

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 144. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

JANUARY 2, 1882.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

By Post THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

Leading Articles :—The Municipal Franchise Act, Scotland; Mr. Gladstone's Reply to the Bradford Memorial; Influence of Ladies at Political Meetings; The Decisions Respecting the Household Franchise; The Right of Appeal from the Court of Common Pleas; The Leeds Mercury on Severity of Sentences; Ante-Nuptial Debts; Fate of Mr. Walter Powell, M.P.; Appeal of the Central Committee.

Replies to the Bradford Memorial.
Opinions of Members of Parliament.
Election Intelligence :—Londonderry County.
Public Meetings :—Nottingham, Leicester, Cirencester, Tewkesbury, Hyde (Annual Meeting), Connor.
Drawing Room Meetings :—Sandhurst, Bristol.

Debating Societies :—Belfast, Kentish Town, Holywell, Bristol, Paisley, Hulme.
Women and the Leeds Board of Guardians.
Suppression of the Ladies' Land League.
Treasurers' Reports :—Manchester, Central Committee, Bristol and West of England.
Obituary.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by at once beginning to collect signatures for petitions, to be presented at the opening of Parliament, in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution. 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.

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

THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT. A Paper read by Miss Becker, at the Conference on behalf of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, held in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol, on January 24th, 1879.—Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTENTS FOR DECEMBER, 1881.
1. A Comfortable Retrospect.
2. Recent Legislation and attempted Legislation regarding the Property of Married Women.
3. Women Inspectors.
Reviews: Massachusetts in the Women Suffrage Movement.
Record of Events: London University—Universities Executive Commission—Training Colleges—Women as Poor Law Guardians, London, Leeds—The Demonstration in Bradford.
Foreign Notes and News.
Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

THE DUTIES WHICH WOMEN OWE TO THE PUBLIC.—Reprinted from the *Edinburgh Daily Review*. Price One Penny. To be had of the Secretary, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

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

THE LAWS RELATING TO WOMEN, by ERNEST ELOART, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. London: Waterlow and Sons Limited, printers, London Wall, 1878. Price 1s.

TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE

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

THE NEW VOLUME.
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XII. January to December, 1881. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London: Trübner and Co.; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held in the Town Hall, Manchester, November 9th, 1881. In coloured cover, price 6d., to be had of the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

WOMAN'S CLAIM.—By EMILY PEEIFFER. Reprinted from the "Contemporary Review" for February, 1881. Price 6d. London: 64, Berners-street, W.

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

BELL'S UNFERMENTED WINE IS THE BEST

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

TRY THE FRENCH IMPERIAL LIQUEURS.
Late 104, Breck Road, Liverpool.
Present Address:—56, Upper Milk-street, Exchange Station.

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

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

THE CALENDAR.—JANUARY, 1882.

MOON.		SUN.		MOON.		SUN.		
4th Full Moon, 10h 55m morn. 12th Last Quar., 3h 47m aft.		Rises. 8 8	Sets. 4 3	19th New Moon, 4h 55m aft. 26th First Quar., 7h 45m morn.		Rises. 7 58	Sets. 4 24	
		8 4	4 13			7 50	4 36	
1	S	MEETINGS, &c.						1
2	M	First Sunday after Christmas. "Women's Journal," Boston, U.S.A., estab. 1879. Miss Edgeworth born, 1769.						2
3	T	Quarter Sessions commence this week.						3
4	W	Lucretia Mott born, 1793. Madame Rachel died, 1858.						4
5	Th	Meeting, Penpont, Dumfriesshire, 1872. Lecture, Lambeth, Miss Blind, 1872.						5
6	F	Meeting, Galston, Ayrshire, 1872. Lecture, Lambeth, Miss Beedy, 1872.						6
7	S	Discussion, Hereford, 1879.						7
8	S	S. Distaff's Day.						8
9	M	Meeting, Wimborne, 1873. Cottage Meeting, Bradford, 1880.						9
10	T	Meeting, Catrine, Ayrshire, 1872. Lecture, Miss Craigen, Grantown, Inverness, 1874. Drawing-room Meeting, Edinburgh, 1878. Address, Mrs. Scatcherd, Huddersfield, 1880.						10
11	W	Debate, Worcester, 1872. Meeting, Padilham, 1872. Discussion, Worcester, 1872. Discussion, Heckmond-wike, 1878. Meeting of Women, Leeds, 1879. Discussion, Glasgow Literary Club, 1880.						11
12	Th	Meeting, Poole, 1873.						12
13	F	Lecture, Heywood, Miss Becker, 1872. Public Meeting, Dundee, 1873. Public Meeting, Kidderminster, 1875. Meeting, Lambeth, 1876. Drawing-room Meeting, Kenilworth Square, Dublin, 1877.						13
14	S	Public Meeting, Music Hall, Edinburgh, Mr. John Stuart Mill, 1871. Public Meeting, Wolverhampton, 1875. Drawing-room Meeting, Bristol, 1876. Lecture, Milom, Miss Becker, 1881.						14
15	S	Lecture, Fortrose, Miss Craigen, 1874. Meeting, Walsall, 1875. Cottage Meeting, Halifax, 1880.						15
16	M	Lecture, Rotherham, Mrs. Ronniger, 1872. Public Meeting, Tottenham, 1873. Public Meeting, Worcester, 1874. Meeting, Cranswick (Yorkshire), Miss Craigen, 1878. Lecture, Berners Street, London, Miss Shore, 1879. Cottage Meeting, Sheffield, 1880.						16
17	T	Meeting, New Cummock, Ayrshire, 1872. Meeting, Hampstead, 1872. Public Meeting, Dover, 1873. Address, Barnsley, Mrs. Ronniger, 1873. Public Meeting, Leominster, 1879. Meeting, Lichfield, 1875. Meeting, Hurton Colliery (Co. Durham), Miss Craigen, 1876. Lecture, Hyde, Miss Craigen, 1879. Address, Newchurch, Miss Becker, 1880.						17
18	W	Public Meeting, Deal, 1873. Lecture, Darlington, Mrs. Ronniger, 1873. Meeting, Blackrock, Dublin, 1873. Cottage Meeting, Wakefield, 1880.						18
19	Th	Public Meeting, Queen Street, Edinburgh, 1870. General Meeting, Central Committee, Langham Hotel, 1872. Public Meeting, Sandwich, 1873. Lecture, Witney, Miss Craigen, 1873. Annual Meeting, Belfast, 1876.						19
20	F	Discussion, Cork Literary Society, 1876. Drawing-room Meeting, London, Professor Sheldon Amos, 1877. Lecture, Tower Hamlets, Miss Biggs, 1880. Lecture, Stamford, Miss Becker, 1881.						20
21	S	Address, Altrincham, Miss Becker, 1874. Meeting, Evesham, 1876. Drawing-room Meeting, Royal Bankhouse, Brechin, 1877. Meeting, Carlington, 1880.						21
22	S	Meeting, Maidstone, 1873. Meeting, Longton, Potteries, 1873. Meeting, West Linton, Scotland, 1874. Public Meeting, Dublin (Exhibition Palace), 1876. Lecture, Westminster Democratic Club, Mr. Charles M'Laren, 1878. Deputation to Mr. Mason, 1881.						22
23	M	Meeting, Canterbury, 1873. Meeting, Hackney, 1873. Meeting, Hanley, 1873. Discussion, Westminster, 1878. Drawing-room Meeting, Buckingham Crescent, Edinburgh, 1880. Lecture, Salford, Mr. John Edwards, 1880.						23
24	T	Public Meeting, Edinburgh, 1872. Meeting, Bedford, 1873. Lecture, Paddington, Mrs. Westlake, 1873. Meeting, Newcastle-under-Lyne, 1873. Conference, Birmingham, 1874, and Evening Meeting, Birmingham, 1874. Meeting, Easington Lane (Co. Durham), 1876. Public Meeting, South Shields, 1878. Drawing-room Meeting, Grosvenor Mansion, London, 1879. Meeting, Dalkeith, 1880. Discussion, Social Science Rooms, 1881.						24
25	W	Conference, Nottingham, 1872. Meeting, Kilbirnie, 1872. Address, Commercial Road, London, Miss Beedy, 1872. Public Meeting, Bath, 1873. Meeting, Bedford, 1874. Meeting, Victoria Rooms, Bristol, 1879. Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 1880. Meeting, Tarporley, 1880.						25
26	Th	Meeting, Wellingborough, 1873. Meeting, Morpeth, 1873. Conference, Bristol, 1879. Drawing-room Meeting, Liverpool, 1880.						26
27	F	Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1878.						27
28	S	Meeting, Lochmaben, 1872. Meeting, Llangefsi, Anglesey, 1874. Lecture, Rosemarkie, Miss Craigen, 1874. Meeting, Innerleithen, 1874. Address, Dean, Mr. Dalton, 1873. Lecture, Tower Hamlets, Miss Taylor, 1879. Meeting, Hulme Town Hall, 1880. Meeting, Church-st., Manchester, 1880.						28
29	S	Meeting, Guildford, 1871. Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 1873. Meeting, Alnwick, 1874. Meetings, Broughton and Chorlton, Manchester, 1880. Drawing-room Meeting, Liverpool, 1880. Meeting, Altrincham, 1880. Annual Meeting, Bristol, 1881.						29
30	M	Address, Bath, Professor Newman, 1870. Meeting, Holyhead, 1874. Meetings, Pendleton and Ardwick, Manchester, 1880.						30
31	T	Meeting, Warrington, 1872. Drawing-room Meeting, Harcourt Street, Dublin, 1879. Meetings, Cheetham and New Cross, Manchester, 1880. Meeting, Mayor's Parlour, Rochdale, 1880.						31
		Meeting, Manchester Town Hall, 1872. Public Meeting, Dalkeith, 1873. Meeting, Stretford, 1880.						
		Address, Salford, Miss Becker, 1872. Meeting, York, 1876. Meeting, Stretford, 1880. Drawing-room Meeting, Knutsford, 1880. Lecture, Leeds Young Women's Improvement Class, Mrs. Scatcherd, 1881.						
		Meeting, Sheffield, 1874. Meeting, Hereford, 1874. Annual Meeting, Edinburgh, 1875.						

