

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XII.—No. 134. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MARCH 1, 1881.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
By Post THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

Leading Articles:—The Birmingham Demonstration; The Case of Thomas Beckett; Sentences at Warwick Assizes; The Birchall Will Case; Women Admitted to the Honours Examination at Cambridge; "Thingvalla;" Elections in the Isle of Man. School Board Election :—Yarmouth.

Parliamentary Intelligence:—Appropriation of Endowment for Girls' Education for the use of Boys; The Case of Thomas Beckett; Women included in the Irish Coercion Bill. Insular Legislature:—Special Tynwald Court. Correspondence. Public Meetings:—Birmingham.

Lectures, Debates, &c.:—Leeds, Cleckheaton, Berry Brow, Knaresborough, Cheltenham, Luton, Exmouth, Reading. The Empresses Regent of China and War with Russia. Petitions. Treasurers' Reports:—Central Committee, Manchester, Bristol and West of England, Glasgow.

When you ask for
Reckitt's
Paris
Blue
See that you get it,
as bad qualities are
often substituted.

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

CONTENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1881.

1. American Women's Christian Temperance Union.
2. The Mahomedan Law as Regards Women.
3. The Duty of being a Poor Law Guardian.
Reviews:—"Handbook for Women;" "Englishwoman's Year Book;" "What Girls can do."
Correspondence.
Record of Events:—Cambridge: Report of Syndicate—Girton College and Miss Pailthorpe—Newham College—London University—Durham—Bedford College, Rhyl—Suffrage—Married Women's Property—Poor Law Guardians—Maintenance of Children Bill—Arts Examination at Apothecaries' Hall—London School of Medicine—Letter of Carlyle on Medical Education for Women—Women in the Post Office—Obituary: Mrs. S. C. Hall—The Royal Academy—Seaweeds for Ornaments—Miscellaneous.
Foreign Notes and News. Paragraphs.
Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

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.—Orders may be sent to the Editor, 20, Park-street, Bristol; to the Publisher, Mr. J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11, Quay-street, Bristol.

THE NEW VOLUME.
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XI. January to December, 1880. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London: Trübner and Co.

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

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for petitions to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution during the present session of Parliament. Written petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; or to Miss THORBURY, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

LONDON.—A Meeting in support of Women's Suffrage will be held on March 4th, at the South Metropolitan Liberal Club and Association, Angell Town Institute, Brixton. SIR JOHN BENNETT will take the chair at 8 p.m.; and the proceedings will be opened by Mrs. Chant, on "Why should Women have the Suffrage?" Miss Müller (L.S.B.), Mrs. Webster (L.S.B.), and others will take part in the debate.

CARDIFF.—A Meeting will be held in the Assembly Rooms, Cardiff, on March 9th. The MAYOR of CARDIFF (Mr. Jones) in the chair. Further particulars in local announcements.

WANTED, an engagement as either COMPANION or GOVERNESS, by a young lady, well educated, including French, rudimentary German, Music, Singing, Drawing, Calisthenics, &c.; good amanuensis and reader. Excellent references.—Apply, Beta, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

TO LADIES' SOCIETIES.—OFFICES TO LET.—Two Good Rooms, separated by folding-doors, with Third Smaller Room.—Apply to Hon. Sec., 14, Grosvenor Road, Westminster, S.W.

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.

TO THE PROPRIETORS OF PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.—A Central Agency for the Sale of Local and Country Newspapers, and the Collecting of Advertisements, Accounts, &c. Full particulars of the above, and many other advantages. See Prospectus of the London and County Club, Victoria House, Catherine-street, Strand, W.C.

**TOWLE'S
CHLORODYNE**

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

Towle's Chlorodyne Lozenges. Towle's Chlorodyne Jujubes.

New Work by Miss Frances Power Cobbe.

Just Published.

THE DUTIES OF WOMEN. A Course of Lectures delivered in London and Clifton. By Frances Power Cobbe, 164 pp. crown 8vo, cloth, price 5s.

Also, New Editions of the following.

By the same Author.

THE HOPES OF THE HUMAN RACE. Essays on the Life after Death, and the Evolution of Social Sentiment. Second English edition, 221 pp. crown 8vo, cloth, price 5s.

ALONE TO THE ALONE. A Collection of Prayers. Third English edition, with additional Preface, 221 pp. crown 8vo, cloth, gilt edges, price 5s.

SEUL AVEC DIEU. Translation of the above. Prepared and published by the Comité Génévôis des publications religieuses libérales, 117 pp. crown 8vo, price 3s.

BROKEN LIGHTS. An Inquiry into the Present Condition and Future Prospects of Religious Faith. Third edition, 242 pp. crown 8vo, cloth, 5s.

WILLIAMS & NORGATE, 14, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, London; and 20, South Frederick-street, Edinburgh.

**BELL'S
UNFERMENTED WINE
IS THE BEST**

The true fruit of the Vine will keep good any length of time after the bottle is opened.

TRY THE FRENCH IMPERIAL LIQUEURS.

Late 104, Breck Road, Liverpool.

Present Address:—56, Upper Milk-street, Exchange Station.

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."

DR. ROOKE'S ANTI-LANCET

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

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

CROSBY'S BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR

Is specially recommended by several eminent Physicians, and by Dr. ROOKE, Scarborough, Author of the "Anti-Lancet."

It has been used with the most signal success for Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption, Coughs, Influenza, Consumptive Night Sweats, Spitting of Blood, Shortness of Breath, and all Affections of the Throat and Chest.

Sold in Bottles, at 1/9, 4/6, and 11/0 each, by all respectable Chemists, and wholesale by JAMES M. CROSBY, Chemist, Scarborough.

Invalids should read Crosby's Prize Treatise on "DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND AIR VESSELS," a copy of which can be had GRATIS of all Chemists

THE CALENDAR.—MARCH, 1881.

MOON.		SUN.		MOON.		SUN.	
7th First Quar., 8h 2m aft. 15th Full Moon, 10h 37m aft.		Rises.	Sets.	23rd Last Quar., 3h 29m morn. 29th New Moon, 10h 32m aft.		Rises.	Sets.
		6 34	5 49			5 57	6 16
		6 16	6 3			5 44	6 26
1	T	"Women's Suffrage Journal" started 1870. Lecture, Miss Becker, Gloucester, 1871.					
2	W	"Englishwoman's Journal" (now Review) started 1858. Lecture, Miss Becker, Cirencester. Mrs. Fawcett, Frome, 1871. Meeting, Bishops Hull, Taunton, 1874. Lecture, Castle Douglas, Miss Craigen, 1874. Drawing-room Meeting, Blandford Square, 1879. Lecture, Miss Biggs, Mile End, 1879.					
3	Th	Lecture, Mrs. Fawcett, Bath, Miss T aylour, Bridge of Allan, Miss Craigen, Bilston, 1871. Annual Meeting, Birmingham, 1875. Meeting, Blackheath, 1879. Meeting, Hyde, 1880.					
4	F	New Charter of Lond. Univ. admitting Women to Degrees, 1878. Meeting, Abingdon, 1874. Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1875. Meeting, Lambeth, 1879.					
5	S	Meeting, Aylesbury, 1874. Drawing-room Meeting, Notting Hill, 1877. Meeting, Horsham, 1879.					
6	S	1st Sunday in Lent. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Kirkpatrick (Kirkcubright), 1874. Drawing-room Meeting, Bath, 1877. Meeting, Tunbridge Wells, 1879.					
7	M	Lecture, Miss Craigen, Leven, Yorks, 1872. Meeting, Marylebone, 1873. Debate in the House of Commons, 1879.					
8	T	Lecture, Mr. J. W. Fletcher, Sunderland, 1870. Mrs. Fawcett, Bristol, 1871. Lecture, Miss Blind, London. Dollar, Miss T aylour, 1872. Lecture, Miss Beady, Penryn, 1873. Meeting, Swindon, 1875. Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1877. Meeting, King's Lynn, 1880.					
9	W	Mrs. Barbauld died 1823, aged 82. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Pontypool, 1871. Meeting, Southsea, 1874. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Cherside, Berwick, 1874. Meeting, Bristol, 1876.					
10	Th	Meeting, Birkenhead, 1873. Meeting, Boneybridge, Stirlingshire, 1874. Meeting, Miss Craigen, Huddersfield, 1880.					
11	F	Lecture, Mrs. Fawcett, Tavistock, 1871. Meeting, Northampton, 1874.					
12	S	Lecture, Prof. Newman, Birmingham, 1870. Meeting, Chelmsford, 1874. Meeting, Nottingham, 1874. Meeting, Leicester, 1874. Meeting, Bewdley, 1875. Meeting, Chesterfield, 1878. Lecture, Rev. R. Steony, Dublin, 1878. Drawing-room Meeting, Yarmouth, 1880.					
13	S	2nd Sunday in Lent. Lecture, Miss T aylour, Kirkcubright, 1871. Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1873. Meeting, Cheltenham, 1877. Debate, Hoxton, 1880.					
14	M	Lecture, Mrs. Fawcett, Plymouth, 1871. Miss T aylour, Kelso, 1871.					
15	T	Peers summoned to Attend Parliament by Proxy, 35th Edward III. Meeting, Kensington, 1872. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Winton, 1878. Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 1878. Meeting, Wisbech, 1880. Drawing-room Meeting, York Place, London, 1880.					
16	W	Lecture, Miss T aylour, Berwick, 1871. Meeting, Blackheath, 1875. Meeting, Bath, 1876. Meeting, Norwich, 1880. Drawing-room Meeting, Dub., 1880.					
17	Th	Mrs. Jameson died 1860, aged 85. Lecture, Miss T aylour, Galashiels, 1871. Miss Craigen, Pembroke Dock, 1871. Annual Meeting, Birmingham, 1873. Drawing-room Meeting, Blackheath, 1877. Meeting, Luton, 1879. Meeting, Costorphine, 1880.					
18	F	Meeting, Lechee, 1871. Meeting, Dunbar, 1872. Meeting, Oldham, 1874. Meeting, Reading, 1875. Meeting, Barnstaple, 1876. Annual Meeting, Belfast, 1878. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Llanidloes, 1880.					
19	S	Lecture, Miss Beady, Stepney, 1872. Windy Nook, Durham, Miss Craigen, 1872. Meeting, Woodstock, 1875. Meeting, Leek, 1877. Cottage Meeting, Batley, 1879.					
20	S	3rd Sunday in Lent. Lecture, Miss T aylour, Jedburgh, Miss Craigen, Pembroke, 1871. Meeting, Stalybridge, 1872. Lecture, Miss T aylour, Galashiels, 1872. Meeting, Macclesfield, 1877. Women's Meeting, Miss Craigen, Hull, 1879.					
21	M	Ross Bonheur born 1822. Lecture, Miss T aylour, Melrose, Miss Craigen, Nayland, Mrs. Ronniger, Andover, 1871. Lecture, Accrington, Miss Becker, 1872. Meeting, Bath, 1872. Lecture, Hawick, Miss T aylour, 1872. Meeting, Leicester, 1878. Lecture, Miss Tod, Dumfries, 1878.					
22	T	Anne, Countess of Pembroke, Hereditary Sheriff of Westmoreland, died 1675. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Saundersfoot, 1871. Meeting, Stockport, 1872.					
23	W	Lecture, Mrs. Fawcett, Brighton, Aberdeen, Miss T aylour, 1870. Hawick, Miss T aylour, 1871. Birmingham Annual Meeting, 1874. Women's Election Meeting, York, 1880. Meeting of Women, Heywood, 1880.					
24	Th	Lecture, Mrs. Ronniger, Midhurst, 1871. Debate, Bloomsbury, 1879. Meeting, Hull, 1879. 2nd Women's Election Meeting, York, 1880. Debate, South Shields, 1880. Drawing-room Meeting, Clifton, 1880.					
25	F	Mrs. Chisholm died 1877. Meeting, St. James' Hall, Meeting, Newport, 1871. Annual Meeting, Birmingham, 1872. Meeting, Dumfries, 1873. Annual Meeting, Belfast, 1874. Meeting, Ruthin, 1874. Chelsea, 1874. Lecture, Daventry, 1875. 3rd Women's Election Meeting, York, Mass Meeting of Women (Election), Leeds, 1880.					
26	S	Victoria Press established 1860. Meeting, Hanover Square Rooms, 1870. Lecture, Mrs. Ronniger, Worthing, 1871. Meeting, Denbigh, 1874. Newry, 1874. Debate, Carlinghow, 1879.					
27	S	4th Sunday in Lent. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Newport, Mrs. Ronniger, Hastings, 1871. Meeting, Wimbleton, 1873. Lecture, Inverkeithing, Miss Craigen, 1873. Meeting, Maldon, 1874. Lecture, Miss Becker, Kendal, 1876. Lecture, Tower Hamlets, Miss Becker, 1877.					
28	M	S. Theresa born 1515. Meeting, Eccles, Lecture, Mrs. Ronniger, Lewes, 1871. Meeting, Peckham, 1873. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Hesse, 1879.					
29	T	Meeting, Plymouth, 1870. Lecture, Miss T aylour, Biggar, 1871.					
30	W	Lecture, Haddington, Miss T aylour, 1871. Meeting, Portmadoc, 1874. Meeting, Derry, 1874. Meeting, Rotherham, 1875.					
31	T	Lecture, Peebles, Miss T aylour, 1871. Meeting, Festiniog, 1874. Adjourned Meeting, Derry, 1874. Meeting, Newark, 1875.					

