

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 154. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NOVEMBER 1, 1882.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
By Post THREE HALFPENNY.

Contents :

Leading Articles:—The Re-opening of Parliament; Meetings during the Month; The Mother who paid the Rates; Extraordinary Marriage at Sheffield; Women's Suffrage carried in the Legislature of Oregon.
Parliamentary Intelligence.
Speeches of Members of Parliament.
Speeches of Candidates.
Public Meetings:—Scotland; Women's Suffrage Demonstration in Glasgow—Preliminary Conference;

Rutherglen, Crosshill, Queen's Rooms (Glasgow), Partick, Govan, Helensburgh, Edinburgh (St. Cuthbert's Ward), Perth, Aberdeen, Dundee. England: Hyde, Manchester, Sandhurst, Yorktown.
Drawing Room Meetings:—Scotland: Glasgow, Cambuslang, Washington Hotel (Glasgow), Sandown, Pollokshields, England; Tekels Castle, Sandhurst.
Lectures:—Nottingham, Tottington, Liskeard.
Origin of the Married Women's Property Agitation.

Parliamentary History of the Married Women's Property Legislation.
Correspondence.
Women Registrars of Births and Deaths.
Married Women's Property Committee.
Review. Obituary.
Treasurers' Reports:—Manchester, Central Committee, Bristol and West of England, Scottish National Demonstration.

ST. ANDREW'S HALLS, GLASGOW.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN, IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,

Will be held

ON FRIDAY EVENING, 3RD NOVEMBER, 1882,

In support of a Memorial to Her Majesty's Government praying for the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Householders and Ratepayers.

DOORS OPEN AND ORGAN RECITAL AT 7. THE CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 8 O'CLOCK, BY

MRS. DUNCAN M'CLAREN.

Mrs. Arthur, Paisley
Mrs. Beddoe, Clifton
Miss Becker, Manchester
Miss Burton, Edinburgh
Mrs. Campbell, Tulliechewan
Mrs. Ed. Caird, Glasgow
Miss Craigen, London
Mrs. Dr. Culross, Glasgow
Mrs. Fraser, Glasgow
Mrs. Greenlees, Glasgow
Mrs. D. Greig, Glasgow
Miss Greig, Glasgow
Mrs. Henderson, Glasgow
Mrs. T. M. Lindsay, Glasgow
Mrs. Lucas, London

Mrs. C. M'Laren, London
Dr. Agnes M'Laren
Mrs. A. B. M'Grigor, Glasgow
Mrs. Mason, Glasgow
Miss Maitland, Edinburgh
Mrs. Ersk. Murray, Glasgow
Mrs. J. G. M'Kendrick
Mrs. Paterson, Edinburgh
Mrs. D. Russell, Glasgow
Mrs. J. Ritchie, Glasgow
Mrs. Reith, Glasgow
Mrs. Robertson, Paisley
Mrs. O. Scatcherd, Leeds
Mrs. Shearer, London
Miss E. Sturge, Bristol

Miss L. Stevenson, Edinburgh
Miss F. Stevenson, Edinburgh
Mrs. Smith, Bothwell
Mrs. Thomasson, Bolton
Miss Tod, Belfast
Mrs. M. S. Tait, Glasgow
Miss Telford, Glasgow
Mrs. Thom, Glasgow
Miss Wigham, Edinburgh
Mrs. Wellstood, Edinburgh
Mrs. R. K. Watson, Glasgow
Mrs. Woyka, Glasgow
Mrs. John Young, Glasgow
And other Ladies are expected to be present.

ADMISSION: WOMEN FREE TO ALL PARTS OF THE HALL.
Gentlemen's Tickets (for the Balcony only), 2s. 6d. each.

A DEMONSTRATION

In favour of giving to women who are ratepayers the right of voting in Parliamentary elections, will be held in the

TEMPERANCE HALL, LEICESTER,

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 15th.

The Chair will be taken at Eight o'clock, by
VISCOUNTESS HARBERTON.

