

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 147. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

APRIL 1, 1882.

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Contents :

Leading Articles:—Mr. Mason's Resolution; Meetings during March; The Debate on Mr. Arnold's Resolution; Noteworthy Petitions; Lady Candidates in the coming Election of Guardians; The Married Women's Property Bill in the House of Lords; The Recent Attack on Her Majesty the Queen.

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PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

GREAT MEETING IN ST. JAMES' HALL.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in St. James' Hall, Piccadilly, London,
ON MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 24TH,

In support of Mr. Mason's Resolution to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting. The Chair will be taken at Eight o'clock p.m., by

MRS. FAWCETT.

Miss MÜLLER (London School Board).
Miss TOD.
Miss BECKER.
Miss C. A. BIGGS.
Miss JANE E. COBDEN.

Mrs. SHEARER.
CHARLES M'LAREN, Esq., M.P.
J. P. THOMASSON, Esq., M.P.
Dr. CAMERON, M.P.
T. A. DICKSON, Esq., M.P.

And other Ladies and Gentlemen are expected to be present.

Admission: Sofa Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Reserved numbered Seats, 1s.; Balcony Stalls, Front Row, 2s. 6d.; Second Row, 1s.; Area and Gallery, Free.

Tickets may be obtained on application to the SECRETARY, 64, Berners-street, where plan of the Hall may be seen. Early application is requested.

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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.

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1. The House of Lords and the Shop Hours Regulation Bill.

2. Professor Goldwin Smith on the Failings of Women.

3. A Hearty Democrat.

4. Approaching Poor Law Guardian Election.

Correspondence: Women as Pharmacutists—Social Science Association on Women Guardians in Ireland.

Record of Events: Intermediate Education, Ireland; Ulster Schoolmistresses' Memorial, Dublin Meeting—University College, London—Technical Education—Shop Hours Regulation Bill—Poor Law Guardians, Candidates: Woolwich, Lambeth, Nottingham, Bristol, Brighton—A Ladies' Visiting Committee in Salford—Women as Poor Law Inspectors—Suffrage Demonstration in Sheffield; Edinburgh—Married Women's Property—Darlington Women's Liberal Association—Lectures on Poultry and Bee Keeping—Female Telegraph Clerks—Liverpool Tailoresses—Ladies' Sanitary Association—Protection of Young Girls—The British Rough—Obituary: Mrs. Nathan, Miss Hamilton.

Foreign Notes and News.

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SUPERIOR BOARD, WEST END OF EDINBURGH, with separate Drawing-room, for two ladies or lady and gentleman, Offered by lady living alone. References exchanged.—Address M. D., *Women's Suffrage Journal* Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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

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

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Women Ratepayers are reminded that Elections of Poor-Law Guardians, Members of Local Boards, Churchwardens, Overseers, Auditors, and other Officials take place during April. Vestry Meetings for the Election of Churchwardens usually take place on the Tuesday in Easter Week. Women Ratepayers have the right to attend and vote in all Local Elections, and they are earnestly exhorted to use the suffrage which the law confers on them, *especially when there is a woman candidate for a Board of Guardians*. Elections for Guardians and Members of Local Boards are conducted by means of Voting Papers, which are left at the houses of the ratepayers, and called for before the election. Women Ratepayers should see that their papers are duly filled up and signed ready to be given up when called for, and in case of failure to collect the papers, they should themselves forward them to the proper officer, who is bound to notify by public advertisement the time and place when he will receive papers which have not been called for.

It is of the utmost consequence that women should exercise their votes on every lawful occasion.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE RETURN OF
WOMEN AS POOR LAW GUARDIANS.

REASONS FOR HAVING LADIES AS POOR LAW GUARDIANS.

Because the larger number of paupers are women and children.

Because the great evil of pauperism can only be diminished by more care in the bringing up of children.

Because the girls brought up in pauper schools require the superintendence of ladies to insure their better training for domestic work.

Because ladies are accustomed to visit among the poor, and are well acquainted with their requirements.

Because ladies have leisure, and can give careful attention to matters brought before the Boards of Guardians.

Because many of the women who are brought before Guardians ought to be dealt with only by their own sex.

Because ladies being accustomed to household management are certain to exercise rigid economy in details.

For these reasons the support of the ratepayers to secure the election of a fair proportion of women as Poor Law Guardians is earnestly requested.

An annual subscription of 2s. 6d. constitutes membership of the society.

For general information apply to the Hon. Sec., Mrs. V. I. CHAMBERLAIN, 44, Belsize Road, N.W.

Mrs. Fawcett's "Political Economy for Beginners" is being translated into two of the native languages of India, Canarese and Marathi. Her "Tales in Political Economy" is also being translated into the latter language and into Swedish.

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, which may come on for discussion in Parliament early in May. Written petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 64, Berners-street, London, W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. If desired, petitions ready for signature will be forwarded on application to the office of this *Journal*; but it is better that friends should prepare their own petitions according to the following directions.

Write out the form given below on any kind of paper that may be at hand. A sheet of foolscap or even note paper opened out will do.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Write out the above form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper. Try to obtain more signatures to follow your own. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise. Make up the petition as a book-post packet, open at the ends, write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the member who is to present it at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free. Write, and send along with the petition, a note (post paid) asking the member to present it, and to support its prayer.

AN INTREPID LADY TRAVELLER.

Madame Carla Serena, the intrepid traveller, has again returned to Paris, from another voyage of discovery in the remote provinces of the Caucasus, one of her favourite fields of exploration. The perils to which she exposed herself may be appreciated from the fact that no photographer in the surrounding country would risk his life by accompanying the courageous traveller. Madame Serena was, therefore, obliged to accomplish the task by herself, and she has returned with a valuable collection of photographs, which will serve to embellish her work, "Le Caucase." On her return journey Madame Serena met with a hearty reception at Rome, where the King presented her with a gold medal, specially struck in her honour. She was requested to give a lecture before the Geographical Society of Rome, and two of Madame Serena's works are being translated into the Italian language.

All who are interested in the question of women's employment will be glad to learn that a paper on this subject, entitled "How Women are employed in Belgium," is announced to appear in the April number of *Cassell's Magazine*.

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MR. MASON has not, as we go to press, been successful in obtaining a night for the discussion of his resolution, but he is taking advantage of every opportunity which the forms of the House permit to secure this object. Meantime the cause loses nothing by the inevitable delay. Surely, if silently, public opinion is advancing in our direction. Many of the speeches in the debate on Mr. ARNOLD'S resolution contained passages which, though delivered in reference to the claims of the county householders, are most applicable to the claims of women. In this connection we call especial attention to the allusion of Mr. GLADSTONE to the "Triumph of truth over a somewhat venerable, at any rate very ancient, superstition," and the eloquent plea of Mr. TREVELYAN, for those who "had nothing to do with taxation except to pay it, and with the laws except to obey them," and who on one day of the session only "experienced, not indeed the sensation, but the hope of citizenship," namely, on that day when their friends asked the House of Commons to place them on the same political footing as others.

There is nothing in the status or condition of the women of these realms which should hinder these observations from applying equally to them. We may, therefore, hope that the objections against the recognition of the political rights of women will before long be, by common consent, classed amongst the "venerable superstitions," the roots of which are being gradually weakened, and which will finally, and that shortly, perish altogether. We shall then have a true representation of all within the pale of the constitution, which will be more likely than one restricted to half the people of producing the results indicated by the mover of the resolution—greater security for the preservation of order, authority and law, and the maintenance of an established reign of peace and justice to all.

THE annual meeting of the Edinburgh Society was held last month. Meetings have also been held during March at Southampton, under the presidency of Mrs. LUCAS,

the lady speakers being Lady HARBERTON Mrs. SHEARER, and Miss MITCHELL; and at Taunton, addressed by Mrs. BEDDOE and Miss BLACKBURN, who has also lectured at Plymouth.

On April 24th a great meeting is to be held in St. James' Hall, London. Mrs. FAWCETT will occupy the chair, and our friends both in London and in the country are earnestly invited to attend. The demonstration on this occasion will be not of women only; it is meant to afford to men and women who are interested in the question an opportunity of manifesting their support of it, and the co-operation of all is invited to make the gathering a success.

