ground was the right to vote withheld? Eloquence, tact, and intelligence were not always found on men's side. The way in which the association had been worked showed woman's power of organisation. Did anyone believe in the indirect representation of interests while there were so many interests directly represented and pressing to be attended to?

Miss SHARMAN CRAWFORD supported the resolution, and spoke of the great loss the community sustained by reason of women not having parliamentary votes. Individual energy could do a great deal, but what could it achieve after all when the law prevented it from having practical effect? Women could influence society, but

they could not bring their influence into practical shape by sending a representative to make law.

Miss DOWNING, of London, also supported the resolution, which was put to the meeting, and on a show of hands was declared adopted.

Miss TOD, Belfast, moved the next resolution, viz.: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and entrusted to one of the city members for presentation."

Mr. WM. JOHNSTON, Inspector of Fisheries, late M.P. for Belfast, seconded the motion, and in so doing said the intelligence of the large towns was with them in this movement, but other parts of the country required to be educated.

Miss BLACKBURN, in supporting the resolution, said nothing could be worse than too much irresponsible influence. The existence of the Social Science Congress was largely due to a woman. (Hear, hear.) Next year she hoped the question would be before Parliament, and they should show themselves in earnest about it.

The resolution having been adopted,

The Provost of Trinity College, in proposing a vote of thanks to Viscountess Harberton, said he thought the women of this country were in this very enviable position—that the logic was altogether on the side of the women, and it was only a question of time when that logic should pass into law. (Applause.) He examined the arguments urged against this movement, and pointed out that a large number of women were amongst the very bitterest enemies they had. (Hear, hear.) He was very glad that a lady of rank had come forward and joined in a demand of right for her sisters, and he earnestly hoped her example would be followed. (Applause.)

Rev. Dr. M'KEE seconded the motion, which was passed by acclamation, and duly acknowledged.

The proceedings then concluded.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MEETINGS.

CHORLEY.

A meeting of women electors and others was held in the Town Hall, Chorley, on October 17th, when addresses on the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote were delivered by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd and Miss Becker. There was a large attendance of women, and the chair was occupied by the Rev. D. M. BYNNER, of Chorley, who in the course of his introductory remarks said there were two matters with regard to which he should like to make a passing reference. First of all he should like to see the full influence of women brought to bear on that terrible curse which was pressing with so disastrous a weight upon the energies of the people—he referred to over-indulgence in strong drink. He also wished to make a passing allusion to the question of war, as he was convinced it was a woman's question, and believed that England of late had engaged in many unjust wars. He believed that if the influence of the women of this country was brought to bear on the Government of England, there would not be so much bloodshed in the future as there had been in the past. (Applause.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD moved, that in the opinion of the meeting it was the duty of every woman on the burgess roll of the duly incorporated borough of Chorley to use the municipal vote with a view to the good government of the town, and also with special reference to the promotion of such measures for women as can be empowered by the actions of town councils. She felt that this was one of the most important meetings that could be held in Chorley. They were there to see what part the women were going to take in the good government of the town of Chorley; they were there to show how important every vote would be on the first of November, when they would have to elect a town council for Chorley; and also to show how important it was that every woman on the burgess roll should exercise the privilege that had been conferred upon her, and vote for those gentlemen whom she considered were best suited to look after the interests of the town. If they appointed the best possible men she had no doubt the health of the town would be improved; the streets would be kept cleaner, the rates more economically administered, and in every way the town would be more prosperous. According to the figures that had been given her she found that in Chorley there were 2,316 voters, of whom 660 were women, so that within the borough there were 4½ men voters for every female voter. She urged upon the women electors the necessity of voting on the 1st of November, and expressed a hope

that they would vote for the men who would best serve the interests of the town.

Miss BECKER seconded the proposition. She remarked that she had seen in a Manchester newspaper something to the effect that there was to be no contest in the municipal election. She understood that a compromise had been arranged by the leaders of the Liberal and Conservative parties, and supposing that the election was to be entirely political, the members of their respective parties would doubtless take care to select the best candidates they could get. She, however, confessed to looking with some dissatisfaction to this endeavour to avoid what is called turmoil and expense of a contest. No doubt elections had their evils; they cost a good deal of money to the ratepayers, and more to the candidates and their friends; but everything in the world had its price, and the turmoil and expense of a contest was the price which the people had to pay for self-government. If they would not pay the price they would forfeit self-government. She was rather surprised to learn that the rates were so high in Chorley, amounting altogether to 4s. 8d. in the pound, while in the great city of Manchester the total rates only amounted to 4s. in the pound. She thought it an important question whether the town could not be governed for less than it was. Chorley was in a cotton district, a trade in which the majority of the operatives were women, and it was in such a district that women should come to feel the importance of the suffrage. She never liked to speak about municipal affairs without urging strenuously the amendment of the injurious law which makes a town council practically a close corporation. They would have to elect twenty-four councillors this year, and unless public opinion altered they would never have the same number to elect again. Such a practice was a relic of a past age, when the people were distrusted, the excuse being that if the whole council was turned out at one time the whole business of the town would become disarranged, for the new men would not know how to carry on the work, and therefore it was deemed advisable never to allow more than one-third of the council to retire at once. But she thought the people might be trusted to re-elect those who had done good work. In conclusion, she urged the audience to help to obtain the franchise for women.

The Rev. G. RIDE moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. With respect to the granting of the franchise to women, he said he thought that women were quite as capable of exercising their minds in an election as men were; and he very often found that women were the best tradesmen. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. STRZAKER seconded the motion, which was carried, and the proceedings terminated.

MANCHESTER.