The Meeting will be addressed by

Mrs. LUCAS, Mrs. ALFRED OSLER,
Mrs. SCATCHERD, Mrs. SHEARER,
Miss EMILY STURGE, Miss C. A. BIGGS,
THE PRESIDENT. THOS. WRIGHT, Esq.

Admission free, except to the Gallery. Admission to the Gallery, 6d.

Women ratepayers are specially invited.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The Annual General Meeting to receive the Report, the Statement of Accounts, to appoint the Committee, and transact any other business which may arise, will be held in the Town Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday, November 7th, 1882. The Chair to be taken at Three o'clock, by the

MAYOR OF MANCHESTER
(Mr. Alderman Baker).

Mrs. ROBY
Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD
Miss M. ATKINSON
Miss BECKER
Miss CARBUTT
Mrs. MOSS
THOS. DALE, Esq.
Mr. Alderman BENNETT
Mr. Alderman GEO. BOOTH
Dr. PANKHURST
H. SLATTER, Esq.
J. W. SOUTHERN, Esq.
A. G. SYMONDS, Esq.
Rev. S. ALFRED STENTHAL
Dr. J. WATTS

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

It is always safe
to use
**Reckitt's
Blue.**

NINETEENTH CENTURY BUILDING
SOCIETY,
ADELAIDE PLACE, LONDON BRIDGE, E.C.

SHARES £10.

Payable in one sum or by periodical payments.

Liability of Shareholders strictly limited.

Sanitary Condition of Property Reported upon
without Extra Charge.

DIRECTORS:

HENRY WALDEMAR LAWRENCE, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C.
MARK H. JUDGE, 8, Park Place Villas, W.
F. H. A. HARDCASTLE, 10, Brunswick Sq., W.C.
ELIZA ORME, 27, Southampton Buildings, W.C.
GEORGE PALMER, M.P., 68, Grosvenor St., W.
MARY E. RICHARDSON, Bedford Park, W.
HENRY RUTT, 66, Finchley Road, N.W.

Interest on Shares, five per cent per annum, paid half-yearly.

Deposits received at four per cent.

Shares or Deposits may be withdrawn by giving short notice.

Prompt and Liberal Advances on all kinds of Freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Property.

Prospectus free of

FREDERICK LONG,
Manager and Secretary.

**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.

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.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's

Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures during the recess for petitions, to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution, which is expected to come on for discussion in Parliament at an early date next session. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 64, Berners-street, London, W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

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

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

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,

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

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

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

It is, however, highly desirable that women householders should sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of

SH EWETH,

That your petitioners possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary suffrage.

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

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and signatures must be on the same piece of paper. If more room is required more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions prepared during the recess should be carefully preserved until the opening of Parliament, or they may be forwarded to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded at the proper time.

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

CONTENTS FOR OCTOBER, 1882.

1. The Social Science Congress at Nottingham.
2. Compulsion.
3. Are Women Inventors?
4. Clara Barton.

Reviews:—Education in Wales—Remarkable Women.

Record of Events:—Medical Women—London Medical School—Christian Women's Reform—Trades' Union Congress—Women in Politics—Pollokshaws and Female Electors—Married Women's Property Act—Women Registrars of Births and Deaths—Sheppey Vestry Board—Manchester School Board Classes; Wesleyan Schools—Miscellaneous.

Foreign Notes and News.

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

THE CALENDAR.

NOVEMBER, 1882.

MOON.		SUN.	
2nd Last Quar., 6h 5m aft.	10th New Moon, 11h 20m aft.	Rises.	Sets.
18th First Quar., 8h 42m morn.	25th Full Moon, 2h 3m morn.	6 57	4 30
		7 12	4 16
		7 25	4 5
		7 37	3 57