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 144. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

JANUARY 2, 1882.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

NEW Year's day is in Scotland the great festival of the season, and as the bells ring in the coming year they will strike a note of enfranchisement for Scotch women in bringing in operation the Municipal Franchise Act of last session. From and after January 1st, 1882, women rate-payers will be entitled to be registered as electors in all municipal burghs, and next November, when the annual elections take place, women's suffrage will be in full operation.

Hitherto, there has been but one list of voters in Scotch burghs for municipal and Parliamentary elections. Now, there will be the anomaly that certain of the ratepayers qualified the same as the others will have the municipal without the Parliamentary vote, and there must be two lists prepared instead of one for every burgh. We trust that the anomaly will not be of long duration, and that before the dissolution of the present Parliament there may again be but one list of voters for municipal and Parliamentary elections, that being one which shall include all householders.

THE reply of the PRIME MINISTER to the Memorial from Bradford should give the strongest incentive to renewed and increased efforts to bring the question of women's suffrage prominently forward during the period before the introduction of the new Reform Bill. In acknowledging the receipt of the Memorial, signed by Mrs. M'LAREN on behalf of the meeting of women delegates and others held last month at Bradford, in which the memorialists pray that, in any measure for extending the suffrage, provision may be made for enabling women to vote in Parliamentary elections, Mr. GLADSTONE writes that he "has no doubt that whenever such a measure is under consideration, the question raised in the Memorial will be carefully weighed;" but he adds, "it would of course be premature to anticipate the result."

There can be no doubt that the result will be largely influenced by the manifestations of public opinion which can be brought to bear on the subject before and during

the critical period. No effort should be spared by the friends of the cause to swell the tide of feeling that shall bring about the victory.

Obviously the most immediate and direct method of influencing the Government would be to secure a favourable division on Mr. Mason's Resolution, which will be submitted to the House of Commons at the earliest possible date. If that Resolution were carried, it would probably have the effect of inducing the Government either to propound in their Bill, or to accept as an amendment, provisions for recognising the right to vote of duly qualified women. Every effort should be made to strengthen the hands of the Parliamentary supporters by public meetings, memorials to members, letters to the newspapers, and other expressions of opinion, and more especially by the preparation and forwarding of petitions to be presented immediately on the opening of Parliament.

NUMEROUS and important meetings have been held during the month. The branches of the society established at Nottingham and Hyde have each held their first annual meeting. At Nottingham the EX-SHERIFF presided, and Mrs. COWEN read the annual report. Mrs. TESCHEMACHER, Mrs. SHEARER, Miss BIGGS, and other ladies and gentlemen took part in the proceedings, and in the evening there was a public meeting in the Albert Hall, under the presidency of the MAYOR, at which a letter was read from Mr. NICHOLSON, M.P., expressing his hearty support of the measure. At Hyde Mr. JOHN ALCOCK presided, and Miss HIBBERT, Mrs. MOSS, Miss CARBUTT, Miss BECKER, and others took part in the proceedings.

At Cirencester a meeting was held which was addressed by Miss ANNIE YOUNG and Miss BLACKBURN, and local speakers; and at Tewkesbury a meeting was held under the presidency of Mr. J. R. YORKE, M.P., in which the above ladies, with Mrs. SHEARER and Mrs. M'ILQUHAM, took part.

A very influential drawing-room meeting was held at Government House, Sandhurst, under the presidency of

General W. E. NAPIER, Governor of the Royal Military College, and was addressed by Miss RHODA GARRETT, Captain and Mrs. SAVILE, Mrs. LOTHIAN SCOTT, Mrs. COOPER KING, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, and others. Mrs. BEDDOE gave a very successful "At Home" in support of the movement at Bristol.

A CORRESPONDENT from Ventnor informs us that at a public meeting in that town on the 14th December, the Hon. EVELYN ASHLEY, M.P. for the Isle of Wight, gave his promise to vote for women's suffrage when the Bill again comes forward. Mr. ASHLEY was one of its original supporters, but latterly he has voted against the measure. It is satisfactory to find that his objections have been removed, and that he has reverted to his first impressions. It is probable that he may have been led to reconsider his views by the circumstance that a lady, resident in Ventnor, brought the subject before him at the meeting; and also by the fact that while at his first meeting in Ventnor some time ago only two ladies attended, at the recent meeting there were above a hundred ladies present.

If ladies continue, by their presence at political meetings where members appear before their constituents, to manifest the interest they take in public affairs; and if, at the same time, they press on their members the question of their political enfranchisement, they take the most direct method that is possible for them to use to enlist Parliamentary support for the question. On all questions which are not questions of purely party politics, the minds of members are frequently in a condition of flux, and nothing is so likely to consolidate their impressions in the form we desire, as the presence of women at meetings of constituents, and of direct expression by them of their desire for the franchise.

THE question recently decided by the High Court of Justice in regard to the qualification for the household franchise has a strong interest both in a political and legal sense for those interested in maintaining the right of women to exercise the suffrage.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that Mr. Justice DENMAN and Mr. Justice BOWEN pronounced a decision against the registration authorities of the borough of Chelsea, the effect of which was practically to abolish the distinction between lodger and householder, and to confer the household franchise on every man who occupies a separate apartment in any house. These judges were so

confident of their decision that they refused at first to grant a case for appeal, which the Judicature Act of 1881 empowers them to do; and it was not until the grave and wide-reaching character of the decision had become apparent that their Lordships reconsidered their decision and allowed an appeal to the Supreme Court. Here the decision of the Court below was reversed as regards the Chelsea cases; but the law regulating the nature of the household qualification appears still to be left in a very confused state.

THE significant matter for us in the new legislation which enables appeals to be granted from the Court of Common Pleas is, that it seems to afford the means of re-opening the question whether or not women are entitled to vote at Parliamentary elections under the ancient and still-existing law of the realm.

It has been asserted by many competent lawyers, who have given special attention to the subject, that there is no legal incapacity in a woman to vote for members of Parliament, and that the single decision of the Court of Common Pleas which denies this right, but from which, until the legislation of last year, there was no appeal, is *bad law*.

Before that judgment in 1868 there was neither statute nor judicial decision declaring women incompetent to vote. The sole legal authority on which their exclusion rested was a single observation of COKE, and this is counter-balanced by declarations of other judges to the contrary effect. It was admitted at an election in the Long Parliament that women freeholders' votes might in law be allowed, and although, as a matter of fact, the right appears to have been disused for a long period, mere disuse has never in the law of England been held to imply forfeiture of the right if it originally existed.

The right of women to vote in parochial elections had so far fallen into oblivion in 1868, that it was practically unknown to the general public, and it was only by the researches undertaken in support of the amendment to the Municipal Franchise Act of 1869 that the universality and antiquity of women's suffrage in local government was recognised. The ancient laws regulating local and Parliamentary elections contain no reference to sex. The laws under which women exercise the local franchise are couched in the same general terms as those regulating the Parliamentary franchise. The latter are not in terms limited to men, nor the former in terms extended to women. There seems, therefore, no conceivable grounds

on which a different principle of interpretation can be maintained for laws couched in similar language; nor does it seem easy to show why women should be included in the one and excluded from the other.

The right of women to vote in the various elections in which ratepayers were called on to take part was established by successive appeals to the courts, the most notable of which was the celebrated case, OLIVE v. INGRAM. It might have been reasonably hoped that the right of women to the Parliamentary vote, which was admitted incidentally by the justices in giving judgment in OLIVE v. INGRAM, would have been established on appeal to the highest legal tribunal. But the Representation of the People Act, 1867, expressly gave to the Court of Common Pleas the final decision in matters affecting the qualification of electors. Thus, the political liberties of the women of the realm were summarily extinguished by a single judgment of the Court of Common Pleas, from which there was technically no appeal.

But an Act passed last session has altered this state of things, by providing that an appeal may be made from the Common Pleas Division of the High Court of Justice to the Supreme Court of Judicature; and we have just seen that on such appeal the judgment of the Common Pleas Division has been reversed.

The Court of Common Pleas, therefore, is not infallible, nor is it now the last resort of claimants for the franchise. There appears, therefore, to be no reason why women claimants who were unable to take their case to a higher tribunal in 1868 should not now make fresh claims in the revision courts, and obtain the means to carry their cause beyond the point where it was formerly arrested up to the highest Court of Appeal.

IN an article on Justices' justice, a Leeds paper complains incidentally of the severity of a sentence passed by Mr. PAGET at Wandsworth on a man named JOHN ROE, described with unconscious irony as a "gentleman." This "gentleman" had seized the hands of a young lady as she was returning from the post office at Lavender Hill. This offence he aggravated by asserting, when charged with it, that he had been induced to do so in consequence of the girl having blown kisses to him and waved her handkerchief, and he called witnesses to speak to similar manifestations to themselves. The young lady absolutely denied the evidence, and the magistrate came to the conclusion and rightly, in the opinion of the *Leeds Mercury*, which complains of the sentence, that it

was "got up in answer to the charge." Our contemporary also admits that there is no doubt that the conduct of the prisoner was utterly indefensible, the more so as he was a married man, and goes on to say, "no one would have complained if he had been sentenced, say, to a week's imprisonment." The magistrate, however, committed him for two months with hard labour, "erring," says the *Leeds Mercury*, "rather on the side of severity than of leniency."

We would fain hope that there are few of his readers who will share our contemporary's views in this matter. The prisoner had been proved to have been guilty of a great and unprovoked offence to a young lady, and of an attempt to blast her character by submitting evidence to show that she had been guilty of impropriety of demeanour. For this offence the sentence was, in our opinion, not at all too severe, and we trust it will prove a salutary lesson to all ruffians who may molest ladies within the district under the jurisdiction of Mr. PAGET.