ST. CLEMENT'S WARD.—A meeting of women electors of this ward (being the first of three meetings which Miss Becker has arranged in connection with the ensuing municipal elections in this city) was held on October 26th in the Temperance Hall, Fairfield-street, at which Miss Becker gave an address on the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote. There are about 400 women voters in the ward. Mr. Alderman George Booth presided, and Mr. J. W. Southern was present on behalf of the retiring councillor (Mr. Asquith), who was prevented by illness from attending. An invitation had been sent to the Conservative candidate (Mr. Gibbons), but, according to a statement made by the chairman, he could not spare time to attend. The Chairman opened the proceedings, after which Miss Becker addressed the meeting. Mr. Southern afterwards spoke on behalf of Mr. Asquith, whom he described as a man who was devoted to his duty, and now suffering from illness contracted whilst doing his work as a member of the City Council. He asked what reason had the ratepayers of that ward to turn away a good servant? A show of hands was afterwards taken, and resulted unanimously in favour of Mr. Asquith. When Mr. Gibbons's name was mentioned several ladies exclaimed that they knew nothing about him.

ARDWICK WARD.—At the Ardwick Town Hall, on Oct. 27th, Miss Becker addressed a large meeting of the women electors of Ardwick and Beswick on the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alderman Bennett. It was moved by Miss Becker, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is the duty of every woman on the citizens' roll of Ardwick to use her municipal vote on November 1st with a view to the good government of the city and the general benefit of the community." She said both candidates for the ward had been requested to attend, but only

Mr. Hewitt (the Liberal candidate) had responded. Mr. Whittaker, the other candidate, had written to say that he had consulted with his election committee, who thought that his best course would be to allow the female municipal electors of Ardwick to exercise the franchise unbiassed. Mr. Whittaker considered that female ratepayers ought to have a vote both at municipal and parliamentary elections. Miss Downing seconded the motion, which was adopted. Afterwards, Mr. Hewitt addressed the meeting, stating his concurrence with the views expressed by Miss Becker. The meeting was then asked to declare its opinion on the merits of the candidates, and on a show of hands being taken there was a distinct majority in favour of Mr. Hewitt. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

ST. MICHAEL'S WARD.—On October 23th a meeting of women electors was held in the Public Hall, Churnett-street, Rochdale Road, for the purpose of hearing addresses from Miss Becker and the candidates who are contesting the representation of the St. Michael's Ward. Mr. C. Rowley presided, and several hundred women were present. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said there were over 1,600 women electors in St. Michael's Ward alone. Miss Becker, who was received with much cordiality, proposed a resolution affirming that it was the duty of all women on the citizen's roll in St. Michael's Ward to use their municipal vote, on November 1st, with a view to the good government of the city, and the promotion of such measures for the benefit of the community as can be effected by the action of the Town Council. Miss Becker referred in detail to the many questions which had to be decided by the municipal authorities in which women were interested, and urged them to see that whenever anything was provided for the benefit of the people, attention was directed to it in order that women should have their full share of such benefit. Miss Downing seconded the resolution, and advised the women present to get a pledge from the candidates, before they voted in their favour, that they would support a petition from the Corporation to the House of Commons in favour of extending the parliamentary franchise to women who now possessed the municipal franchise. The resolution having been adopted, Mr. Ben Brierley, the retiring councillor, addressed the meeting, and was followed by his opponent, Mr. J. Faulkner, both candidates expressing their willingness to support any action which might be taken in the City Council toward securing for women the parliamentary franchise. In answer to a question, Mr. Brierley said he was in favour of the public squares of the city being available for the holding of public meetings. Answering the same question, Mr. Faulkner said that while it had been shown that men had on many occasions made an improper use of the squares of the city, still, if the ladies desired the privilege of using them, he should be one of the first to urge that they should have a fair trial. In answer to Miss Becker, Mr. Brierley and Mr. Faulkner concurred in the view that the Town Hall should be made more accessible to the ratepayers for the holding of public meetings, &c., than it at present was, seeing that they had provided the money with which it had been erected. A show of hands was then taken for each candidate, and declared to be in favour of Mr. Faulkner, and a vote of thanks having been accorded to the chairman the proceedings terminated.

BRADFORD.

On October 26th, in view of the approaching municipal contests, a meeting of the "women electors and other women" was held at the Mechanics' Institute for the purpose of hearing addresses in regard to the importance and responsibility of the municipal vote. There was a large audience. With the exception of a few reserved places, the seats were free. There was only a small number of the sterner sex in one of the galleries. Alderman JOHN HILL presided, and he was supported upon the platform by Mr. and Mrs. T. Braithwaite, Mrs. F. R. Pesel, Mrs. W. P. Byles, Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd (Leeds), Miss Carbutt (Leeds), Miss Helena Downing (London), &c.

In opening the proceedings the CHAIRMAN expressed the satisfaction he felt at seeing that there were some gentlemen present as well as ladies, and having explained the objects of the gathering he went on to say that it had now been the law of the land for eleven or twelve years that females should vote in the case of municipal elections, and they had, he believed, in Bradford nearly 6,000 of this class of voters. Perhaps one in five or six of the voters in the borough were female voters. It was of great consequence that the

female voters, as well as those of the opposite sex, should clearly understand the meaning of the municipal vote. It was very important, and he trusted that as a result of this meeting they would better understand their responsibilities. Having drawn attention to the fact that ward meetings were mostly held for men, and that, consequently, very few, if any, women were ever present, he explained that this meeting was not called in the interests of either Conservatives or Liberals. He hoped that those female voters who had in the past shrunk from exercising their trust would not do so in the future. The elections would take place very shortly, and therefore the meeting was very opportune. He hoped something would be done by the women to give the elections a good turn. He had heard of rum bottles and such things going to females, but he had no doubt they would be proof against those things when once properly instructed and properly aroused. (Applause.)