1	W	
2	Th	
3	F	
4	S	Demonstration of Women at Colston Hall, Bristol, 1880.
5	S	Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity. Angelica Kaufman died, 1807. Miss Nightingale landed at Constantinople, 1854.
6	M	National Society for Women's Suffrage formed, 1867.
7	T	Queen Mary died, 1559.
8	W	Women's Suffrage voted by House of Keys, Isle of Man.
9	Th	Madame Roland guillotined, 1793. Women disfranchised by decision of Court of Common Pleas, 1868.
10	F	
11	S	
12	S	Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity. Mrs Opie born, 1769. Caterina Gabriella (vocalist) born, 1730. Eliz. Cady Stanton born, 1816. Miss Hosmer came to Rome, 1858.
13	M	
14	T	Madame Hensel (Fanny Mendelsohn) born, 1805. Vigilance Association formed at Conference in Liverpool, 1874.
15	W	
16	Th	
17	F	Elizabeth proclaimed Queen, 1558. Catherine II. of Russia died, 1795.
18	S	S. Hilda, Abbess, 100.
19	S	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity. S. Elizabeth of Hungary, 1231.
20	M	
21	T	
22	W	Cecilia, V. and M.
23	Th	Judgment given on Agar Elli case, 18
24	F	First contested election for School Board under Mr. Forster's Act, 1870.
25	S	S. Catherine, Alexandria, 4th Century. American Women's Suffrage Association founded, 1869. Women's Rights Meeting in Sheffield, probably 1849.
26	S	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity. Miss Lilly Maxwell voted for Mr. Jacob Bright, 1867.
27	M	
28	T	
29	W	Louisa M. Alcott born, 1832.
30	Th	

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 154. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

NOVEMBER 1, 1882.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
By Post THREE HALFPENCE.

PARLIAMENT re-assembled on October 24th, but there is no likelihood that any matter relating to the legal or political status of women will be brought forward during the autumn session. Petitions may, however, be presented, and already several have been sent in. It is desirable that all petitions already signed either on behalf of public meetings or by individuals should continue to be sent up for presentation so long as Parliament shall be sitting, and that as soon as it is prorogued the efforts of our friends should be redoubled to promote petitions to be presented on the opening of Parliament next year in support of Mr. MASON'S resolution.

MEETINGS have been going on vigorously during the past month. The principal work has been done at Glasgow, in preparation for the approaching grand demonstration in St. Andrew's Hall, on November 3rd. A preliminary conference was held on October 5th, over which ex-Bailie BURT presided, and many public and drawing-room meetings have taken place. The work in Glasgow has been conducted mainly by the following ladies: Mrs DUNCAN McLAREN, Miss WIGHAM, Mrs. SCATCERD, Mrs. SHEARER, Mrs. WALKER, with Mrs. M'CORMICK as organising agent. Mrs. D. GREIG has acted as treasurer, and Miss WIGHAM, Miss KIRKLAND, and Miss YOUNG as secretaries. Drawing-room meetings in furtherance of the demonstration have been held by Mrs. D. GREIG, Dr. MUIRHEAD, Mrs. MASON, Mrs. ERSKINE MURRAY, Mrs. LINDSAY, and Mrs. HENDERSON.

AT Edinburgh a meeting to promote a national demonstration was held under the presidency of Mrs. WELLSTOOD, in which Miss WIGHAM, Mrs. GRIEVE, Miss STODDART, Mrs. SHEARER, Miss BURTON, Mrs. NICHOL, Miss SIMPSON, and Mrs. DUNCAN McLAREN took part. Miss CRAIGEN has held meetings at Aberdeen, Perth, and Dundee.

A meeting in connection with municipal elections was held at Hyde, in which Mrs. DOWSON, Mrs. SCATCERD,

Mrs. ALFRED OSLER, Mrs. MOSS, Mrs. THORLEY, and Mrs. TWEEDALE took part. At Manchester and Salford Miss BECKER has addressed three meetings of women electors.

In the south Miss BECKER and Miss C. A. BIGGS addressed a series of meetings at Sandhurst, including drawing-room meetings at Government House, presided over by General NAPIER, and at Tekels Castle, Mrs. BYRNE in the chair.

Miss HELEN BLACKBURN has delivered a lecture at Liskeard.

AT one of the London revision courts in September, a man claimed to be put on the register as a householder. It appeared in court that his mother was the occupier of the house, and paid the rates. The revising barrister disallowed the vote, remarking that he could not put a man on the register whose mother paid the rates. There is nothing to be said against this decision, but much to be argued in favour of the justice of allowing the mother who is responsible for the rates to exercise the suffrage, for which the payment of those rates is the statutory qualification. Under the present interpretation of the law, the household is altogether disfranchised and deprived of its constitutional right of representation.