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XII.—No. 134. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MARCH 1, 1881.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

THE great demonstration of women in Birmingham, which took place on the 22nd of February, was a truly magnificent gathering, not only as regards numbers, but also in enthusiastic support of the claim put forward for enfranchisement. The night was extremely inclement; snow had been falling all day, and continued during the assembling of the meeting, while the streets were deeply covered by a quagmire of half-melted snow. Notwithstanding the discomfort, the great hall, which holds more than 4,000 persons, was densely crowded some time before the proceedings began; and as the women still came thronging the doors in hundreds, vainly seeking for admission, the doors had to be closed in order to prevent dangerous pressure on those already inside. An overflow meeting was arranged in a neighbouring hall, to accommodate those excluded, many of whom, however, returned home on account of the weather, as they could not obtain places in the great meeting. The policemen on duty said it was fortunate for them that the night was inclement; for, had it been fine, they would hardly have known how to deal with the overpowering pressure. Had the weather permitted, the overflow demonstration would have taken place in the open space about the door, and been addressed by some of the speakers who were prepared for the occasion.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. H. W. CROSSKEY, and the other speakers were Mrs. ALFRED SOUTHALL, Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD, Miss BECKER, Mrs. BEDDOE, Miss ELIZA STURGE, Mrs. ALFRED OSLER, Mrs. FENWICK MILLER, Miss DOWNING, Miss C. A. BIGGS, Miss CRAIGEN, Mrs. C. E. MATHEWS, and Mrs. R. W. DALE. The resolutions were passed by a great and unanimous show of uplifted hands, and the proceedings were throughout characterised by the greatest interest and enthusiasm.

A portion of one of the side galleries was reserved for gentlemen, of whom many were present, and who must have been greatly impressed with the novel and imposing spectacle of the vast hall and platform crowded from floor to ceiling with an assemblage of women, to testify to the

earnestness of their desire for the recognition of their claim to the parliamentary franchise.

THE attention of Parliament continues to be so completely taken up with the unhappy condition of affairs in Ireland, that measures affecting the other parts of the kingdom and the general welfare of the empire seem for the present to have small chance of obtaining consideration. We are, therefore, not in a position to indicate the probable time when Mr. MASON'S resolution will be brought forward, and we can only ask our friends to be diligent in the use of every available method for enlisting parliamentary and other support in its favour.

"EDUCATED Englishwomen" would do well to ponder the sentiments expressed on their behalf by the SECRETARY OF STATE for the Home Department, in reference to a shocking case of wife murder recently reported from Leeds. On February 15th, Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, on behalf of Mr. C. M'LAREN, asked the HOME SECRETARY, in reference to the case of THOMAS BECKETT, tried on the 5th February for the wilful murder of his wife by cutting her throat, whether his attention had been called to the prisoner's own statement read in evidence, giving a minute account of the murder, and containing the words, "I meant to do it; I had made up my mind to do it;" and the charge of the Judge (Mr. Justice MANISTY), who referred to the crime as one committed in cold blood; to the verdict of manslaughter, and to the sentence of four days' imprisonment, dating from the opening of the assizes, by virtue of which the prisoner was instantly discharged; whether he was aware of the strong sentiment of educated Englishwomen against the leniency with which crimes against the person of women were habitually viewed by judges and magistrates; and whether if such a verdict and such a sentence were in accordance with the law of England he would consider the necessity of introducing a measure to amend the law.

In the course of his reply, which will be found in full in our parliamentary intelligence, Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT

deemed it becoming to raise a laugh at the notion that he should be supposed to be able to vouch for the sentiments of educated women on such a subject as the conduct of judges and magistrates. He then proceeded to enunciate the sentiments which, in his judgment, ought to animate them in reference to this unhappy case. They ought to have no sympathy for the murdered woman, because she was an adulteress who was attempting to return to her lover, and who had been guilty of violence towards her husband when he remonstrated with her. But granting that the man had been a good husband to an unfaithful wife, the question which educated Englishwomen ask themselves, and ask the legislative tribunals, is simply this:—Has a man who is justly or unjustly offended with his wife the right to assume the office of jury, judge, and executioner? And when a man has thus taken the law into his own hands and killed his wife to assuage his thirst for vengeance, is he to be allowed to do so under judicial sanction with absolute impunity?

One of the reasons which the Government allege for the suspension of the ordinary processes of law in Ireland is that it is impossible to obtain a conviction, owing to the sympathy of jurors and other official persons with those who commit agrarian outrages. If nominal sentences such as that on the wife slayer who has just been virtually acquitted at Leeds are to be taken as expressing the sense of educated Englishmen on the subject of provocation being a justification for murder, educated Englishwomen may begin to think it necessary to petition for the enactment of a Person and Property Protection of Women (England) Bill as soon as the House of Commons has completed its task of passing a special Bill for the repression of crime in Ireland.

IF the difference in the length of sentences be an indication of the comparative heinousness of crime in the eyes of the judge who apportions the sentence, two sentences delivered in two cases at the recent Warwick Assizes seem to show that, in the opinion of Mr. Commissioner MURPHY, to shoot with intent to murder a woman is just half as great a crime as to shoot with intent to murder a man. DENNIS SMITH was charged with having shot at his wife, AMELIA SMITH, with intent to murder her. She had left her husband owing to his bad conduct, and was earning her own living by letting lodgings. It was proved that the prisoner had procured a loaded pistol, stating that he wanted it to shoot pigeons, that he put it in his pocket, sent for his wife, and asked her to drink with him. She

refused; whereupon the prisoner, after a short altercation, pulled out the pistol, pointed it at her head, and fired. The wife fell, though fortunately her injuries were but slight. The facts were not disputed, and the jury found the prisoner guilty of the intent to murder. The Judge sentenced the man to *ten* years' penal servitude.—The next day WILLIAM DAY was charged with having shot at JAMES SMITH with intent to murder him. DAY and SMITH were together in a spirit vault tossing for drinks; there was a dispute as to payment, and DAY pulled out a revolver and shot SMITH four times, wounding him in the neck. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and the Judge, saying that he was determined if possible to stop the use of the revolver, sentenced DAY to *twenty* years' penal servitude.

The sentence was not, in our judgment, too severe in the latter case; but if the judge had been equally determined if possible to stop the terribly frequent practice of shooting at wives, he might have marked his sense of the enormity of the crime by an equally severe sentence on DENNIS SMITH.

A FURTHER stage in the course of litigation in the BIRCHALL will case has been reached this month. Our readers may remember that Mr. BIRCHALL, who had married the niece of a gentleman who left her £45,000, and who had drawn the will himself so that the property was not left for the separate use of the wife, but absolutely to her, knowing well that the law would give him the whole, was at the time living in adultery with another woman, and, after making one will to blind his wife by leaving her his whole property, made a subsequent will unknown to her which revoked the former will, and gave the whole of his wife's fortune to his illegitimate children and his second mistress. The wife disputed the will, and Vice-Chancellor MALINS suggested a "compromise," by which £20,000 of her own money would be given to the wife, and £25,000 to the illegitimate children. The widow was with great difficulty induced—we should almost think forced—to acquiesce in this arrangement, but the legal representative of the infants refused to be content with less than stripping the wife of her whole fortune.

The argument for the wife turned mainly on the assumption that the property must be held to have been left by the uncle of the wife for her own use and benefit, and that before the husband could deal with it as if it were his own it must be proved that the testator intended to give him sole control over it. Against this it was con-

tended by Mr. NORTH on behalf of the infants that it was not likely there was anything in the nature of a settlement, *because the testator fully trusted* Mr. BIRCHALL. The point was decided against the wife, and then the only thing left for her was to allege that certain of the securities had not been "reduced into possession" by the husband, and therefore on his death the right of the wife to these would revive. This was decided by the VICE-CHANCELLOR in favour of the wife, who thus obtained rather less than the £20,000 she would have had under the compromise, the greater part of the money going to the illegitimate children. This remarkable case has been fully commented on by the public press, and it is generally agreed that the conduct of the husband was abominable and that the deprivation of the wife's portion for the benefit of the illegitimate children was unjust, yet it is remarkable that the true remedy for this wrong seems not to have suggested itself to many who have commented on it. The *Standard* and the *Daily Telegraph* simply suggest as a remedy greater care in the drawing of wills and the preparation of settlements—and these represent, no doubt, a large body of legal and masculine opinion.

But women know well that the only just and thorough safeguard against such legalised robbery lies in the enactment of a law which would secure to them, absolutely free from the control or disposition of any husband to whom they might be married, the ownership of all real and personal property which is theirs, with equal rights and liberties in dealing with it as are possessed by unmarried women or married men.