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD (Leeds) was then called upon to propose the first resolution. Before reading it, Mrs. Scatcherd said that on her own behalf and that of the other ladies she would say that they were not there in the interests of either Conservatism or Liberalism, they were not there either as "blues" or "yellows"—(laughter)—but simply to try and put before the meeting some reasons why they should all value this vote which they possessed, and which she hoped they would all use on November 1st. (Applause.) The resolution was this: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is the duty of every woman on the burgess-roll of Bradford to use her municipal vote with a view to the good government of the town, and also with especial reference to the promotion of such measures of justice to women as can be effected by the action of Town Councils." The speaker expressed her opinion that there should be a room in every ward where women could attend, and said it was not likely that they would attend ward meetings which were held in public-houses. (Applause.) She spoke of the seriousness of the matter of town councils having such great powers to borrow large sums of money, and then read a telegram which she had received from Mrs. M'Laren, of Edinburgh, whom she characterised as one of the noblest women she had ever known. (Applause.) The telegram was as follows: "I rejoice at the meeting of the women in Bradford to-night. It is wiser to explain to women their municipal and political duties than to neglect their education, and then to blame them for their deficiencies. Every Christian and patriotic woman in Bradford ought to rally round your work, and come to the front to help in what is so obviously right. May I send this message to the working women at your meeting. I hope they will all go to the poll on November 1st for the best man." (Applause.) Mrs. Scatcherd, in conclusion, criticised some of the opinions expressed in a leader of the *Observer* of the previous day. Her remarks were to the effect that women took full advantage of their privilege of voting, and that they exercised it intelligently. In regard to the statement that "women cannot hope, under household suffrage at any rate, to out-vote their lords and masters," she said that women had not the slightest antagonism against the opposite sex. What they wanted was to be allowed to exercise their votes, and they believed that, with the experience and knowledge they could bring to bear upon different matters, things would be better managed.

Miss CARBUTT (Leeds), who disclaimed any ability in public speaking, but who, nevertheless, acquitted herself in an able manner, explained to her hearers that the word "municipal" was derived from "*municipium*," which meant the freedom or liberty given to a foreign State by Rome in the days of the Empire. She impressed upon them that it was not only a right but a duty to use the vote, and to try and form an opinion, and then said that women wanted to work with the men and not in opposition to them. (Applause.) There were some women who thought that they should not only have the municipal but the parliamentary franchise. (Applause.) She concluded by saying that they should not dare to sell their vote. The vote was a part of themselves which they could not sell, and they must keep it and use it in the line of truth as they saw it. (Applause.)

Miss HELENA DOWNING, in supporting the resolution, also spoke very forcibly. She protested against municipal elections being conducted on the grounds of party politics, and having urged her hearers to set their faces against bribery, spoke with particular reference to the latter part of the motion. She showed that in the matter of petitions town councils and other public bodies were able to bring considerable pressure to bear upon Parliament. She did not know whether the women electors had yet been canvassed or

not, but if not, and the candidates came round, they should ask them whether they were prepared to support a petition in the Corporation in support of a Bill giving women the parliamentary franchise. (Applause.) She asked them not to be behind the women of other towns in asserting their rights, and concluded by calling upon them to be present at the great demonstration of women which was to be held in Bradford next month. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried with acclamation. Mrs. ELLIS (Dewsbury), who had occupied a seat in the middle of the hall, now came upon the platform and proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. If the women were ignorant she thought it was the fault of the men they were so. (Laughter.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD, in seconding the compliment, which was most heartily accorded, asked the women electors not to use cabs on the day of election, but to walk to the polling booths, which would be within easy reach. Whatever might be said, it was only a respectable form of bribery. (Applause.)

LEWES.

A public meeting of women electors and other women was held in the County Hall, Lewes, on October 24th, 1881, when addresses on the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote were delivered by Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss H. P. Downing, of London. The chair was occupied by Rev. A. F. Macdonald, M.A. The meeting was attended by nearly all the women electors on the roll, and the proceedings were of an interesting and enthusiastic character.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

GLASGOW.

An afternoon meeting of a very agreeable character was held on Friday, the 30th September, at the house of Miss A. M. N. Young, 174, Pitt-street, at which were present Miss Kirkland, from Edinburgh, Mrs. Park and the Misses Park, Mrs. J. Wilson, the Misses Fleury, Mrs. Grahamsley and Miss Grahamsley, Mr. Park, Miss Thomson, Acklington Park, Northumberland, etc. A very interesting paper on "Women's Suffrage" was read by Miss Kirkland, after which tea was served, and a discussion took place as to the extension of suffrage work in Glasgow. It was agreed upon to hold a series of such meetings during the winter.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

GLASGOW.

GLASGOW EAST END STUDENTS' DIALECTIC SOCIETY.—A debate on the "Extension of the franchise to women" took place at the meeting of this society on Friday evening, 7th October. The affirmative was led by Mr. David Kellock, seconded by Mr. J. S. Knox; and the negative by Mr. John Adamson, seconded by Mr. Archibald Campbell. After a lengthened debate, the result of the vote was in favour of the affirmative by a majority of two votes.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN SHEFFIELD.

On Tuesday evening, November 25th, the friends of the Woman's Rights Association held a soirée in the Council Hall. After tea was over, Alderman Groves was called to the chair, and introduced Miss Anne Knight, of "Quiet Home, Chelmsford," as the untiring advocate of woman's rights.—Miss Knight said that in her labours to obtain freedom for the slaves she had discovered that there were also white as well as black people in slavery. In this country 7,000,000 of men and 8,000,000 of women were excluded from their right to vote in the choice of the persons who imposed their taxes. That could only be removed by strong efforts. The 300 slaughter men (members connected with the army and navy) in the House of Commons, knowing that they could not hold their post long with the increasing intelligence, were now making the most of it. The Iron Duke revels in a hundred guineas a day and more of the people's earnings. It was an awful thing to reflect that seven-eighths of their taxes should be expended in purposes of war. Give the people the right to vote, and this military despotism would soon be done away with. They had plenty of liberal men of property to represent them until they could get the property qualification done away with. The great question, therefore, was universal suffrage. She referred, approvingly, to the seven women who had waited upon Mr. Ironside to induce him to use his vote. It was that which led her to communicate with them, and explain to them