THE triennial elections of the School Boards of most of the large districts in England take place during the present month. The time is therefore opportune for urging on the electors of these districts the extreme importance of obtaining a proper representation of women in the Boards to be elected to serve during the coming three years.

The principal difficulty in places where women have not yet been returned is, we believe, caused by a lack of suitable candidates who are able to perform the duties, and willing to incur the cost of an election. This difficulty is much greater in the case of women than men, partly because it requires a little more effort and courage in a woman than in a man to come forward as a candi-

date, partly because the local party leaders, having many diverse interests to conciliate in forming their lists of candidates, are usually unwilling to complicate the local politics by introducing the question of women's rights in connection with School Boards. Therefore, while expressing theoretical approval of the participation of women in educational administration, such organisations are frequently found in practice to use their influence to prevent or to suppress the candidature of women in their own districts. Unless, therefore, the friends of the women's candidature have in some way shown their strength, and satisfied the "caucuses" that they are an element in the constituencies that must not be ignored, there is every probability that when the question of including a woman among the list of candidates comes up for discussion the "hundreds" will decide against them, and the women who have consented to submit their claim to such an arbitration will be left out in the cold. Thus, if they come forward, they will have to fight the battle at their own expense or alone.

Nevertheless, we believe that in every case where such a contest could be undertaken it would have every chance of success. We believe that at the last triennial elections in 1879 no woman who was nominated for election was defeated at the polls. There is every reason to believe that the appreciation of the value of the work done on the various School Boards throughout the country by the women members has increased rather than diminished during the last term of service, and that the prospects of the women candidates wherever they may be put forward are brighter and more assured than ever.

ONE of the latest—and let us hope one of the last—scandals in connection with the common law rule, which hands over the property of a wife absolutely and unreservedly to the control of her husband, was manifested in connection with a recent extraordinary scene at a marriage in Sheffield. A widow lady, alleged to be of weak intellect, but possessed of a fortune of eighteen thousand pounds, was induced by a solicitor of Sheffield to consent to marry him unknown to her family. She left her house and went to Sheffield under a false name. Her brother discovered the proceeding, and, accompanied by the lady's solicitor, appeared at the church and endeavoured to prevent the marriage on the ground of the alleged unsoundness of mind of the bride. But as he had neglected to provide himself with medical testimony to support his allegation, and as the bridegroom had pro-

vided such testimony in support of her soundness of mind, the Vicar had no alternative but to proceed with the marriage. The brother then asked the intended bridegroom to consent to a marriage settlement, but he positively refused to make any settlement at all of the lady's property. The bride's solicitor next appealed to her not to marry without a settlement, but she would not listen to the warning which was natural enough if she really were of unsound mind, and the marriage took place. The lady's eighteen thousand pounds thereby became the absolute property of the fortunate bridegroom, and neither the brother nor the legal adviser of the lady can hereafter interpose to save any of the money for her use and benefit, should the subsequent conduct of the husband tend to show that his object in pressing the marriage was rather to obtain possession of the lady's fortune than of herself.

The injustice of this arrangement is all the more glaring because it takes place under the rule of an expiring law. Now that the new Act, which secures to a wife the legal title to her own property, has received the sanction of the Legislature, every wife married since the passing of the Act would seem to have an equitable, if not a legal, claim to its benefits. It is not easy to understand why the Legislature, having set the seal of condemnation on the hardship and injustice of the common law, should have maintained it in operation for one day after the passing of the new Act, and so have given occasion for unscrupulous fortune-hunters to possess themselves of money by marriage while the law of confiscation yet remains in force.

But each day diminishes these opportunities. The expiring law has but two months to live. Prudent brides will prefer to wait till the new year brings emancipation from its degrading conditions before consenting to marry; and honourable men, who are suitors to women with property, will either refrain from pressing marriage during the continuance of the expiring law, or will take care by suitable settlements to secure to their wives the same property rights as the law next year would have conferred upon them.