ON March 21st Mr. ARTHUR ARNOLD submitted to the House of Commons his Resolutions relating to Parliamentary Reform, the first declaring that "as soon as the state of public business admits, uniformity of franchise should be established throughout the United Kingdom by a franchise similar to that established in the English boroughs." The second resolution referred to the re-distribution of seats. Although the question of the extension of the suffrage to the women as well as to the men householders who are now excluded from representation was not formally raised either by an amendment or during the debate, the discussion brought out many points full of interest in relation to the enfranchisement of women, as will be seen from the following summary of some portions of the speeches having a direct reference to the enfranchisement of the county householders.

In proposing his resolutions, Mr. ARNOLD said that the resolutions which he desired to submit were similar to those which were proposed by Mr. TREVELYAN in 1879, though he thought the terms he had adopted conveyed with greater accuracy the sense of those who had supported the proposal on that occasion. He said his honourable friend, the member for Ashton-under-Lyne, had exercised forbearance in not proposing an amendment concerning the addition of women's suffrage—a proposal in regard to which he was one of the hon. gentleman's

supporters. But he was glad the hon. member recognised that the question of women's suffrage was of such importance that it should be discussed on a separate occasion, and that the present resolution might be discussed without prejudice to the claims of which he was the Parliamentary champion. He would now refer to the probable results of the extension of the franchise in the light of the census of 1881. The proportion of the number of electors in England to the population was one in ten persons. In the Parliamentary boroughs of England there were 2,098,892 inhabited houses, and the electors numbered 1,595,451, showing an excess of inhabited houses over electors of 25 per cent; of that, 15 per cent was accounted for by the fact that there was that proportion of women householders. In the counties, exclusive of the represented cities and boroughs, there were 2,724,952 inhabited houses and 932,860 electors. Allowing the same proportion of women householders that existed in boroughs, they could not be far wrong in assuming that this proposal for uniformity of the franchise would in England and Wales add 1,334,000 electors to the register. In Ireland, so restricted was the present franchise that it would add 500,000 voters—nearly twice as many as the number now on the register; and in Scotland the increase would be about 150,000; making a total for the United Kingdom of about 2,000,000. The Act of 1867 added 1,200,000 voters to the register, so that the effect of the reform he now proposed would be larger than that of the measure of 1867. It would bring up the total number of electors in the United Kingdom to 5,077,000, which would be about one in seven of the population.

Mr. A. ELLIOTT (Roxburgh), in seconding the resolution, said there was every reason to feel confident that by giving representation to enlarged constituencies there would be no deterioration whatever in the members which those constituencies would send to Parliament. In Scotland, with which he was more intimately connected, the people took an intelligent part in the election of members of the school boards and parochial boards as well as in the election of their ministers. It was almost preposterous that they should have this power and yet be deprived of the right to take part in Parliamentary elections. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. GLADSTONE.)

Mr. GLADSTONE said: With respect to the general subject, he must draw a distinction between the merits of the question and the time and circumstances under which it is brought forward. As to the merits of the question he had—

from the time when it was first introduced by his hon. friend (Mr. TREVELYAN)—never thought that anything but secondary and incidental opposition could possibly be offered to it. There was nothing in principle that could be brought to bear against it, and the soundness of the general doctrine is unquestioned. The House approximates more and more to the opinion that the admission of properly-qualified persons to the franchise is a means not of weakening but of strengthening the Constitution. In his mind there was no doubt that that was the triumph of truth over a somewhat venerable, at any rate a very ancient, superstition. There were many honest, upright, and enlightened men who had a latent belief—they were afraid, perhaps, even to formulate it to themselves in distinct terms—that the exclusion of a great proportion of the people from the Constitution was a condition of safety and strength. It was impossible to conceive anything more contrary to nature and common sense, and he rejoiced to say that that belief has at any rate now learned so much modesty that it will scarcely anywhere venture to show itself above ground, and, furthermore, that such roots as it has were being gradually weakened, and would finally, and that shortly, perish altogether.

Mr. BLENNERHASSET moved as an amendment a proposal for inquiry into the relative advantages of various systems of election, including proportional representation and the cumulative vote.

The debate was continued by Mr. NEWDEGATE, Mr. ALBERT GREY, Mr. O'DONNELL, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Sir J. HAY, who said that in England there was a population of 53,000 to each member, in Ireland 50,000, and in Scotland 62,000. Again, as to Poor Law valuations, each member in England represented £323,000, in Ireland £132,611, and in Scotland £371,248.

Mr. SCHREIBER said he regarded the agricultural labourer, who was to be enfranchised, as a man of capital and character compared with those less settled classes of our towns who were sometimes to be enfranchised and sometimes to be disenfranchised by that crowning absurdity of recent legislation which went by the name of Dilke's Act. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) He believed that this good man, the agricultural labourer, was in the main subject to good influences—(ironical cheers)—those of the squire and the parson—(renewed cheers)—and if they could not hold him against the Caucus, he would back the squire's and the parson's wife to do it.

Mr. BURT pointed out that, although this question

almost exclusively affected the agricultural labourer, the class with which he was connected were in a similar position, almost entirely unenfranchised. Those who were excluded felt their exclusion very keenly, and were very dissatisfied with the position they occupied at present.

Mr. STANHOPE, in opposing the resolution, said the argument, however urged, came to this—there were a great many people who had not got the franchise and who wanted to have it, while there were also a great many people who had it without being any better than many who had not. He would read a few words from an article written by Mr. FREEMAN, a gentleman whose opinions were entitled to some consideration. Mr. FREEMAN said: "When we look at some of those persons, especially of what call themselves the educated classes, who have votes now, it is impossible to conceive that the agricultural labourer can be lower down in the scale. He can hardly be more ignorant; he is certainly much less conceited. He is at the worst untaught; he is not elaborately taught wrong." He did not quote those opinions against the agricultural labourers; he entertained the utmost respect for them; but he wished to point out that the arguments used were arguments also in favour of manhood suffrage, of universal suffrage, of suffrage for women. As at present constituted the constituencies afforded adequate representation for all classes of the community, and why should this system be swept away in favour of a dull uniformity in which labour alone was to be represented? The greatest danger would be that to the stability of the institutions of the country produced by the indiscriminate admission of large masses who might vote in a body on particular questions. Of course, if any special grievance could be alleged on the part of any class in the country which Parliament was unable or unwilling to deal with, a strong case might be made out for altering the representation; but he maintained that there were no such special grievances.

Mr. TREVELYAN said the object of the resolution was to afford to the present Parliament—the first in which the county householder had had a chance of getting his rights—this opportunity of saying that a vast, overwhelming, and indefensible political injustice in this country should cease to exist as soon as possible. (Ministerial cheers.) That was the way in which the unenfranchised people outside regarded it. For ten years they had been waiting at the door of one Parliament after another, and asking for those rights which had invariably been denied them. Members had been told to bring forward new

arguments, but there was no need to bring forward new arguments until the old ones had been answered, and they had not been answered yet. (Cheers.) In the general proceedings of Parliament, on every day of the Session but one, Bills on every sort of question which affected their interests were brought in and discussed, and passed or thrown out, and they had nothing to say to it. Debates of immense importance were held on foreign policy, and wars were declared, and peace was made, and they had no voice in it. As Bishop HORSLEY said of the people in days when men who held those sentiments ventured likewise to express them, they had nothing to do with the taxation of the country except to pay it, and with the laws except to obey them. (Hear, hear.) But there was one day in each Session on which they experienced, not indeed the sensation, but the hope of citizenship. On that day their friends used to ask the House of Commons to declare that this great class of Englishmen ought to be placed on the same political footing as the people of so many more favoured countries. Everybody seemed to be unanimous about their merits. Everybody joined in praising their industry, their common sense, their patriotism, and their loyalty. And then, when the debate was over and the division came, hon. members would go into the lobby with the praises of the county householders on their lips and vote that they were not to be allowed the privilege which every negro in the United States had had for half a generation. That was the treatment which had been served out to these people, and the effect produced on their minds was what must be expected. There was beginning to grow up among them a feeling that Parliament was not dealing sincerely with them—a feeling that not only they could not get justice, but that they could not even get an intelligible reason why justice should not be done them. (Hear, hear.) In Rotherham there were members of the School Board who could not have a vote on account of the high qualification. Speaking of the agricultural labourer, he said that a great change for the better had come. If many of them seemed too degraded and ignorant to exercise the franchise, all that hon. gentlemen opposite had got to do was to strike out the provisions in the Ballot Act which referred to the illiterate voter. (Cheers.)

Mr. SALT moved the adjournment of the debate.