that they had rights of their own which were withheld from them by tyranny, and she urged upon them to make known their wrongs, demand their rights, and entreat their brethren to help them to obtain them. Hence the Sheffield Woman's Rights Association. The men of Sheffield had their hearts in the cause of universal suffrage. The present was, therefore, their time. She had asked Edward Smith to be present on that occasion, but he had his fears about socialism, and also objected to music. She would rather not have had the music, because her woman's harp was hanging on the willows, and it must be almost like a mockery to their poor Hungarian brethren to be requested to play the songs of their fatherland in the land of strangers. She had recently been at Edinburgh and Glasgow, and had been received in a gratifying manner. She there expounded her views, and urged that the women constituted the major half of society; and as they paid taxes, and were called upon to obey the laws (many of which were heavy enough against them), the same as the men, they were entitled to equal rights, and a voice in the appointment of the men by whom the laws were made. Many of the people sympathised with the movement, and she had exhorted them to send their lights down to the south. She hoped their beacons would be lighted through the country until they warmed up the heart of cold London.—Mrs. Higginbotham then briefly addressed the meeting.—Mr. Woodcock gave the "enfranchisement of women." He contended that their intellectual capabilities were equal to those of men, as were testified by many shining examples, and there was no reason why they should not be as well educated, and endowed with equal privileges, both social and political.—Miss Knight then rose to give some detail of female struggles for political enfranchisement in France, where she had heard M. Legouvé, one of their illustrious historians, declare that the old revolution failed because they had not done justice to the women; and in the last they had selfishly abandoned the rights of the majority of their burden bearers, and had lost their republic.—The Chairman read a memorial to Lord John Russell, praying that universal suffrage might be extended to women as well as to men. Mrs. Higginbotham moved its adoption, and expressed the pleasure it gave her to meet her townspeople, and said it was not merely woman's rights, but the rights of humanity she demanded; she spoke in moving terms of the wives of sailors and soldiers unable to represent their husbands in their country's cause, while they were far off on the sea, or compelled to an automaton submission to ravage with fire and sword their unoffending brethren of distant lands, at the tyrant's bidding, and she exhorted her brethren no longer to halt in half measures, but to rise and demand the immediate restitution of the birthright of all human beings.—Mrs. Turner seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.—Letters were read from Mr. Ironside, Mary Campbell Jackson, temperance lecturer, and Mrs. Priscilla Oliver, mother of Captain Oliver, expressing their sympathy with the movement and their inability to attend. A letter was also read from the Rev. T. Sale, the vicar, begging to be excused attending.—The Chairman eulogised the letter from Mrs. Oliver, and moved that it be sent to Lord J. Russell, along with the memorial. (Applause.)—A vote of thanks was given to the Mayor for the loan of the room, to Miss Knight, and to the Chairman; after which the meeting separated. The following is the memorial referred to:—

"To the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, First Lord of the Treasury.

"The memorial of the Women of Sheffield, in public meeting assembled.

"That as your lordship declared, on Mr. Hume's motion, what the people wanted was universal suffrage; and that as your lordship has promised to bring forward a measure in the next session to remedy the violations of Magna Charta, the women of Sheffield call upon you to redeem that pledge; they earnestly desire that the provisions of the measure should be of so efficient a nature as to restore the action of the charter in its integrity; that the reform bill submitted by your lordship be based upon universal suffrage, meaning thereby all adult men and women, and that arrangements be immediately made that the ENTIRE PEOPLE—all men and all women—be invested with their long withheld right; that nothing short of this will heal the grievances under which they have so long groaned.

"Signed in and on behalf of the meeting,

"ABIAH HIGGINBOTHAM,

"Corresponding Secretary of the Women's Rights Association.

"WILLIAM GROVES, Chairman."

THE QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN AS GUARDIANS.
IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE LOCAL GOVERN-
MENT BOARD.

At the election in March last of the Board of Guardians for Barnet Union, Mrs. Anne Shaw was nominated for the parish of Elstree, which returns one Guardian only to the Board. No other candidate having been nominated, it was believed that Mrs. Shaw had been duly returned. But the Clerk to the Board, Mr. Byfield, took upon himself to declare that the nomination was invalid, whereupon the following correspondence took place:—

[Copy.]

"The Firs, Elstree, Herts,
2nd April, 1881.
"Sir,—As Clerk to the Board of Guardians, will you be good enough to inform me in what particular the nomination paper proposing me as Guardian for the parish of Elstree was and by whom pronounced invalid? Your immediate reply will oblige, yours truly,
"ANNE SHAW."

[Copy reply.]

"Barnet Union, Clerk's Office, High Barnet, Herts,
5th April, 1881.

"Madam,—Referring to your letter, I beg to inform you that I, as returning officer, declared your nomination papers invalid upon two grounds: 1st, That it did not appear that you were a widow or spinster, in which capacity alone you would be entitled to act as Guardian; and, secondly, your nomination was filled in one of the street posters, and therefore I could not regard it as a nomination within the meaning of the Act. Should you be dissatisfied with my determination, an appeal will lie to the Local Government Board.—I am, Madam, yours truly, (signed) GEO. D. BYFIELD.
"To Mrs. Anne Shaw, Boreham Wood, Elstree, Herts."

On the 7th of April, 1881, Mrs. Shaw addressed a letter to the Local Government Board, of which the following is a copy:—

"To the Secretary of the Local Government Board.

"The Firs, Elstree, Herts.
"Sir,—I enclose copy of a letter I addressed to Mr. Byfield, Clerk to the Barnet Board of Guardians, and also his reply to me. I shall be obliged by your informing me whether both, or either of the objections to my nomination alleged by Mr. Byfield is valid, since I am informed by my proposer and seconder that they, in common with a large body of the ratepayers, are dissatisfied with the decision of the Clerk, and intend, if possible, to get it reversed. You will observe that the effect of such decision is, that the important parish of Elstree is now unrepresented—no one else having been nominated as Guardian for this parish; and, under these circumstances, I contend I ought to have been returned as Guardian, notwithstanding technical flaws (if any) in the nomination papers. Mr. Byfield does not allege that he did not know—what as a matter of fact is well known—namely, that I am a widow; and the second ground which he alleges appears (although I have never seen the nomination papers) so trivial that I cannot believe he relies much upon the first one.—I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,
"ANNE SHAW."

To this, on the 13th April, Mrs. Shaw received reply No. 1.

[No. 1.]