A NOTE of victory comes to us this month from across the American continent. A women's suffrage amendment has just been passed by both branches of the State Legislature of Oregon by unexpectedly large majorities. On Tuesday, October 3rd, the resolution passed the Senate by a three-fourths vote, the numbers being—yeas, 21; nays, 7. Next day the resolution passed the House of Representatives

without discussion by 47 yeas to 9 nays—a majority of five-sixths of the whole.

The proposal will next be submitted to a poll of the electors—that is, to a poll of all the adult men of Oregon, probably some time next year. A similar resolution, adopted by the State Legislature of Nebraska last year, will be submitted to the popular vote during the present month.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

The Houses of Parliament re-assembled for the autumn session on October 24th. Two petitions in favour of women's suffrage were presented on that day by Mr. Walter from meetings at Sandhurst, On October 25th, petitions to the same effect were presented by Mr. Jacob Bright from Oxford, London, Brighton, and Cambridge; on October 26th by Mr. Fawcett from London, by Mr. A. Douglas from Sheerness, and by Mr. J. G. Talbot from Oxford and the neighbourhood; on October 27th by Sir C. W. Dilke from Kensington.

SPEECHES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. FAWCETT AT LIVERPOOL.

At a great demonstration promoted by the Liverpool Liberal Association, at Hengler's Circus, at Liverpool, on October 13th, Mr. Fawcett, Postmaster-General, among other remarks on the extension of the suffrage to which the Liberal Government is pledged, said:—There is also another point connected with the suffrage in which it is important that public opinion should declare itself. Is it or is it not desired that some of our most cherished political principles, such, for instance, that taxation and representation should go hand in hand, should cease to have any application when those who would benefit by them are women? There are probably hundreds in this room who know only too well that the money earned by a woman does not require less severe toil than when earned by a man; and, for one, I have never been able to see why she should be deprived of the same constitutional safeguard for its expenditure as those which men enjoy.—These observations were very much applauded by the audience.

MR. JACOB BRIGHT AT MANCHESTER.

At the annual meeting of the United Kingdom Alliance at Manchester, on October 18th, Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., in seconding the resolution, said:—There were claimants for the suffrage even beyond the people in the counties. There was a class knocking at the door of the House of Commons who were said to possess little logic, but who had just logic enough to know that in a constitutional country any class that was unrepresented was unprotected, and he would undertake to say that when that scandal was removed which denied the vote to a home because a woman was at its head, the United Kingdom Alliance and the temperance party wherever it was found would have greater influence than it had to-day. (Applause.)

SPEECHES OF CANDIDATES.

SWINDON.

At a Liberal demonstration at Swindon, on October 21st, Mr. Richard Michell, Liberal candidate for the borough of Cricklade at the next election, spoke as follows on the extension of the franchise:—He anticipated it would be left to the Liberal politicians to extend the county franchise—(cheers)—and when they did open the portals of the constitution he hoped they would open them wide enough to admit what was known as women's suffrage. (Cheers and laughter.) The speaker referred to several questions in which women are especially interested, and said they would in certain questions be able to give an opinion equal to that of men. Among the subjects enumerated by the speaker as those specially interesting to women were education, temperance, marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and peace. He reminded his hearers that one-seventh of the property in the United Kingdom belonged to women, and one-tenth of the tenant farmers were women.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

SCOTLAND.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DEMONSTRATION IN GLASGOW. PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE.

In view of the proposed great demonstration in favour of women's suffrage in the St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on the 3rd November, a conference was held on October 3rd, in the Christian Institute, Bothwell-street, at which information was given as to the success which had attended similar meetings in the large towns of England. There was a good attendance of ladies, and there were also present a number of gentlemen, including Councillor Burt and Professor Lindsay, of the Free Church College. Among the ladies present were Mrs. Duncan McLaren and Miss Wigham, of Edinburgh; Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Leeds; and Mrs. M'Cornick, Manchester.