Such a Bill is now before the House of Commons. It has been referred to a Select Committee, which, it is hoped, will not tamper with its principle, or render it of no effect by hampering the application of it by legal forms or expensive conditions. Members who oppose the franchise for women allege that Parliament is always ready to redress any proved grievance. Let these men study the BIRCHALL case, and reflect that it is typical of multitudes of others which never come prominently before the public. They will then hardly need any further argument to induce them to join their efforts to those who are already working to secure the passing once for all of a great measure of practical reform—a really honest Property Bill.

THE decision of the Senate of Cambridge University to admit women students of Girton and Newnham to be formally examined and classified among the candidates

for honours is a great event in the history of the struggle for equal educational privileges for women. The recommendation of the Syndicate was affirmed by the immense majority of 398 against 32, and the impetus of this overwhelming majority will be marvellously effective in overcoming the remaining obstacles in the way of the full recognition of the educational rights of women. The new regulations come into operation in the Easter term, 1881. We may therefore expect that in future the honours class list will be freed from the recurrence of such an anomaly as happened in the recent examinations, when the examiners, having placed in one list for examination and giving of marks the papers of the men and women students, accorded formally the place of eighth wrangler to a man, while their informal judgment showed that, had the papers before them been dealt with equally in point of honours as in giving of marks, the real eighth wrangler was a woman.

What has been done is an act of simple justice; nevertheless the hearty thanks of all women are due to the just and generous men whose advocacy and whose votes have achieved this great and fruitful victory.

IN another column we give the account of the ceremonies which took place on January 31st, in the promulgation of laws from the Tynwald Mount, among others the new Electoral Act in the Isle of Man. These ceremonies are of the very greatest historical interest, as the Tynwald Court is a survival of a form of free government which has continued without intermission from a period long anterior to the introduction of the feudal system in Europe, and of which the Isle of Man possesses the sole surviving instances.

Lord DUFFERIN, in his fascinating work, "Letters from High Latitudes," describes the scene of the "Thingvalla" in Iceland, a contemporary and kindred institution to the Tynwald Court of Mona, but which has long since succumbed to the effacing hand of time. The plain of Thingvalla is a remarkable natural formation, surrounded and intersected by chasms which render it almost impregnable to attack. "Here" says Lord DUFFERIN, "long ago, at a period when feudal despotism was the only government known throughout Europe, free Parliaments used to sit in peace and regulate the affairs of the young Republic, and to this hour the precincts of the Common House of Parliament are as distinct and unchanged as on the day when the high-hearted fathers of emigration first consecrated them to the service of a free nation." "For three hundred years did the

gallant little Republic maintain its independence—three hundred years of unequalled literary and political vigour. At last its day of doom drew near. Like the Scotch nobles in the time of ELIZABETH, their own chieftains intrigued against the liberties of Iceland, and in 1261 the island became an appanage of the Norwegian crown." Among other interesting records of the days of Thingvalla quoted by Lord DUFFERIN, is the report of a debate in the year 1000 A.D. on the question of the introduction of Christianity. After a spirit-stirring display of oratory, Christianity was adopted by a large majority.

The "Thingvalla," or "Tynwald" of Mona, has escaped the fate which overwhelmed the liberties of Iceland, and remains to this day the supreme court on the Island. It appears marvellous that while the power of kings and parliaments has swept over such widely outlying regions as Iceland, Faroe, Shetland, and the Hebrides, and reduced them all within the direct government of the nations to which they are annexed, an island in the very centre of the British group should have escaped the common lot and be the sole survivor of the ancient free governments of Europe. It is fitting that a Legislature of such long descent—the inheritor of such glorious traditions of freedom—should be the first of European governments to recognise the right of free government for women.

THE effect of women's suffrage on the elections in the Isle of Man is beginning to be seen in the speeches of candidates and in the election addresses. Most of the speakers make reference to women and their interests. Candidates promise that they will, if elected, promote the extension of the franchise to women, occupiers as well as owners; and at least one candidate makes mention of a Property Bill for married women as legislation urgently needed. The term of the present House of Keys expires on the 6th instant, and the elections take place during the present month. The result will be observed with the greatest interest by the friends of the enfranchisement of women, both in regard to the actual events of the election, and the course of legislation in regard to women initiated by an assembly in the election of which they have a voice.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION. YARMOUTH.

The polling for eleven members of the School Board of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, took place on February 4th. Mrs. Leach, the only lady candidate, was returned eighth on the poll with 2,856 votes. The highest candidate polled 4,314, and the lowest successful candidate 2,389. Mrs. Leach is the hon. secretary of the women's suffrage committee in Yarmouth.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, February 14.

APPROPRIATION OF ENDOWMENT FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION FOR THE USE OF BOYS.

GRANTOWN SCHOOL.

Mr. THOMASSON asked whether the scheme of the Grantown Female Infant School, by which a recent endowment for female education was to be used for bursaries for children of both sexes, is in accordance with the principle of the Endowed Institutions (Scotland) Bill of this Session.

Mr. PENNINGTON asked whether, by the provisional order relating to the Grantown Female Infant School, laid on the table of the House on January 6, an endowment made in the year 1861 for the exclusive benefit of female children had been appropriated for the higher education of children of both sexes and for the foundation of bursaries; whether such bursaries were for girls only or for boys; and whether, considering that endowments for the education of girls were comparatively few in number, the Government approved of the appropriation of any portion of this endowment to the education of boys.

Mr. HENDERSON asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he would withdraw the provisional order relating to the Grantown Female Infant School, until the state of public business would enable a discussion to be taken upon the propriety of the scheme sanctioned by such order.

Mr. MUNDELLA: The question relating to the Grantown provisional order will be answered by the Lord Advocate, as the Education Department is not the final authority under the Scotch Act of 1878. The Endowments Bill of this Session specially proposes in section 15 that in framing schemes provision shall be made for extending to girls the benefits of endowments, and so long as I am associated with the Education Department I will endeavour to secure a fair share for the girls.

The LORD ADVOCATE: The Grantown Endowment consists of two legacies amounting to £1,800, one-half of which has been applied to building a school, which had, in fact, been used for the education of children of both sexes. The governing body desired to legalise that usage. The Commissioners, after taking evidence, and without objection from the locality, reported in favour of the scheme, and the Education Department saw no objections to it. It did not appear to me, as legal adviser of the Home Department, that there were any good reasons for disagreeing with the recommendation of the governing body and the Commissioners. The English Endowed Schools Act, 1869, contains a direction to the Commissioners in framing schedules to provide for the extension to girls of the benefit of educational endowments. I therefore could not suppose that the extension of the benefit of the Grantown Endowment to both sexes was either inequitable in itself or opposed to parliamentary policy.

February 15.

THE CASE OF THOMAS BECKETT.

Mr. J. BRIGHT, on behalf of Mr. C. McLaren, asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, with reference to the case of Thomas Beckett, tried on the 5th instant, at the Leeds Assizes, for the wilful murder of his wife by cutting her throat in his own house, his attention had been called to the prisoner's own statement read in evidence, giving a minute account of the murder, and containing the words, "I meant to do it; I had made up my mind to do it," to the charge of the learned Judge, who referred to the crime as one committed in cold blood; to the verdict of manslaughter, and to the sentence of four days' imprisonment, dating from the opening of the assizes, by virtue of which the prisoner was instantly discharged; whether he was aware of the strong sentiment of educated Englishwomen against the leniency with which crimes of violence against the person of women were habitually viewed by judges and magistrates; and whether if such a verdict and such a sentence as the above were in accordance with the law of England he would consider the necessity of introducing a measure to amend that law.

Sir W. HARCOURT: The Secretary of State for the Home Department

has no authority to interfere with or to review the acts of a Judge or of a jury in the discharge of their duties, or to censure them for undue leniency in the punishment of crime, his functions being confined to giving advice to the Crown upon the exercise of its prerogative of mercy. It would not, therefore, be proper for me to express an opinion as to the character of the sentence alluded to in this question. My hon. and learned friend expects too much from me when he asks me to vouch for the sentiment of educated women on such a subject as the conduct of Judges and magistrates. (Laughter.) I have a letter from the learned Judge who tried the case, in which he describes the conduct of this unfortunate woman. He says, that having committed adultery, which was condoned by her husband, she insisted upon returning to her paramour. On her way to him her husband remonstrated with her, and she thereupon stabbed him. Well, I do not think such conduct as that calls for much sympathy from the educated women of England. (Laughter.) As far as I am aware, there is no defect in the law which requires amendment. In the case in question the law would have sanctioned any amount of severity in the punishment. I know no reason why juries should be compelled to deliver verdicts or judges sentences otherwise than in accordance with the dictates of their own judgment. (Hear, hear.)

February 18.

WOMEN INCLUDED IN THE IRISH COERCION BILL.

In Committee on the Person and Property Protection (Ireland) Bill.

Mr. CORBET moved an amendment providing that "person" in the Bill shall mean "adult male person."

Mr. W. E. 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 indeed against women and children. The Chief Secretary would not admit women to the franchise, but he would open the door of the Habeas Corpus suspension to them, because if they were exempted from the operation of the Bill women would, he said, be put in the forefront of the battle. The Austrian Marshal Haynau was once mobbed in London because he had flogged women. In the same capital they were now enacting that women might be arrested on mere suspicion.

Mr. DILLON remarked that the Chief Secretary had told them that women had shown considerable bravery in facing the police. But the women referred to were taken in the act, red-handed, and therefore a Bill for arresting persons on mere suspicion was not required to meet their case. If the Chief Secretary did not intend to arrest women under this Bill, why did he not accept this amendment? They intended to press the amendment to a division.

Mr. LABOUCHERE hardly thought the ladies of Ireland would not be ready to share the glories of imprisonment under this Bill. What was sauce for the gander was sauce for the goose.

Mr. COMMINS said that in England women were acquitted of charges of a most brutal kind, on the ground that they had acted under the coercion of their husbands; but in Ireland if a woman rushed to save her husband, or made any attempt to prevent the levelling of her house to the ground, it seemed that she was to have no privilege of acquittal on the ground that she acted under the coercion of her husband, but might be imprisoned for 18 months without trial.

Mr. FINIGAN was surprised that English members were not disposed to extend to women and children in Ireland the same treatment which they dealt out to women and children in England.

Mr. DAWSON protested against women being sent on the word of a spy to such miserable places as had been described in the course of this debate. Not as an Irishman, but as a man, he expressed his indignation against such disgraceful conduct. (Cheers.) He spoke as a husband—(laughter)—and he had no doubt he expressed the feeling of every husband in Ireland when he said that if a man came to lay his hand upon his wife he would have to do so over his dead body. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. HEALY thought the Government were acting quite in character when they refused to exclude women and children from the operation of this Bill.

Mr. O'DONNELL and Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN supported the amendment.

Mr. BIGGAR, in supporting the amendment, 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. LEAMY supported the amendment, as did also

Mr. PARNELL, who pointed out that in regard to the treatment of women, as shown by the legislation as to female camp-followers under the Army Discipline Bill, the last Government compared very favourably with the present Administration. (Hear, hear.) It was, he admitted, true that ladies in Ireland 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 shown to be the putting down of agrarian outrages, but had it been stated or even asserted that women had been mixed up in the commission of such offences? The Bill was meant, according to the right hon. gentleman the Chief Secretary, to get rid of dissolute ruffianism in Ireland. Why, then, should it apply to women. But it was, he feared, useless to argue the question before those who were insensible to reason, and had outlived the feelings of chivalry which in former times had distinguished English gentlemen.