"Local Government Board,

"Whitehall, S.W., 13th April, 1881.
"Madam,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and to inform you that the subject to which it relates will receive their attention.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,
"HUGH OWEN, junr., Assistant Secretary.

"To Mrs. Anne Shaw, The Firs, Elstree, Herts."

After this, having had no further letter from the Local Government Board, Mrs. Shaw addressed them again on the 2nd of May in the following terms:—

"The Firs, Elstree, Herts, 2nd May, 1881.

"To the Local Government Board.

"Gentlemen,—As I have received no definite answer to my letter

of the 7th ultimo, may I ask for your reply? viz., whether you regard my nomination as Guardian for the parish of Elstree void upon either of the grounds advanced by the Clerk, the principal one being my not having been described as a widow; the other, that the nomination was not filled up on a proper form. As to the first—an oversight certainly—but considering that I am the only ratepayer of the name in the whole district, and having resided here twenty-two years, also that Dr. Shaw's death was well known, it was, I suppose, not thought necessary. I may mention that I knew nothing whatever of the parish having nominated me till after the 'form' had been sent to the Clerk, and as I am informed the ratepayers are most desirous they should be represented, may I ask, will you overrule the omission, or allow the parish to re-elect?—I am, gentlemen, your very obedient servant,
"ANNE SHAW."

In reply to the above Mrs. Shaw received the letter of the 14th May (marked 2), and on the 13th June the decision of the Local Government Board, after they had had the rate book for the parish from the assistant overseer:—

[No. 2.]

"Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W., 14th May, 1881.

"Madam,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, with respect to the recent election of a Guardian of the Poor for the parish of Elstree, in the Barnet Union, and to state that the question which you have raised is in course of investigation, and that they hope soon to be able to communicate their decision thereupon.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,
"HUGH OWEN, junr., Assistant Secretary.

"Mrs. Shaw, The Firs, Elstree, Herts."

[No. 3.]

"Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W., 13th June, 1881.

"Madam,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have had under their consideration the question which you have raised as to the validity of the decision of the Returning Officer in the recent election of Guardians of the Poor of the Barnet Union, in rejecting your nomination as Guardian of the Poor for the parish of Elstree as invalid. The Board learn from their correspondence with the Returning Officer that he rejected your nomination on the ground that it was inserted in the form of nomination paper contained in one of the bills intended for use in posting the notices of the election, and that the description, 'Independent Lady,' in the nomination paper, was, in his opinion, insufficient. With regard to the first objection, the Board may state that, in their opinion, there was no ground for rejecting the nomination merely because it was written on one of the bills above referred to. As to the second ground of objection, the Board consider that this also fails. It appears to them that the designation, 'Independent Lady,' in the column headed 'quality or calling,' was an adequate description. The Returning Officer, in contending that the description in the nomination paper was insufficient, states that it did not appear that you were a widow or spinster, in which capacity alone you would be entitled to act as a Guardian. The Board do not concur in this view. No woman is entitled to act as a Guardian in the capacity of widow or spinster. She is only qualified to be elected as Guardian in consequence of being a person rated to the poor rate for property of the requisite rateable value. The Board consider that, as in one of the nominations you are described as 'Mrs. Ann Shaw,' residing at 'The Firs, Boreham Wood,' and an 'Independent Lady,' this description was amply sufficient to enable the Returning Officer to identify you with the person who was entered in the rate book as rated for the property called 'The Firs,' at Boreham Wood. Upon this view of the case the Board consider that the decision of the Returning Officer cannot be sustained. As, therefore, your nomination in other respects is admitted to be valid, and you were, at the time of the election, duly qualified to act as an elective Guardian, the Board are of opinion that you have been duly elected as Guardian of the Poor for the parish of Elstree; and they will shortly proceed to issue an order deciding accordingly.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,
"HUGH OWEN, junr., Assistant Secretary.

"To Mrs. Shaw, The Firs, Elstree, Herts."

PATHETIC APPEAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA.
WOMEN DOCTORS IN INDIA.

The October number of the *Indian Female Evangelist* contains an interesting description of an interview last April between the Maharanee of Punna and Miss Beilby, a lady medical missionary at Lucknow. We make the following extracts:—

"Punna is the capital of a native State in Bundelcund, Central India, a city of 12,000 inhabitants, situate above 200 miles south of Lucknow and 100 south of Allahabad. The Sovereign of this State, the Maharajah of Punna, applied to Miss Beilby last year for medical attendance for his wife, the Maharanee, who had long been suffering from a painful internal disease. It would have been impossible for her to have obtained relief at the hands of any but a lady doctor, as native customs wholly preclude an inmate of a Zenana from being seen by any man but her father, husband, or brother. The call was an urgent one, and Miss Beilby went to Punna to attend the Maharanee, residing many weeks in the midst of this heathen Court, and in a native city where there is no other European.* Her skill and care in the treatment of this Indian Princess were blessed of the God she serves, and a cure effected. She was also able, while in attendance on the Maharanee, to relieve many poor patients in the city and in the native hospital. When the time of her departure from Punna arrived, she was desired to present herself at the palace to take leave of her Royal patient, on Wednesday, the 13th of April last. The Maharanee received her in her private room, and almost immediately dismissed all her attendants and ladies, so that she might be quite alone with her. The Maharanee then said she wished Miss Beilby to make her a solemn promise. Without knowing what it might involve she was reluctant to do this, but at length the Maharanee said, 'You are going to England, and I want you to tell our Queen† and the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the men and women in England, what the women in the Zenanas in India suffer when they are sick. Will you promise me to do this?' She explained that it was no social change in their condition she sought, but relief in their cruel sufferings. She charged Miss Beilby to give this message herself to the great Queen of England, not to send it through any other channel, but to take it herself, or Her Majesty would think less of it.

