

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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

DUBLIN.—An AFTERNOON MEETING, to promote the Extension of the Franchise to Women Ratepayers, will be held, by the kind permission of the Lord Mayor, in the Oak Room, Mansion House, on Monday, the 1st November, 1886, at 3-30 p.m. Mrs. Ormiston Chant will address the meeting. W. A. Macdonald, Esq., M.P., Sir C. A. Cameron, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., Professor Mir Aulad Ali, T.C.D., David Sherlock, Esq., B.L., Abraham Shackleton, Esq., J.P., Henry Wigham, Esq., Alfred Webb, Esq., and other influential friends, are expected to take part in the proceedings.

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 during the recess for petitions to both Houses of Parliament, in support of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women, which will be brought forward on the opening of the next Session of Parliament. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general 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 Miss BALGARNIE, 29, Parliament-street, London.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN THE
MAYOR'S PARLOUR, TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER,
On WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1886.

The Chair will be taken at THREE o'clock, by his Worship
THE MAYOR OF MANCHESTER.

Professor ADAMSON, J. W. ADDISON, Esq., Q.C., M.P., Miss BECKER, Alderman BENNETT, Mrs. FAWCETT, Alderman HEYWOOD, J. W. MACLURE, Esq., M.P., Rev. H. A. NOEL, M.A., JOSEPH PHYTHIAN, Esq., J.P., N. C. SCHOU, Esq., HENRY SLATTER, Esq., J.P., Rev. ALEX. THOMSON, D.D., W. WOODALL, Esq., M.P., and other ladies and gentlemen are expected to take part in the proceedings.

The attendance of Friends is requested. Doors open at 2-30. Admission Free.

In a few Days.

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

"We can cordially recommend the little brochure to all who wish for a great deal of interesting information about women's interests in a concise and convenient form."—*Women's Suffrage Journal*.

"The information given is varied, and is just what every intelligent woman wants to know."—*Cambrian News*.

"Is a useful little publication."—*Literary World*.

"It is a treasure-house of information as to the political, educational, and industrial opportunities now open to women."—*Women's Journal*, Boston, U.S.A.

LONGSIGHT.—A Lecture on the claim of women to the Parliamentary franchise will be delivered by Miss BECKER, on Tuesday, November 2nd, at the St. Clement's Ward Liberal Club, Longsight. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock, by the Rev. H. A. NOEL, M.A., Rector of St. Clement's. T. R. Wilkinson, Esq., H. R. Slatter, Esq., J.P., and Samuel Brooks, Esq., are expected to be present. The attendance of friends is invited. Admission Free.

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"WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL" PRIZE COMPETITION, No. 3.

POETICAL QUOTATION.

A Prize of Two Guineas will be given to the person who shall send the best POETICAL QUOTATION IN PRAISE OF HIGH AND NOBLE QUALITIES IN WOMEN. The praise may apply to woman in general, as Scott's lines,

"When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou;"
or may be praise of some particular woman, as Wordsworth's
"The reason firm, the temperate will,
Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill,
A perfect woman, nobly planned
To warn, to comfort, and command."

The quotation should not be more than eight lines, and must not exceed the limits of a Spenserian stanza. The name of the author and of the poem must be given, with such further reference as may enable the quotation to be easily verified. The quotation must be in English, but may be from a translation. In awarding the prize regard will be had to the object of showing that the ideal woman of the poets is also the ideal of those who, by removing from women the barriers of disqualification in matters intellectual, social, and political, seek to afford her the fullest and freest development of all the faculties and aspirations with which she is naturally endowed.

RULES.

- Answers should be sent on or before November 25th, addressed to the Editor, *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester. Answers may be signed by a *nom de plume*, but the real name and address must be sent for registration. The result of the competition will be announced in the December number of the *Journal*.
- Every answer must contain the sum of one shilling and sixpence, in return for which the *Women's Suffrage Journal* will be forwarded by post for twelve months to any address indicated by the competitor, whether such competitor win the prize or not. Competitors may send more than one quotation but not more than three in the answer.
- The right is reserved of dividing the prize, if necessary, between two or more competitors.
- The prize will be given in money, subject only to the condition of the publication of the winner's real name and address in this *Journal*.
- On the announcement of the prize winner's name or *nom de plume*, the successful competitor must write and make formal application for the prize, stating the address to which the cheque must be sent. Any competitor failing to do so within one month from the announcement of the award will forfeit all claim to the same.
- Prize winners are disqualified for two succeeding competitions.
- The decision and award once announced must be considered final and irrevocable.

PRIZE COMPETITION, No. 2.

A prize of two guineas was offered in our last issue for the best anagrammatic sentence formed out of the letters in the sentence, "The Parliamentary franchise for duly qualified women," regard to be had in awarding the prize to the greatest number of letters of the original sentence used in the anagrammatic sentence, also to the construction of the sentence and its aptness to the subject. The following competitors have sent answers. The figures after each sentence indicate the number of letters contained in it. The number of letters in the original sentence is 46.

- Quoth friends, we may cheer if it mean fair play all round (46).—
MRS. BLACKBURN.
Fair females in front, what claim ye? dare uphold enquiry (46).—
NAIAD.
Prominent lady author! Fy, quell we chimaera dire! if Fans (46).—
RITA BAXTER.
Eh, M.P.! Unfair laws of inequality need thy Radical reform (46).—
LOVER OF JUSTICE.
Full mean, if to find each ratepayer equal, worry his mind (46).—
GO-A-HEAD.

Hi, Q.C.! Fain y-rendyr up to all waifs their due, female or man (46).—VINCENT VERITAS.

1. Hope, fair maids! We out rally frequent family hindrances (46).—2. Airy hope will conquer man's firm heart and feud will fail yet (46).—3. (Herbert Gladstone, *log.*) Oh, pa, females will conquer far if they array united mind (46).—GUELDER ROSE.
Mild Queen! After fifty years, hear and champion our will (46).—JONES.

1. A final reform which fair true equality openly demands (46).—2. A fair open reform which true equality finally demands (46).—FREDK. PATTON.

Why acquire her full freedom? A man is only apt if trained (46).—ETHEL YEO.