Mr. MACDONALD said that he understood from the first that the Bill was to apply only to persons of the male sex. The Committee ought to put a bar to the possibility of women being victimised by spies or having their steps dogged by policemen. He was no woman's rights man, but he protested against women being brought under this infamous Act.

Mr. DALY said that in Ireland the imprisonment of a woman was regarded as an indelible disgrace, and all Irishmen would resent the imprisonment of women far more than the longer detention of men. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. METGE commented upon what he called the cowardly jeers with which the sentiments of Irish members on this question were received. Were they warring against men or against women and children? He should be proud of the establishment of a ladies' Land League. It was not sufficient to imprison these suspects, but they must also seek to punish women and children. It was lamentable to find that throughout this debate not a single man, let alone a single gentleman, had thought it worth while to get up and say a word in favour of the females of Ireland. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) It was curious to find that those who were the advocates of liberty all over the world should seek to oppress the women and children of their own country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. REDMOND could scarcely credit the fact that the Treasury bench should oppose this amendment, and should seek to enforce this penal clause against the women of Ireland. It was a mere calumny against the women of Ireland to pretend that they took part in any of the outrages. (Hear, hear.) This was an attempt to deprive Ireland of one of the few remaining relics of the past which the oppression of centuries had left them, the fair name and fair fame of Irish women. (Hear, hear.)

Sir P. O'BRIEN said the conduct of the Government in connection with this amendment would render this Bill, sufficiently detested before, still more hateful to the Irish people.

Mr. M'CARNEY supported the amendment.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR asked whether the right hon. gentleman did or did not intend to arrest any women under this Bill.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER: I said that we did not expect to have to do so.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR thought that the right hon. gentleman had already exhausted the list of the blunders which he could possibly commit during his administration.

The CHAIRMAN said that the hon. member was travelling beyond the amendment.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR, continuing, contended that a man who was arrested under this Act would be endeared to his country as a martyr; but if a woman were imprisoned under the powers conferred by it she would be lastingly injured.

Mr. GLADSTONE: Hon. members have listened with patience and calmness to the speeches which have occupied the last hour and a half, and which have displayed a great deal of heat of language. I hope, however, that that heat of language will not in the slightest degree mislead the judgment of the Committee, or veil from its members the real question before them. (Hear.) It may, however, be right, after so many speeches have been made, even at the risk of delaying the decision of the Committee for another minute, to repeat in the fewest possible words what the nature of the question before us is. We do not on this occasion propose 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. (Hear, hear.) Were we to judge by what has been said by hon. members opposite, one would think that we were making a new demand in respect of this matter. The question now before us is whether this is a reasonable demand on the part of hon. members opposite. It is our hope and wish that no women may come within the operation of this Bill. (Cries of "Oh!" and cheers.) The hon. member for Cavan jeers at that remark—(hear, hear)—and he is proud of jeering at it. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) That is another specimen of his state of mind and temper. (Hear, hear.) I hope, however, that the little I have to say will not be affected in any degree by the contagion he would spread. (Hear, hear.) The question before us is whether the demand involved by this amendment is a reasonable one. That question must be determined by considering whether there is a possibility that crimes of the kind contemplated by the Bill may be committed by women. (Cries of "Suspicion.") I repeat crimes of the kind contemplated by the Bill. Unfortunately, we know that even in the range of ordinary crime there are instances from time to time in which women are implicated not only in what is called crime, but in atrocious crime. (Hear, hear.) It may be apprehended—nay, if women are excluded from the operation of this Bill, it may be much more apprehended—that women will be used for the purposes of crime. (Cheers.) They may be misled by many motives which may render them, although criminal, much less so than they are in the case of ordinary crime; but they may be misled and so may become the tools and instruments of others for the furtherance of their guilty purposes. I will not travel into other countries, but recent history exhibits very many remarkable examples in highly civilised countries, having many points of affinity with Ireland, in which women, acting under the influence of public excitement, have associated themselves with the most destructive crimes. (Hear, hear.) I trust that this power, which I earnestly hope we may never be called upon to exercise, but which we feel it would be folly and even guilt to part with, may be granted to us. (Cheers.)

Mr. LALOR said the question was whether women were to be dogged under suspicion. If they were, he would teach his wife and daughters how to protect themselves against insult.

Mr. CALLAN said the Chief Secretary had told them the Government knew the offenders against whom the Bill was directed, and it was natural to ask whether at that time there was any idea that there were any women who could be reached by it.

Sir J. McKENNA supposed the Act would be held *in terrorem* over the women of Ireland, whose influence had been used to check outrage, and if anything could make the Act odious it would be that women fell under the suspicion which was to justify arrest. There was a sensitiveness in Ireland on this question apart from any sympathy with the Land League. He did not expect that the amendment would be carried; but he hoped the Chief Secretary and his colleagues would give to the subject their most careful consideration. (Hear, hear.)

The Committee divided, and the numbers were—

For the Amendment	49
Against it	230
Majority	181

INSULAR LEGISLATURE.

SPECIAL TYNWALD COURT.

St. John's, Monday, January 31, 1881.

By precept of his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, a special Tynwald Court was held to-day at St. John's, for the purpose of promulgating such Acts of Tynwald as had received the Royal Assent. In the precept there were nine Acts mentioned for promulgation, viz.:—The Dangerous Goods Act, 1880; The Bishop's Court and Vicarage Railway Money Purchase Act, 1880; The Rating Act, 1881; The House of Keys Election Act, 1881; The Burials Act, 1881; The Elementary Education and Industrial Schools Act, 1881; The Licensing Act, 1881; The Commoners' Allotment Act, 1881; and The Jurby Vicarage Act, 1881, but owing to several of

them not having been sent down from London, only the first four were promulgated. The remaining five will now have to be left until March next, when a Tynwald Court will be held for the purpose. His Excellency arrived punctually at twelve o'clock, and was received at the entrance to the Government Chapel of St. John by a detachment of the 103rd Welsh Fusiliers stationed at Castletown, in command of Lieut. Pentland, with a royal salute, and on entering the chapel the organ played the National Anthem. His Excellency wore the uniform of the Diplomatic Corps, second-class, and the ribbon and insignia of a Knight-Commander of the Bath, with which he has recently been decorated. The Lord Bishop, the Southern and Northern Deemsters, the Receiver-General, Attorney-General, and Vicar-General also appeared in their official robes. Service was conducted by the Government Chaplains, the Rev. E. Ferrier reading the prayers, and the Rev. J. Corlett the lessons. After service was over the usual procession was formed to Tynwald Mount, the route being lined by the soldiers of the 103rd Regiment, and a large body of police-constables under Inspector Boyd. Arrived at the Mount, the following Acts were promulgated, his Honor Deemster Drinkwater reading the portions of the Acts required by law in English, and Mr. J. J. Killee, Coroner for Glenfaba, in Manx:—

The Dangerous Goods Act, 1880;
The Bishop's Court and Railway Money Act, 1880;
The Rating (Mines) Act, 1881;
THE HOUSE OF KEYS ELECTION ACT, 1881.

At the close of the ceremony three hearty cheers were given for the Queen at the call of Deemster Drinkwater. The procession then returned to the chapel in the same order as it arrived, and a

TYNWALD COURT

was then held therein. In the course of the proceedings his Excellency made the following statement with regard to the

DATE OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE KEYS.

HIS EXCELLENCY: I think it well to state the business that will come on at the next Court. Certain money votes will have to be submitted, and it will be well for the Court to decide whether they will vote the money on account, or whether they will go fully into the various estimates and vote on the same. The term of the House of Keys expires on the 6th March, and when the new House can be elected the financial year will have expired. It will be necessary, therefore, that the Court, before the House is dissolved, should charge some money on account for harbours and other public works. I propose, therefore, to hold a Tynwald Court in Douglas, on Wednesday, the 2nd March, and propose to hold a Tynwald Court at St. John's upon the following Friday, to promulgate any measures that may then have come down with the Royal Assent.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—As there may be many readers of your very interesting paper who, like myself, are doing but little to aid you in your noble work, may I suggest that each reader should do what they can to influence public opinion, not only by conversation, but by introducing the *Women's Suffrage Journal* where not now known? Women need to be prepared for the coming alteration in the laws; and many men, who are now indifferent, might become interested if their attention was drawn to the "hard facts" of the case. I had never heard of the paper or the movement until about eighteen months ago, when Miss Ramsey's book, "Mildred's Career," opened my eyes to the great injustice of many of the present laws concerning women, more particularly those relating to property, guardianship of their children, labour, marriage, and divorce. The St. James's Hall meeting followed. I hope Miss Cobbe's "Duties of Women" will have a very large circulation, and wish that lectures such as these could be given in every large town in England.—Yours truly,

Bournemouth, Feb. 10th, 1881.

ANNE BIDDELL.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BIRMINGHAM.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN IN THE TOWN HALL.

On February 22nd a grand demonstration of women of Birmingham, in support of the resolution to be moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Hugh Mason, took place in the Town Hall, Birmingham. The great hall was crowded in every part with an enthusiastic assemblage of women, and before the meeting began the doors had to be closed in the faces of multitudes who thronged the entrances, but for whom space could not be found. An overflow meeting was arranged in another building to accommodate those excluded. The weather was extremely inclement; a snowstorm had continued all day up to the time of beginning the meeting, and the streets were covered with deep slush, but nothing seemed to have power to keep away the women on this great occasion, or to damp their interest and enthusiasm. The scene was truly magnificent, and at the end, after Miss Craigen's address, the vast crowd rose *en masse*, and testified their feelings by loud cheers and waving of handkerchiefs, which seemed as they would never subside. Several gentlemen were present in the side galleries. The doors were opened at seven o'clock, and the organ was played during the gathering of the assemblage.