"Miss Beilby represented to the Maharanee the difficulty she would have in getting access to the Queen—that with us it is not as in the East, where any one can go to the Palace and lay a petition before the native Sovereign. Besides, she told her she hardly knew what good it would do if she could do as she wished and take her message to our Queen. The Queen could not make lady doctors, or order them to go out. It was not in the power of even the great Queen of England to do this. 'But,' said the Maharanee, 'did you not tell me our Queen was good and gracious, that she never heard of sorrow or suffering without sending a message to say how sorry she was, and trying to help? Did you not show me a picture of a train falling into the sea, where a bridge broke, and did you not tell me how grieved our Queen was? Well, it was very sad those people should have been killed, but our condition is far worse. If you will only tell our Queen what we Indian women suffer when we are sick, I am sure she will feel for us and try to help us.' Miss Beilby felt she could no longer refuse to promise to convey this message, if possible. The Maharanee next bade her write it down at once (giving her pen, ink, and paper), lest she should forget it, and added, 'Write it small, Doctor Miss Sāhiba, for I want to put it in a locket, and you are to wear this locket round your neck till you see our great Queen and give it her yourself. You are not to send it through another.'

"On Miss Beilby's return to England, the Queen having been told by some of the ladies of her Court of Miss Beilby's work and her message, determined, in spite of all difficulties and many engagements, to see her and hear all for herself, and accordingly sent for her. Her Majesty listened with great interest, asking many questions and showing the deepest sympathy. Turning to her ladies she said, 'We had no idea it was as bad as this; something must be done for these poor creatures.' The Maharanee's locket, with its message, was given to the Queen, and Her Majesty

* Punna is 63 miles from Nowgong, the nearest place where there are English people.
† "The Maharanee always said 'our Queen,' 'Hamāri bari Rāni Sāhiba.'"

"Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.,
6th August, 1881.

"Madam,—I am directed by the Local Government Board, with reference to their letter of the 13th of June last, to transmit to you herewith a copy of an order which they have issued deciding on your appeal against the decision of the returning officer in the recent election of a Guardian for the parish of Elstree, in the Barnet Union.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,
"HUGH OWEN, Assistant Secretary.

"To Mrs. Shaw, The Firs, Elstree, Herts."

"TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR of the Barnet Union, in the counties of Hertford and Middlesex:—

"To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Elstree, in the said Union:—

"To Anne Shaw, of The Firs, Elstree, widow;—

"And to all others whom it may concern.

"WHEREAS the Local Government Board, by a general order dated the 14th day of February, 1877, addressed, among others, to the Guardians of the Poor of the said Barnet Union, prescribed regulations relating to the election of Guardians of the Poor in the said Union;

"And whereas by an order of the Poor Law Commissioners one Guardian is directed to be elected for the said parish of Elstree;

"And whereas proceedings for the election of a Guardian of the Poor for the said parish took place in the month of March, 1881, and the said Anne Shaw was nominated for the office of Guardian of the Poor for the said parish, but the returning officer rejected such nomination as invalid;

"And whereas a question having arisen as to the right of the said Anne Shaw to act as an elective Guardian of the Poor for the said parish, we, the Local Government Board, under the authority of the statutes in that behalf, have made due inquiry into the circumstances of the case, and find that the returning officer was wrong in rejecting the nomination of the said Anne Shaw, and should have certified that the said Anne Shaw was duly elected Guardian of the Poor for the said parish:

"NOW THEREFORE, we, the Local Government Board, in pursuance of the powers given to us by the statutes in that behalf, hereby determine that the said Anne Shaw was duly nominated and elected Guardian of the Poor for the said parish, and is entitled to act as such during the current year of office under and by virtue of such election as aforesaid.

"Given under the Seal of Office of the Local Government Board, this second day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

"J. G. DODSON, President.

"HUGH OWEN, Assistant Secretary."

RE-ELECTION OF MRS. M'ILQUHAM AS
GUARDIAN.

The following is from the *Cheltenham Examiner*:—

THE GUARDIANSHIP OF BODDINGTON.—Mr. Piff, of The Barrow, was a few days ago announced as the opponent of Mrs. J. H. M'Ilquham for the Guardianship of Boddington, rendered vacant, it will be remembered, by the vitiation of Mrs. M'Ilquham's election in April, by reason of an informality in her nomination. At the last moment, however, Mr. Piff retired, and Mr. Henry Arkell, Mrs. M'Ilquham's opponent in April, and upon whose petition her election was invalidated, did not again offer himself for election. Mrs. M'Ilquham, consequently, was the only candidate nominated, and has been elected Guardian, without further expense to herself or the parish. Mrs. M'Ilquham, on this occasion, and to guard against any further accident in her nomination, was nominated by three ratepayers of Boddington, viz., by Mr. John Woodward, farmer, of Uckington; by Mr. Neighbour Tombs, of The Barrow, Boddington; and by Mr. Bowyer, of Bamfurlong, and she was severally designated "gentlewoman," "farmer," and "landowner farming her own land." The abortive result of the opposition to Mrs. M'Ilquham appears to be generally satisfactory in the parish, which has so far shown no disposition to reverse the judgment it pronounced at the contested election in April. The decision of the Local Government Board in Mrs. M'Ilquham's case establishes the right of a married woman, if duly qualified as a person rated to the poor, of being elected as a Guardian of the Poor.

entrusted Miss Beilby with a message in reply, which was intended for the Maharanee alone. But the Queen also gave Miss Beilby a message which might be given to everyone with whom she spoke on the subject:—'We should wish it generally known that we sympathise with every effort made to relieve the suffering state of the women of India.'

"The Maharanee, in parting with Miss Beilby, said in solemn and earnest accents, 'If you forget your promise your God will judge you.' She did not say 'my God,' or 'this or that God,' but 'your God.'"—Times.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES ON WOMEN.

We learn from the Lyttelton Times that the ceremony of conferring the degrees obtained by candidates in the last University examination took place at Christchurch on August 15th, in the Provincial Council Chamber. As on a former occasion—the last public ceremony of the kind being on June 29, 1880—a temporary dais had been erected at the upper end of the hall, and the body of the building had been liberally furnished with seats, the attendance on the part of the public being greater than on the before-mentioned occasion. Two rows of chairs near the dais had been reserved for the use of those who were more especially interested in the proceedings; and as the lady members of the University entered the building they were loudly cheered. The gallery was occupied by undergraduates, who lost no opportunity of evincing their pleasure. The chair was taken shortly after noon by Mr. H. J. Tancred, the Chancellor of the University; and the members of the professorial staff occupied seats on the platform, together with the Very Rev. the Dean, and members of the Board of Governors of the Canterbury College.