After a few words from Mr. GOSCHEN,

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE expressed a hope that the House would not resist the reasonable proposal for an adjournment, as there were many hon. gentlemen who

wished to speak on the question. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government believed that the mind of the House was perfectly made up, and that a decision might be taken by dividing on the first resolution. If, however, they were not allowed to do that, he thought the obvious course would be to object to the motion for adjournment, and take the division upon the question as coming as nearly as possible to a decision. ("Oh," and cheers.)

Mr. T. COLLINS, Mr. J. M'CARTHY, Mr. G. ELLIOT, Mr. BIGGAR, Colonel MAKINS, Mr. ECROYD, and Mr. R. POWER supported the motion for adjournment, on the general ground that further discussion was necessary before a proper decision could be come to.

The House divided, when there voted—

For the adjournment of the debate ...	137
Against	192
Majority against	55

Mr. ARNOLD subsequently agreed to the adjournment of the debate. The division on the question of adjournment was accepted as a decision in favour of the principle of the resolution, although no direct vote was taken on the resolution itself, or on any amendment moved in respect to it.

AMONG the petitions in favour of Mr. MASON'S resolution presented on the day of the county franchise debate, was one presented by Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE signed by 176 women farmers in the West of England and South Wales. It was headed by a woman farmer and Poor-Law Guardian; one or two got other women to witness their signatures; many stated the number of acres they farmed, and how long they had held them; one described herself as having held her farm for sixty years; another had been forty-eight years a ratepayer; many wrote to express their satisfaction in signing, and one wrote, "I hope you will win, as there are lots turned out here because of it"—*i.e.*, because the women could not vote.

A petition from Chesterfield with ninety-three names was signed by the MAYOR, six of the Corporation, ten justices of the peace, six ministers and clergymen, and many well-known electors, including three doctors. Another petition with fifty-three names is signed entirely by women householders and property owners of Chesterfield.

Such petitions deserve earnest and respectful consideration at the hands of the Legislature, and these oft-

repeated appeals cannot fail to influence the minds of the Parliamentary representatives of the petitioners. Our friends who promote and collect signatures to petitions may be satisfied that they are taking the most direct and powerful means of helping the work, and we trust that they will renew and continue their efforts until the question has been disposed of for the present session.

AN election is close at hand in which not only women are electors, but in which they have also the more direct interest of being able to elect other women to fill a post of great national utility. The attention of the educated public has been for the last two or three years increasingly directed to the importance of securing a better quality of work upon local public boards, and in close connection with this is the great reserved force for public usefulness which has hitherto lain almost dormant in the women whose leisure, incomes, and intelligence are now offered for the general benefit. The field of women's work has been steadily extending itself, and they are rapidly filling every new opening which presents itself, whether professional, industrial, or philanthropic. The office of poor-law guardian is one for which a woman's training and natural capacity are admirably fitted. It is no new thing for women to devote their lives to charitable work, but it is new that they are beginning to feel how necessary co-operation and organisation are to carry on even charitable work efficiently. A woman who has experience and personal knowledge of the poor, and leisure to do her work thoroughly, has in her hands the materials of forming the best kind of public servant when she is placed in a position of authority; and without impugning the good intentions or the zeal of the men who, till the present time, have almost exclusively composed the Boards of Guardians, we may say that there are everywhere oversights, shortcomings, and wastefulness in the details of the management of the large body of women and children paupers which would be less likely to occur if a few competent women were also members of the boards.

The ratepayers of many towns have become conscious of this want, and are endeavouring to remedy it by electing properly qualified women to fill this post. The ladies who last year were elected as guardians have, with one or two exceptions, expressed their willingness to continue their onerous duties. In many parishes in London an effort is being made to secure their help. St. Pancras, Paddington, and Kensington will again, we trust, return the same ladies who have so well and faithfully served them during

the past twelve months. In Lambeth Miss EVA MÜLLER, Miss FRANCES LORD, and Miss WHITEHEAD, and in Holborn Miss BAKER, are coming forward. In the other great centres of population a similar activity is being shown. Miss VARLEY seeks election in St. Peter's Ward, Islington, and Mrs. SHEARER has again been nominated. Miss CLIFFORD, Miss WOOLLAM, and Miss ALICE WINKWORTH, are offering themselves for election in Bristol; Mrs. HEYCRAFT will do the same in Brighton; Mrs. RYDER and Miss MARCH PHILLIPPS are willing to stand in Cheltenham; two ladies are coming forward in Birmingham and two in Bridgewater; and Miss CARBUTT has been nominated in Leeds. In some other smaller towns, Cardiff, Abergavenny, and in country districts, such as Boddington, near Tewkesbury, and Elstree, in Hants, there will be ladies as candidates.

There may be others of whose nomination we have not heard, but whose names will be printed in the list that will be left by the parish authorities at the house of every ratepayer. In London this paper will be left on April 8th, and called for on April 11th. In the country, the day in some cases is different, but a public notice of the time when the paper will be left and of the number of members to be elected, is posted up on church doors, the doors of workhouses, town halls, and other prominent places. We earnestly entreat all our readers to ascertain by personal examination of these papers what the proper day of voting in their parishes is; and if on inquiry they learn that some properly qualified lady is among the candidates, we would beg them to use all their efforts to secure her return. A great number of householders appear to be indifferent to the duty of filling up their papers. Other people, again, are careless about the rules for filling them up, and a seemingly little error causes the loss of the whole vote. It is necessary to remember this, and to read very carefully the rules which are printed on each paper.

We can suggest no more important service for any lady who can command a few hours of leisure than to point out to her friends and neighbours the importance of placing a competent woman on each board of guardians, and of voting for her, and helping in every possible way in order to secure her election.

THE Married Women's Property Bill was introduced in the House of Lords by the LORD CHANCELLOR. It has passed through the stage of committee, and will in all probability pass the third reading in the Lords, and come down to the House of Commons soon after the Easter

recess. The Bill, as it now stands as amended by the LORD CHANCELLOR, though in some respects capable of improvement, is so great an advance of justice compared with the existing rule, that we should have cause for the deepest thankfulness if it became law.

The fate of the measure in the House of Commons will depend greatly on the exigencies of the session, and on the degree of support which may be given to it by the Government. If it can be brought on without obstruction and discussed upon its merits, there can be little doubt of the result. The principle of the Bill was accepted in the measure which was passed for Scotland last session, and the mind of the Legislature is now so fully committed to it that the enactment of a measure to secure to married women absolute possession and full control of their own property seems only a question of time and adequate efforts on behalf of those interested in the subject.

SINCE our last issue the country has been startled and horrified from end to end by the news of a murderous assault on the life of Queen VICTORIA, and the hearts of her people have been thrilled with thankfulness for Her Majesty's happy escape. We desire to add the expression of our feeling to the cry which arose as with one voice from all classes and all parts of her vast empire, of horror at the crime, and of loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty's person and Government. We trust that the comparative rest and quiet which the Queen is now enjoying on the shores of the sunny southern sea may tend to banish from her mind the shock of the painful event, as well as to recruit her strength for the performance of those duties to the nation which, in her own touching words, "will be continued unceasingly to the last hour of her life."

We would also join in the expression of thankfulness for the escape of the beloved daughter of Her Majesty, whose constant and devoted companionship affords to the Sovereign that solace and support which only domestic affection can supply. All the other children of the Queen have formed new ties and homes of their own. Princess BEATRICE remains by the side of the widowed Sovereign, and by the assiduity of her attention, and the complete devotion of her life to her mother, fulfils not only a private obligation but a public service, and justly earns the gratitude of the nation.

Messrs. Trübner will shortly publish an English version of the Japanese romance, "Genji Monogatari," by Mr. Suyematz Kenchio, an attaché of the Japanese legation in London. The author of this work was a woman, as, indeed, were many of the classical authors of Japan.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *Tuesday, March 7.*

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it was the result (with merely trifling alterations) of the deliberations of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, which sat last session, when the Bill was referred to that Committee. It would consolidate two Acts passed in the years 1870 and 1874, and introduce some innovations and new provisions into the law. The principal new provisions were these:—The first clause proposed that without the intervention of any trustee a married woman should be capable of acquiring, holding, and disposing of any real or personal property as her separate property, and that she should, in respect of her separate property, be capable of entering into and rendering herself liable on any contract, and of suing and being sued, without her husband being joined with her as plaintiff or defendant, or being made a party to any proceeding. If a married woman carried on a separate trade she would be subject to the Bankruptcy law as if she were a *feme sole*. The next material provision was the second clause, which enlarged the provisions of the Act of 1870, but applied only to women married after the commencement of the Act. By the Act of 1870 it was provided that a woman married after that Act should be entitled for her separate use to personal property without any limitation of the amount to which she might succeed; but by the present Bill she would be entitled to hold as her separate property all real and personal property which belonged to her at the time of marriage, or should be acquired by or devolve on her after marriage. The third clause of the Bill was similar to the provision of the Scotch law, which passed last year—namely, that property acquired after the Act by a woman married before the Act should be held by her as a *feme sole*. The clauses which followed related to investments in stocks and shares and were similar to the provisions of the existing law. The remaining clauses were in substance consolidation clauses and a repetition of the existing law, with this difference, that in any question between husband and wife, civil or criminal, either should be a witness, but no criminal proceeding could be taken by a wife against her husband under this Bill in respect to property claimed by her while they were living together.