Friend man, try equal law, yield a chief triumph of reason (46).—MRS. DU SAUTOY.

Idlers can dream on fear: Quit ye manfully with fair hope (46).—JAM SATTIS.

Try and fulfill my idea. Acquire share in the power of man (46).—
L. B. COURTENAY.

They'd pray men, "free her from a nul law disqualification" (46).—LIEUT.-COL. SAVILE.

1. Ah! march firm at a fully needed ripe question fairly won (46).—2. Ha, said Muff, M.P., I'd fear her yea or nay will turn election (45).—EMILY COOKE.

1. Ah! hardy females qualify; run forward in election time (45).—2. Quail not, frail females; defy in war, chide our party men (45).—3. Now try, females, claim equality in hard, fair, open feud (44).—4. I find now a female fairly equal to reach men's duty (41).—5. If election's hap find hard war, quail not, merry females (44).—PHOEBE FLEETWOOD.

1. Triumph of equal law close at hand if ye are firm (39).—2. End in triumph of equal law, closer at hand if ye are firm (45).—3. Due, why foil her? Equal aiders can form fit Parliament (44).—RITA BAXTER.

Law of man is queer, o fie. Her hand let fair lady try (40).—HANS BENEDIK.

2. Laura! worry each M.P. till he in fear of dames find equity (45).—3. Hear, my fathers, fair equality will produce no famine (44).—GO-A-HEAD.

1. Can a wife really quite do her duty at home as an M.P.? (40).—2. A female Parliament would quiet Randy (32).—3. Can any woman here feel equal to duty as M.P.? (34).—BAEL.

2. Will thy hand, fair Queen, yet upraise an oriflamme? (41).—
JONES.

1. Many limitations are round her life (30).—2. Why deny us an electoral weapon? (26).—3. An equal imperial charter to lift our life (35).—ANNIE GREEN.

Let fair woman raise her manful cry of equality (39).—MATTIE.
We demand political equality as a reform (34).—ELISE.

1. Frail man's law proclaimed inequality in the home fray (43).—2. O man ruler quail, thy time is near (39).—RAM LAL.

May female electors purify law and nation (35).—RAVENNA.

1. Men, we demand our fair share, political equality (40).—2. How qualify a female elector? In rates paid (35).—MRS. MASSEY.

1. Ye fair dames, petition our Queen daily (32).—2. If ladies only pray or preach, men idly rant (35).—3. Fair dames, petition; quail and you fall (32).—4. We desire fair play and no folly (26).—ARCHER.

1. Fair, free, equal administration would help much (41).—2. Try a code of equalised law and fair reform in time (41).—3. Lady, laurel trophies of fame await you (32).—4. Let reform end a paltry strife with honour (35).—Q IN THE CORNER.

A hidden claim or law nip't from a Queen's fifty years' rule (44).—
MARIA SWANSON.

Query? Why do men fear so true and fair a claim? (36).—W. H. ADE.

1. Defeat or Triumph! hear a cry. Men find no laws qualify (43).—2. Half century demands fair play from her Queen to law (43).—NORTHUMBRIA.

1. M.P. men act unfair I see; all who deny you, fair ladie (40).—2. And I say unfair men err. They do quite claim all power (43).—3. In any equal electoral power my firm faith is hidden (42).—4. Only all who are unfair dare deny me this prime fact (42).—5. I fear men idly err, often frown at equal claims (38).—6. Then ponder! why female claims are

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THE annual meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage is announced to take place on November 3rd, under the presidency of the Mayor of MANCHESTER. Mr. WOODALL, M.P., has consented to be present, and it is hoped that a large number of friends will be able to attend the meeting.

THE reply of the Marquis of SALISBURY to the memorial sent to him from the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League, though marked by official reserve, affords some encouragement for the hope that the Government may consider the propriety of at least securing a hearing in the House of Commons for the question of the enfranchisement of women. The question is not in any sense a party one; the Bill has energetic supporters and opponents on both sides of the House. Members of the Government are themselves divided in opinion as to the merits of the case, and so long as this is so it is not to be expected that they will themselves introduce a measure for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. But that need not necessarily preclude them from taking steps to enable the matter to be submitted to the verdict of the House of Commons, and it is desirable that other political societies, both Conservative and Liberal, should join in the endeavour to press this subject on their consideration.

A BILL which was introduced last session by Mr. GEORGE HOWELL, Mr. PICKERSGILL, Mr. FENWICK, and Mr. ALLANSON PICTON indicates the direction in which the next effort for extending the franchise among the least responsible classes of men will probably take. The Bill is intitled "A Bill to Consolidate, Simplify, and Amend the Law relating to Parliamentary Elections." The Bill proposes to substitute simple residential manhood suffrage as the qualification for the election of members to serve in Parliament, in lieu of all existing franchises—therefore to disconnect wholly the idea of the payment of rates or taxes from the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament.

So sweeping a change as this, not merely in the

personality of the electorate, but in the whole theory on which the right of representation has hitherto been based, may perhaps not be accomplished in the immediate future. But the fact that the proposal has been brought forward for discussion should inspire all who desire to see women admitted to the franchise on the existing basis of the household and ratepaying qualification with the determination to press the question for settlement while the present qualification remains the law of the land.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Birmingham Weekly Post* recently called attention to the circumstance that Birmingham was long ago foremost to justify the public action of women. So far back as 1838 an eloquent address was issued "To the Women of Birmingham," signed THOMAS CLUTTON SALT, which said, "The people have petitioned in vain for twenty years; their humble prayers have been refused, and their increasing miseries disregarded. The factions have given to the unconquered people of England for their inheritance, a childhood without mirth, a manhood without independence, and an old age without honour or comfort; therefore do the women meddle with politics, and the whole family of the people unite for justice."

The condition of the people has been greatly ameliorated since that period, and women have borne their part among the agencies that have been working to produce this improvement. They now press for the recognition of their rights as citizens, believing that in this they will have a potent weapon in their warfare against the causes of the evils that beset society, and that the admission to political rights of classes now struggling with misery and privation would help to ameliorate the hardships of their lot, and improve their industrial and social condition.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD is reported to have said, in a recent speech at the Mansion House, that he "was savage enough to respect strength in any form, except in the mind of a woman." A sentiment of this nature certainly

seems more appropriate to a savage than to a civilised community. To keep the mind of a woman in a condition of weakness for want of exercise and culture is a practice now all but universally regarded as a wrong to herself and to society. We are outgrowing the customs of savages in regard to the social position of women, and are rapidly approaching a state of public sentiment that regards nobility and strength of mind equally necessary and commendable in a woman as in a man.