Mr. W. M. Maskell then read the result of the University work during the year 1880. The list of students admitted to matriculation numbered thirty, among whom were the following eight ladies:—Catherin Colebrook, Auckland; Janet Gilmer, Auckland; Caroline Agnes Jervis, Auckland; Emilia Menzies, Otago; Ada Pike, Canterbury; Helen Simpson, Auckland; Louisa Melville Will, Otago; Jessie Wilson, Auckland.

Eight candidates obtained junior scholarships, among whom were Edith Howitt Searle, Canterbury; Mary Montgomery, Otago.

Ten passed the first examination for the B.A. degree, among whom is Caroline Freeman, University of Otago.

Among sixteen who passed the final examination for the B.A. degree we find Margaret Lillian Florence Edger, Canterbury College. This lady also obtained one of the five Senior Scholarships awarded.

Four candidates passed the examination for Honours, among whom Helen Connon, Canterbury College, obtained a first-class in languages and literature.

Professor Haslam then presented the candidates *seriatim* to the Chancellor for the admission to the degree of B.A., and in so doing he recounted their successes. He said Miss Margaret Lillian Florence Edger, in 1878, gained a Junior University Scholarship; in 1879 a Senior University Scholarship in mathematics; and in 1880 an exhibition in mathematics at Canterbury College, and a Senior University Scholarship in English and French.

As the Chancellor invested each candidate with the hood, he said: "By the authority of the Senate I admit you to the degree of Bachelor of Arts of the University of New Zealand," and then delivered the diploma. Each graduate was loudly cheered, the young lady being specially favoured by the occupants of the gallery.

Professor Haslam then said: "Mr. Chancellor, I have to present to you for admission to the degree of Master of Arts Miss Helen Connon and Mr. James Ronaldson Thornton. Miss Helen Connon gained an exhibition at Canterbury College in 1879, was admitted to the degree of B.A. in 1880, and gained first-class in Latin and English in the University Honours Examination for the present year. I may add that I believe Miss Connon will be the first female student to receive the degree of M.A. from an English University."

After the presentation of the two gentlemen the Chancellor conferred the degree of M.A. on the candidates, using the same formula (*mutatis mutandis*) as before. The cheers from the gal-

lery were most enthusiastic as the first lady M.A. of any British University retired from the dais.

The Chancellor, in congratulating those who had degrees conferred upon them, said their success was a matter of congratulation to the University itself, as giving it a new status in the country. As soon as thirty students are admitted to a degree, and those students have arrived at the second year's standing, the Convocation is then constituted, and consequently the organisation of the Senate will be complete, and the government of the University will be in its own hands. The University will then become a self-governing body, and that is a consummation we had all looked forward to with rejoicing. Those who had stood the test in the late examination had stood a test which probably very few Universities impose. The examiners are mostly gentlemen in England, who have the highest standing in their several departments. But the peculiarity of our position in respect to the examiners is that they have no knowledge whatever of the course of study pursued, and the greater part of our examination is upon the subjects, independently of books. There are certain books prescribed from which work is performed, but as a rule the examination is on a subject without any reference to a particular book. Therefore the decision of these gentlemen is upon the real knowledge acquired, and not upon what is called the "cramming" of books. The examiners have all spoken in the highest terms of the proficiency which the examination discloses.

At the conclusion of the Chancellor's address, three cheers were given for the Chancellor and the profession, and the proceedings terminated.

REVIEW.

Westminster Review. Art. viii. WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS PREACHED BY WOMEN.

This article is a review of the pamphlet by "A Looker-on," published under the above title by Messrs. C. Kegan Paul & Co., London. The review gives as "the gist and inspiration of the pamphlet that the writer is horrified by the proceedings of those advocates of the legal claims of women who demand for each of them possessing the property qualification, which if possessed by a man would confer on him the suffrage, the privilege of voting for members of Parliament." The article contains an able defence of the position of the leaders of the movement, and if we cannot fully assent to every proposition contained in it, we can cordially recommend it to our readers. The following extract shows the spirit in which the writer deals with the subject:—

"We regret our inability to concur in the opinion of 'A Looker-on' respecting the aim and method of procedure of the 'Women's Movement.' The leaders of that movement ask, we are told, 'that the suffrage be accorded to them "on the same terms as it is, or may be, accorded to men." Wherefore?' demands the writer; and then observes:—'If the Rights of Women be not an empty phrase, women have no cause for such reverence for the law as it is, or even as it may be, so long as it is framed exclusively by men.' We freely admit that the extraordinarily various, and even bizarre qualifications which confer the parliamentary franchise on Englishmen, are not likely to command the admiration of any one intent on devising, *de novo*, a system by which the admission of women to the franchise may be most advantageously regulated; and, certainly, we do not think such a reformer would be disposed, in constructing his system, to imitate the heterogeneous one now in operation. But it seems to us neither necessary nor desirable to devise a new system; and, if it were, such a system would certainly be framed exclusively by men in the first instance, and, whether afterwards retaining its original form, or modified from time to time, it would continue to exist by the authority of men only for an indefinitely long period—at least until women become members of the House of Commons, and obtain a majority there. Hence 'the leaders of the Women's Movement' must either 'ask that the suffrage be accorded to them on the same terms as it is, or may be, accorded to men,' or they must themselves be prepared to propose the terms on which they are willing to accept it. Now, we are of opinion that to adopt the latter plan would be to render their acquirement of the suffrage at all very problematical—at least, until social changes in England so vast as to be at present wholly unfore-

seeable and incalculable shall have come to pass; whereas, the adoption of the former plan is, we think, the indisputably right road to success, is in every respect eminently practicable, and is, therefore, the one which wisdom and common sense alike indicate should be chosen for 'the Women's Movement.'"

WOMEN AND CENSUS WORK.