Earl CAIRNS thought that the Bill was a most useful consolidation of the present law, but he pointed out that the Bill repealed the existing statute under which a woman was entitled to certain rights with regard to property acquired by her, whereby questions might be raised hereafter. The third clause was open to considerable objection.

After a few words from Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY, the Bill was read a second time.

Tuesday, March 28.

The House went into Committee on this Bill, the Earl of Redesdale in the chair.

The various clauses of the Bill were considered and agreed to with certain amendments.

Earl CAIRNS suggested that the third reading of the Bill should be postponed till after the Easter recess, in order that the profession might have time to consider the amendments.

The LORD CHANCELLOR assented to the suggestion as entirely reasonable. His lordship said that he proposed to take the report of the amendments on Thursday next, and to postpone the third reading till the first Tuesday after the Easter recess.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Wednesday, March 15.*

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE (IRELAND) BILL.

Mr. M'COAN, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said that in Ireland the qualification to vote at municipal elections depended on the very high rate of £10. In England, on the other hand, every householder rated to the poor rates, however small the sum, was entitled to vote at these elections. He proposed by this Bill to assimilate the municipal franchise in Ireland to that in England.

The motion was seconded by Mr. R. POWER. Mr. CORRY (Belfast) said it was not his intention to oppose the Bill. Mr. DAWSON said in England there was not only household franchise, but a court

of law decided last November that every room held separately was a house within the meaning of the Act introduced by Lord Beaconsfield. This decision would add 10,000 votes to one metropolitan constituency alone. Mr. PLUNKET said, while he did not oppose the second reading of the Bill, he thought it only dealt with a part of the subject, and would require amendment.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER understood the principle of the Bill to be to make practically the municipal franchise in Ireland the same as it was in England. He had on previous occasions expressed his opinion in favour of that proposal. It was a matter which the Government thought ought to be settled in this direction, and they would be glad to give it their support to-day and afterwards when it got into committee. He only hoped that the Irish members on the opposite side would not make use of the rules of the House to obstruct it. In that event he should not despair of the Bill being passed during the present session.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY supported the Bill.

Mr. LEWIS (Londonderry) said, although he should not divide the House on the second reading, he should oppose its future progress in every possible way. Mr. GRAY (Carlow), Mr. THOMPSON (Durham), and Mr. FINDLATER (Monaghan) supported the Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. William Johnson) said he supported the Bill because he thought representation ought to accompany taxation, and that men qualified to exercise a Parliamentary trust were equally fitted for a municipal one.

After a few words from Mr. METGE in support of the motion, the Bill was read a second time.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

EDINBURGH.

The annual meeting of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on March 3rd, within the Bible Society's Rooms, 5, St. Andrew Square. Among those present were Mr. David Dickson, Mr. Duncan McLaren, jun., Mr. Hugh Rose, Rev. John Glasse, ex-Bailie Lewis, Mr. J. H. Waterston, Miss Wigham, Mrs. Shearer (London), Miss Blyth, Miss Burton, Mrs. Nichol, Miss Stevenson, and others.

On the motion of Miss WIGHAM, who intimated that Mrs. Duncan McLaren, the President, who was to have occupied the chair, was prevented from being present owing to indisposition, Mr. DAVID DICKSON was called upon to preside.

Miss WIGHAM read the report.

The CHAIRMAN, after expressing his sympathy with the objects of the movement, said he considered their cause was very much won; the battle was fought and won, but the conditions of peace were yet to be signed. There had been no legislation carried through on the subject, but it was in the position of a question on which there was only one decided opinion, the difficulty of which was to put it into legislative shape. In short, the good ship was at the mouth of the harbour, but had not got into harbour yet. (Applause.) They must, therefore, use every exertion until their object was attained.

Mr. HUGH ROSE, in moving the adoption of the report, said he had always felt ashamed that, in a country which was governed by a lady, who was, he unhesitatingly said, the best Sovereign that ever sat on the British Throne, they should have to do what they were now doing, to bring before the people and educate the people as to the rights of women to have a share in the choosing of the legislators for our country. It was a maxim that was never departed from in this country that taxation was entitled to representation. There was an exception to this rule by our law as it stood. The richest lady in the land was deprived by the present state of the law, of the right to say who were to distribute the taxes she paid, while her coachman was favoured with the privilege to vote. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the ladies would be sustained in the good work they were doing, and that ere long this ridiculous and unjust state of things would pass into oblivion. (Applause.)

Mr. DAVID LEWIS seconded the resolution. He concurred in everything that had been stated by Mr. Rose, and in the very admirable report. This was a question which would not admit argument. The first time he looked at it, many years ago, it was a question which might have been submitted to some argument, but it was now past the region for discussion. The suffrage had been

extended to females in regard to their municipal administration. They had also got the suffrage extended to the administration of educational questions. The suffrage was based upon a property qualification, and he did not see why women householders should not as well as men have the necessary Parliamentary qualification. Next November the Town Councils would be elected under the extended suffrage. Did they think there was any person in Edinburgh out of Morningside Asylum that could be got to believe or assert that any town council elected in 1882 would not be as good as, if not better than, any of its predecessors elected under the former suffrage? (Applause and laughter.) Reference had been made in the report to the desirability of having ladies occupying positions in the administration of the poor laws. He could tell them, as one having a considerable experience as a poor law guardian, that he could not conceive they could have a greater advantage to the community than the practical adoption of this suggestion in the report. They had to consider the large number of women and the immense number of dependents, such as mere children, and in this they could conceive of a very good argument for representation on the Parochial Board of ladies. He ventured to say that if this question was mooted at next election, it would be one of the most important questions which had been brought before the public. (Applause.)

Rev. JOHN GLASSE moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have a right to vote, and that a petition based on this resolution be signed and forwarded to the House of Commons from this meeting."

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mrs. Shearer, of London, to address the meeting. He remarked that Mrs. Shearer would be better known to the meeting as Miss Downing. (Applause.)

Mrs. SHEARER, who was received with loud applause, said that throughout England large meetings had been convened in support of the movement, and that these gatherings had been arranged and conducted by women alone, thus showing that members of their sex could perform active work. It certainly was a wonderful sight to see great halls in London, Manchester, Sheffield, Bradford, Nottingham, and Birmingham crowded with eager and enthusiastic women, all unanimous in favour of asking this extension of the franchise. These demonstrations, she considered, were a conclusive answer to the argument that the women of this country did not want the suffrage. Thanks to Dr. Cameron, the women ratepayers in the towns and burghs of Scotland would this year be able to record their vote for town councillors, and she trusted that the ladies would exercise that privilege, and support gentlemen candidates who had the interests of lady ratepayers at heart. Surely it was only just and right that women who paid burgh rates should have a voice in the question as to how these rates should be levied and administered. It was, however, said that granting the municipal privilege to women, they should not have a voice in Imperial matters. Where was there an Imperial question, she asked, which did not interest women as well as men? (Hear, hear.) Take peace or war. There was no war in which the taxes of the people did not go up, and she was old enough to remember that during the Crimean war the bread went up to a shilling a loaf. That, of course, was a great matter to the women of the country. In concluding, Mrs. Shearer said that it would be a monstrous thing if, in the passing of a new franchise bill, the agricultural labourer should be admitted, however drunken and had a man he might be, and that the lady, who might be the lady of the manor, should have no right to have a voice in the settlement of Imperial questions. It was a strange thing, indeed, that an unmarried woman could get support from the father of the family which she had bore, while a married woman required to enter a poorhouse before the husband could be called upon to contribute to her maintenance. Mrs. Shearer concluded by seconding the motion proposed by Mr. Glasse.

Miss BURTON moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Shearer.