MUCH has been written lately about the evils of the higher education of women and the overstrain which these recent writers treat as inseparable from the pursuit of higher intellectual callings by women.

That excessive strain is bad all admit, it is the degree where excess begins that calls forth diversity of opinion. Leaving the disputants to settle this point as they best can, let us for a moment look the other way and inquire if there is not some evil likewise attached to understrain of the intellectual faculties?

Human life with its manifold complexities—that union of the physical and mental powers, that heritage from the terrestrial and aspiration to the celestial, which compose the healthily constituted organisation—demands balance of all the parts. Proportionate exercise of brain and muscle, of thought and motion, of intellect and affection, are all needed. Physical vitality, intellectual energy, and emotional control, each suffer from defect of culture of either, as well as from excess of culture of one of the three, and speculations about the mischiefs of too much strain suggest speculations on the mischiefs of too little strain, which in another direction are probably doing vastly the most evil in the world to-day. H. B.

THAT great men have great mothers is a true and favourite saying. That the impression made by the mother's influence in the tender years of the child stamps the man with a character that prevails to the end is a law of life which we do well to recall to mind, with serious thankful hope for the future of the race. And side by side with it there is another fact of history, less remarked—perhaps because, to the world's loss, less often brought into positive relief—that as the influence of the mother bears strongly on the character of the man, so too the influence of the father bears strongly on the character of the woman.

We have been lately reminded that had it not been for his mother we should not have had a FRANCIS BACON.

True; and if it had not been for her father, BACON would not have had that mother. For BACON'S mother was the daughter of a man remarkable for the care he bestowed on the education of his daughters, even in days when more care and attention was bestowed on the education of women than at any time of our history, except our own.

If for his future greatness the man needs the influence of the mother in the plastic days of his childhood to precede the wider and rougher influences which the battle of life provides for him, equally for her future greatness the woman needs some wider outside influences added to the gentler domestic experiences. As the public side of the man's life is aided by the inner motive power which he has gained from his mother's spirit, the homestead of the woman's life is strengthened by the influence for active energy which the father brings to his daughter. When we consider how much a CARLYLE or a BUCKLAND, a GAMBETTA or a FAWCETT have owed to their mother's influence, let us recall too how much a MARIA EDGEWORTH or a JANE AUSTEN, a MARY CARPENTER or a ROSA BONHEUR have owed to their father's encouragement. Then, when much that now may be experimental in education both for boys and girls has become more settled, this great fact will become recognised—that for any real fulness of life's interests, public and private, the fathers of women must fill a complementary part to the mothers of men. H. B.

A VERY interesting ceremony took place last month at Walsall. A statue of "Sister DORA," erected in a great measure through the efforts of working men, was unveiled on October 11th. This is, we believe, the first statue that has been erected to a woman other than a Queen in Great Britain, and to no one could the honour have been more worthily rendered than to DOROTHY WYNDLOW PATTISON.

This devoted lady, born in 1832, left her home in 1861 to join a sisterhood, and was henceforward known as "Sister DORA." Shortly afterwards she took charge of the Walsall Cottage Hospital, which became her home and her life's care. During the years she spent in the town she gained the hearts of the people by her fearless and unsparing devotion to their service, and when she died in 1878 the loss was regarded as a public calamity.

A considerable sum was raised to send poor patients to the hospital, and for other tributes of regard, but these were not felt to satisfy the hearts of those who

yearned for a visible memorial of her presence. A most enthusiastic town's meeting was held in Walsall in 1883, when it was determined to erect a statue. This has now been accomplished, and the desire fulfilled of those who loved her, expressed in the words of a working man, "We should like a statue, so that when strangers come to our town and ask who is that, we can say, 'That is our Sister DORA.'"

COLONIAL PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, ADELAIDE, September 8th. CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (FOR EXTENDING THE FRANCHISE TO WOMEN).

Adjourned debate on second reading.
The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. J. W. Downer) said he still entertained the opinion he expressed last year, that the motion was one in the right direction. On that occasion the mover said there was little to be said against the question except what he termed the instincts of mankind on the subject, meaning thereby the prejudices and usages of mankind rather than any inclination which was the result of their own judgment. That instinct was the consequence of long centuries during which the rights of women had been neglected, and those of men considered altogether superior. As far as argument was concerned, they had had a very able speech from the hon. member; and on the other side nothing at all, or merely bald statements about woman's position in the home circle, about it not being her duty to mix in the busy haunts of men, about her nature being inconsistent with and the incidents which attend her sex absolutely destructive of the proper exercise of electoral functions. Beyond these general arguments—which were those of might rather than right—he was unaware of any logical reason having ever been given why women should not be recognised in the way the measure proposed. It was said by one speaker that the conditions of their lives disqualified women from the exercise of this function, but he maintained that that was itself an argument, not for refusing them this concession, but for recognising their rights and educating them up to an understanding of them. It would be strange if, after centuries of subjection such as women have endured, if after having risen to become the equals of man in spite of all obstacles, they should at the very first be quite equal to entering upon this new field. Everything in life requires some degree of education, and universal suffrage for men was not attained without an intermediate process, and the property qualification was only fixed upon as the handiest electoral test. Although the hon. mover disclaimed it, he (the Attorney-General) considered he had exhausted almost all the arguments, and even left very few illustrations to other speakers. He did not think it possible for any one to say very much more, nor did he think it necessary that they should have exhaustive speeches simply because the subject under discussion happened to be a new one. He asked hon. members to think the matter over, and they would come to the conclusion that the proposal is not sentimental, but that the opposition to it is. (Mr. Smith: "We don't recognise a property qualification here.") The hon. mover had pointed out that every honour and every indignity is open to women—from the Crown to the scaffold—that they are subject to the same laws and pay the same taxes as men, and that in municipal elections they are even now allowed to vote just as men. (Mr. Smith: "That is a property qualification.") Women could exercise their votes with regard to local government, and what was Parliament but an agglomeration of local governments? (Mr. Kingston: "Would you give them a seat here?") He did not say the time might not come when they would be entitled to a seat. (Mr. Kingston: "Why not now?") The hon. member was hoping to launch him into some absurdity, but he absolutely declined to recognise any absurdity in it. If woman was entitled to a seat in Parliament it would come in time. (Mr. Kingston: "Is she?") He said "if she be entitled"—if it was expedient that she should have a seat it would come in time. (Mr. Burgoyne: "Clergymen