Councillor BURT, having been called to the chair, intimated that letters of apology for absence had been received from Lord Provost Ure, Mr. Campbell Douglas, Mr. P. C. M'Gregor, Mr. John M'Calman, Mr. David Fortune, &c. Proceeding, he said he appeared there with great pleasure, as he had all along in his political programme taken the part of the ladies. It was, he thought, very proper and just that the rights and privileges that were enjoyed by men should also be enjoyed by those who shared and held a responsibility along with them. It had always seemed to him somewhat of a cowardly and selfish disposition on the part of male members of the community to arrogate to themselves all the rights and duties of membership of this great country, without taking into account the rights and privileges which ought in justice and fairness to belong to women as well. He was very glad that the Legislature were coming round to that view. To a considerable extent ladies had been put on the register for various purposes, although not yet for the Parliamentary vote; but he hoped the day was not far distant—indeed, he felt certain it was near—when that would be the case. He augured well for the country when that time came about. No doubt this movement had made slow progress up to the present point; but all great questions in this country made slow progress. People got into certain habits, and they became terribly conservative in their old ideas and modes of doing things; and it was very difficult to move an old country like this out of the rut into which it had got. At the same time, our liberties were perhaps more enduring and solid, because we gained them by slow degrees and by regular and steady approaches; and he had no doubt the ground already gained in favour of the women would act as a lever to help on to a completion the great cause for which they were fighting. (Applause.) He then introduced Mrs. Duncan McLaren to the meeting.

Mrs. M'LAREN, who was most cordially received, said she had a duty to perform, viz., that of introducing to the meeting two ladies from England, who had the cause of women's suffrage at heart. They had come to co-operate with the Scottish women in working up for what she quite hoped to be the largest demonstration that had yet been held to promote the cause of woman's suffrage. (Applause.) She had received a letter that morning from a gentleman whom she had always held in great respect, though she never had the pleasure of meeting him. He acknowledged that he used to feel much interested in their cause, but declined to give them the donation which she had asked for. They knew that this great work might cost a great deal of money. Well, he said, he came to that conclusion, first, because women had shown themselves, in his opinion, too much interested in a question that deeply concerned their own sex; and, secondly, because he thought somehow or other that women did not wish the suffrage. She supposed that most who formed that conference were in sympathy with them, but if there were any there who had been misled by the silence of the press, as their friend had evidently been, she would say to them that there had been seven large demonstrations held in England similar to the one they contemplated getting up in Glasgow. The largest halls in the towns where they had been held had been so crowded by women that large overflow meetings had to be held in adjacent halls. If from four to six thousand women met together to demand the Parliamentary franchise, walking through lanes and deep snow in one or two cases, did not that prove that women were anxious for the franchise? She did not know what argument they could use further, seeing that they were not allowed to use physical

force. (Laughter.) And all these meetings had been got up by women alone, and addressed by women. Mrs. McLaren proceeded to urge upon the ladies the necessity of their making use of the municipal franchise, and, continuing, said the heart and intellect of the people of Scotland were ripe for such meetings as those proposed. How could it be otherwise when the Convention of Royal Burghs—that large representative gathering of Scotchmen—at their last meeting petitioned the House of Commons to grant the Parliamentary franchise to women householders all through the country? They told the House that the question was ripe, and that there ought to be no longer any delay. Before their meetings were over, she hoped it would be deemed right to request, in tones strong and emphatic, that one of the members for Glasgow should take up the question, and introduce a Bill into the House of Commons for conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon the women householders of Scotland. Glasgow women ought to move strongly, for they had reason to be proud of the members for the city, one of whom—Mr. Anderson—carried through Parliament the Married Women's Property Bill—(hear, hear)—which conferred on wives the right to hold their own property instead of having it confiscated on marriage and given up entirely to the husband. And the other—Dr. Cameron—procured for the Scottish women the right which English women had had for many years, viz., the power to vote in the municipal elections for town councillors. (Applause.) In concluding, Mrs. McLaren said that for the forthcoming demonstration money was required to pay the expenses. The women in Edinburgh had shown their earnestness in this cause, as would be seen when she said she had had the pleasure of handing over to Mrs. Greig, the treasurer, £117—(applause)—which had been gathered by them. The demonstration would cost three times that sum before they had done their work, even with the greatest economy. Therefore she trusted the Scotch ladies would give according to their means. £25 had been contributed by Mrs. Scatcherd. That morning she had received £50 from Mrs. Pease Nichol. (Applause.)