Mrs. H. W. CROSSKEY (the president) entered the room at eight o'clock, accompanied by the speakers, and took the chair, in front of which was a beautiful pyramid of flowers. Among the ladies on the platform were Mrs. George Dixon, Mrs. R. W. Dale, Miss Chamberlain, Mrs. C. E. Mathews, Mrs. George Mathews, Miss Ker, M.D., Mrs. Alfred Southall, Mrs. William Taylor, Mrs. A. C. Osler, Miss Martineau, Mrs. E. K. Martineau, Mrs. Alfred Fellows, Mrs. A. R. Vardy, Mrs. H. Edmunds, Miss Morgan, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. R. C. Barrow, Mrs. J. J. Brown, Mrs. Archer, Mrs. R. L. Impey, Mrs. E. L. Tyndall, Miss Clarke, Mrs. W. H. Ryland, Mrs. Edgar Pemberton, Mrs. Hewins, Miss Cooper, Miss Gittins, Mrs. Jesse Collings, Mrs. W. Rogers, Mrs. Timmins, Mrs. Saxelby, Mrs. Geo. Baker, Mrs. Pike, Mrs. W. H. Ryland, Mrs. Holyoake Smith, Mrs. Bartleet, Mrs. Wm. Kenrick, Miss Kenrick (member of the Birmingham School Board), Miss Becker, Mrs. M'Cormick (Manchester); Mrs. Beddoe, Miss Blackburn (Bristol); Miss Downing, Miss C. A. Biggs (London); Mrs. J. P. Thomasson (Bolton), Mrs. Cowen, Miss Guildford, Miss Ada Smith (Nottingham); Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd (Leeds), Mrs. Talbot (Kidderminster), Miss Craigen (Retford), Mrs. M'Ilquham (Cheltenham); Mrs. Schaw Prothero (Fishguard), &c. In the side galleries were a number of gentlemen, including Alderman Baker, Councillors C. E. Mathews and R. F. Martineau, Mr. A. C. Osler, &c. Letters and telegrams expressing sympathy with the object of the meeting were announced from Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Miss J. Tod, Miss L. Bigg, Viscountess Harberton, and Miss Hill, and from the North of England, Bristol and West of England, Edinburgh, Dublin, Glasgow, Dumfries, and Luton Women's Suffrage Committees, and the Dublin Friends.

The PRESIDENT (Mrs. H. W. Crosskey) said: I rejoice to see so large an assemblage of my townswomen here to-night, and I regard it as an earnest of the signal success that awaits our efforts in the future. This is not the first time that women have organised for political purposes. My recollection goes back to the time when women first learnt to combine, and a crowd of memories throng upon me when I think of the stirring times which gave birth to knowledge of their power, and practically began the movement which has culminated in a meeting like this. I received my baptism of fire in Manchester when our beloved member, John Bright, and his illustrious colleague, Mr. Richard Cobden, waged their brilliant crusade against the protectionist policy of the Corn Laws. Monster meetings were held in Manchester largely composed of women, and much of the material help that brought that struggle to a glorious issue was due to the exertions of women. They combined, and worked, and collected money, and at last they had their joy and reward in the glorious success that followed. I remember, too, the grateful acknowledgment of their services which was tendered by Mr. Bright, and I trust that when our victory is achieved he will again look kindly upon us, remembering that we have but bettered his own instructions. We are met here to discuss the great

question of extending the franchise to women having the same qualifications for voting that men possess. I say great question advisedly, because I believe that when women are set free to bring their influence to bear upon legislation not only will an act of justice be done, but a vast amount of wretchedness and suffering be removed. This question of women's suffrage, which, a few years ago, men tried to laugh out of court, has entered into the region of practical politics. Women are resolved to shake off this yoke of political disability. A few men, I believe, are yet left, but they are rapidly and happily dying out, who object to the suffrage, not because they have studied the question, but because they have a feeling that thoughtful women would be troublesome to them. Like Harold Transome, in George Eliot's novel, of whom it is said that Western women were not to his taste, they showed a transition from the feeble animal to the thinking being, which was troublesome. Harold preferred a slow-witted, large-eyed woman, silent and affectionate, with a load of black hair weighing much more heavily than her brains. Such men must take care of themselves. Women mean to cultivate their brains, and men must learn to make the best of them. They are happy in being supported by many of the most illustrious of living men, and by one of the greatest political thinkers that ever lived—John Stuart Mill. Mr. Mill says, in a speech delivered in Edinburgh, "If there is a truth in politics which is fundamental, which is the basis of all free government, it is when a part of the nation are the sole possessors of power; the interest of that part gets all the serious consideration." We look forward to the time when by the exercise of this much-desired privilege women will become recognised members of the body politic. The grievances of a large class of women will be attended to, and that most properly by those whose common interest it is to keep a vigilant watch upon this part of legislation. It is useless for men to maintain that women are legally protected to the same extent that men are. We have only to look at the police reports to be made aware that the law in some respects recognises women as only about on a level with, or inferior to, their goods and chattels. Assaults on girls and women are not punished with as great severity as cases of petty theft. Take up any newspaper and you will find a verification of what I say. Only last week a number of our *Birmingham Post* furnished two cases in point, and curiously enough they are placed the one under the other. A man was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for a long series of brutal assaults on his wife; another man who had stolen a gun had one month; and another who had stolen three chairs was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment. By these decisions it follows that knocking down a woman is of rather less importance in the eye of the law than taking three chairs, and about equal to stealing a gun. When women who pay the rates and taxes and manage their own businesses are denied the suffrage, their opponents are bound to say why they are excluded. Why are the 7,000 women who are qualified in Birmingham alone, and who do vote at school board and municipal elections, refused the right of voting for their parliamentary representatives? I can see no reason that is an argument for extending the franchise to men that does not equally apply to women, unless indeed the fear of the power of brute force be an argument. It is well known that in 1832 the men of Birmingham were on the point of marching on London had the Reform Bill not been granted. We trust that our claims will not be denied because we can utter no threats of physical violence. We use moral force only, and press our claims peaceably and quietly—it may be with importunity, because we know that it will only be by incessant effort that we shall win our victory. Notwithstanding all that has been said of the courtesy and deference shown by all well-bred men towards women, there is a tacit understanding that they are to consider themselves as inferior to men. Is there not a glow of secret satisfaction in the heart of every man, from the most cultivated gentleman down to the most sullen-minded and incapable youth that ever existed, that he was lucky in not having been born a woman? Their feelings may be fitly expressed by a parody on a verse of a hymn of Watts—

Whene'er I take my walks abroad,
How many girls I see;
What shall I render to my God
Who made no girl of me?

That women are deficient in mental power, or in the peculiar faculty of organising, cannot now be urged. In the late American war the

organisation of the sanitary commission was the work of women from beginning to end, and the Government, though sceptical of their power at first, acknowledged with gratitude the surpassing excellence of their work. They selected the persons most capable for the work that had to be done, and women managed to put the right men in the right places. In Kinglake's sixth volume of the "Invasion of the Crimea," he speaks of the price-less reinforcement of brain power that was brought to the rescue by a woman. And after rehearsing the failures and blunders of the male authorities and the brilliant success of the lady-in-chief, Miss Nightingale, he sums up in these words: "Thus sorrowfully lagged the males in their undesigned trial of speed and power with what proved not only the swifter, not only the more agile mind, but also the higher capacity for executive business, and even the more intent will." Yet Miss Nightingale could not vote. Can anyone say that a woman who is capable of conducting the education of the country is not capable of voting. All Birmingham knows the services rendered by Miss Kenrick to the schools of the town, and with what skill and enthusiasm she works. Among the functions of Parliament, the passing of educational laws is not the least, and those fit to administer such laws are surely fit to vote for those who make them. Miss Martineau wrote leaders in the *Daily News*, guiding the politics of the nation, yet she could not vote. The Queen of England takes a practical interest in politics, and it is a remarkable fact that, although the number of reigning women has been small in proportion to that of men, many have shown very great ability in ruling. How can those who support a Queen on the throne deny women a vote? They ought to demand a Salic Law, and not permit a woman to reign. There are some people who cherish a fear that our feminine nature will become less refined and less domestically efficient; that we shall make less excellent wives and daughters if we help to make laws for the benefit of the common weal. I believe, however, that the women who have the largest interests will fulfil their home duties the most efficiently. Small duties are best done by those who learn to perform great ones. The days are gone by when preserving and pickling, sewing on buttons and darning stockings were held to be the only fitting occupations for women—excellent knowledge, but utterly insufficient to fill the minds and hearts of intelligent women. I have known men who liked the ladies of their household to read the papers and acquaint themselves with matters of public moment, in order that they might take an intelligent part in the talk of their male friends, but who would draw the line there and were unwilling that they should take any further interest in those questions, or join in any practical movements connected with them. No wise woman would neglect her home duties for the sake of passing Bills in Parliament. The one need not interfere with the other, as these wider interests would, I believe, tend to fill up those terrible deficiencies in home life which are caused by the want of intelligent sympathy between men and women. When men dismiss women as only fit to look after their dinners and manage their servants, there can be no true home life. When it is said that difference on political matters would disturb the proper relation between man and woman and lessen the advantages of social intercourse, I reply that it may certainly do so if men only desire always to hear the echoes of their own voices and see their own faces in the glass. I believe better of men than this. A thoughtful man prefers a thoughtful woman, whether she agree with him or not. If men cannot bear that women should sometimes differ from them in opinion, they must be very poor creatures indeed, and to act consistently they should deny them the right to think at all. In reply to the argument which is so often urged, that women's destiny is to get married, I would ask if this is not also man's destiny? If the argument is worth anything, a bachelor or a widower ought to be deprived of his vote. It is also said—and at first it might be said, perhaps, with some degree of truth—that women will vote at the bidding of their pet clergyman. It is not for me, as the wife of a minister, to object to the influence of the clergy, but I believe women ought not to follow any class of men without thinking for themselves. Women have been for centuries excluded from taking any part in public affairs, and such energies as they have devoted to matters beyond domestic life have been given almost exclusively to the service of the Church as the only institution open to them. The cure for undue influence is to extend the range of women's interests. We are told that men are so chivalrous that they will obtain for us in good time all that we require. One cannot help smiling when this argument is advanced. The facts are so dead against this view

of the excessive anxiety on the part of men to relieve women of their grievances. The questions that affect women never have been properly considered, and they never will be until women call attention to them. When votes depend upon them they will be listened to. The education of working men was never fairly considered until they had votes. No class, whether of men or women, that has not had the suffrage has been properly attended to. Put women in the position which will make their interests identical with those of men, and reform will come for the bettering of their condition as it has done for men. That the votes of women will be given largely to the Conservative party, and that the Liberals will suffer loss thereby, is not an objection which ought to influence high-minded Liberals. The granting of the franchise will compel proper attention to be paid to the political education of women. Liberals distrust their own cause if they believe that politically educated women must necessarily remain Tories. A warlike policy will ultimately be obnoxious to them, and oppression of any class of human beings will excite their abhorrence. Let the Liberals make just and merciful laws, and I feel certain that they will have no reason to regret having done this justice to women. I advocate the extension of the suffrage to women, therefore, because I believe that home life will be better for whatever uplifts and ennobles women; because I believe that the laws that injuriously affect women will never otherwise be properly dealt with; because I believe that women's own nature would be benefited, and with women's elevation man always rises also; because I believe she is not only capable of voting intelligently, but able to add thoughtfulness and conscientiousness to the conduct of public affairs; because I believe her influence will tend to the amelioration and removal of unjust laws, and will tell on the side of peace and humanity throughout the world. It will now be my duty to introduce to you various speakers, and I think you will find that women are as capable of conducting a crowded public meeting as even that great body the Liberal Association itself.

Mrs. ALFRED SOUTHWALL moved that the following memorial should be signed by the President, and presented to the Prime Minister: "That there are over five hundred thousand ratepayers in the United Kingdom deprived of the power of voting in the election of members of Parliament on the sole ground that they are women. That this exclusion is directly opposed to the fundamental principle of representative government, and, therefore, unjust towards such ratepayers. That the exclusion of women ratepayers from the exercise of the parliamentary vote deprives women of that free expression of opinion which is the only guarantee of liberty in the State. Wherefore your memorialists pray that in any measure which may be introduced by her Majesty's Ministers for the extension of the household suffrage in the counties, provision may be made for the exercise of the parliamentary franchise by all duly qualified women in the boroughs and counties. And your memorialists will ever pray, &c."