A CASE decided last month before Mr. Justice FIELD and Mr. Justice CAVE raised a question with reference to what the *Times* reporter calls "that most unpleasant part of the law of husband and wife," the husband's liability for the ante-nuptial debts of his wife. Before the recent changes in the law (as one of the learned judges "humorously" observed) "it often happened that immediately on the marriage, creditors of the wife came forward and claimed payment of expensive bills of hers, and this although he did not have a penny with her." This was in accordance with the maxim of old BLACKSTONE, that when a man married a wife he "took her and her responsibilities together." There is a fine, old-fashioned, chivalrous ring about these words, until we remember that among the responsibilities of the wife was included the property she happened to possess at the time of the marriage. But the chivalrous part of the arrangement was found too fine for modern ideas, so in 1870 the Legislature relieved the husband of the wife's ante-nuptial debts, while leaving him in possession of her property. In 1874 another modification was made by which, although the husband still took all his wife's property, that property was made liable for ante-nuptial debts of the wife. The case now referred to—FEAR v. CASTLE—turned upon the question whether the husband, having paid debts to the amount of the property actually received with his wife, was further liable in respect to property to which she might hereafter become entitled under a will of doubtful construction, and

Mr. Justice FIELD, in giving judgment in favour of the husband, said that the effect of the Act of 1874 "was that the husband was to be liable only to the extent of the assets of the wife in his hands which he had the means of realising and receiving, or which with reasonable diligence he might receive."

Whether, on the legal theory that husband and wife are one person, this arrangement is quite just as between the outside world and that one person; whether it is equitable that an impecunious woman having debts should, by marriage, be able to set her lawful creditors at defiance and live in luxury on her husband's money, while they are without remedy against either her or him, is a question which seems to us open to argument. We believe that the solution of the difficulty provided by the Bill to be re-introduced next session, by Mr. HINDE PALMER, will be found more just in relation to the three parties concerned—husbands, wives, and creditors—than the present clumsy contrivance for palliating the effects of a false principle and an unjust law.

But we conceive that there can be no question as to the injustice of that part of the law relating to ante-nuptial debts, which leaves the property of the wife liable for the ante-nuptial debts of the husband, while freeing the property of the husband from liabilities for the ante-nuptial debts of the wife. Such is the law at this moment. If a woman in debt marries a man with property, her creditors cannot touch a farthing of the husband's money. If a man in debt marries a woman with money, her property becomes liable for her husband's debts, and his creditors can strip her to the uttermost farthing.

THE painful interest aroused by the mysterious and terrible fate of Mr. WALTER POWELL, M.P., is intensified for the friends of women's suffrage by the reflection that the honourable gentleman was one of the little band of steady and constant friends who are distinguished by never absenting themselves from a division. Mr. POWELL was first returned for Malmesbury in 1868; he voted on the two divisions on Mr. JACOB BRIGHT'S Bill in 1870, and his name appears in every division that has since taken place.

On December 10th the balloon Saladin, containing Captain TEMPLER with Mr. AGG GARDNER and Mr. POWELL, approached the ground near Bridport. The two first-named gentlemen were thrown out of the car. Lightened of their weight the balloon rose and darted away, the last that was seen of the ill-fated remaining occupant being a

wave of his hand to his friends as he was carried out of their sight.

WE beg to call attention to the appeal made by the Central Committee to raise a fund of £300 for promoting public meetings during the coming season. Miss MULLER, of the London School Board, has promised £50 for this purpose, provided the remaining £250 are contributed. One additional sum of £50 has already been promised, and we trust that the remaining £200 will be speedily forthcoming, in order that no time may be lost in enabling the Committee to begin to organise the work. Communications may be addressed to the Secretary of the Central Committee, National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, London.

REPLIES TO THE BRADFORD MEMORIAL.

The following replies have been received by Mrs. McLaren, who forwarded the Memorials adopted at the recent demonstration of women at Bradford:—

"10, Downing-street, Whitehall, Dec. 17, 1881.

"MADAM,—Mr. Gladstone has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial signed by you on behalf of the meeting of women delegates and others held last month in Bradford, in which the memorialists pray that in any measure for extending the suffrage provision may be made for enabling women to vote in Parliamentary elections. In reply, I am directed to say that Mr. Gladstone has no doubt that, whenever such a measure is under consideration, the question raised in the memorial will be carefully weighed. It would, of course, be premature to anticipate the result.—I am, madam, your obedient servant,
"Mrs. Priscilla McLaren." (Signed) "E. W. HAMILTON.

"Chief Secretary's Lodge, Phoenix Park, Dublin,
"Dec. 12, 1881.

"MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., enclosing a memorial which you have signed, as President, on behalf of the large and important meeting of women held in Bradford, at St. George's Hall, last month. The memorial requests me to vote in favour of the resolution which my friend Mr. Mason intends to propose next session for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who are householders. I fully admit the importance of the subject, and of the expression of feeling thereon both in Bradford and other places, but I regret to have to say that I do not think it right to undertake to vote as requested. I will not trouble you with the grounds of my objection, as I have already stated them both in Parliament and in meetings with my constituents.—I remain, dear madam, yours sincerely,
"Mrs. McLaren." "W. E. FORSTER.

"9th Dec. 1881.

"DEAR MRS. McLAREN,—This morning I have had the honour to receive the memorial of women delegates and others, with your signature attached as President, and also your kind note. Let me assure you that I shall continue to give my vote for the 'enfranchisement of those women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote,' and hope to be in my place when Mr. Hugh Mason moves his resolution. I anticipate the best results from their influence upon the character and tendency of our public life and legislation. Sincerely trusting that you, and the many noble women co-operating with you, may live to see the full success of your noble efforts,—I am, dear Mrs. McLaren, yours very sincerely,
"ALFRED ILLINGWORTH."

OPINIONS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. MARTIN, M.P.

At a meeting in the Philharmonic Hall, Tewkesbury, on December 5th, for the purpose of receiving an account of his stewardship from Mr. R. B. Martin, member for the borough, Mr. Martin, in the course of his address, referring to the question of women's suffrage, said he was not prepared, till that was taken up in a more earnest way by the Liberal leaders than at present, as a practical statesman or one aspiring to be such, to support that measure. It would make an enormous change in the constituency of the country without, to his mind, all that can be said being said on the opposite side. No doubt there were many hundreds of women who could exercise the franchise much better than some men, but they must remember that to give female suffrage would be to give women the right to sit in Parliament. They could not send a representative to a place in which they were not themselves qualified to sit. Although this privilege was not demanded by the advocates of the measure, he did not see how it would be possible logically to claim to send a representative to do for one what one was not prepared to do one's-self. Till the subject could be dealt with in a comprehensive manner, and all that could be said was said upon it, he did not think it entered into the range of practical politics.

SIR THOMAS ACLAND, M.P., ON THE SUFFRAGE.

At the annual gathering in connection with the science and art class prizes, at Ilfracombe, on November 30, Sir Thomas Acland, Bart., M.P., the Liberal member for North Devon, was present, and distributed the prizes to the successful students of both sexes. In the course of his address he said: "The strength of a nation was measured by its thinking power, and strong heads were even more valuable than strong arms. (Applause.) From another point of view; it so happened that for good or for evil the governing power of the country had been handed over to that very class of persons from whom their industrial students were collected, and only last week an important legal decision compelled the transfer, and established manhood suffrage. (Applause.) The enfranchisement of women could not be far behind."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

LONDONDERRY COUNTY.

Mr. Porter, the successful candidate in the recent election for Londonderry County in the room of Mr. Law, is a supporter of the political rights of women. As Mr. Law, though not an active opponent, never voted for the measure, the substitution of Mr. Porter is a gain of one vote in a division.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

NOTTINGHAM.

The first annual meeting of the members of the Notts. Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society was held in the afternoon of Thursday, December 15th, in the Exchange Rooms, Nottingham. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, Mr. H. S. Cropper, the EX-SHERIFF presided, and there were also present Mrs. Shearer (Miss Downing), of London; Miss Biggs, London; Miss A. Smith, Mrs. Teschemacher, Miss Sunter, Mrs. D'Hersant, Mrs. Samuels, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Jesse Hind, Miss Guilford, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Cowen (the hon. secretary of the society), Councillor J. A. Jacoby, the Town Clerk (Mr. S. G. Johnson), Mr. C. H. Torr, &c. The notice convening the meeting having been read,

Mrs. Cowen read the annual report, which after detailing the Parliamentary situation proceeded:—

Several great demonstrations of women, similar to the one in Nottingham last year, have been held in different towns; delegates have been sent by this society to those in Birmingham and Bradford. With regard to our own particular work: On Thursday, March 31st, a meeting was held in the schoolroom of the Baptist Chapel, Woodborough Road, under the presidency of Mr. H. S. Cropper, Sheriff, when Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds, delivered a lecture on "Women's Suffrage, what will it do for us?" which was listened to with the greatest attention, and was warmly applauded. On the following afternoon Mrs. Scatcherd addressed a meeting of

women at the Coffee Tavern, Mansfield; and in the evening a public meeting in the Town Hall, Mansfield, when the Rev. C. H. Wellbeloved presided. All these meetings were very enthusiastic, and petitions in favour of the principle of women's suffrage were unanimously adopted. The hon. sec. of your committee signed on its behalf the address to members of Liberal associations, which was circulated in April last, inviting them to join a deputation to Mr. Gladstone, to present memorials from the great meetings held at Bristol, Nottingham, and Birmingham. In answer to this invitation the Committee of the North Notts. Liberal Association passed a resolution in favour of the principle of women's suffrage, but did not appoint a delegate. Just before the withdrawal of Mr. Mason's resolution, Mr. Arnold Morley presented a petition from 885 women householders in Sherwood, Market, St. Ann's, Forest, and part of Manvers and Mapperley Wards. The other wards have not been canvassed. We have to acknowledge the efficient help given to the cause by the lectures which Mr. H. S. Cropper has delivered in several parts of the town on "Women's rights and wrongs." In conclusion your committee desire to appeal to the members for further help in forwarding the objects of the society. It is desirable to canvass the whole body of women householders in the town, and at present this has not been fully done. Any voluntary assistance in obtaining signatures to petitions will be thankfully received. The committee also trust that members will not relax their efforts to increase the number of members of the society. At a recent meeting of the committee it was resolved to recommend to the general meeting an alteration in the rule relating to membership, so as to render approval of the objects of the society the only condition of membership. It was thought that if it were left to each one to contribute whatever amount he or she thought fit, without fixing any minimum sum, and without rejecting any who might be unable to contribute at all, not only would the number of members be increased, but the funds of the society also would probably be benefited. At present no special appeal has been made for funds, as in commencing the society's work it was not known what expenses would be likely to be incurred. During the year, however, the expenses have proved to be in excess of the amount received, and the committee desire to point out that more money is required than has hitherto been subscribed, not only to meet that deficiency, but to increase the scope of the society's operations.—The financial statement showed that the expenditure amounted to £24. 3s. 10d., but there was a balance due to the treasurer of £6. 12s. 5d.