The Government have employed women in the Census work for Ireland. There are 22 men and 22 women (selected by examination) now occupied in Dublin in calculating and arranging the enormous mass of statistics of the census. The work is done at home, and is paid for by the number of sheets done. We understand that the earnings average one shilling an hour, and that the women workers are giving satisfaction. It would be interesting to learn if women are employed in similar work in Scotland or England.

Lord Stanhope's Bill to promote the shorter employment of shop assistants is so worded as to prove most disastrous to the future prospects of female labour. Doubtless, however, it will go through several useful alterations before it is allowed to become law.—Truth.

LADY STRANGFORD'S SCHEME.—Classes for the instruction of soldiers' wives in elementary nursing are in course of formation at Sandhurst, Taunton, Woolwich, Newport, and Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. The instructor will be Mr. H. Crookshank, M.R.C.S., Times.

Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, whose *nom de plume*, Carmen Sylva, is hardly a disguise, has a volume of original poetry in course of publication. It will contain four romances in verse. A translation of her poem on the tenth century poetess Nun Hrowsitha into Hungarian is now appearing in *Egyetertes*.

MISS SHARMAN CRAWFORD AND HER TENANTS.—We understand that Miss Sharman Crawford, a near relative of the late Mr. W. Sharman Crawford, has given to her tenants in the County Waterford a lease for ever of their holdings. This generous act of Miss Crawford is greatly appreciated by her tenantry, by whom it was quite unexpected.—Belfast paper.

A sailor was brought up at Hove police-court the other day, and charged with striking his wife, burning her Bible, and kicking her and their child "over the garden wall," for which offences the Shallows present on the Bench bound him over to keep the peace! It is no wonder there should be little diminution in the number of gross assaults on women, seeing the manner in which ruffians are encouraged by the scandalous lenity of the great "unpaid."—Truth.

DUBLIN COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS UP TO OCTOBER 20th, 1881.

Table listing names and amounts for the Dublin Committee, including Mrs. E. M. Lynch, Mrs. Maurice Brooks, Miss Sharman Crawford, Charles Eason, Mrs. Eason, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Walkington, Alfred Webb, Miss Gleuan, Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, Charles H. Oldham, A. Shackleton, Henry Wigham, John R. Wigham, Henry J. Allen, Miss Ashley, Miss Corlett, Mrs. R. Dames, Mrs. Murphy, T. W. Russell, Esq., Miss Richardson, Miss Martin, Miss Cusack, Miss Isabel Harper, Miss Meyrick, A. Friend, per Miss Meyrick, Miss Shackleton, Miss L. Smithson, Miss D. Webb, Miss E. Webb, Mrs. John Webb, Mrs. T. H. Webb, Anonymous, Mrs. Kempston, Mrs. Fone, Miss M'Dowell.

Mrs. ANNA M. HASLAM, Hon. TREASURER, &c., 91, Rathmines Road.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, OCTOBER, 1881.

Table listing names and amounts for Manchester National Society, including 'Sympathiser', Miss Sargent, Mr. H. M. Steintal, Mr. A. E. Steintal, Mr. William Lawson, Mr. Gwynne, Mrs. Gordon Barlow, Mr. A. E. Eccles, Mr. Henry Ogden, Mr. W. H. Hewitt, Mr. H. C. Hart, Mrs. Butler, The Dowager Lady Lytton, Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Dixon, Miss Helen Brown, Mrs. Frank Marshall, Mrs. J. W. Whitehead, Dr. Burrows, Dr. Greer, Mr. A. M. Box, Miss M. E. Cheetham, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Kilmister, Mrs. Kate Mitchell, Mr. John Sutton, Mrs. Bigger, The Misses Hallam, Mrs. Barralett, Mrs. Monkhouse, Miss Broughton, Mrs. Joseph Oldham, Miss Emma Hodgkiss, Mrs. Whitwell Wilson, 'One who attended the meeting', Mr. Barwise, Mr. J. Biscoe, Mr. De Rome, Mr. Thomas Heap, Mr. John Robinson, Mr. William Heaton, Mr. T. Simpson, Mr. John Monkhouse, Mr. Jacob Tanner, Mr. J. Winder, Mr. T. Sharpe, Mr. W. Musgrave, G. E. J., Mr. Thomas Simpson, Mrs. M'Kay, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. James Kendal.

Mr. C. Butterworth, £125 12 6. S. ALFRED STEINTAL, TREASURER, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 28, 1881.

Table listing names and amounts for Central Committee, including Miss Jessie Boncherett, Mrs. Thomas Taylor, Mr. W. M. Rossetti, Miss Weld, Mrs. Bateson, Mr. George Dixon, Mr. E. B. Eastwick, Miss Anna Swanwick, Mrs. Lawrie, Miss Ruth, Miss Winkworth, Miss Rawlinson, Mr. Burningham, Mr. Nathaniel Waterall, Miss Mabel Weld, Mrs. Larry, Miss J. L. Snow, A. E., Miss H. E. Justice, Miss Jane Spreckley.

Laura McLaren, Treasurer, 64, Berners-street, W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 21 TO OCTOBER 20, 1881.

Table listing names and amounts for Bristol and West of England, including The Rev. T. E. Brown, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Yardley, Mrs. Inskip, Mrs. G. H. Leonard, Miss Key, Mr. Badock, Mr. John Mathews, A. Friend, Mrs. Monk, Miss Dymond, Miss Agnes Mylne, Miss Jane Wooley, Mrs. Goss, Miss Marsden, Miss Leatham, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Norton, Mr. Swatbridge, The Rev. J. B. Wrenford, Mrs. S. Budgett, Mr. Gartrell.

ALAN GREENWELL, TREASURER, 3, Buckingham Vale, Clifton.

GLASGOW.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FROM 20th APRIL TILL 18th OCTOBER, 1881.

Table listing names and amounts for Glasgow, including Walter Macfarlane, Esq., Dr. P. Stewart, Mrs. Stewart, Alexander MacDougall, Esq., Mrs. Glassford, Mrs. Curle.

ANNA M. N. YOUNG, Hon. Sec. and TREASURER.



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