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHELD seconded the motion, and said that it was four years since she stood upon that platform to advocate the claims of women's suffrage. Since then the question had made great and rapid strides, and the meeting that evening showed the enormous progress it was making in Birmingham. They had been asked to attend that evening to answer this question, "Do the women of Birmingham want the suffrage for the women householders or do they not?" They believed they did—(applause)—and they hoped that the audience would speak out with no uncertain sound and voice in favour of this measure of justice to women. It seemed to her that the insult and injury, and injustice which had been and was being dealt to women in the name of the law of this land, was getting too grievous to be borne. (Applause.) How should they lift off that burden, except by asking for the right of voting for members of Parliament, as men asked before they obtained the franchise for themselves in order that they might redress their own grievances. She related several instances in which women were unjustly treated, and referred to a recent trial for murder at the Leeds Assizes. A man, named Thomas Beckett, was charged with the murder of his wife, and he wrote a statement that he meant to do it. It was true the wife had been a bad woman and unfaithful, and the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, when the judge only passed a sentence of four days' imprisonment. Subsequently a question was asked of the Home Secretary in the House of Commons concerning the matter, and when she read his reply her face flushed. He answered the question in a very light

manner, raised a laugh here and there, and upon such a horrible subject. After quoting the bad conduct of the wife, he said he did not think such conduct called for much sympathy from the educated women of England. She thought the tone of the Home Secretary's reply was one of most indecent levity and very flippant, and she should not be sorry if those words were read by Sir Wm. Harcourt himself. She believed the lenient sentence passed on the Leeds murderer would have a very bad effect upon brutal men. (Hear, hear.) After mentioning other cases, Mrs. Scatcherd advocated the necessity of women being allowed to sit on juries, and in conclusion urged every one to do her best towards obtaining the extension of the franchise to women. (Applause.)

Miss BECKER (Manchester), in supporting the resolution, said it was their boast that this was a free country, which meant that the people were the source of power. The Executive and the Legislature derived all their authority from the people. Now, as women were half of the people from whom the Legislature derived its power to govern, they claimed their share in the representation of the people who were to make the laws. Whilst sixteen millions of the people were denied a voice in the Government, it could not be said that this was a truly free country. Their claim was that those sixteen millions of women should be declared by law persons capable of exercising political power if possessed of the qualifications which had been defined by the Legislature as the conditions of using that power. Let not any person who owned property and paid rates and taxes be denied the franchise on the sole ground that she was a woman, and though there would only be about 500,000 women who would actually possess votes, everyone of the sixteen millions would become potentially if not actually voters. Already there was no great movement in which women did not take an active part. If they were permitted to take a more active part in politics, it would tend to do away with much of the political apathy of the present generation. In the discussion on the Coercion Bill in the House of Commons the other evening the question was asked as to whether women were to be exempted from the operation of the Bill, and one member said that it was wrong when women were denied political rights that they should be subjected to the provisions of the Bill. She contended that if a woman was incapable of exercising political rights, the Legislature ought to hold her incapable of doing a political wrong. (Applause.) But she thought that on the whole those of their parliamentary friends who had voted against the exemption of women from the operation of the Coercion Act had voted rightly, for she believed that the fact that the Government had included women in their penal legislation for political offences would be an irresistibly strong argument, when they asked the Government to include women in their proposals for extending political rights among the people. They would soon be face to face with another Reform Bill, and she urged that women must have the franchise on the same conditions as men. (Applause.) If they did their duty, if women all over the country did their duty, they would be enfranchised before the next general election, and the candidates, whoever they might be in Birmingham, would have to reckon with 7,000 or 8,000 women electors. In Manchester and Salford all the members asked for the enfranchisement of women, and after that great meeting she hoped all the members for Birmingham would be prepared to carry into effect their resolutions. (Applause.)

Mrs. BEDDOE said: This resolution has been so ably moved and seconded that there is little left to add. I have belonged to the Women's Suffrage Society, I may say, from the hour of its birth; and I must acknowledge that I was one of those sanguine people who thought that we had only to show the righteousness of our claim in order to have it granted, but we live and learn, and to-night I own that it seems as if we need not altogether regret the delay, because had we succeeded sooner, this great bond between women could scarcely have been as strong as it now is. We married women are now anxiously caring for the interests of those who have not the same support on their path in life that we have, and in return we look to them for help in the future. The great body of the married women of this country have no wrongs, and many of us feel that we have advantages more than our share, but it is not to the legislation of our country that we are indebted—the laws of England, on the whole so just and so humane, load the miserable wife with a yoke which no free-born woman could endure, and if she is the mother of children, she may weep for them, with Rachel of old, "because they are not," as far

as she is concerned. Again, this movement has greatly helped to strengthen the sympathy which ought to exist between those holding different positions in society; and though we hope soon to gain the suffrage and to drop the movement, we trust that this kind feeling will go on ever increasing, and with it the friendliness that has arisen between the women of different towns. I am one of those who have come from Bristol to-day to be present at this meeting, and I am sure that there are no women in Birmingham who rejoice more at its greatness and success than we do. In concluding, I would only beg of you to be, as we were at our great meeting in November—to be—unanimous.

Miss STURGE, in further support of the resolution, said the Right Hon. John Bright once said, "I believe we can only reach the depths of ignorance, and misery, and crime in this country by an appeal to the justice, intelligence, and virtues of the entire people." She believed that women were part of the people, or she should not be at that meeting. They were there to respond to the truth of Mr. Bright's statement. It was said by some that it was not expedient for women householders to have a vote. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain once wrote that the perpetual reference of all questions to the test of expediency destroyed conviction and substituted a careless indifference for earnestness from zeal which had hitherto preserved their public life into degenerating into a mere game of personal interests and ambition. She wanted women to save the public life from degenerating. She then referred to a letter written by Mr. Cobden, stating that he considered himself a fellow labourer in the cause of women's rights. They had assembled to fight for all that was true and noble and good; to ask for men to remove every obstruction from their path which prevented them from being true helpmates to them in the cause of truth and Christianity. (Applause.)

Resolution carried.

Mrs. A. C. OSLER proposed: "That a deputation be appointed from this meeting to wait upon the First Lord of the Treasury, in conjunction with other deputations similarly appointed, for the purpose of presenting the foregoing memorial; and that a petition to the House of Commons, and memorials to the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., and P. H. Muntz, Esq., M.P., praying them to support Mr. Hugh Mason's 'Resolution to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women,' be signed by the president on behalf of the meeting." She said she lately heard a lady remark that people could never speak of women's rights without also speaking of women's wrongs. That might be true, but she did not think it was a reasonable ground of complaint, because the very reason which made women ask for rights was the wrongs which they suffered without them. (Applause.) Under the present law of England a married woman and a mother had absolutely no existence; their existence was merged—she might say submerged—(laughter)—in that of the husband and father. The child which had been born and nurtured by its mother did not belong even in part to her, but entirely to its father. He might separate it from its mother, refuse even to let her see the child, and he might have it brought up in any religious faith he pleased, and appoint any guardian whom he chose. Thus any stranger might, after the father's death, take her child from the mother. A rich woman might in such a case appeal to the Court of Chancery for help; but for the poor woman at present there was no redress. She need not point out that terrible cases of suffering occurred under such a law. Would such a law ever have been passed by men who had women and mothers among their constituents, before whom they would have to justify what they had done? She did not believe there was any woman in that hall whose heart would not beat in pitiful sympathy towards any mother she knew who was deprived of her little ones by that law. (Applause.) It had always been recognised as woman's province to attend to the sick and to comfort the sorrowful; but of late they had begun to learn that there was a still nobler work both for men and women even than to attend to sufferers, and that was the prevention of suffering itself. (Applause.) It was said that the Chinese paid their doctors to keep them well, and when they fell ill they stopped the doctor's wages—(laughter)—and in this country they were now beginning to learn that to keep a town healthy was better than to provide hospitals for its inhabitants—(applause)—that the sanitary inspector was as much their benefactor as the doctor; that cleanliness and fresh air were better than physic—in a word, that "prevention is better than cure." (Applause.) It was better to prevent injustice being done than to sympathise

with the victims of injustice, and she contended that women were able to exert great influence in that direction. They believed that by obtaining this vote for women they should do more practical good than by promoting any number of protests directed against special hardships. It was not that they doubted the good intentions of men towards women. They knew that the men meant well, even if they did not do it. (Laughter and applause.) But it was possible for people with the very best intentions to go wrong. There was once a good missionary who took a great deal of trouble to convince a poor benighted savage how wicked it was of him to have eight wives instead of one; and the savage was converted, and next time the missionary visited his island he was met by the glad tidings, "Me good Christian now, me only one wife now." "And what, asked, the missionary, "did you do with the others?" "Oh," replied the savage, "me eat the others." Perhaps if those other seven women had had a voice in managing their own affairs, they would have managed them a little differently from the missionary who had such excellent intentions towards them. It was absolutely false to imagine that the women who were working in this cause—many of them happy wives and mothers—had any feeling of antagonism whatever towards the men. (Applause.) What they were asking for was the right to be truer helpmates to men than they could be now, and to work hand in hand with them in the great reforms which the country needed. They worked together in their homes and in their town. In Birmingham, at any rate, the work of women had been appreciated and acknowledged. (Applause.) And who should say that men and women and town were not all alike the better for it? (Applause.) Should they not also be the better for each other's help in the work of the country, in the making of laws which affected them all so closely—laws which had to do not only with the peace of nations and the prosperity of their empire, but which had to do also with the peace and purity of their homes, with the honour of their womanhood, and with the safety and happiness of every little child at its mother's breast. (Applause.)