are not here, although they have votes.") There was no logical reason why women should vote for the representatives in a corporation, and not for a member of Parliament. (Mr. Ward: "O yes, there is.") Well, the hon. member would doubtless enlighten them on the subject, and they would probably find his arguments as convincing as usual. (Laughter.) He waited with some anxiety to hear any hon. member show any reason that makes the franchise applicable to one sex and not the other. (Mr. Coghlin: "You could not legislate with them.") Laughter.) He was endeavouring to put the matter seriously, and he did not want to make it a joke. There were a great many women who were the equals of men, and who entertained a very strong opinion on this question. Their opinions were entitled to at least some degree of outward respect. (Mr. Kingston: "And inward respect.") He had heard no reason suggested why women should not have a voice in the selection of representatives to Parliament in the same way as men had. It was said by some that women should be kept at home as slaves to look after our little whims. Others said that they should be granted a great deal more than this Bill conceded, and that the principle applied to men should be applied to women. So the Bill was imperilled. Whether the Bill was right or not in providing that women who were to possess votes should hold property, he would say that they had to make reforms by degrees, and as the franchise was gradually lessened until it was abolished altogether in the case of men, so they would take one step at a time in reference to women. So far as the property qualification in connection with women was concerned, he did not think it had arisen from the theory that taxation and representation were co-relative, but because it was held that a man who had acquired property had shown his capability of dealing with political questions. All this Bill proposed was that women should go through the same course of education. (Mr. Ward: "Does the Bill allow a lady to be elected?") If it did he would take care to prevent that from becoming law. (Mr. Kingston: "It goes near it.") Well, he was not prepared to go that far. (Mr. Kingston: "Why not?") He was endeavouring to explain, but was interrupted by the frequent interjections. It might be that in course of time all limitations would be removed, and women would be placed in the same position as men. (Mr. Kingston: "Why not do so now?") Would the hon. member? (Mr. Kingston: "I will think about it.") Of course the hon. member would think about it. He would not give a female of twenty-one years of age a vote. (Mr. Kingston: "Why not?") Because their centuries of subjection had not fitted them for the sudden exercise of such large privileges. (Mr. Copley: "What about the generation that is being born?") Well, women had got out of the way of considering political matters. (Mr. Kingston: "And the majority of them don't want to.") He agreed. (An hon. member: "And the same thing applies to men.") It did, and he would say that an intelligent woman was as good as an intelligent man, and they ought not to be denied the right of gradually attaining the same position. (Mr. Ward: "Make politicians of them.") They would make better politicians than a good many men, and the question was what were their rights. Those rights ought to be given to them by gradations. To those who had any difficulty about the property qualification he would say—are you prepared to at once place women in the same position as men? (Mr. Kingston: "Yes, and make them members too.") He was sorry to see that the hon. member had arrived at a mature judgment so quickly. Two minutes ago he wanted time to consider. It was interesting to know the time it took him to make up his mind upon an important subject. He quite agreed with the Bill, but he was rather sorry that it had not been introduced last session. A Bill that proposed an important alteration should not be brought in in the last session of a Parliament, and he would suggest to Dr. Stirling that it would not be expedient to press it at this time. He certainly congratulated the hon. member on showing the courage of his convictions. He would support the second reading, because he looked upon the measure as being only a fair recognition of the rights of those whom they held in great esteem, and he hoped the results would be as satisfactory as he wished.

Mr. NEWLAND moved that the debate be adjourned.

Dr. STIRLING had hoped that the debate would have been finished that day, but as the question was a large one, and as several hon. members wished to speak, he would not press the Bill then; but he trusted that on the next day it was considered hon. members would be prepared to conclude the discussion.

The debate was adjourned until Wednesday, September 22.

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

SOUTHPORT HABITATION OF THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

DISCUSSION ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

On October 19th, a meeting of the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League was held at the Albany Gallery, under the presidency of the Rev. Canon CLARKE, vice-ruling councillor, owing to the absence through illness of Mr. T. Dale, J.P., the ruling councillor. There was a large attendance, amongst those present being Mr. Councillor W. Robson, J.P., Mr. Councillor James Marchbank, J.P., Mr. J. Harvey, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Astley, Mr. Watson, Mr. Shuttleworth, Mr. Anderton, Mr. W. H. Robson (hon. sec.), Mrs. Dale, Miss Smithers (dame ruling councillor of the Scarisbrick Branch), Mrs. Oram, Miss Burton, Miss E. E. West, Mrs. Bulpit, Miss Sherrat, Mrs. Pattenson, Miss Blackburn, Miss Jones, Mrs. Eckersley, Mrs. White, Miss Ball, Mrs. Barron, and many others.

After other business, Mrs. ORAM rose to move a resolution. She said: I now have to move that the memorial to the First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury, which I am about to read, be received and adopted by this meeting. The memorial reads thus:—

"To the Most Noble the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury, &c., &c.,

"The Memorial of the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League,

"Respectfully sheweth,—That by the exclusion from the Parliamentary franchise of the women who, as owners and occupiers of property, have now the right of voting in local elections, a large proportion of the property, intelligence, and industry of the community is denied representation in our Legislature.

"That a Bill for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women passed the second reading in the House of Commons without a division in February last, but by the use of the forms of the House its further progress was stayed; and that the recent extension of the franchise to all classes of men, and the further demand now made in the direction of manhood suffrage, render it especially desirable at the present time to press the claims of women on the consideration of Parliament.

"Wherefore your memorialists earnestly pray that your lordship will, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, take such steps as may be necessary to provide facilities for the discussion of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill, and also that you will give your support to the measure."