The TOWN CLERK said he rose with very great pleasure to move the adoption of the report, and he thought those who were interested in that movement might congratulate themselves upon the work which had been done during the first year of this society's efforts in their district. (Hear, hear.) The present report was an extremely gratifying and encouraging one, and he trusted the work would grow in importance until the object they had in view was accomplished. He thought that object was one which must commend itself to the intelligence of every thoughtful person. That object was this: As they lived under a representative Government, and as they had adopted the representative principle, they said that wherever there was a person—no matter of what sex—who might be paying contributions towards the expenses of the country, and doing the same as others towards the maintenance of our national expenditure and prestige—that those persons should have a voice in saying who should make the laws of their country, and who should regulate the amount of taxation, and to what extent that taxation should go. This movement in Nottingham was very largely due to the earnest and zealous exertions which were made by those ladies who visited the town a year ago, and who were led by Mrs. Shearer and others. It was well they had had their attention called to the importance of this movement, otherwise they might probably have not given it that consideration which it deserved. He desired to support the movement in every way he could, and he hoped it would go forward, and that whatever Government might have the dealing with the franchise, that Government would see fit to grant the very moderate, fair, and reasonable request which they made to them through the efforts of that society.

Miss BIGGS, in seconding the adoption of the report, said she had not had much opportunity of looking over the report, but she was surprised to find what a large amount of valuable work had been done by a society which had only been in existence a year. It usually took some time before a committee established itself, but when a committee had done so much work as the Nottingham one

had done in the way of holding meetings and petitions, it did show that that movement of justice must have taken with the men and women of the borough. There had been no other movement in England which had accomplished so much with so small funds. The work of the Nottingham committee had been done for the absurdly small sum of £24. In London, Manchester, and Birmingham, the committee, with a wonderfully small fund at their disposal, had been able to carry on the machinery requisite for the holding of lectures and meetings and work of various kinds. She thought as they were able to do their work at such a small cost they might be able to have some influence in carrying on the public business of the country in a more economical spirit than at present prevailed. This economy, however, might be pushed too far. They remembered the story told by Sir Walter Scott of a Scotchman who reduced his horse's fare to a straw a day, but when he succeeded in this the poor thing died. Fortunately none of their committees had died for want of funds, but there had been times when they had nearly died, and therefore she thought it behoved all who had the matter at heart to see whether by personal sacrifice or exertion in inducing others to assist, they could not keep the funds in a little more prosperous condition, so that they might not be brought down to a straw a day. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said, with regard to the increased economy of the ladies' work, as compared with that performed by men, the latter were essentially a dining animal. (Laughter.) They could scarcely say that of women. (Hear, hear.) If the men had to go from one room to another they might want to dine, and in that case they might make a serious incursion into the £24 which the work of that society had cost. (Laughter.) He thought the society had better continue to be managed by ladies as much as possible.

The report was adopted.

Mr. JACOBY had great pleasure in moving that the committee for the ensuing year consist of the following:—Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Cowen, Mr. E. S. Cowen, Mr. H. S. Cropper, Miss Guilford, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hind, Miss A. Smith, Miss Sunter, Mrs. Teschemacher, Mr. J. W. Windley, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. Brook (Newark), and Miss Wright (Mansfield). It was a matter of congratulation to him to find that there was a preponderance of ladies on the committee, for he felt perfectly sure that if their movement was to succeed their work must be managed by the parties interested themselves, viz., women. He knew it was often said that when they of the sterner sex took up any question they had not the support of the women of the country. He therefore hoped that as they had a large number of women on the committee their movement would be satisfactorily received by the women of Nottingham. He was glad to see the work which had been done, for if there was a town in the country which ought to come out in this movement strongly it was Nottingham. There was no town where so many women were employed as in their great industries—lace and hosiery—and he hoped the industrial rights of women would be urged. (Applause.) He felt that the restrictions placed upon female labour were unfair, as they not only did harm to the industries, but also the condition of the women of this town. He had no idea until then of the work which had been done by the committee, and he felt sure that even greater results would be noticed in the future. There was one lady in that room—he alluded to Mrs. Shearer, better known as Miss Downing—who, when she came to Nottingham, would always receive a welcome and a hearty appreciation of her noble efforts.

Mrs. TESCHEMACHER seconded, and fully agreed with what Mr. Jacoby had said respecting the restrictions placed upon female labour.

The resolution was carried.

Mrs. SHEARER, in the absence of Mr. H. Y. Stanger, who was unable to be present, moved that the rule, "That any person favourable to the object of this society shall be admitted as a member of this branch on paying an annual subscription of not less than sixpence," should be altered. It was suggested that the words referring to the monetary condition of membership should be struck out. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. KENTISH WRIGHT seconded, and, after a few remarks from the CHAIRMAN, the resolution was carried.

Mrs. COWEN proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Mrs. SHEARER seconded the proposition, which was carried, and suitably responded to.—The proceedings then terminated.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Albert Hall in support of the objects of the society. The chair was taken by the MAYOR (Alderman Goldschmidt), who was supported by the Rev. R. A. Armstrong, Mr. H. S. Cropper, Mr. J. Kentish Wright, Councillor Bray, Mrs. Shearer, Miss Biggs, &c.

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, stated that the object which that meeting had in view was of the greatest possible importance, politically, socially, and morally, and it involved a question upon which opinions widely differed. It was desirable, therefore, and necessary, that they should be better instructed, and also a matter of congratulation that they had upon the platform that evening ladies and gentlemen who would give them the instruction. He was quite sure that they would listen to their speeches with attention and respect. He might say for himself that, like many others, he had no thoroughly settled opinion upon the matter, and he had come there to listen and to learn, and he hoped that at the close of the meeting he might be a wiser, and, somebody had whispered to him, perhaps a better man. (Hear, hear.)

A letter of apology was then read by Mrs. Cowen, from Mr. Nicholson, M.P. for Newark:—"Newark, December 12th, 1881. Dear Madam,—I thank you for your kind invitation to the public meeting on Thursday next, which I found on my return last night. My engagements will not allow me (I regret to say) to be present, but I trust you will have a successful meeting. If the recent decision of Mr. Justice Denman is upheld, we shall want all the intelligence 'woman's suffrage' would undoubtedly give us to counteract the ignorance with which there is a danger that the constituencies would be swamped.—Yours very faithfully, W. NEWZAM NICHOLSON. Mrs. Cowen, Nottingham."

Letters of apology were also read from Mr. McLaren, M.P., Mr. Earp, M.P., who expressed his sympathy with the movement, and said he would support it in his place in Parliament; the Rev. C. Yeld, Mrs. Scatcherd, Mr. H. Y. Stanger, Mr. J. Black, Mr. Johnson (Town Clerk), and the Rev. W. Senior.

Mr. H. S. CROPPER was called upon to move the first resolution, which was 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 a right of voting." He said it would be ungracious of him to trouble the meeting with many words, inasmuch as there were ladies present to whom they would have the pleasure of listening, and who would interest the audience better than he could do. He, however, could not fail to notice one or two of the frivolous objections which were raised against the principle of the resolution, and he would take the liberty of expressing a hope that the Chairman, not having come there in a thoroughly decided opinion upon the subject, would hear something which would completely and finally settle his views. (Hear, hear.) He (the speaker) felt persuaded that very little indeed was to be said in order to settle the opinion of any gentleman who would give a minute's consideration to the subject. The basis of their political constitution was—and he did not use the word in a party sense—that there should be no taxation without representation. (Hear, hear.) That was what the resolution asked for. The other day he was in conversation with a member of Parliament and asked him his views upon the woman's suffrage question, and he made the logical reply, "When my wife asks for the franchise, then I will vote for it." That, however, was precisely what they did not ask for. They did not want to give the franchise to his or anybody's wife, and he put it to the member of Parliament that when his wife became a widow, she would have to undertake his responsibilities, and therefore ought to have his rights. (Applause.) That appeared to him to be the pith of the whole question. The resolution asked for women who were taxpayers and householders, who were already on the register for municipal purposes, to be placed upon the register for Parliamentary purposes. The Legislature in this country had gone so far as to say that women might vote for boards of guardians, local boards of health, churchwardens, school boards, and town councils—six different organisations, but stopped on the seventh. He asked why women should be allowed to vote on six occasions, and precluded from voting on the seventh. He must confess his inability to answer the question, and he thought he was not exceeding the wishes of the ladies upon the platform if he said that any member of the audience who had an objection to urge to the resolution would be patiently and carefully heard. (Hear, hear.) They had been told, amongst other foolish and frivolous objections, that a

great reason why women should not have the franchise was that they had their domestic duties to attend to. He apprehended that men had domestic duties, but a Parliamentary election did not occupy the whole of one's time, and the matter of voting was a very small call upon it. They took their stand upon the broad basis that there should be no taxation without representation, and that all women who paid taxes, and who were virtually the heads of their families, should, in consequence of such taxation, participate in Parliamentary representation as well as municipal. It had been said that women were not educated up to the franchise, but during the past ten years there had been such an alteration in the system of educating women that it was absolutely monstrous for anyone to pretend at the present time that women were not educated equally as well as men. (Hear, hear.) He knew of no department in which woman had not proved herself the able competitor of man. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that they would increasingly have ladies as medical practitioners, for he held it to be one of the monstrosities of the nineteenth century that all the medical advice was to come from men. (Applause.)

Miss BIGGS seconded the motion.

The Rev. R. A. ARMSTRONG supported the resolution, which on being put was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. KENTISH WRIGHT then rose to move the second resolution, as follows:—"That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and forwarded by him to the borough members for presentation." He observed that in such matters they had to contend with three oppositions—those of ridicule, argument, and apathy. The two first had been overcome by them, and they had now to deal with the third, which was the most serious of the three, and therefore they must fight against it. They must fight against it, among other things, by petition, and that was what he proposed to do now. Each one of them might become a centre of the movement to some extent, and help the matter by agitation and discussion. (Applause.)