Mrs. FENWICK MILLER (a member of the London School Board), in seconding the motion, spoke in the capacity of a married woman who was satisfied with her lot—of a married woman who did not wish anything other than she possessed in her private life. This movement, she said, affected the married women as much as the women who would immediately have the vote. In ordinary cases of husband and wife living together, the husband was the householder, and that state of things would continue. That fact alone, that the married woman was not the householder, would ensure her not having a vote; and the same was true of self-supporting single women who lived with their relatives, and were not householders, although they kept themselves. So that the large bulk of the women of the country would not have a vote supposing the women householders obtained it at once. If the matter affected only a few hundred women who would have the vote it would not be worth calling women together about it. But it was because all women would be affected that they were all bound to care about the women householders getting the franchise. The community would be affected for good by some women having the vote, because they would then have drawn into public affairs all women who had any capacity for them. The vote was just one way of expressing opinion and showing interest. Women could work upon School Boards and in connection with Boards of Guardians, and there were innumerable other ways in which women could work, all of them more or less open to persons who had not votes. Why, it might be asked, did women not take part in public matters without being entrusted with a vote? And in answer to that she would say for the reason that they who did this work now were fighting against the stream; and women whose work they wanted were the women who could not go against the stream of public opinion. (Applause.) There were men who despised women, and there were thousands of men who respected and revered their mothers and wives, but despised the capacity of all the rest of the women in the world. They were obliged to respect the women nearest to them—they could not help seeing their goodness and capacity; but they would not believe in the excellence and capacity of women outside their own home. There were illustrations of that occurring every day. In a letter published lately, signed by more than one graduate of the University of London, whose degrees were open to those women who passed precisely the same examination as men, it was said that the degrees would lose value in the eyes of men, and that simply

because they could be taken by women. Men were taught that all women were incapable of forming a judgment upon public matters, while a young man of one-and-twenty was held able to do so; was it to be wondered at that they came to look upon women as altogether inferior to men? But just as drunkenness had decreased in the upper classes because the tone of general feeling upon the subject had improved, so she believed that injustice and cruelty to women would be lessened rather by the increase of respect for women than by actual tinkering at laws. Because it was a stigma of inferiority upon women that they could not vote merely because of their sex, and because the removal of this must raise and dignify the position of all women, those who did not vote would benefit equally with those who did. The happy women who had all the respect and care they needed in their own homes must remember the miseries of others. The motto of such women in working for women's suffrage would be the apostle's injunction—"Love one another."

Miss DOWNING supported the motion, and referred to a letter which appeared in the *Daily Post* of that morning. The letter was signed "An Englishwoman," and she hoped there was no gentleman sheltering himself under the name. (Laughter.) The lady, who came from Edgbaston, said, "There is no doubt that if the women of England, or of any portion of the country, however small, were polled, the verdict given would go against the promoters of the meeting." Well, she thought the result of that night's meeting was conclusive with regard to the feeling of Birmingham women on the question. She took it that the "lady from Edgbaston" was not at their meetings at Manchester, Bristol, London, and Nottingham, or else she would have seen that, so far as public opinion could be tested, all their great public gatherings were unanimous, and they showed practically that the women of England were on their side. (Applause.) The lady further said the great majority of women were not inclined to join in the demonstration, and consequently they were misrepresented by the noisy self-asserting section who presumed to speak in their name, and took to themselves the title of the women of England. She (the speaker) supposed the ladies on the platform were represented by the noisy section—(laughter)—but there was nothing done at their meetings which need prevent any gentleman bringing his wife, sister, or daughter to take part in a public movement which interested the country at large. (Applause.) The letter then said, "Birmingham is large enough to supply an audience of enthusiasts in any conceivable cause, even in the cause of the so-called women's rights." She was extremely glad there were enthusiasts in Birmingham, for whatever freedom, civil or religious, they enjoyed they owed to the enthusiasts of the country. (Applause.) The letter said, "The restless and discontented few make a great stir, the contented many are listless," and that certainly was too true—of the men as well as the women. (Laughter.) The Edgbaston lady also spoke of the "alleged grievances," but the various speakers had cited cases which showed that the grievances of women were practical, and not alleged. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, Miss Downing said it was their desire to give the women that protection which the vote had given to the men of this country. (Applause.)

Miss C. A. BIGGS said that the echoes of the applause which had resounded in that hall would not die away till they were heard at St. Stephen's. It was said that if they had the vote they would not be satisfied with that. She trusted they would not. They were not asking for the vote in order that they might have the childish satisfaction of making a cross upon a piece of paper and putting it into the ballot box. She trusted they were asking for the vote because there were reforms which they wished to make through the constitutional method open now only to men. She believed that when women became electors they would bring a large reinforcement to the political strength of the country. They were asking for the right of being enabled to perform better the duties which fell to them as citizens. (Applause.) It would be their duty to insist on all necessary reforms, on having better education for their children, and to use the influence by their votes in getting a better system of temperance; and they also asked that those women who cared about bringing forward the principles of peace and international arbitration should be enabled by means of the vote to join heart and hand with those men who were trying to bring about the adoption of those principles. (Applause.)

Miss CRAIGEN, in supporting the resolution, urged that women,

as well as men, were bound by a threefold cord of duty—their duty to God, to home, and country. They owed the duty to the State of protesting against bad laws, and it was their duty to hold aloft the light of freedom, and to protect the oppressed from the oppressor. That was their duty to the State, and they asked for the vote in order that they might be enabled to do this duty. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mrs. C. E. MATHEWS proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Crosskey for presiding, and to the Mayor for the use of the Town Hall.

Mrs. R. W. DALE seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The meeting then terminated.

An overflow meeting was held at the Young Men's Christian Association, presided over by Mrs. R. W. Dale, and several addresses were delivered and similar resolutions carried in support of the object of the meeting at the Town Hall.

PRELIMINARY MEETINGS.

Preliminary meetings in support of the demonstration were held in the following districts of Birmingham:—

DERITEND WARD.—On February 7th at the Board School, Moseley Road; Mr. W. B. Smith in the chair. The speakers were Mrs. A. C. Osler, Miss Downing, Miss E. M. Sturge, Mr. A. C. Osler, and others.

ST. MARTIN'S WARD.—On February 7th in the Board School, Hope-street; Mr. Councillor W. H. Dixon in the chair. The same speakers as at the other meeting.

DUDESTON WARD.—On February 8th in the Board School, Lower Windsor-street; Mr. Alderman G. Barrow in the chair. Speakers: Miss Downing, Miss Sturge, Mr. Councillor E. T. Griffiths, M.D., Mr. Councillor W. H. Hart, Mr. A. C. Osler, Mr. W. B. Smith, and others.

BORDESLEY WARD.—February 8th in the Board School, Little Green Lane; Mr. Councillor Lawson Tait in the chair. Speakers: Miss Downing, Miss Sturge, Mr. Councillor S. B. Whitfield, Mr. Councillor W. Perkins, Mr. A. C. Osler, Mr. W. B. Smith, and others.

ROTTEN PARK WARD.—On February 9th in the Board School, Steward-street; Mr. W. H. Ryland in the chair. Speakers: Councillor Tangye, Miss Sturge, Councillor Cadbury, Miss Downing, Rev. C. Leach, Miss Craigen, and Rev. F. H. Robinson.

LADYWOOD WARD.—February 9th in the Board School, Oozels-street; Rev. H. W. Crosskey in the chair. Speakers: Mr. W. H. Ryland, Miss Downing, Miss Craigen, Mr. W. B. Smith, and Miss Sturge.

MARKET HALL WARD.—February 10th in the schoolroom, Ebenezer Chapel, Steelhouse Lane; Mr. Councillor Michael Davis in the chair. Speakers: Mr. Councillor W. Brinsley, Mr. Councillor W. Sharp, Miss Craigen, Miss Sturge, and Miss Downing.

NECHELL'S WARD.—On February 10th in the Board School, Goodrick-street; Mr. A. B. Osler in the chair. Speakers: Mr. Edward Deakin, Miss Craigen, Miss Sturge, and Miss Downing.

ALL SAINTS' WARD.—On February 11th in the Board School, Farm-street; Councillor James Pattison in the chair. Speakers: Alderman Ellaway, Councillor James Whateley, Miss Sturge, Miss Downing, Councillor Thomason, and Miss Craigen.

ST. STEPHEN'S WARD.—On February 11th in the Board School, Elkington-street; Councillor Frank Wright in the chair. Speakers: Miss Sturge, Miss Downing, and Miss Craigen.

ST. THOMAS'S WARD.—On February 16th in the British School, Severn-street; Frederic Impey, Esq., in the chair. Speakers: Mrs. Impey, Miss C. A. Biggs, Rev. Geo. St. Clair, Miss Downing, Mrs. Cox, and Miss Sturge.

ST. PAUL'S WARD.—On February 17th in the Board School, Nelson-street; Councillor S. B. Whitfield in the chair. Speakers: Mrs. C. E. Mathews, Rev. W. Wastell, Miss C. A. Biggs, Mr. Thomas Hewins, Mrs. Hewins, and Miss Downing.

On February 17th in the Board School, Brookfields; Councillor H. Payton, J.P., in the chair. Speakers: Mrs. R. W. Dale, Miss Downing, Rev. G. J. Emanuel, Miss Sturge, and Miss Craigen.

On February 18th in the Duddleston Ward Hall; Councillor W. H. Hart in the chair. Speakers: Mrs. Cox, Edward Deakin, Esq., Miss Sturge, and Miss Craigen.

ASTON.—On February 18th in the Board School, Alma-street, Aston; Dr. Harvey in the chair. Speakers: Mrs. R. W. Dale, Mr. J. H. Toms, Miss Downing, Miss C. A. Biggs, and Councillor Whately.

ASTON ROAD.—On February 19th Miss Craigen gave an address: "Why women desire the vote." Mr. Thomas Hewins in the chair.

ST. GEORGE'S WARD.—On February 21st in the Board School, Smith-street; Alderman Manton, J.P., in the chair. Speakers: Mrs. Hewins, Miss Downing, Councillor W. Cook, Mr. Hewins, Mrs. Cox, and Miss Craigen.

ST. MARY'S WARD.—On February 21st in the Infant Board School, Dartmouth-street; Councillor C. E. Mathews in the chair. Speakers: Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Maurice Pollack, Esq., Miss C. A. Biggs, E. Deakin, Esq., and Rev. W. Wastell.

At all these meetings resolutions were passed in support of the great demonstration in the Town Hall, and petitions to the House of Commons adopted in favour of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women.

LECTURES, DEBATES, &c.

LEEDS.

On January 31st Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd gave an address on women's suffrage to the members and friends of the Zion School Young Women's Improvement Class. There was an excellent attendance, about 200 being present. Miss Carbutt presided. She said she was very glad when Mrs. Scatcherd asked her to take the chair that evening on the occasion of her giving an address on the women's suffrage question, because she had often heard of the good work carried on in the Zion School, and because she had long felt the injustice of not giving the parliamentary vote to women householders. Although she had paid rates and taxes for fifteen years, the law of the land did not allow her to say a word as to how the money she had paid was to be spent. A man in her position would have that right. She did not approve of useless wars. There were some laws which she held to be unjust, and yet because she was a woman she could not have her opinion represented. They were told that the great Charter, which King John was obliged to sign in 1215, secured to the English people certain rights which no power on earth can take away. One of the great principles of that Charter was "No taxation without representation;" but how was this promise kept to the 6,000 women householders in Leeds? It might be new to some of them there that women householders desired to have the right to vote for members of Parliament; she asked them not to shake their heads at it because the question might be new to them. They should listen to Mrs. Scatcherd's arguments in favour of it, and then judge for themselves whether they approved of it or not. Almost every reform had been at first a novelty. They were accustomed now to see schools for girls by the side of those for boys, and yet when in the sixteenth century Françoise de Laintouges, a Frenchwoman, wished to establish girls' schools in France, she was hooted in the streets; and her father called together four doctors, learned in the law, to decide whether she was not possessed by demons to think of educating women. Mrs. Scatcherd's address was listened to with marked attention and approbation. At its close Miss Dumford moved that a petition in favour of women's suffrage be signed on behalf of the meeting, and sent to Parliament through Mr. Herbert Gladstone, and that he be urged to support its prayer. This was seconded, and carried unanimously. Miss R. Cawthra and Mrs. Coulter moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Scatcherd. Miss Thomas and Miss Oates proposed a similar vote to Miss Carbutt. These were carried with hearty applause.