Now, when I was asked to add a few words of support to the memorial I have just read, my first feeling was that I was very far from the right person to do so, inasmuch as being a married woman—and therefore disqualified, and rightly disqualified—it might be supposed I took no interest in the subject, but merely said my say for the sake of posing as a woman's rights woman. However, second thoughts they say are best, and I felt you might not object to hearing a few words on the subject from a woman who only speaks for others, and to one of those others I shall, in a very few minutes, most gladly give place. Miss Smithers will prove to you, far better than I am able to do, how worthy woman is of a vote. I must confess that seeing her energy and heartiness in the cause has very much strengthened my own views on the subject, and is certainly responsible for my inflicting these few words upon you tonight. Our Liberal friends are very fond of taunting us—the dames of the Primrose League—with stepping out of our rightful sphere, coming too much to the front, and usurping the places and privileges of the men. Now, these charges I deny *in toto*; not one of us wishes to put ourself in a false position. As a wife I am quite content that the head of the house should have the responsibility of choosing fit and proper persons to represent us in our Imperial and local Parliaments, and it is only for the head of the house I would plead, and if that head be a woman why on earth should she be denied the privilege? Take Queen's Road for instance, there are thirty-nine houses in it, assessed at £4,721. The value of assessment who voted at the last Parliamentary election was £1,695, while the value of assessment owned and occupied by women was £3,026. Out of those thirty-nine houses, only sixteen are represented by our member in Parliament. Why should the remaining twenty-two be

left out in the cold merely because a woman heads the household, pays rent, rates and taxes, and is, I am convinced, possessed of quite as much intelligence as the average male? Can anyone say there is the least reason in the world why she should not have an equal right to give her vote with her more fortunate neighbour of the opposite sex? I am told Lord Randolph Churchill is not quite prepared to give votes to women. I venture to say, if his lordship came to Southport he would no longer have any doubts on the subject. But I don't think this is altogether a question of Conservatism; the Liberals, as we constantly hear, are most anxious for an institution following on the lines of the Primrose League, and as they more than admit the power of the dames by the hard names they call them, we can scarcely be surprised that they should wish to bring their dames more to the fore, and would not object to their having a vote; and I am sure we Conservatives would not stand in their way. We are quite willing to give and take the privilege. I think we should have the best of the bargain as far as numbers go, and that is what we want—power to help the best men to win; and remembering some of the specimens in the late Government, no one can deny that at the last general election the best men did win. The Primrose dames worked hard and well then, and I think and hope Lord Salisbury will not turn a deaf ear to this memorial from the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League. (Loud applause.)

Mrs. DALE seconded, and said she had been an advocate of women's suffrage for twenty years, and she believed that she attended the first meeting that was ever held on the subject in the country at Manchester. She had been a strong supporter ever since. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said he had been in favour of women's suffrage many years.

The motion was then unanimously carried.

Miss SMITHERS then moved "That the Ruling Councillor of the three Southport Habitations be requested to forward to the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of the memorial which has just been passed." She read the following Bill, which had been proposed 49 Vic., Parliamentary Franchise Extension to Women: "Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: 1. This Act may be cited as the Representation of the People (Extension to Women) Act, 1886. 2. For all purposes of and incidental to the voting for members to serve in Parliament women shall have the same rights as men, and all enactments relating to or concerned in such elections shall be construed accordingly. Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall enable women under coverture to be registered or to vote at such elections." She said that of the House of Commons 167 Conservatives, 101 Gladstone Liberals, 30 Unionists, and 43 Nationalists were in their favour. Thus of the 316 Conservatives 167 were friends; of the 190 Gladstonians, 101; of the 78 Unionists, 30; and of the 85 Nationalists, 43. (Applause.)

Miss SMITHERS then read the following paper, which was frequently and loudly applauded: Dames of olden time wove out their simple ideas in wondrous pieces of tapestry, some of which have descended down to our time, and are treasured as valuable heirlooms by those who possess them. The scenes thus portrayed conjure up in the imagination something of life in those far-off days. We see the lady of the castle surrounded by her maidens, whose only vocation in life seemed to be "to ply the distaff, broider, card, and sew." But nimble fingers no longer trace with loving alacrity the inspiring watchword of chivalry on the flowing pennons, borne on the lance of knight of old. The trappings of his favoured steed are no longer adorned by the willing fingers of the fair; the wife of Ulysses no longer sits weaving the shroud to grace his shade; the winds of heaven are no longer love-sick with the broidered and perfumed sails of antiquity. Times are strangely altered; the poetry of romance has faded away, and the prose of reality is the lot of the women of the nineteenth century. And it is the reality of the lives of good women and their noble actions which have done more to live down that doctrine of Mohammed, that women have no souls, than has ever been accomplished in bygone ages by those of our sex who did simply "finger the fine needle, and nyse thread." Amidst the multifarious occupations of the present day, busy-fingered

REPLY OF THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

The following reply has been received by the ruling councillor from the Marquis of Salisbury:—

"Hatfield House, Herts, October 26, 1886.

"Dear sir,—Lord Salisbury desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing a memorial from the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League. I am to convey to you his Lordship's thanks, and to say that the question raised in the memorial will receive his most serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,
"To Thos. Dale, Esq."

"ROBERT CECIL.

CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE AT BRADFORD.

The great central organisation of the Conservative party, the National Union of Conservative Associations, which comprises all the Conservative Associations and Clubs in the United Kingdom, met in annual conference in the Technical School, Bradford, on October 26th, Mr. ASHMEAD BARTLETT, M.P., in the chair.

In the course of the proceedings a very lively discussion took place on the question of woman's suffrage, Mr. Wainwright, of Blackpool, having put upon the paper the following resolution:—"That, in the opinion of this conference, the time has now arrived when the Parliamentary franchise may safely be extended to women householders."

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Wainwright did not propose to proceed with his motion.

Mr. DALTON thereupon moved the resolution, and contended that the subject was one which the conference could pre-eminently discuss. He expressed himself strongly in favour of the admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise, and stated that their influence in municipal elections had been of a most beneficial character.

The motion having been seconded,

Mr. F. S. POWELL, M.P., moved the previous question. He said he offered no opinion on the merits of the question, but held that it was not open to the conference to discuss organic changes of such great magnitude, especially at a period when they could not by any means be adequately discussed.