Mrs. NICHOL seconded the motion, and in doing so said she hoped that the day was not far distant when the anomaly would cease to exist of women being allowed to vote at school board and municipal elections and yet be debarred, whatever their position might be, from giving a vote for Parliamentary representatives. (Applause.)

Miss WIGHAM thought before they separated they should, as a women's meeting, express how thankful they were that the chance

shot fired at Her Majesty, from whatever direction it came, was not fatal to the most beloved woman in the land. (Applause.)

The thanks of the meeting having been awarded to the chairman, on the motion of Miss STEVENSON, the proceedings terminated.

SOUTHAMPTON.

A public meeting, to consider the claim now being made on behalf of the women householders of the country to the Parliamentary franchise, was held on Monday evening in the Philharmonic Hall, which was crowded, the majority of the audience being Southampton ladies. Mrs. LUCAS (sister of the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P.) was in the chair, and among those on the platform were Count and Vicountess Harberton, Count Mataxa, the Revs. C. E. Steward, S. B. Stribling, and G. Cregg, Mrs. Gregg, Messrs. W. C. Westlake, J. E. Le Feuvre, H. Pond, T. Falvey, Ivimey, P. R. Domoney, C. Cox, Miss Mitchell, Mrs. W. C. Westlake, Mrs. J. R. Shearer, of London, who attended as a deputation from the National Society, &c.

Mrs. LUCAS said she considered that a grand meeting, and she was glad to see—she was going to say such an equal division of men and women present, but perhaps there was a majority of women, though both required educating upon the subject. There was no doubt that the women's suffrage question was commanding more and more interest throughout the country. They had held six large meetings since February last, and there was not the slightest doubt that throughout Great Britain and Ireland they were making great progress in the accomplishment of women's desire for having extended to them the franchise, and it was exceedingly gratifying to have heard that evening letters read from gentlemen expressing their belief that before long that would be an accomplished fact. She wanted to know how much longer they were going to put up with such a glaring injustice as she had heard of the other day, when a gentleman told her that the week before last a member of Parliament was unseated at Knaresborough for bribery, and that the cost of the proceedings were so large that every householder there would have to contribute 5s. in the £ to pay the expenses, many of those householders being women who had not and could not vote. That did seem to her a great and glaring injustice; but what made it still more painful was that the poor in that town would be utterly ruined in having to pay the 5s., to obtain which the furniture of a large number of poor men and women would have to be sold. A subscription was being set on foot to raise a sum of £500 to pay off the expenses, brought about by the corrupt practices of certain men having votes, and her hope was that when the franchise was extended to women they would set a better example. (Applause.) There was no doubt the unsettled aspect of affairs throughout the world was making women think more in regard to political matters, and why should they not? They were as much interested in these matters as men, and her advice was that they should continue to think on the subject. They had a fine example of women's Parliamentary suffrage in America. She happened to open that day an American paper from Wyoming, which included Denver, where women had enjoyed the suffrage for the last twelve years. The paper she read stated that the territory of Wyoming was that day the only spot on earth where the political privileges of women were identical with those of men, and that though objections had been raised in other countries to such a concession as being a dangerous experiment, they in Wyoming knew better, as the result was better laws, better officials, better institutions, better tone of morals, and a higher social status than could otherwise exist, without the least interruption to domestic relationship. (Applause.) After twelve years of happy experience women's suffrage was as thoroughly rooted in the minds and hearts of the people as ever, and not a voice had been raised in protest against it. (Hear, hear.) Such evidence as this in favour of women's suffrage should make them work with even greater vigour than they had hitherto done to obtain their just rights. (Applause.)

The Rev. S. B. STRIBLING moved the first resolution as follows: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting."

Mr. HENRY POND seconded the motion, and said he esteemed it an honour to do so under the auspices of the lady who presided—the sister of that noble Englishman, John Bright. (Applause.) He took it as a great indication of the progress this movement was making

in Southampton that, notwithstanding there were some 5,000 people assembled in the adjacent Skating Rink, that hall was so well filled. (Hear, hear.) He submitted women were fully entitled to the franchise, seeing the law recognised the bricks and mortar, and not individuals, as conferring it, and women had to bear all the burdens of property. Even if it could be shown that the majority of women would, if given the franchise, vote Conservative, yet, strong Liberal as they knew him to be, that would not alter his opinion one iota. (Applause.)

Count METAXA, of Southsea, supported the motion, saying he attended the meeting at some personal inconvenience, for although Southampton and Portsmouth by distance were not far removed, yet the journey by rail took half as long again as going to London, and he hoped this would not always be the case. (Hear, hear.) He regarded this as a great national non-political movement in the present and future interests of this country, and he would sooner desert his own party than give up his adherence to it. (Applause.) He did not believe in the spirit of politics being carried so far as to assert that if the franchise were granted to women they would vote Conservative or Liberal as their fathers had done, without exercising their own judgment. He believed that sooner or later the present movement would be successful, but it must be through the voice of the country being raised in its favour. (Hear, hear.) He believed the time was not far distant when the women of England would enjoy that which they had for so many years laboured, and which was their just right—the Parliamentary franchise. Sooner or later the privilege they sought for women must be conferred; meantime it behoved them to put their shoulders to the wheel and agitate for what they believed to be a just right, a political right, a legal right, and an hereditary right. (Applause.)

Mrs. SHEARER next addressed the meeting, after which the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. T. FALVEY proposed the second resolution, to the effect that a petition based on the foregoing resolution be adopted and signed and forwarded to the borough and southern division of the county members, requesting them to support Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution to remove the electoral disabilities of women. He pointed to the excellent service rendered by women upon School Boards, and said he should like to see them in Town Councils, and he was not at all sure they were not entitled to be members of such bodies. (Mrs. Shearer: "Hear, hear.") With regard to their capacity for giving a vote, from his experience as a presiding officer at municipal elections he could testify that they knew the whole machinery better than men, and he did not remember a single spoilt paper made by a woman who came to vote. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Lee had already declared himself in favour of the measure, and he hoped very sincerely that Mr. Butt would take the same course. He trusted also there would be no difference of opinion in Southampton on this great question, but that its inhabitants would with one heart and mind show their determination to give this cause every assistance that lay in their power. (Applause.)

Mr. J. E. LE FEUVRE seconded the resolution.

Lady HARBERTON supported the motion. In the course of her remarks she asked her opponents of the male sex to put the question to themselves—would they like woman's present political situation for themselves? (Hear, hear.) Such assertions as that women would not care for the vote, or that it would produce discord between the sexes, must be supported by proof, and from experience in Municipal and School Board elections they were not founded upon fact. (Hear, hear.) Women had done much to raise the standard of civilisation, and were therefore entitled to more consideration than they now received. Another great reason why they wanted the franchise was that women were before all things human beings, endowed with human reason, and were perfectly well aware that the only protection for personal property and rights was not in bars and drawbridges, but simply in having a voice in the representation of their country. (Applause.)—The resolution was carried.

The Rev. C. E. STEWARD proposed a vote of thanks to the deputation; Miss MITCHELL seconded the motion, which was carried; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Lucas for presiding.

TAUNTON.

On the 21st March a public meeting was held in the Parade Assembly Rooms, Taunton, in support of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women, under the presidency of the Rev. J. MARSDEN, who was supported on the platform by Mrs. Beddoe, of

Clifton, Mrs. W. S. Clark, of Street, Miss Helen Blackburn (secretary of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage), and Mr. Robert Hellard. There were about 300 persons present.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said it was often argued against this question that it was not within the region of practical politics, but he had been taking an interest in various political questions for a large number of years, and he had found that that statement had been made about many a great movement which had now been carried into effect. In his boyhood's time the repeal of the Corn Laws was said to be not within the range of practical politics, the extension of the electoral franchise, the first and second Reform Bills, the abolition of the various restrictions upon Nonconformists—these were all considered not within the region of practical politics, but all these had been effected. So many questions of which this had been said had become law that they might take it for granted that any statement of that kind was worthy of very little attention. They were constantly moving more rapidly in measures of this character. Questions said to be impossible were frequently settled within a very short period after they had taken hold of the public mind. Questions upon which there was to be legislation must be before the public for some time. We had nothing like revolution amongst us, but we had a great deal of steady, solid progress, and when we had any question before us which had truth as its basis and which was just in itself, that question was sure to make progress in time. After it had taken hold of the public mind it was only a question of time in order that there might be practical legislation upon it. This was one of those questions upon which there would be practical legislation before long. (Applause.)