Mr. BRAY cordially seconded the resolution, observing that in this country most things were won by persistent agitation. All people who had a right liked to keep others out of its enjoyment. This was the feeling which prompted the old ten-pound householder, who thought the line should be drawn at themselves, and not at the nine-pound householder. This had, however, been overcome, and now the franchise was only withheld from the householders in the counties and the women householders in the country. Nor could he imagine how this could be rationally continued, considering that the very highest personage in the land was a woman. He hoped, indeed, that the right would be granted by the present Parliament to vote for future members of Parliament. (Applause.)

Mrs. SHEARER supported the resolution. She said, referring to the work of the Nottingham Society, she was astonished at the amount of what had been done during the year with the small sum of £24. Nearly 1,000 women householders had signed the petition out of a number of 5,000 women householders in the town, and she hoped that after that meeting these would, including the lady who had signed herself "A Woman" in the *Daily Guardian*, who might see fit to add her signature to a petition in favour of the measure. (Hear, hear.) Some people were of opinion that the time would arrive when they should cease agitating that question, but those who were able to speak upon it felt that a duty was laid upon them, and that they must speak upon the matter until it was carried in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) They intended to pursue it until it was carried, and hoped those in Nottingham who had not previously supported them would now do so.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

LEICESTER.

A special meeting of the Leicester Branch of the National Association for promoting such an alteration in the laws as shall abolish the legal impediments which now make womanhood a disqualification in relation to the suffrage, was held in the Mayor's Parlour at the old Town Hall, on December 20. The chair was occupied by Councillor T. Wright, and among those present were Rev. J. Page Hopps and Mrs. Hopps, Mrs. A. Paget, Mrs. T. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, Miss Ellis (Belgrave), Mr. Barrs, Mr. Bramley, Councillor Gimson, Mr. Chattaway, Mr. Sargeant, Miss Shardlow, Miss Gill and Miss Bolus (hon. secs.), Mr. T. Harris (solicitor), &c.

Miss Caroline Biggs, Miss Carbutt (Leeds), and Mrs. Shearer (née Miss Helena Downing) attended as a deputation. After some introductory remarks by the chairman, Mr. Barrs moved, "That the exclusion from the Parliamentary franchise of women householders who already possess the right of voting in municipal matters, boards of guardians, and school board elections is inconsistent and absurd." Miss Carbutt seconded the motion, which was supported by Miss C. A. Biggs, and on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously. The Rev. J. Page Hopps moved the adoption of a petition, which was seconded by Mrs. Shearer. The resolution was carried with acclamation. Mr. Bramley suggested that a deputation should wait on Mr. Paget, M.P., on the subject, but this was not entertained. Councillor Gimson proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. Mr. Bramley seconded, and it was carried. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies who had spoken, which Mr. Barrs seconded. Miss Carbutt acknowledged, and the meeting then separated. Petitions to the Houses of Parliament in favour of the movement were largely signed during the evening.

CIRENCESTER.

A public meeting in support of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women was held at the Hall, Thomas-street, Cirencester, on Wednesday evening last, under the presidency of the Rev. HENRY AUSTIN. There was a good attendance. After some introductory remarks from the chairman,

The Rev. J. J. BROWN proposed "That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of a large part of the intelligence, industry, and property of the country from participation in its government is injurious to the highest interests of the nation, and that therefore the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to those women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting."

Mr. C. LONG seconded the resolution, observing that as it was one of the principles of the English law that representation and taxation should go together, if ladies had no right to vote the Government had no right to tax them. (Hear, hear.)

Miss ANNIE YOUNG supported the resolution. She said there were two reasons why they asked this right, and why it should be granted. In the first place it would be good for women, and in the second place it would be good for the nation. If members of Parliament felt that they represented women, and perhaps depended for their return upon women's votes, they would be more ready to keep a House so that women's bills should be at least considered. (Hear, hear.) Another reason why this would be good for women was that it would educate women in public matters and in public spirit. In years gone by, a woman's voice was hardly ever heard in a room larger than her own drawing-room, except perhaps to sing. And that reminded her that women had always been allowed to sing for the amusement of men, and she never could understand why women could not also speak for men's instruction. (Laughter, and "Hear, hear.") Of late years legislation had run largely in domestic channels, and as all domestic arrangements had to do with the women, why should not the women's views be taken as well as the men's? There were 37,806 women in five northern counties of England who owned farms of more than an acre in extent, and all that land was unrepresented. There were two and a half millions of women earning wages, and they were all unrepresented. There were laws now pressing unpleasantly upon women, which it would be better for the country to have repealed. The law of divorce gave a father the custody of children for which his moral character rendered him totally unfit; a man might direct in his will that his children should be brought up in any religion he liked without reference to the wife; and if a rich woman married, and her husband died intestate, she could only claim one-half of that which originally belonged to her, and the other half went to the Crown. Did these facts show a comfortable state of things, and did they wonder that women sought to get amendments of these hardships? The Chairman had spoken about the intellectual capacities of women, but she objected to the question being put on that ground. She said men were not admitted to the franchise on account of their intellect, and why should the standard of intellect be put up for women? (Hear, hear.) An ill-washed illiterate voter, who could not read a printed list of the candidates' names, was supposed to be capable of judging of the merits of political questions, when women, no matter what languages they knew, what money they possessed,

how many acres they cultivated, or how many servants they employed, were political nonentities, suffering from perpetual minority or incurable idiocy—for they were classed with minors, lunatics, and criminals. (Applause.) Was it a wonder they came to speak on that subject? Would it be a good thing for England for women to have the franchise? She thought it would. Had it been good for England to admit women to school boards and other bodies? How would the industrial schools have fared but for Mrs. Surr? (Applause.) Had her public duties unsexed Mrs. Surr? No harm had resulted, but rather good, from giving women votes for school boards; where could the harm result from giving women a Parliamentary vote? Could anyone see the harm? If they could let them come and say where the harm to the women or to the country would be, and although they might have to put on spectacles to see it, they would endeavour to see it, and then try to answer it. (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN invited any opponents to the resolution to state their views. He was told yesterday that if they gave votes to women they might outnumber the men, but that would not be so under the present proposal. If they had manhood suffrage, then that result might occur, and then the men might quake. (Laughter.) Who gave man the right to withhold the vote from women? No one, and he only did it by his physical strength, on which the world relied long ago, and found to be a broken reed.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. COLE proposed "That a petition to the House of Commons based on the previous resolution be adopted by this meeting, and signed by the chairman on its behalf, and that a memorial to Major Chester Master, member for Cirencester, requesting him to support the resolution of which Mr. Mason has given notice, be signed by the chairman and forwarded to him." He said the question was why a lady who occupied a house and paid rates should not have a vote as much as many of those present who occupied cottages and enjoyed the franchise. He had himself known cases in the town of Cirencester where ladies had applied to gentlemen of the town for houses, and the answer given to repeated applications was "I have not one to let, it is promised." On inquiry, who was it promised to? To a voter, to a man who could vote, and not to a lady who could not. In the Isle of Man the ladies voted for members of Parliament, and surely English ladies were as intelligent as the ladies of the Isle of Man. The ladies had a great grievance at the present time. In Oxford, Gloucester, and other places, the lady ratepayers had to pay for the misdeeds of the men brought to light by the election commissioners—(hear, hear)—and he thought the admission of ladies to the franchise would keep voters at least as pure and free from bribes as they now were. (Hear, hear.) Some thought that a lady would be spoiled by the possession of the vote. He thought otherwise. A lady only needed four things to fit her for the vote—an interest in her country, a love for her country, an ability to judge of the capacity of candidates for election, and an understanding of the measures brought forward. He believed if ladies had the franchise they would study and understand matters equally with the men. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CREESE seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss BLACKBURN, secretary of the Bristol Society, who said the former member for Cirencester was one of their supporters—(applause)—and she earnestly hoped their present member would become one. She supposed it depended pretty much upon the opinions of those he represented, and she hoped Major Chester Master would find so many of his constituents in favour of this change that he would record his vote in favour of Mr. Mason's resolution. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said he was pleased to tell them that Lord Bathurst was still full of sympathy with this cause, and his lordship informed him the other day in calling on him that when the Bill was brought into the Upper House he should vote for it there. (Applause.)

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Miss YOUNG moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried unanimously.

After the close of the proceedings the memorial to Major Chester Master was placed for signature by the audience.

TEWKESBURY.

A public meeting was held in the Philharmonic Hall on December 9th, in support of Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution to

extend the Parliamentary franchise to women householders and ratepayers. J. R. YORKE, Esq., M.P., presided, and there was a crowded attendance. There were upon the platform Mrs. Downing-Shearer, Mrs. M'Illquham, Miss Helen Blackburn, Miss Annie Young, Miss M. Colby, Rev. W. Mottram, Rev. T. Wilkinson, and Mr. W. H. Spurrer.

The CHAIRMAN began by alluding to the progress the movement had made during the past fifteen years. He was quite in favour of the cause the ladies would plead that night, for they only asked that women should be entitled to the franchise on the same grounds as if they were men. The justice was all on the side of the women. He did not care from which side it was approached. If from the Conservative side it had always been a constitutional maxim of that party, that taxation and representation should go together. The ancient franchise was founded on the property qualification. It had been said that intelligence ought to be represented, if so, that was largely with the women, and it was an injustice to prevent them exercising the franchise simply because they were women. Could there be anything more grossly unjust than that women who owned property should be taxed in the same manner to pay the expenses of a commission rate as the men who were the cause of the commission, although those women were denied the power of voting, and had no opportunity of receiving bribes? He had put a question to the Attorney General—who was a prominent opponent of this question—and he had admitted that it was a great injustice, but shielded himself by saying that it was only one of many, and women were not the only sufferers, for it was not to be supposed that all the male voters received bribes, though all had to pay. If the question was looked at from the Liberal point of view, there was still more reason this concession should be granted, for Mr. Gladstone held that any person of full age, untainted with crime, and in possession of their faculties, should be admitted to the franchise. He had had the pleasure in 1866 of supporting this measure, and had continued to do so since. He thought the movement had passed through its first stage and was then in its second, and if the advocates of the measure continued their efforts it would soon pass that stage, and everybody would afterwards be surprised that they did not know the necessity for it before. They were pleased to have one of the Poor Law Guardians present, and they had no reason to be sorry that a lady of the London School Board had recently come forward so nobly to vindicate the cause of humanity when it was in danger. (Applause.)