Mr. E. BECKETT, M.P., spoke briefly as an opponent of woman's suffrage.

Several other members of the conference expressed themselves upon the subject.

The previous question was carried by a large majority.

HANLEY LIBERAL CLUB.

On October 16th, a debate on "Woman's Suffrage" took place at the above-named club. Mr. T. LOCKETT presided, and there was a full attendance.

The CHAIRMAN, in a brief speech, referred to the subject as being one that must engage the attention of Parliament and the country at no distant date, whatever may be the ultimate outcome of it. He then called upon Mr. W. Scarratt to open the discussion.

Mr. SCARRATT disclaimed all pretensions to any great research in the matter. He, however, had been aided very much by Mr. Sydney Buxton's "Handbook," in which the "pros" and "cons" were laid down categorically. The speaker proceeded to argue the various bearings of the question, and observed that he could only conclude that there were no just and legitimate reasons for further extending the franchise to women, and he therefore upheld the system at present existing, so far as it concerned women.

Messrs. J. LOVATT and G. T. AUDLEY condemned the present system, and argued that as many women possessed the same qualifications as men who were entitled to vote, it was wrong to deprive them of that right. Moreover, that their exercise of the municipal vote proved their fitness; while their success in the literary, medical, legal, and mercantile professions clearly demonstrated their intellectual capabilities.

Messrs. DAWSON and W. LOVATT contended that women were by their natures unfitted for the roughness and turmoil of political work, and that it would only tend to their degeneration to engage in it.

Various other members having spoken, Mr. SCARRATT replied to the objections, after which

Mr. J. LOVATT moved, "That it is expedient and just that all widows and spinsters who possess the qualifications required of men, should be permitted to exercise the Parliamentary franchise."

women still find ample scope for the display of inventive and persevering industry, and without any wish or intention to discard that essentially feminine occupation, "needlework sublime," they have taken into their practical fingers the weft and warp of time itself, and are daily, hourly intermingling in its threads their pithy sayings, their devotional feelings, their concise ideas, their noble aspirations, and their indefatigable energy, which not only reflects credit to themselves, but the golden threads of which shall irradiate and brighten the lives of thousands when their fair spirits shall have passed to the Paradise of God. Such as they, whose lives are worth living, and I say this advisedly, live not only for the present, but for the future. Yes, times are strangely altered; the sterner sex are bound to admit that women have not only souls, but intellects, and if our educational status is lower than that of men, it is not because we cannot learn, but because we are not taught. In this brief outline I have endeavoured to show you what women were and what women are, and now, as briefly, I will endeavour to show what women want, and what men have it in their power to grant. It is an undeniable fact that the Primrose League has done more to give women the position which has been so long and so rigidly withheld than any other organisation in this or any period of the world's history. The originators of the movement showed their judgment and discrimination when they included women in their ranks, and so far I do not think there is one who has betrayed the confidence reposed in her by showing that she in any way merits the legal stigma of being classed with lunatics and that ilk. It is an admitted fact, by friend and foe, that the Primrose League throughout the length and breadth of the land has rendered the organised help of women in such a way as no help has ever been given before at Parliamentary or municipal elections. It has been the frank and universal admission of successful Conservative candidates that they have been lifted into Parliament by the Primrose League. Knowing then, and admitting too, the value of the assistance received, I cannot understand any member of the League not using his utmost endeavour to make some return for work of so indefatigable a character, by making that work easier and more palatable in the future by giving us the privilege of canvassing women householders; in other words, I ask that the ratepaying women of our country be placed on the same footing in Parliamentary legislature as they enjoy in municipal legislature. I earnestly ask that every effort should be made to remedy this incongruous state of things, and that every means be used to make some return to the voteless, but, after all, not voiceless, portion of the community. Mr. Gladstone, I consider, has opened out a wide field for work for the dames of the league. If women, then, are sufficiently reliable to be entrusted with the work of educating and enlightening the two millions, surely the simple privilege of adding her vote to theirs can no longer legitimately be withheld. It has been urged that no widespread demand exists among women for the suffrage. If such be the case, such need be the case no longer, for if the dames of the Primrose League put their shoulders to the wheel the thing will soon be widespread enough, and the measure carried. We are called "a disturbing and uncertain element." I know none so fixed and decided in their views as women, be they Radical or Conservative, and consequently none who would be so easily canvassed. There would be no beating about the bush with them. As for fearing married women with property putting in their claim, that surely does not say that they would get it. For my part I only support the Bill in so far as it deals with women householders. I object strongly to the lodger franchise as it at present exists with regard to men, and my experience of the last few days during the sitting of the Revision Court is that it is a Radical subterfuge for unlimited untruthfulness. But if the measure were allowed a fair hearing all these difficulties would soon be threshed out, and the reasonable part of the community would soon see the Bill in its original garb, and rejoice in the enfranchisement of women householders. There have been many suggestions made for celebrating her Gracious Majesty's Year of Jubilee—granting the Women's Suffrage Bill would be a graceful and memorable act for the year 1887, from a Conservative Parliament, in recognition of the services of that stronghold of Constitutionalism, the Primrose League. (Loud applause.)

Mr. ASTLEY seconded.
Miss JONES and Mr. COLLINGE also supported, and the proposition was carried.

This having been seconded, Mr. AUDLEY moved an amendment, which included married women. The amendment being seconded and put to the meeting was rejected.

Mr. W. LOVATT moved an amendment, "That it is undesirable and inexpedient that women should exercise the Parliamentary franchise."

This was seconded and put to the vote, and was also lost. The original motion was then put and carried. The usual votes of thanks were then accorded, and a very interesting debate brought to a close.

It may be mentioned that a parcel of publications was received from the Women's Suffrage Society, which are available for consultation by members of the club.

MR. BOWEN ROWLANDS, M.P., AT ABERYSTWYTH.