Mrs. BEDDOE, who was received with applause, said: It is evident to all who care to inquire into the matter that there are now in England very many women who must support themselves by their own exertions, and who, from their earnings or otherwise, must pay their full and fair share towards the maintenance of the Government, who are consequently performing the duties of modern citizenship. It seems scarcely fair that, whilst they perform these duties, they should be deprived of the rights and privileges which accompany them in other cases. The reason most often given for refusing political rights to women is that they are, of course, incapable of becoming the defenders of the country and of order; but to this we reply, "No more capable are a great many other ratepayers; and those who actually do defend the country—the soldiers and the policemen—so far from thereby acquiring the right, are really disfranchised on this very account." It is urged by others, who call themselves the true friends of women, that if women are to enter on political life they must be prepared to part with the privileges peculiar to their sex. Now, we are not prepared to part with these; we cannot afford to do so, but we think the uneasiness of our friends is uncalled for. These privileges fall, and fall naturally, first of all, into the hands of the young women of the country. These would be scarcely affected at all by the granting of the suffrage. They live with relatives or friends—they are not ratepayers. A very small number of them might receive the vote in consideration of property, but so small a number, that it is scarcely worth considering. A second class who derive benefit, and very substantial benefit, from the privileges referred to, are the married women—I mean the happily married women—of the country. And I am glad to say that with us this is a very large body indeed, but I am sorry to add, that amongst them are often to be found the most persistent opponents of this movement. As if showing that too much prosperity was no better for a class than for an individual, that it leads to selfishness. Again and again do they repeat that they do not wish for the suffrage (which no one is proposing to give to them)—that they have no wrongs to redress—that they have all that they wish for—and their position is very much what they claim for it. The wealth of the country has become very great; that wealth is not acquired without much labour on the part of the men, but almost in proportion as their work increases that of their wives diminishes, who also enjoy all the advantages which money brings. It is a safe maxim to leave well alone, and we should be sorry to unsettle so comfortable a state of affairs; but were the suffrage granted to women to-morrow, so little would it affect this class that they need not even be aware of the fact unless they liked. They may sit with arms folded, like the Olympian deities, unmindful of the turmoil around and below.

The great body of female voters would be self-supporting women of the trading and the working classes, the widow and the spinster; and here the spinster is no social failure, to use that much-admired expression. Whilst the son of the family often marries as soon as the fancy takes him, the daughter of the family allows the opportunity for doing so to pass by, because there is a father or a mother or some one to be provided for; and I think you will scarcely find a ratepaying woman of this class who is not supporting others besides herself. If these possessed the privileges peculiar to them, I think we should be very careful indeed before we did anything which might possibly endanger them. Moses, the greatest of law-givers, was careful of the interests of the widow at the reaping of the corn, at the gathering of the grape and at the beating of the olive trees; but I am not aware that the English tax-gatherer asks, or has any right to ask, whether the rates are paid by an able-bodied man, whose daily work is little more than a pleasure to him, and whose comforts are attended to by his wife, or by a heavily-burdened woman, who is performing the duties both of the man and of the woman in the station of life to which she belongs. At all events, this society has shown one thing, and it is that this class of women do desire the suffrage, and I think it is the duty of all who are more easily placed in life than they are to try to help them to get it, because their interests require just as much looking after as do those of the strongest or the grandest in the land. Another great body of voters would be the single women, no longer young, of the upper and middle classes. If you have read the speeches of members of Parliament opposed to this movement, I think you will say that at present this class is not treated with so very much courtesy; at least I venture to predict that at the very first election which shall take place after the granting of the franchise to women, they will be treated with a consideration never before accorded to them; and they deserve it, at all events, at the hands of their own sex, because this is the class which has produced, and which ever will produce, the greatest number of learned and of accomplished women. It has given us in our own day Florence Nightingale, Mary Carpenter, Miss Weston, the sailor's friend; Miss Robinson, the friend of the soldier; Miss March, Miss Rye, Miss Macpherson, and many others, all distinguishing themselves first in those paths in life in which you would least expect to find single women doing so. If to such as these you add the owners of property, one-seventh of whom throughout the country are women; the farmers, one-tenth of whom are women; with the many other female employers of labour, surely a number of voters would be added to the constituencies of whom none of their supporters need feel ashamed. As yet it is the women of the Isle of Man only who have this right of voting, but we hope and believe that the day is near when it will be granted to all who are properly qualified to receive it. Meanwhile we congratulate ourselves on the sympathy which this movement has aroused between women of different positions of society in the country, and of divers opinions in religion and politics; and we congratulate ourselves, too, that we are outliving the prejudice which at first existed in the minds of many, and existed in great part because in our attempts to meet together and to help each other we adopted measures suitable to the times in which we live, but not such as had been in fashion till then. People see that a wider sympathy does not necessarily involve a neglect of home or business duties. St. Paul tells us that he who does not provide for those of his own household has denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel, and I am sure that we all agree that the same strong condemnation, if not stronger, is deserved by the woman who neglects her household duties; but we ought always to remember that far above and beyond such special teaching is the great teaching of all which was given to the whole human family, which is no respecter of persons or of sex, and the entire spirit of which is opposed to selfishness of every kind and degree. The women of England of today possess a liberty and a means of enlightenment never perhaps before within the reach of the women of any time or any country. Are these only to be employed when amusement is in question, or when personal or family interest is concerned? Should they not also be exercised for the furtherance of the best interests of the nation to which we belong and to which we owe so much? In conclusion, I would just address a few words to the female ratepayers who are present. I would say to you, as I have said to thousands of the same in Bristol, that if you have been able to pay your rates during the late trying years you have no right to be called the

weak portion of any community. Bring the common sense which you show in private affairs into public ones. That tide in the affairs of men of which Shakspeare speaks is approaching for you. Never was there a time when right-minded men were more anxious to do justice to the claims of women than at present. Here is a society which has been working in your interest for more than a dozen of years. Do your best to second their efforts. If in the future all goes happily and smoothly, there is no obligation put upon you to exercise these rights; you can do as many others do, and abstain from voting; but if things go then as they have gone in the past, and as they are ever likely to do in an imperfect state of society, who can tell what reason you may have to congratulate yourselves that you have in your own power the right to express your wishes and your views equally with the other law-abiding, self-supporting citizens of a free country?

Mr. HELLARD proposed "That in the judgment of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, already have the right of voting. That a petition to the House of Commons be adopted by the meeting, signed by the chairman on its behalf; also memorials to the members for the borough, Sir Henry James and Mr. Allsopp." He said that some people had asked him the question why women should have a vote, but he would ask why they should not have a vote; and he hoped the time would soon come when they would have that privilege granted them.

Mrs. W. S. CLARK (of Street) had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. They had come there that night for the purpose of endeavouring to rouse their interest and enlist their sympathy in this question. The question was not yet one of party politics, but it had been before the people for about sixteen years, and considering the smallness of its beginning it had made very remarkable progress; although it had not yet assumed sufficient importance to induce either of the political parties to take it up. She ventured to think that a question which so closely affected the property and liberty of the people of this country could not be considered other than an important one. A number of men in this country thought that any question which affected the men only indirectly was only of secondary importance. Any question concerning women was sometimes thought hardly worthy of serious discussion at all. We prided ourselves upon the saying that taxation and representation ought to go hand in hand, but this was not the case so far as women were concerned. It could not be said that women were less instructed than the men were, for the education of women—especially the higher education of women—had progressed rapidly in recent years. She held that women were capable of taking part in the great political problems of the day. The licensing laws, the management and reclamation of prisoners, the Poor Law Guardians, and the whole system of our national education, were all subjects upon which intelligent women could assist any legislation that might take place. Some people were afraid that were the suffrage extended to the women the women would out-vote the men, but she stated the effect of it would simply be to add one woman to every seven voters in the country. She concluded by an eloquent appeal in favour of extending the franchise to women.

Mr. WESTLAKE made some observations, in which he condemned the proposal to enfranchise women. He was afraid that its effect would lead to women dictating to the men what they should do, and that was what women had no right to do. He asked whether it was right for a woman to stand up in the midst of an assembly and dictate to them what they should do. He was afraid that if the franchise were extended to women we should have to bid good-bye to all that was associated with an English home.

Miss BLACKBURN made a spirited reply to the remarks of Mr. Westlake, stating that if she thought that the extension of the franchise to women householders would have the effect of destroying the associations of an English home, she for one would never advocate it. She referred to the progress of the movement since it had first been introduced in Parliament by John Stuart Mill, and she trusted the number of those who supported it would go on increasing. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried all but unanimously, only three hands being held up against it.