Rev. W. MOTTRAM then proposed the first resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of a large part of the intelligence, industry, and property of the country from participation in its government is injurious to the highest interests of the nation. That, therefore, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to those women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting."

Rev. T. WILKINSON seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss Annie Young.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution, which was carried with only two dissentients.

J. H. BOUGHTON, Esq., proposed "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the previous resolution, be adopted, and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; and that a memorial to Mr. R. Biddulph Martin, member for Tewkesbury, requesting him to support the resolution of which Mr. Hugh Mason has given notice, be signed by the chairman and forwarded to him."

Mr. W. H. SPURRIER, in a witty speech, seconded the resolution. Mrs. DOWNING-SHEARER supported it at some length, and upon being put to the meeting, was carried with only one dissentient.

Votes of thanks to Mrs. M'Illquham for her energy in the promotion of the meeting, and Mr. J. R. Yorke for his able conduct in the chair, were cordially given, and the meeting terminated. A petition at the doors was numerously signed at the close of the meeting.

HYDE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. ANNUAL MEETING.

The members of the Hyde auxiliary of the above society held their first annual meeting in the Temperance Hall, George-street, Hyde, on Monday evening, there being a very good attendance.

The chair was occupied by Mr. JOHN ALCOCK, who was supported on the platform by Miss Becker, of Manchester; Miss Louisa Carbutt, of Leeds; Mrs. Dowson, Miss E. Hibbert, Miss Smith, Mrs. A. T. Hibbert, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. John Oldham, Mrs. Tweedale, Mrs. Rowcroft, Mrs. Moss, and Miss Backhouse. Near the platform were Mrs. A. P. Aspland, Alderman Thomas Thornely, Mr. Charles Hibbert, the Rev. J. K. Smith, and others.

The SECRETARY (Miss Smith), in compliance with the Chairman's request, read the following report: "Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In November of last year a branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was established in Hyde. The society numbers 32 members, the subscriptions and donations amount to £13. 5s. 7d., and the expenditure also amounts to £13. 5s. 7d. This balancing of accounts is considered very satisfactory for a new society. But the committee earnestly hope for new and increased subscriptions, to enable the society to increase its efforts to improve the social and political condition of women in this neighbourhood. Nine committee meetings have been held during the year. Four petitions (numerously signed) have been presented to Parliament. Two large and representative meetings have been held in this hall. The first was addressed by Mrs. Miller, of the London School Board, and Miss Becker, of Manchester. The second meeting, which was in connection with the recent municipal elections (and for women only), was also addressed by Miss Becker, and Mrs. O. Scatterd, of Leeds, and was attended by about 900 women, which rendered it necessary to hold an overflow meeting in the lower room. The committee have reason to believe that these meetings have exercised a good influence in stimulating and encouraging the women electors of this borough to make good use of one of the few privileges they enjoy. (Applause.)

The Chairman remarked that he thought women ought to have the suffrage. (Hear, hear.) That was the object of their meeting that evening, and he felt compelled to give his consent and support to the doctrine. (Hear, hear.) He believed that women ought to have the right to vote, and that women ought to have the right to do all good works that came in their way, and so far as they felt they had the right to do anything, they ought to have the power and privilege to carry it out. A great many people felt they had a right to the suffrage; they felt an interest in public affairs, and they felt a desire to do what little they could to help them forward. This being so, they ought to be allowed to engage in this as well as in all other good works, not only because it was right, but also because it was calculated to produce the best effects. If women exercised their minds upon the questions that belonged to the suffrage, and considered what was best for the country, there could be no doubt it had an elevating influence upon them, and made them more fit to undertake every duty that came before them in life.

Mr. CHARLES HIBBERT, J.P., moved the adoption of the report. Mrs. MOSS seconded, and said she felt proud that after being in existence one year only they had such a report. (Hear, hear.) She thought their success had been marvellous, seeing that a little over twelve months ago they organised themselves, and that now they had a body of 32 members. That was very important, because it meant 32 centres of influence, as they had only two unmarried ladies amongst them. (Laughter.) With the exception of one, all the married ladies had families, in which they could talk over this matter, and bring up their children to think what they thought by instilling into them progressive ideas. (Hear, hear.) It was because families had been neglected that this subject was not more advanced to-day. Intelligent politicians who had had families had always taken care to make the boys see what they saw, and the girls had been allowed to pass if they could sing well, play well, dance well, and dress well, this being about as much as girls were thought fit for. (Laughter.) The girls had not been thought so much of as to be educated in politics, and that was the reason why this movement was not more advanced. She thought, however, it had wonderfully advanced. Fifteen years ago this winter she went to Dukinfield to hear Miss Becker bring this subject before the public, and she thought her a marvellous woman—(laughter)—because she worked nobly for women, and had truth on her side. (Hear, hear.) Movements for the good of the people were not like mushrooms; they did not spring up at once, but this movement had taken root amongst the better class of families. It was contrary to most great movements that had had their rise in poverty and obscurity, although they were all the better for that, because they had strengthened as they went on; but this movement seemed to have

taken its rise amongst the intelligent portion of the community, and why? Because the shoe was pinching there, and they had been able to see how it pinched. For instance, property had been taken from a lady, and she found how unjust was the law; first one and then another had felt it, and hence the combination to redress what they considered the wrongs, and to regain what they considered their rights. (Hear, hear.) She thought, personally, that those men who denied the right of women to the Parliamentary vote were like the old woman of whom she had heard, who said, "I am open to conviction, but show me the man that will convince me." (Laughter.) She had never yet heard one sensible argument why women should not have a Parliamentary vote. Why should men have it? (Hear, hear.) Let them go to the base of the matter; there was nothing like going to the base of a thing to see whether it was hollow or not. (Hear, hear.) There was a time when the people had not the Parliamentary vote, when men were dummies and vassals, and when the King ruled by right divine; but that had gone by for ever. The King found he could not do without men and money, and he had only two means of getting them, one was by force and the other by consultation. He first tried force, but it proved less and less successful, and then he took the people into his counsel and said he wished them to give him so much. He wanted to take a bit of foreign land, to go to war with his neighbours, and, therefore, he required men to fight and money to keep up his army and his court. The people gave him what he wanted, but there was a little spirit in one or two, and the seed of discontent was sown; the rebellion spread rapidly, and that was the beginning of men commencing to act for themselves in this country. There was the long dark age, not of the good old times, but of the bad old times, that followed—the long dark age when men strove against the authority of those in power to get a voice in the government of the country. The argument had always been, from that time to the days of Simon de Montford, who laid the foundation of our Parliamentary representation, and down to the present, that because we paid we ought to vote. (Hear, hear, and applause.) If it was right for a man to vote because he paid the taxes, why was it wrong for a woman to vote when she paid the taxes as well? Let them look at the towns which had been heavily taxed in consequence of the commissions to inquire into the bribery cases—Macclesfield, Oxford, Chester, and other places. The royal command was sent down to inquire into these practices, and royal commands wanted money, and where did it come from? They knew what Tennyson said in his "Northern Farmer"—

Work must have gone to the getting,
Wherever money is got,

and who was it that worked? The working men of the country, of course, and although in those towns where the shameful bribery had been practised the women had had nothing to do with it, the women had had to pay their share of the taxes. Was it not right, therefore, that if women had to pay they should have the Parliamentary vote? Miss CARBUTT seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Miss HIBBERT moved: "That this meeting, having heard with cordial satisfaction that Mr. Mason will give notice in the House of Commons of his resolution for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, pledges itself to support his efforts by every means in its power." During the last six months I have had a great deal of conversation addressed to me on the subject of women—what they can or cannot do, and nothing surprises me more than the ignorance displayed, even by well educated men, as to what women actually are doing in everyday life. "Women can't manage money matters," say some. Now there are thousands of households carried on, for men do not usually do the house-keeping, and that consists very often in the art of making a little money go a long way, which requires good management I consider. The other day I was gravely assured that women cannot manage a business! I wonder how many women manage shops in Hyde nominally or actually, and whether these shops are less profitable than those managed solely by men. But though it may be allowed that women manage a small business well, it is usually supposed that a large concern is quite beyond their powers. A short time ago, however, I heard of two instances which very sufficiently prove the contrary. You all know something of the Bayleys of Staly-bridge, cotton manufacturers. Now the grandfather of the present

younger generation was killed in an accident at his mill when his eldest son, a boy of 16, was still at school. His widow determined to carry on the business herself; her son was taken from school to assist her. Week by week she went to Manchester to see to the buying and selling department, and under the title of Mary Bayley and Sons the concern grew and prospered. (Hear, hear.) The history of the firm of Hannah Lees and Sons, roller makers and iron manufacturers, Oldham, is somewhat similar. The father of the present head of the firm, I am informed, died early in life, and his widow carried on the business till the sons were able to take the control themselves. (Hear, hear.) There is yet one more instance of the capacity of women in our district for managing both money affairs and business occurs to me. The late Miss Mary Ann Turner, of Harrop Edge, was at one time appointed Overseer of roads for the Matley district. During her term of office she spent no more money than other Overseers had done, and had the whole of the road under her charge put into thorough repair, superintending the workmen herself, and yet all these women were politically ciphers, and were held to be no more fitted to take part in politics than children or lunatics. (Applause.)