A Liberal conference was held at the Corn Market Hall on September 27th, at which the political questions of the day mainly affecting farmers were discussed. Mr. Bowen Rowlands, Q.C., M.P. for Cardiganshire, who was accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Rowlands, was present and was warmly received by a large attendance. Mr. H. C. FRYER, Lodge Park, presided. In the course of the proceedings,

Mrs. MILQUHAM, a visitor to the town, who stated that she was a farmer, a dissenter, and a Liberal, asked Mr. Bowen Rowlands if he was in favour of extending the Parliamentary suffrage to women? Being a Liberal, she was exceedingly anxious to see the sound maxim of representation and taxation go hand in hand throughout the United Kingdom. (Applause.)

Mr. BOWEN ROWLANDS replied that he was very anxious to answer the lady with the utmost possible frankness. At present it was a question he had not made up his mind how he should vote. There was a great division of opinion on the subject, not only among Conservatives, but also among Liberals. He should, however, be glad to know at any time and at all times the views of any of his constituents on the subject.

LECTURES.

NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL, LONDON.

On October 20th, Mrs. Fawcett delivered a lecture in the lecture-hall of New College Chapel, St. John's Wood, on "The Influence on Character of Political Conditions." The Rev. Johnson Barker occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance, mostly composed of ladies. Mrs. Fawcett, who was very cordially received, devoted the main portion of her lecture to the question of the extension of the political franchise to women, quoting extracts from Mr. Froude's work "Oceana" in support of her arguments that the political enfranchisement of women would not only be beneficial to them but to the state in general. Women had been taught that their sphere was the home, and that they had nothing to do with politics. The healthy patriotism, the proud sense of being citizens of no mean city, which Mr. Froude said had such an important effect in making the character of a man grander and his aspirations nobler, had been denied to women, and the wonder was that under such circumstances women had as keen a sense of public duty as they had. There might be some practical difficulties standing in the way of their enfranchisement, but nothing great was easy of accomplishment. Practical difficulties were met by limiting the demand to the enfranchisement of those women who possessed all the qualifications demanded of the male elector. The discovery that woman was a human being belonged to the nineteenth century, and women were now the only important class of persons who were taxed without being represented. She was not certain that Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Chamberlain, or Mr. Bright had yet awakened to the notion that women were human beings, otherwise they would see that everything they had ever said in favour of the extension of the franchise among men was equally applicable to women. Women did not blow up gaols, or break windows, or loot shops, and therefore Governments did not pay much attention to them; and, considering this, the progress of the movement in support of women's rights was remarkable. At the close of the lecture a very hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mrs. Fawcett.

A meeting of women was held in the schoolroom of New College

Church, St. John's Wood, on the afternoon of Monday, October 25th, when an address was given by Miss Balgarnie on "The Duties of Women as Citizens."

KINGSLEY DEBATING SOCIETY, HAMPSTEAD.

A debate on women's suffrage was held at the house of Mr. Corbett Woodall, Fitzjohn's Avenue, on Thursday evening, October 21st. The discussion was opened by Miss Balgarnie. A resolution in favour of the extension of the franchise to women was supported by several ladies and gentlemen, including Mr. Wm. Woodall, M.P., the Parliamentary leader. On the question being put to the vote, the motion was carried by a large majority. A subsequent vote by ladies only showed a majority of ten to one in favour.

BEDFORD COLLEGE, LONDON.

ADDRESS BY MRS. FAWCETT.

Mrs. Fawcett delivered the opening address of the new session of Bedford College, York Place, Baker-street, in October. There was a numerous attendance of students and friends, and the chair was taken by Mr. W. SHAEN, chairman of the council of management.

Mrs. FAWCETT, in her address, said that however eager the student might be in her work, the time would almost surely come when the question would force itself upon the mind, what was the good of all this, when the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, engrossingly delightful as it once was, failed to satisfy? The subject had been touched upon in Goethe's "Faust." It was traced in the words of St. Paul, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." She had noticed at Cambridge that girl students troubled themselves a good deal about the supposed effect on the character of women of higher education. In the debating society at Newnham it had been carried by a large majority that higher education tended to make women selfish. It was really a healthy symptom that girls, even in the midst of the engrossing excitement of student life, did not take for granted that the acquisition of knowledge was the be all and the end all of life. What were the really worthy objects of life? Carlyle spoke, in his rather exaggerated way, in one of his early letters, of his wife's work in life being to lift up the lives of women to a higher level. "I tell her sometimes," he wrote, "there is much for her to do, if she were trained to it—her whole sex to deliver from the bondage of frivolity, dollhood, and imbecility, into the freedom of valour and womanhood." But making allowance for the characteristic overdose of contemptuousness contained in those words, was there not enough life's work before every young woman at the present moment in the task of building up the self respect of women, of clearing away the artificial obstructions to the development of the faculties of their minds, of giving them the blessings of civil liberty, and bringing about a more generous view of their rights and duties? Might they not, by slightly altering the form of Carlyle's sentence, regard it as a message to the young women of the present day? "I tell you many times there is much for you to do if you are trained for it—your whole sex to lift up into the freedom of valour and womanhood." Those of them who had the will to take that as their life's work might if they chose get the training for it in part from their student life. They would learn, at least, that nothing could be done without patient and unwearying endeavour; they would learn the value of taking pains and the value of accuracy, and the necessity for waiting for any definite tangible result. They would know that everything worth gaining must be gained by humble, laborious, self-denying effort, daily and hourly repeated. Mrs. Lynn Linton, in a recent article, appeared to judge of education entirely by its pecuniary results, and assumed that the money spent on a girl's college training was entirely thrown away if it did not result in an increase in her power of earning money. There were people who would always take that view of education. It was not a very high one. In many respects it was an essentially false one. But they might usefully endeavour to meet the objections to women's education on the economical ground by opening a greater variety of well-paid professional careers to women. It might also be in some degree met by lessening the cost of women's higher education in the same way as the cost of men's higher education had been lessened—by annual grants made by Parliament. At present there was no public recognition in the shape of a grant from the Exchequer or in any other form of the national