On the motion of Mrs. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Beddoe, a vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.—*The Somerset County Gazette*, March 23, 1882.

SHEFFIELD.

By the permission of the Mayor (Mr. M. Hunter), a meeting of ladies was held on March 10th, in the Council Chamber, to consider the best means of turning to useful account the interest awakened by the recent demonstration in favour of women's suffrage, which was held in the Albert Hall. The Rev. C. H. Collins, M.A., occupied the chair. There were also present Mr. T. C. Whitnell, M.A., and Mr. Templeton.—The Chairman read a letter which had been received from Viscountess Harberton, in which she stated that she left the petition adopted at the meeting held at the Albert Hall at Mr. Gladstone's residence. Enclosed were the following communications received from Mr. A. J. Mundella:—

"Education Department, 2nd March, 1882.

"Madam,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial of the ladies assembled in a public meeting in the Albert Hall, Sheffield, and, in reply thereto, to assure you that I shall this year, as I have done on all former occasions, give my vote in favour of Mr. Mason's resolution for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women.—I am, madam, yours faithfully,

"Viscountess Harberton."

"A. J. MUNDELLA.

"Privy Council Office, 2nd March, 1882.

"Mr. Mundella presents his compliments to Lady Harberton and will have much pleasure in presenting the petition which she has forwarded to him."

Letters were also read from Mr. Gladstone, acknowledging the receipt of the communication forwarded by Viscountess Harberton, from Sheffield; and from Miss Becker, who suggested the appointment of a lady to act as local secretary and treasurer, and of delegates to represent Sheffield at the meetings of the Manchester Association. The Chairman said he had also received a letter which stated that the total cost of the demonstration which was held in the Albert Hall was £131. 5s. 11d., towards which £51. 11s. 6d. had been contributed, leaving a balance on the wrong side of £78. 14s. 4d. After some conversation it was agreed to work Sheffield and district in immediate connection with Manchester, and Mrs. Templeton, of No. 31, Westbourne Road, was appointed local treasurer and secretary. Several ladies having agreed to become collectors of subscriptions in aid of the parent society, a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

PLYMOUTH.

In connection with the Plymouth Working Men's Liberal Association, Miss Helen Blackburn delivered a lecture on March 16th, at the Borough Arms Coffee House, on the "Rise and Progress of the Women's Suffrage Movement." Mr. W. N. Elliott, president of the Association, presided, and there was a good attendance. At the close of the lecture a discussion took place, and the meeting terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the lecturer.

On the 18th, by the kindness of Miss Kendall, who allowed the use of the room for the purpose, Miss Blackburn gave a lecture in the Library of the Plymouth High School, on "Women's Suffrage as an Element in the Progress of Culture." There were about thirty ladies present.

DEVONPORT.

In connection with the Devonport and Stonehouse Junior Liberal Association, Miss Helen Blackburn lectured, on 17th March, at the Temperance Hall, Devonport, on "The Citizenship of Women." Mr. Welch presided, and there was a good attendance. After the lecture a discussion took place. Messrs. R. S. Smith, Thurl, R. Everel, C. Wagcott, and Hornbrook, and others expressed themselves in favour of the arguments put forward by Miss Blackburn. At the close of the discussion a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer, and the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this association, having heard the arguments of Miss H. Blackburn, desires to express its endorsement of the principles advocated by her, and pledges itself to support any legislation which has the object of giving to women equal electoral rights with men."

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

BECKENHAM.

On March 14th, by Mrs. Green's invitation, a meeting for the discussion of women's suffrage was held at the Vicarage, New Beckenham, the Rev. C. GREEN presiding.

Mrs. LYNCH read a paper instancing the injustice of our laws

affecting women, notably the Custody of Children's Act, and arguing that the way to redress the grievances of women is to give women direct representation.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE combated some of the objections against women's suffrage, and also showed that the feminine character benefits whenever women are given the position of reasonable beings, instancing with happy effect the noble simplicity and freedom from vanity of the women of the Society of Friends, which she said was mainly due to the honourable position assigned to Quakeresses in their own community.

Miss LUCY HARRISON read a paper, which her sister (Mrs. John Macdonell) was by illness prevented from delivering.

A petition to Parliament in favour of women's suffrage was signed by many of those present. Mrs. Chater and Mrs. Harvey said each a few words about the newly-established local women's suffrage society. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the rev. chairman and the hostess before the meeting adjourned to the tea-room.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

OXFORD UNION SOCIETY.

There was a debate before a crowded audience at the Union on March 2nd—there being numerous ladies in the galleries—on the following resolution, proposed by Mr. A. Williams (Corpus Coll.):—"That in the opinion of this house the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women householders who possess the qualifications that entitle men to vote." Mr. Cottam (Exeter) moved as an amendment that the word "unmarried" be inserted before women. This was lost without a division. On the original motion being put to the meeting it was carried by a large majority. The division took place at a somewhat late hour, after an excellent debate. Mr. Williams' speech was an extremely able one.

THE RATEABILITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Mr. J. R. Shearer, of 126, Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, was, on the 8th ult., summoned at the instance of the Vestry Clerk, before Mr. Hughes-Hughes, one of the Justices for the county of Middlesex, for nonpayment of the rates levied upon the above premises, and due in January last. An application was made by Mr. W. Cluer, barrister, on behalf of Mr. Shearer, for an adjournment of the summons, on the ground that he was not legally the occupier of the premises, nor possessed of any rateable property in the parish, and that the question of his liability to pay these rates was already virtually before the Local Government Board, whose decision had not yet been received. It appears that Mrs. Shearer (Miss Downing)—who is a member of the Board of Guardians—before her marriage with Mr. Shearer took a lease of the above premises for three years from June last; this with other property was by a marriage settlement settled upon her as her own absolute property, under the Married Women's Property Act, 1870. After her marriage to Mr. Shearer in November last, the Vestry Clerk struck out Miss Downing's name from the list of ratepayers, and inserted that of Mr. Shearer in its place. Since then a question had arisen as to Mrs. Shearer's right to sit on the Board of Guardians, and her capacity so to do is still being considered by the Local Government Board under 5 and 6 Vic., c. 57, sec. 8. When payment of the rates was demanded of Mr. Shearer, Mrs. Shearer tendered the money on condition of receiving a receipt in her own name. This was refused, and after formal demand, the present summons was taken out. It was urged on behalf of Mrs. Shearer that the matter should stand over until the decision of the Local Board should be received. The representative of the Vestry declined to accede to this application, and pointed out that this decision would be ignored by him, and would have no effect upon the question of rating. The proper course, he contended, was for the magistrate to issue a distress warrant against Mr. Shearer. Then either he would appeal to the Quarter Sessions, or, on distress being levied, the marriage settlement could be produced to avoid it, and if the Vestry Clerk thought this valid, and that it included the furniture (upon which alone distress could be levied, and which is the property of Mrs. Shearer, and reserved to her under the settlement), the distress would be withdrawn. Then, as he pointed out, proceedings would be taken before a magistrate, under the local Act for Islington, to commit Mr. Shearer to prison