Miss BECKER, in seconding the resolution, said it was a source of great gratification to her to be invited to take part in this interesting meeting, the first anniversary meeting of the Hyde Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society. She thought they had indeed cause to congratulate themselves on having done very good work and on being in a very promising condition. She was not one who liked to see a new movement inaugurated with a tremendous flourish of trumpets and a great deal of sound, and then, when it had been going a few months, begin to drop off and rapidly die away. It was very easy to make a good-looking garden if they stripped off the branches of trees from other places and stuck them into the soil, but in twelve months what would they see? At Hyde they had begun differently; they had taken a small seed, or grain of mustard seed, which they had sown in productive soil, and now they had a little promising plant. Its seed leaves were just sprouting, it was healthy and vigorous, and when they met again this time twelve months she had no doubt that it would be as vigorous as now, it would have become a little bigger, and its influence would have widened. During the year that was passed they had had two exceedingly good public meetings in Hyde, and they had asked for no help whatever from the parent society. They were in connection with the parent society at Manchester, which was responsible for the cost of these meetings; they knew they had the Manchester treasurer to fall back upon if their accounts ran short, but they were not content to come to them in Manchester for any portion whatever of the cost of these meetings. Perhaps they might have noticed it as a peculiarity in the report that the amount of the expenses was exactly balanced by the subscriptions received. The explanation was this, that these two meetings and the other expenses came to the sum put down under that head. The members were determined not to owe anything to the parent society, and, therefore, they subscribed amongst themselves the sum that was wanting. She thought there were few societies that had established such a precedent.

The resolution was carried unanimously. Alderman T. THORNELY moved that the executive committee for the ensuing year be constituted as follows:—Miss Hibbert, and Mrs. Dowson, Mrs. Wm. Hibbert, Mrs. T. Thornely, Mrs. J. Kertain Smith, Mrs. John C. Hibbert, Mrs. John Brooks, Mrs. Charles Hibbert, Mrs. Orlando Oldham, Mrs. Tweedale, Mrs. John Swain, Mrs. John Oldham, Mrs. Rowcroft, Mrs. Curfew, Mrs. Thorley, Mrs. J. Sidway, Mrs. A. Sidway, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Derbyshire, Mrs. Brunt, Mrs. Pointon, Mrs. Maloney, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Higginbotham, and Miss Smith; president, Miss Hibbert; secretary, Miss Smith; treasurer, Mrs. Tweedale. The Rev. J. K. SMITH seconded, and the motion received the sanction of the members. On the motion of Mr. TWEEDALE, seconded by Mrs. ROWCROFT, thanks were accorded to the Chairman, and the meeting closed.

CONNOR.

On December 9th a lecture was delivered in the church at Connor by Miss Tod, of Belfast. A very large audience assembled on the occasion, notwithstanding the bitter cold of the evening. The lady chose for her subject, "Woman's Rights from a Christian

Standpoint," and for at least an hour and a quarter held the large meeting in eager attention. She gave details of the movement, which is now assuming such vast proportions in the United Kingdom, for securing to women those rights and privileges too long denied them, which common justice and Christianity demand for them. Speaking of their claim to the franchise, Miss Tod very forcibly reminded her hearers that no class in the community had ever succeeded in obtaining any considerable legislative benefit from Parliament before they had obtained the rights of electors. For example, how many legislative advantages have accrued to the working man since, owing to household suffrage, he became an electoral factor in the constitution? Hence the demand of women to be made electors too. The cruelties and disabilities under which they too often suffer at present, and for which there is no legal redress, are undeniable. Only let them have the right of voting, and Parliament will speedily find a remedy for their many undoubted grievances. Miss Tod's lecture will not soon be forgotten by those who had the privilege of hearing it. At the close, the Rev. J. C. Moore, minister of the parish, who occupied the chair, conveyed the hearty thanks of the meeting to the lecturer. After singing the Doxology, the large audience was dismissed with the benediction.—*Northern Whig*, December 14.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

SANDHURST.

A meeting was held on Saturday, December 3rd, at Government House, York Town, Sandhurst, under the presidency of General W. E. NAPIER, Governor of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, for the purpose of considering the subject of the political enfranchisement of women, and forwarding a petition to the House of Commons in support of Mr. Mason's resolution. The room was well filled, and among others were General Mrs. and the Misses Napier, Colonel & Mrs. Creagh Osborne, Colonel and Lady Louisa Hall, Rev. F. and Mrs. Middleton, Rev. G. Yonge, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Yonge, Mrs. Dyer Edwards, Captain and Mrs. Cooper King, Miss Newbery, Captain and Mrs. Lothian Scott, Mrs. Green, Miss Eaton, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Streatfield, Mrs. E. Douglas, Captain and Mrs. Daniel, Major and Mrs. Pilleau, Captain and Mrs. Savile, Mrs. Bowdler Bell, Fraulein Müller, Mrs. Cutbill, Mrs. Wodehouse, Miss Bagot, Major and Mrs. Tidy, Mrs. Abbot Anderson, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. C. Hill, Mrs. Stilwell, Colonel, Mrs., and the Misses Hale, Mrs. Hamilton Scott, Mrs. Kitchener, Miss Bolland, Mrs. Pigott, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. Colbeck, Mr. C. J. Napier, (31st Regiment), &c., &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said that they had assembled to hear what the deputation had to advance in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women. He thought there could be no great difference of opinion on the broad question that the lady representatives of property should have the right to vote. Doubtless some were perfectly satisfied with their position, but that did not interfere with the principles of the representation of property regardless of sex.

He then called upon Miss RHODA GARRETT, who read a paper. Mrs. LOTHIAN SCOTT then proposed the first resolution, which was seconded by Captain SAVILE, who said that the fact that a lady of property paying taxes had no vote, while her groom or gardener, however illiterate, by virtue of the wages paid to him by his mistress, enjoyed that privilege, was a cause of degradation to women. After some further observations, he continued:—Other matters in which women could, and rightly too, take an interest would be the marriage laws, the property laws, and the laws regarding the custody of children. I will not go into legal questions, but will tell you a story of facts within my own experience to show you how sadly reform is needed. A servant, who for years had been a lady's maid and housekeeper, saved up all her wages, and was also left some legacies by her mistresses. These, with presents, &c., amounted to a good round sum, and by her neighbours she was considered comfortably settled for her old age. Well, she married; of course there was no reason she should not. Her husband shortly after died, and his will left the whole of his widow's property to his own sisters. Not one single farthing of her own money remained to the widow; even her silver spoons (a present from a mistress) were left to the sister, and the poor wife had the option of starving or of going to the workhouse. In consequence of the

entreaties and expostulations of the clergyman of the parish, the sister now allows the widow a few shillings a week out of what was her own, not because she is obliged to, but simply in deference to public opinion. One more case, and this in your own class of life. I knew a lady of property who married. Her husband shortly after behaved so atrociously that she had absolutely no option but to leave him to go to her relations. Now she finds that, unless she goes to law and makes her sorrows the property of the public, she has no claim on her husband, who need only keep her from starving by giving her out of her own fortune a small pittance weekly; the exact sum is, I believe, four shillings a week. Now I am sure some of you are saying, "Foolish woman, why didn't they make settlements?" and I simply answer, "Why should they have to make settlements to keep what is their own?" Is it not a cruel law which sentences a woman to beggary, not from crime, but simply because, perhaps from ignorance of the law, from want of advice, or from over trustfulness, she neglects to protect herself by settlements? To all here who are mothers with daughters I would say, is it not an appeal which should go straight to your hearts, that possibly through circumstances over which you can have no control, your own daughters may be in the unhappy position some day of the lady whose case I have quoted? Her mother, you may be very sure, never thought her daughter would be so cruelly used. But with the law in its present case what has happened to one may happen to another, and although, humanly speaking, you may consider that, personally, you are securely and happily placed, it is surely blindness not to see that in the future your daughters may lose the care of yourself and of all friends, and be helpless against the law. I beg you to do what little may be in your power to assist and promote the good cause; every signature to the petition will help the work, and surely this is not asking too much. To the men before me I would urge that the measure is not aggressive, it is not egotistical, it is not aimed against your just rights and privileges, it is not selfishly undertaken; many of the most earnest workers would gain nothing by its adoption. It is, I assure you, but a just claim for a right which is unjustly withheld. To you, then, I would say, Don't be so ungenerous as to oppose us; don't be so apathetic as not to support us.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE supported the resolution, which, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

The second resolution was then proposed by Mrs. SHEARER, and seconded by Mrs. SAVILE.

This resolution was also carried without opposition, and after a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mrs. COOPER KING, and seconded by Mrs. SHEARER, the meeting separated.

A copy of the petition to the House of Commons was afterwards signed by those who attended the meeting.

BRISTOL.

Mrs. Beddoe gave an "At home," at Mortimer House, Clifton, on the 8th December, to hear addresses on the women's suffrage movement. The invitations were accepted by a large audience, about 100 persons filling the room to overflowing. The speakers were introduced by Dr. Beddoe, the principal address being given by Mrs. Downing-Shearer, followed by Miss Annie Young and Miss Blackburn. At the close of the meeting Mrs. Beddoe, in a graceful speech, thanked the speakers, who had come from a distance to be present, and recalled the early days of the movement, when the Bristol and West of England Society had been formed by a small gathering in the house of Mr. Commissioner Hill.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

BELFAST.

At the meeting of the Belfast Debating Society, on December 12th, Miss Tod continued the debate on "The rights of women," adjourned from the previous Monday. The admission was sixpence, and the proceeds were in aid of the funds of the Royal Hospital. There was a crowded audience. The chair was occupied by Mr. James Flinn. Miss Tod gave an address in her usual lucid and masterly style. Mr. Hobson followed, and the debate was continued by Mr. Minnis on the affirmative, and Mr. Harris on the negative. The debate was adjourned for a week, and was concluded on Dec. 19th. Mr. James Flinn occupied the chair, and on the debate being resumed, Mr. Thomas Conroy led off in the negative, and was followed by Mr. W. J. Pasley, Mr. Kendal, Miss Tod, and Mr.

W. Currie in the affirmative. The chairman having made some remarks, a division was taken, which resulted in a large majority on behalf of the ladies, or in support of "women's rights." A vote of thanks was passed to the ladies who attended during the debate.

KENTISH TOWN.