CLECKHEATON.

On February 14th Mrs. Scatcherd gave an address on women's suffrage in the Independent Schoolroom, Cleckheaton. The Rev. R. H. Crookall presided. The attendance was moderate owing to the extreme inclemency of the weather. Mr. Wadsworth, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said he had long been in favour of women ratepayers having the parliamentary franchise. Mr. Goldthorpe seconded the motion, which was carried heartily.

BERRY BROW.

On February 15th, Miss Becker delivered a lecture on behalf of the National Reform Union in connection with the Liberal club of the district, at Berry Brow, Huddersfield, on the claim of women to the parliamentary franchise.

The chair was occupied by Mr. Councillor D. F. E. SYKES, who said he was pleased to meet his constituents, and to see so many ladies present, because, doubtless, some of those before him had an opportunity of exercising the franchise in returning one or other of their representatives to the Town Council. After referring to the educational work in which Miss Becker was engaged, he said that as to the moral right of women to speak for themselves on the laws that should govern them he could conceive of no possible doubt, for it was a question which to him was unarguable. Sometimes he might have perhaps thought that they were scarcely wise in insisting upon that right, but that was a question purely for themselves; and if the women cared to insist upon that moral right, the male electors of the kingdom were doing them an injustice in depriving them of that moral right. There was one part of the question upon which he felt intensely and acutely, and that was the right of women to all the advantages of education that the Universities and educational bodies afforded, and to follow those professions and trades which their culture fitted them for. He had known several ladies of ability who would have made good lawyers, doctors, or preachers, but who, by reason of the present arrangements, were practically debarred from entering upon those professions. He was happy, however, to think that that state of things was rapidly disappearing, for the doors of the Universities were being thrown open to women competitors. In conclusion, he said he trusted the time was not far distant when it would be no anomaly for a woman to earn her own livelihood by the exercise of the liberal professions.

Miss BECKER, who was warmly received, said she appeared that night, not on behalf of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, but on behalf of the National Reform Union, which had taken up this question—a question supported by Conservatives and Liberals. The exact claim which they made was that when a woman had qualifications which entitled a man to a vote, she should not be deprived of the exercise of that franchise merely because she was a woman. At the conclusion of the lecture, which was received with great interest and approval, she stated that it was intended to take the sense of the House of Commons on the following resolution, to be moved by Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P.: "That, in the opinion of this House, the parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right to a vote." In conclusion she appealed for support.

The Rev. J. H. CHAMBERLAIN moved, and Mr. TOM TAYLOR seconded, the adoption of a petition in favour of the measure and a resolution asking that Mr. E. A. Leatham, M.P., would present it to the House of Commons.

The resolution was passed. On the motion of Alderman VARLEY, seconded by Mr. LITTLEWOOD, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss Becker for her very able lecture.

A vote of thanks carried to the chairman, for his kindness in presiding, concluded the proceedings.

KNARESBOROUGH.

On February 18th, Miss Becker delivered a lecture on the claim of women to the parliamentary franchise, in the Town Hall, Knareborough; Mrs. Oliver Scatterd occupied the chair. There was a crowded attendance, and the lecture was well received. The subject of the election commission, which has just been held, and for the expenses of which the women ratepayers will be equally liable with the men, although they have no votes, was dwelt on. A petition to the House of Commons, in favour of Mr. Mason's resolution, was adopted.

CHELTENHAM.

An interesting address was delivered by Mrs. J. H. M'Ilquham, in the Reform Club Lecture Room, on February 2nd, under the presidency of Councillor Lenthall, on the question, "Ought women to have the parliamentary franchise?" Among those present were several ladies, Rev. W. M. Lennox, Councillors Steel, jun., and Solomon, and Messrs. M'Ilquham, Moles, Colby, Baker, Bence,

Cornell, Hough, Brown, and others. Mr. Lenthall, in introducing Mrs. M'Ilquham to open the debate, referred to the weak arguments advanced by some on the negative side of the question, and contended that if it was right for women to pay their share of the rates and taxes, it was also right for them to have the parliamentary franchise. Mrs. M'Ilquham's address occupied nearly an hour, and was warmly applauded. In the discussion which followed, she was supported by the Rev. W. M. Lennox, Mr. Hough, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Steel, and the chairman. Mr. Cornell and Mr. Brown spoke in opposition. Mrs. M'Ilquham having briefly replied, the vote was taken, which resulted in more than three-fourths voting in favour and less than one-fourth against. Rev. M. Lennox proposed a vote to Mrs. M'Ilquham in complimentary terms, which was seconded by Mr. Cornell, supported by Mr. Brown, and carried unanimously.

LUTON.

On Monday evening, February 7th, a lecture, on "Woman: her place and power," was delivered by Rev. R. Morton, under the auspices of the Wesleyan Young Men's Christian Association. The lecturer spoke in high terms of woman's influence and various powers, maintaining that physical weakness was no proof of mental inferiority, and asserting that he saw no reason to doubt that women householders were as competent to vote as men were. There was a large attendance in spite of the severe weather, and the lecture was highly appreciated.

EXMOUTH.

At a recent meeting of the Exmouth Liberal Association the question was discussed: "Is it desirable to extend the franchise independent of sex," and was decided in the affirmative by two votes to one; the number being twelve for and six against the motion.

READING.

CONFERENCE AT THE JUNIOR LIBERAL CLUB.

A meeting of the Reading Junior Liberal Club was held in Bridge-street Rooms, on 16th February, when the Rev. Rodolph Suffield opened a conference on the subject of extending the parliamentary suffrage to women householders with a most interesting paper. Mr. H. Harrison Jones presided. In the discussion which followed, cordial sympathy was expressed with the views advanced by the Rev. R. Suffield, to whom a vote of thanks was accorded on the proposition of Mr. Ernest Boorne, seconded by Mr. J. N. Wells.

THE EMPRESSES REGENT OF CHINA AND WAR WITH RUSSIA.

The Englishwoman's Review quotes the following passage from the Northern Whig as a striking instance of the genius for government displayed by an eastern princess, the Chinese Empress of the west:—

"The young Emperor is a minor. Two Empresses govern, the one having the department of the west, the other that of the east. In the last century, as some of our readers may be aware, the two principal Secretaries of State of our Sovereigns were supposed to have respectively what were called the northern and southern departments. The Chinese Empress of the west has had to decide whether the treaty of Livadia should be carried out, or whether it should be repudiated, with the apparently inevitable consequence of a war with Russia. The Empress, becoming thoroughly sick of the delays in deciding the question interposed by high officials on the Council of Regency, declared that all those dignitaries in favour of war with Russia were to sign an act giving up to the State their property to pay the Russian indemnity in the event of the war being unsuccessful. The announcement was received with dismay. A change of opinion was immediately effected. All the Jingoists in the Chinese Council suddenly abandoned their warlike proclivities and became earnest advisers of peace. The Chinese Empress of the west is evidently a woman of genius, a born ruler of men."

PETITIONS.

SECOND REPORT 17—21 January, 1881.

Table of petitions brought forward from Jan. 17 to Jan. 21, 1881, listing names and locations like Milom, Southport, Hyde, Bury, Bournemouth, Barnsley, Glossop, Bristol, Wakefield, Liverpool.

THIRD REPORT 27 January—8 February, 1881.

Table of petitions brought forward from Feb. 27 to Feb. 8, 1881, listing names and locations like Belper, Stamford, Pembroke, Fishguard, Roadwater, Members of the Bristol and West of England Society, Bristol, Inverurie, Kintore, Ellen Jane Snowden, Cheltenham, Leeds, Sneinton, Old Meldrum, Macleesfield, Banchory Ternan, Kilworth, Glasgow, Aberystwith, Llandudno.

Total No. of Petitions 61—Signatures 1,793

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

JANUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 20, 1881.

Table of financial contributions to the Central Committee from Jan 20 to Feb 20, 1881, listing names and amounts.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 64, BERNERS-STREET, W.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, FEBRUARY, 1881.

Table of subscriptions for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage in February 1881, listing names and amounts.

S. A. STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 28, JACKSON'S ROW, MANCHESTER.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FEBRUARY, 1881.

Table of subscriptions and donations for Bristol and West of England in February 1881, listing names and amounts.

ALAN GREENWELL, TREASURER, 3, BUCKINGHAM VALE, CLIFTON.

GLASGOW.

DECEMBER 20, 1880, TO FEBRUARY 20, 1881.

Table of financial contributions to the Glasgow branch from Dec 20, 1880 to Feb 20, 1881, listing names and amounts.

ANNA M. N. YOUNG, TREASURER AND HON. SEC.



CASH'S CAMBRIC FRILLING

None are Genuine with-
out the Name and Trade
Mark of J. & J. CASH
Coventry.

To be had
of Drapers
everywhere.

Is the most Durable and Satisfactory Trimming for
Ladies', Children's, and Infants' Wardrobes.

DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE.

Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.

FENNINGS' FEVER CURER.

BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose.

TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses.

DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses.

SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses.

DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses.

Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps.

SORE THROATS CURED.

EASY TEETHING.

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE.

FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.

ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.

FENNINGS' Children's Powders.

For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.

Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.

Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c. Ask your Chemist for a free copy.

SAFE TEETHING.

COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS.

FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS.

The Best Remedy to Cure all

Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.

Sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., with directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free,) contain three times the quantity of small boxes.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

BRONCHITIS CURED.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

These excellent FAMILY MEDICINES are invaluable in the treatment of all ailments incidental to every HOUSEHOLD. The PILLS PURIFY, REGULATE and STRENGTHEN the whole System, while the OINTMENT is unequalled for the removal of all muscular and outward complaints. Possessed of these REMEDIES, every Mother has at once the means of curing most complaints to which herself or Family is liable.

N.B.—Advice can be obtained, free of charge, at 533, Oxford Street, London, daily between the hours of 11 and 4, or by letter.

ESTABLISHED 1835.



By the use of which, during the last Forty Years many Thousands of Cures have been effected; numbers of which cases had been pronounced INCURABLE!

The numerous well-authenticated Testimonials in disorders of the HEAD, CHEST, BOWELS, LIVER, and KIDNEYS; also in RHEUMATISM, ULCERS, SORES, and all SKIN DISEASES, are sufficient to prove the great value of this most useful Family Medicine, it being A DIRECT PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD and other fluids of the human body.

Many persons have found them of great service both in preventing and relieving SEA SICKNESS; and in warm climates they are very beneficial in all Bilious Complaints.

Sold in boxes, price 7½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., by G. WHELPTON & SON, 3, Crane Court, Fleet-street, London, and by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors at home and abroad. Sent free by post in the United Kingdom for 8, 14, or 33 stamps.

Printed by A. IRELAND & Co., Pall Mall, Manchester, for the Proprietors, and Published by Messrs. Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London, and Mr. JOHN HEYWOOD, Manchester.—March 1, 1881.—Entered at Stationers' Hall.