if he still refused to pay the rates. Mr. Hughes-Hughes, being of opinion that he was bound to grant the distress order, and that he could not inquire into the validity of the rate, made the order accordingly, giving fourteen days for payment, Mr. Shearer undertaking to inform the collector whether he would pay under protest or leave him to distrain formally upon the premises. The matter now stands thus: if the settlement is valid, Mr. Shearer has no rateable property in the parish, and, as he contends, is not the legal occupier. The Vestry Clerk, on learning of the marriage, inserted Mr. Shearer's name upon the list of ratepayers. On his refusal to pay rates levied on the responsibility of the Vestry Clerk alone, a magistrate will be asked to commit him to prison, and should the magistrate feel bound by the rather stringent terms of the local Act, Mr. Shearer must be so committed. It may be added that Mrs. Shearer is quite willing to pay the rates if the Vestry Clerk will restore her name to the list. It is hoped that this will be made a test case, and all who are interested in the laws relating to women will be glad to see it finally settled.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LAWS AFFECTING WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—Your correspondent, "Ann Biddell," will obtain much information as to the laws affecting women in Australia by a perusal of the Act (Statutes of New South Wales, 42 Vict., No. 11) amending the law relating to the rights and liabilities of married women, which was passed in order to assimilate, as far as practicable, the statute law of that colony relating to property and contract so far as relates to married women, to the statute law of England (*id est*, The Married Women's Property Acts, 1870 and 1874). The information sought for by your correspondent is somewhat extensive, and space in your columns will scarcely permit a succinct epitome of all the laws of that colony affecting women directly or indirectly. In addition to the Married Women's Property Act, the following statutes (*int. alia*) may be mentioned:—By 39 Vict., No. 25, it is enacted that married women may dispose of reversionary interests in personal estate. As to the custody of infants, the statute 39 Vict., No. 16, states that the Supreme Court may order a mother to have access to her infant, and that no agreement contained in any separation deed shall be held to be invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of any infant shall give up the custody or control thereof to the mother, with a proviso to the effect that the court shall not enforce any such agreement if the court shall be of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infant to give effect thereto. An Act (44 Vict., No. 31) amending the law relating to divorce and matrimonial causes, and thereby granting to the wife the same rights as the husband in such cases, has been passed by the Legislature of New South Wales, but has been reserved for Her Majesty's assent. Attention has already been drawn in your columns (Vol. xii., No. 135, p. 62) to the Dower Abolition Act of the Colony of Victoria, and the time within which claims for dower must be lodged. There appears to be no sufficient reason for negating the widow's right to dower, for her claims to a provision are at least as strong, if not far stronger, than those of the heir in ordinary cases—so much so that at the present time English lawyers as a rule disapprove of the practice of inserting in conveyances the declaration barring dower.—Yours,

MERYON WHITE.

Oxford and Cambridge Club, March 27th.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN BOMBAY.

A correspondent of the *Boston Woman's Journal* writes:—

Now that a special effort is being made to secure municipal suffrage for women in Massachusetts, it may interest you to know that women in Bombay, British India, already have a right to vote for municipal officers.

Four years ago, my landlord, a well-known Parsee gentleman, was a candidate for member of the municipal corporation, from the Mazagon ward. He appealed to my friends to use their influence to persuade me to vote for him, and finally sent his agent to me with the necessary papers and the blanks filled out with my name.

The agent assured me that I only needed to register my name at the Mazagon police station, in order to become a legal voter.

On the day of polling, one Parsee lady presented herself at the police station to vote for this gentleman; and in the Girgaum ward one Hindoo lady voted for the Hindoo candidate of that ward.

This was noticed in the daily papers, but apparently did not attract much attention. At that time any person, male or female, paying taxes on property, whether as owner, trustee, or agent, was entitled to vote for municipal officers. Since then the law has been changed, making any person who pays a municipal tax a legal voter.

At the last election, one year ago, several Parsee and Hindoo ladies, one Mussulman, and one European lady, voted in their respective wards. Considerable attention was attracted to this by the daily papers, and a certain amount of interest manifested itself, so it is likely that when the next election comes around, two years hence, a large number of ladies will present themselves as voters.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN IOWA.

Woman suffrage gained a victory in Iowa last month by a passage through both branches of the Legislature of a proposal to submit a constitutional amendment to a vote of the people, striking out the word male. It received a two-thirds vote in the Senate, and three-fourths vote in the Lower House. It has to be passed again by the next Legislature.

Obituary.

THE DOWAGER LADY LYTTON.—We regret to record the death of Rosina, Dowager Lady Lytton, which occurred on Sunday, March 12th, at her residence, Upper Sydenham. The deceased lady was in her 79th year. She was the daughter of the late Mr. Francis Massey Wheeler, of Lizzard Connell, County Limerick. She married, in 1827, Edward George, first Lord Lytton, who died in 1873, and she was the mother of the present Earl Lytton. Mrs. Wheeler, the mother of the deceased lady, was remarkable for her graces of mind and person, and was a leading spirit in the social circle in which moved Bentham and James Mill. To her was dedicated the very able work of Mr. William Thompson, "An Appeal of One-half the Human Race—Women," etc., which was noticed some time ago in our columns. The author of the work claims to be the scribe and interpreter of Mrs. Wheeler's sentiments. The Dowager Lady Lytton inherited the views of her mother in regard to the political enfranchisement of women, and was one of the supporters from a very early period in the history of the present movement.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.—The death of the genial poet, who has ever now passed "into the silent land," will be universally lamented. If his poetic spirit did not soar to the highest flight, its gentle influence has so widely permeated the spirit of the English-speaking peoples that all who read the announcement of his death would have had the sense of loss of one whose words were familiar and pleasant in their memories. Mr. Longfellow was born at Portland in 1807, and died surrounded by his family circle on March 24th. His courtship is supposed to be described in "Hyperion," in the unsuccessful wooing, by Paul Fleming, of the "stately lady, Mary Ashburton," but after the publication of the romance she relented, and confessed that he was the "magician." Their happy union was tragically ended by the death by burning of Mrs. Longfellow many years ago.

MISS ELIZABETH HAMILTON.—The death is announced of Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, the daughter of the Scottish metaphysician. Sir William Hamilton, of whose life and philosophy she furnished an account in the new edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." Miss Hamilton was one of the foremost promoters of the movement in Scotland for the university education of women. She went to Germany about a year ago, with a view to preparing a work on the philosophy of Herrmann Lotze.

INCIDENT AT A FIRE.—At the fire which destroyed the chancel of the fine old early English church at Sundridge, Kent, on March 9th, an engine required additional volunteers to pump up the water supply. A crowd of men (?) were gathered round, and, though appealed to by the fire brigade, refused to render assistance. A Mrs. Bateman and her daughter, resident in the village of Sundridge, shamed the sons of toil by stepping to the pumps and working with a will for the space of two hours.—Society.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES—For Removal.

THIRD REPORT, 20—28 February, 1882.

Table listing petitions for removal of women's disabilities, including names of petitioners and their addresses, such as A. R. N. Prescott and others (Mr. Thomas Bruce) and Florence E. Robson and others.

Total number of Petitions 79—Signatures 1,744

FOURTH REPORT, 1—7 March, 1882.

Brought forward, Petitions 79—

Table listing petitions for removal of women's disabilities, including names of petitioners and their addresses, such as KIDDERMINSTER, Members of the Congregation of the Baptist Church (Mr. Brinton) and QUEENSBURY, J. E. Walsh, chairman (Mr. Illingworth).

Total number of Petitions 119—Signatures 2,526

FIFTH REPORT, 8—14 March, 1882.

Brought forward, Petitions 119—

Table listing petitions for removal of women's disabilities, including names of petitioners and their addresses, such as CHARLOTTE SIDGWICK and others (Mr. Bryce) and KENSINGTON (Mr. Firth).

Table listing petitions for removal of women's disabilities, including names of petitioners and their addresses, such as REBECCA WHITELEGGE and others (Mr. Jacob Bright) and JANE CHARLOTTE HORNE and others.

Total number of Petitions 172—Signatures 4,356

The Petitions marked thus (*) are similar to that from W. P. Snell and others [APP. 6.] The Petitions marked thus (†) are similar to that from Dunshaughlin [APP. 33.] The Petitions marked thus (‡) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS FROM FEB. 28 TO MAR. 28, 1882.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from the Central Committee, including names of donors and amounts, such as Mrs. P. A. Taylor (£100 0 0) and Miss Sara Hennell (£20 15 0).

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 64, Berners-street, W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS FROM FEB. 21 TO MAR. 20, 1882.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from Bristol and West of England, including names of donors and amounts, such as Mrs. and Mrs. Mills Baker (£10 0 0) and Rev. J. Bardwell (£20 2 6).

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 1, Cecil Road, Clifton.

GLASGOW.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FROM 18th OCTOBER, 1881, TILL 18th MARCH, 1882.

Table listing subscriptions received in Glasgow, including names of donors and amounts, such as Dr. Stewart (£1 0 0) and Miss McConnel (1881) (£20 2 6).

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

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

GENERAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, MARCH, 1882.

Table listing general subscriptions for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including names of donors and amounts, such as The Executors of the late Thos. Thomasson (£200 0 0) and Mr. C. F. Clark (£20 10 4).

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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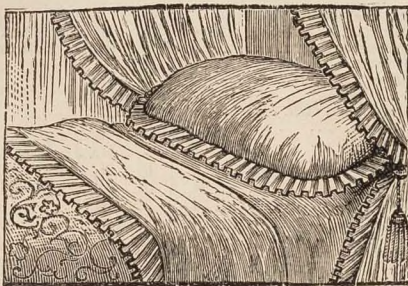
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