On December 12 a debate upon women's suffrage was held in the lecture hall of Trinity Presbyterian Church, High-street, under the auspices of the Trinity Presbyterian Literary Society, to which visitors of both sexes were invited. Mr. E. C. Sinkler, the vice-president of the society, occupied the chair, and, after the transaction of some routine business, called upon the opener of the debate, the Rev. W. A. Macdonald, M.A., who moved the following resolution: "That the admission of legally-qualified women to the Parliamentary franchise would be an act of justice, and be for the welfare of the community." Mr. H. H. Snell opposed the proposition. The debate was continued by Mrs. Lynch, Mr. J. H. Duncan, Miss C. A. Biggs, Mr. H. Garden, Mr. C. R. Matheson, and Mr. Mote in support of the resolution; and Mr. Purry, Mr. Millist, and Mr. Robertson against. When the proposition was put to the vote, it was carried by seventeen votes to twelve.

HOLYWELL.

At the weekly meeting of the Holywell Literary and Debating Society, held on December 15th, the question for discussion was, "Ought women to have equal privileges with men in most spheres of life?" The affirmative was maintained by Mr. J. Campbell Douglas, who argued for the right of women to the Parliamentary vote. The negative was taken by Mr. W. Pedr Williams. On a division, twenty-two members voted in the affirmative, and six in the negative. The result was received with cheers.

BRISTOL.

On December 14th the Bristol Parliamentary Debating Society, which holds its weekly meetings in the Athenaeum, Corn-street, took for their subject, "That no measure of electoral reform can be deemed to be satisfactory unless it recognises the right of women ratepayers to the Parliamentary franchise." The motion was introduced by Mr. Bernhard Michael on the Conservative side, seconded by Mr. J. G. Levy on the Liberal side of the society, and an animated debate followed, Messrs. Clutterbuck, W. R. Oxley, Paget, A. T. May, W. H. Hudson speaking for the motion; Messrs. Arthur Lee, E. L. Owen, Webley, J. A. Rose, T. W. Davis against. The palm in speaking was carried away by the supporters of the motion, who all gave the impression of speaking from strong conviction and earnest desire to promote the question. Nevertheless, the voting was stronger on the opposition side; the vote being taken by show of hands, the chairman ruled the noes had it. Mr. Michael, whilst acquiescing in this ruling, claimed a division. The chairman replied that there was no provision made that night for taking a division. There was accordingly no means of knowing the exact proportion, but it was manifest that the majority was a narrow one.

PAISLEY.

At a sitting of the Paisley Parliamentary Debating Society, held Nov. 15th, the "Lord Advocate," on behalf of the "Government," introduced a Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. The "Chief Secretary for Ireland" seconded the motion. The "hon. member for Londonderry" opposed the proposal, and the debate was continued on the negative side by the members representing Westminster, Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, and Wigtonshire. In opposing the Bill, the "member for Westminster" twitted the "Government" with having changed their minds, as the "Prime Minister" and the "Attorney-General" had opposed an amendment having a similar effect last year. The "Postmaster-General" defended the course they had pursued by stating that the question then came up in the shape of adding a clause to a Bill with a specific purpose. The Bill now before the "House" was for carrying out the principle of the Bill of 1867, as it was for extending the franchise to those who had to bear the taxation of the country. The "Prime Minister" supported the Bill, and the "Lord-Advocate" having briefly replied, the "House" divided as follows:—

Ayes	70
Noes	57

The "Speaker" declared the motion carried, and the Bill was read a second time.

We should have been glad, had our space permitted, to have reprinted the debate in full, as it appears in "Hansard," published by the Paisley Parliamentary Debating Society.

HULME.

On December 18th Miss L. Fossard delivered a lecture on "Women's Suffrage," on behalf of the Hulme Radical Association, Manchester.

WOMEN AND THE LEEDS BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

An influential meeting was held in the Mayor's Parlour at Leeds, December 8th, presided over by the Mayor (Alderman Tatham), to consider the advisability of promoting the election of a certain number of ladies to serve on the Leeds Board of Guardians, which body has just adopted the triennial system of election.

"4. Females who take part in or incite to any unlawful assembly are forthwith to be made amenable and prosecuted in the ordinary way." "G. E. HILLIER, Inspector-General."

SUPPRESSION OF THE LADIES' LAND LEAGUE.

The Dublin correspondent of the Times, writing under date December 19th, says:

There is reason to believe that the Government are resolved to put down the Ladies' Land League, and that some of the prominent members of that body will be placed under arrest.

Government intend to take against the Ladies' Land League:—

"Royal Irish Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle, Dec. 16, 1881.

"1. The Inspector-General is advised that the proclamation of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, dated the 20th of October, 1881, and which declared the Land League to be an unlawful and a criminal association, includes female as well as male persons, and that the promotion of the objects and purposes of that association on any pretext by females, whether under the name of Ladies' Land League or any other designation, is unlawful and criminal.

"2. When the constabulary have reason to believe that a meeting of females for any such object or purpose is intended to be held in any house, they shall warn the owner or occupier of such house that he will act criminally and at his peril in permitting his house to be used for such unlawful and criminal purpose; and they shall also warn every person who they have reason to believe is about to attend or take part in any such meeting; and he or she will act criminally and at his or her peril in doing so.

"3. In other cases when the constabulary find any females, either collectively or individually, actually engaged in promoting any such objects or purpose, they are forthwith to take the offender or offenders before a magistrate and apply that she or they may be bound with solvent sureties to good behaviour or to the peace (as the case may be), or in default committed to prison; and the constabulary are to report any repetition of the offence, in order that the more stringent measures of the law may, if necessary, be enforced against the offender in addition to the estreat of the recognizances.

"4. Females who take part in or incite to any unlawful assembly are forthwith to be made amenable and prosecuted in the ordinary way.

"G. E. HILLIER, Inspector-General."

It is reported that Mrs. Domins, a sister of King Kalakaua, acts as Regent of the kingdom of the Sandwich Islands, in her brother's absence.

The silver medallion of the Royal Humane Society has been awarded to Miss Minnie Cameron, aged 15, for saving her sister, Kate Cameron, who was in danger of drowning while bathing in the river Ottawa, at Thurso, Quebec.

HONOURS FOR A SCHOOLMISTRESS.—The London Gazette of Dec. 16th announces that the Queen has conferred the Albert Medal of the Second Class on Miss Hannah Rosbotham, 23 years of age, assistant-schoolmistress of the Sutton National Schools, for having, at the imminent risk of her life, rescued four infants from amongst the debris caused by the fall of the stone belfry through the roof of the schools on October 14th.

Le National, in commenting on the progress women have made during the last twenty-five years, says that last year the Congrès phylloxérique assembled at Bordeaux had two grand prizes to award to the viticulturists who had signalled themselves by intelligence, activity, and perseverance in the conflict with the phylloxera. They were awarded to two ladies. The writer in Le National had forgotten the name of the recipient of the first prize. She is the proprietor of a large vineyard in the environs of Letourne, and she received the medal of honour. The second is the Countess de Fitz-James.

The silver medal for deeds of gallantry on land has been awarded by the Chapter of the Order of St. John to Mrs. Marion Smith, widow of Bandmaster B. Smith, 94th regiment, for her courageous self-devotion in remaining under fire during the action of Bronkhorst Spruit, on December 20, 1880, alleviating the sufferings of the wounded in every possible manner, even tearing up her own dress to make bandages; and also for the good service rendered by her for a period of three months, when she voluntarily remained with the prisoners of war, many of them wounded, to whose comfort she displayed unremitting attention under the most trying circumstances. Mrs. Smith's humanity and courage were made the subject of a special district order published by Colonel Bellairs at Pretoria on April 5.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

GENERAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, DECEMBER, 1881.

Table listing general subscriptions for December 1881, categorized by location: DARLINGTON, WEST HARTLEPOOL, DURHAM, SUNDERLAND, DERY, BURY, and HARRINGTON. Includes names and amounts.

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

MARRIAGE OF MISS DOWNING.—On November 24th, at Bradford, Miss Helena Pauline Downing, eldest daughter of the late Washington Downing, Esq., of London, was married to Mr. John Ronald Shearer, accountant, of London. No cards.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM NOVEMBER 28 TO DECEMBER 28, 1881.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from November 28 to December 28, 1881, including names and amounts.

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

SPECIAL FUND OF £300.

The Central Committee have received an offer of £50 from Miss Henrietta Muller towards a fund of £300, which it is desired to raise for public meetings, on condition that the remaining £250 be raised. They have also received from Mr. and Mrs. Thomasson a promise of £50 towards this on condition that the remainder be contributed.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM NOV. 21 TO DEC. 20, 1881.

Table listing subscriptions and donations from Bristol and West of England from Nov. 21 to Dec. 20, 1881.

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

Obituary.

MR. E. W. BINNEY, F.R.S.—We regret to record the death of this gentleman, who was one of the oldest friends and subscribers of the Manchester Society. He was eminent as a geologist. He was very active as a young man in promoting the legislation which prohibited the labour of women in mines, but he lived to regret the misery and privation caused to those who were suddenly deprived of their ordinary means of livelihood when too old to learn another trade.

CASH'S "VICTORIA" FRILLING

FOR TRIMMING

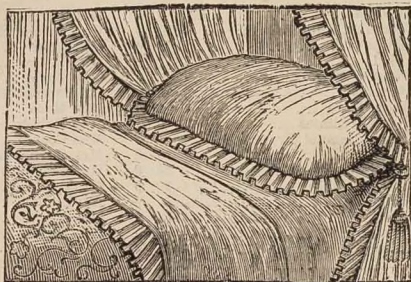
BED LINEN.

Widths 2, 2½, and 3 inches.

THE DRAWING CORD IS WOVEN INTO
THE FABRIC.

J. & J. CASH, COVENTRY.

SOLD BY ALL DRAPERS.



DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE.

Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.

SORE THROATS CURED.

FENNINGS' FEVER CURER.

BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose.

TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses.

DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses.
SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses.

DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses.

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

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

EASY TEETHING.

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE.

FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.

ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.

FENNINGS' Children's Powders.

For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.

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

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

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

SAFE TEETHING.

COUGHS. COLDS. BRONCHITIS.

FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS.

The Best Remedy to Cure all

Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.

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

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

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

BRONCHITIS CURED.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

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

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

ESTABLISHED 1835.



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

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

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

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

Printed by A. IRELAND & Co., Pall Mall, Manchester, for the Proprietors and Published by Messrs. Tribner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London, and Mr. JOHN HEYWOOD, Manchester.—January 2, 1882.—Entered at Stationers' Hall.