importance of the higher education for women. One only of our great Universities had opened its degrees to women. Two women the other day at Cambridge were a first class by themselves in the Modern Languages Tripos, no men sharing the honour with them; but while the men who were second and third class were admitted to the honour of a degree, the women who were first class were still excluded. In regard to medical education, women were jealously excluded from nearly all the London hospitals, and from none more rigorously than from those which were specially devoted to the diseases of women and children. In the industrial position of women there was much that needed redress. When they thought of the fact that the ordinary wages of a seamstress in East London were only six shillings a week, it was not easy to exaggerate the terrible misery which that fact implied, nor the degradation both to body and soul which was involved in such a condition of things. It was to the task of improving the lot of women, both as regarded law and custom, so as to bring it into accord with the needs of the present time, that she invited them to devote themselves. If they would take that for their aim in life, all their student life and all their home life, even down to most trivial details, would receive a new meaning and a higher value. They would be relieved at once from the pettiness of personal ambition, and be blessed in devoting themselves to objects which were not personal, but which aimed at lifting up and making fuller and happier the lives of others. Above all, while seeking to enlarge the interests of women's lives and to a certain extent to change the type of the ideal woman, let them be very careful to "hold fast that which was good" in the old ideal of womanhood. Let not pity and gentleness, purity and compassion, be ousted from their throne. They were not inconsistent with courage and determination. Let their ideal be in Carlyle's words "the freedom and valour of womanhood." Indeed, strength was never so strong as when it was allied with purity. The Poet Laureate had taught them that in his lines about Sir Galahad:—

My strength is as the strength of ten,
Because my heart is pure.

One sometimes heard of women joining shooting parties, watching a *battue*, and even stalking deer. Let them leave the slaughter of animals for amusement to those who had been condemned to it by tradition and education. Let them imitate manly virtues as much as they liked; there would never be too much courage, honour, and diligence in the world. But let them avoid all foolish imitations of men in mere externals, and worse than foolish imitations of men in what was least to be admired in them. Let them, if they would truly serve the woman's cause, appreciate at their high value all the duties that from time immemorial had, in our country at least, been regarded as women's special work—the direction of the household, the care of the young and the sick. Let all that fell to their lot in those directions be done zealously, conscientiously, and well. (Cheers.)

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Shaen, seconded by Mr. Kegan Paul, and heartily accorded to Mrs. Fawcett for her address.

WOMEN AND VOTES.

The following letter has appeared in the *Northern Whig*:—

Sir,—I think no one can look at the reports of proceedings in the Revision Courts, either in Belfast or elsewhere, without seeing that the initial injustice of excluding women householders from the franchise leads to various other pieces of injustice. It is quite painful to see how often a young man of one or two and twenty, who is not supporting the house, perhaps not contributing much towards it, supersedes his widowed mother as tenant in order to obtain a vote. This sort of indignity will not be stopped, in any rank, until the mother herself has the vote when duly qualified. Again, we hear accusations made, whether truly or not it is impossible to say, that house agents will let a house to one of the women of a family in order to prevent a man of another party from getting a vote out of it. Nothing but the enfranchisement of the woman can stop either the reality or the suspicion of such a practice. Another serious danger lies in the idea which prevails so widely that, now that the franchise extends so far, there would be no harm in throwing election expenses on the constituencies. As long as women are not represented, and can exercise no check upon these expenses, it would be the grossest injustice to lay any share of them upon women ratepayers. Yet there is no security against such injustice; and, in

fact, we have already seen the expense of election petition trials thrown upon a town without any exemption for the unenfranchised ratepayers. I trust the sight of these practical mischiefs will quicken the sympathy of the electors with their fellow-citizens who have no vote, and enlist their help in passing the Women's Suffrage Bill.—Yours, &c.,
ISABELLA M. S. TOD.
5th October, 1886.

A LETTER TO A RADICAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

Leicester.
Dear Mr. . . . ,—Did you really say—what the *Daily News* reports—that you were now opposed to woman suffrage, because you believe it "would have a reactionary effect, and prevent progress?" That is old Toryism pure and simple. It is just what was said when household suffrage was proposed, and when the equalisation of the borough and county franchise was proposed; but you and others then replied: "What right have you to refuse the suffrage on the ground that they who ask for it may use it in a way you would not like?" That was unanswerable then; and is unanswerable now, I think. I do not believe that women would hinder progress. On the contrary, I think that as questions relating to peace and war, social purity, and the doing of equal justice to all, they would help us on. But if the reverse were the case, what right have we to deny them the suffrage for that reason? Who is the infallible judge as to what "progress" is? and who gave that judge the right to have his way?—Heartily yours,
J. PAGE HOPPS.

EDINBURGH MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

At a meeting held in Canongate ward, replying to Mr. Mackenzie Councillor McLachlan said he was in favour of female householders having a Parliamentary vote.

WIFE DESERTION.

On October 14th, at Ashton-under-Lyne, George Forbes was summoned under the new Married Women's (Maintenance in case of Desertion) Act by his wife, Harriet Forbes, who is now residing at Denton. The defendant did not appear, but service of the summons upon him personally at Dunoon, Scotland, was proved. The complainant stated that for eleven years she was a teacher under the Leicester School Board, and was married to the defendant in September, 1885, at the Manchester Cathedral. She expected there would be a house, but when she came she found there was none. Her husband was the second manager at the Victoria Hotel, and they had not lived together because he had been "carrying on" with another woman in the hotel. He went to Glasgow in July, and had contributed nothing towards her maintenance. She produced an agreement with his signature promising to pay her 10s. a week. She had a little boy four months old, and she was only getting half the salary she formerly obtained.—The magistrates made an order upon the husband to pay his wife 15s. a week, and she was told she might come at any time and have the order increased if the circumstances of her husband improved.

DEGREES IN THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

A meeting of the Senate of the Royal University for the purpose of conferring degrees was held on October 28, in the University Buildings, Dublin. The great hall was crowded, and the ceremony derived increased interest from the fact that it was the first in which his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant has taken part. Some honorary degrees were also to be conferred upon eminent men who have rendered important services by their scientific attainments, and a further source of attraction was the signal success of some ladies in the examination of the University. One of them obtained a high medical degree, and another obtained the distinction, for the first time achieved by a lady student, of becoming a Master of Arts.

Lord ELLY in his address said, in speaking of the degrees and honours to be conferred that day, Miss Story was the first lady to carry off a first-class exhibition at the degree examination, and Miss Walkington was the first to gain the degree of Master of Arts.

When the degrees were conferred, the students were very demon-

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