Miss WIGHAM next addressed the meeting, stating that their demand for the franchise was to help men forward as well as women; they desired to forward the work of education, and to promote all questions which were of interest to the community. She desired women to think what politics were. They just meant the reference of the State to the citizen, and the citizen to the State, and of States to each other. They wanted by obtaining the franchise to come in and fill their proper niche in this great question of parties. They wished it to be shown that they could understand questions affecting their interests—the interests dearest and nearest to them—to the poor around them and to the criminals at large, sorrowful and degraded. There was the great temperance question. Why, the magistrates had the power of licensing public-houses, the power of restraining the drink traffic. The magistrates were elected by the Town Councils, but let the female voters take care that they only sent to the Council men who represented their views on this matter. (Applause.) Let them have their minds made up intelligently and conscientiously on these matters. They were only women, but she thought they were all patriots. She loved her country perhaps as much as if she was a man—(laughter)—perhaps more. Let them show they were patriots, and come forward shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand and help in this demonstration. (Loud applause.)

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD proceeded to sketch the preliminary arrangements for the demonstration of the 3rd November. First of all, she desired to organise ward meetings, at which both women and men could attend; second, drawing-room or parlour meetings, where the object before them could be plainly and distinctly explained; third, mothers' meetings, where the same information could be given. By some the latter method had been objected to, but she held that religion and morality underlay our politics. Many and many a woman who undertook this work did it in a most truly religious spirit. (Applause.) There were many who had said to her over and over again, "If it were not that I felt it my duty and the call of my religion to come forward in this question, I never would have borne to face the world and come forward in public meetings and do what I have done." In concluding, she said that gentlemen would be admitted to the meetings on payment of half-a-crown—(laughter)—and for this reason, that the meetings were intended for women, and it would not do to have them crushed out of doors. (Applause.)

Professor LINDSAY said that he could not go down into the city and work amongst the poor without seeing how poor women were handicapped in various ways and overweighted by the laws of the country. If they had something to do with the making of the laws, whether they exercised their votes or not, the fear that they would exercise their votes would bring them some little relief. On the question of the drink traffic he would say—he was not standing there as a total abstainer—if there was one class of people in society who ought to have something to say about the regulation of the drink traffic it was the women. He urged upon the women of Glasgow to organise, as was done in Edinburgh, where by an admirable arrangement they were fully represented in the School Board. (Applause.)

Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN, before the meeting separated, drew attention to the fact that the *Daily Review* had all along ably supported their cause.

A vote of thanks to Councillor Burt brought the public conference to an end, and afterwards several ladies and gentlemen had a conversation as to the demonstration arrangements.

RUTHERGLEN.

On October 18th, a meeting was held in the New Town Hall, Rutherglen. Provost Fleming presided, and there was a large attendance. Resolutions expressing satisfaction that the municipal franchise had been given to women in Scotland, and in favour of the Parliamentary suffrage to women, were supported by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Rev. Mr. Neil, Mrs. Shearer, and ex-Bailie Burt, and carried unanimously. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

CROSSHILL.

On October 19th, a meeting was held in the Free Church Hall, Crosshill. Provost Browne presided, and was accompanied on the platform by Mrs. Scatcherd, Mrs. Shearer, the Rev. Mr. Russel, Provost Hamilton (of Pollokshields), and Mr. Aird. The usual resolutions were unanimously adopted, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Provost Browne, who said he heartily supported the movement.

QUEEN'S ROOMS, GLASGOW.

A public meeting to promote the great demonstration of women in St. Andrew's Hall was held in the Queen's Rooms, Clifton-street, Glasgow, on October 20th. Professor Edward Caird presided, and there was a large attendance. Mrs. Walker moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Mrs. Scatcherd, and carried. The second resolution was moved by Mr. J. N. Cuthbertson, seconded by Mrs. Shearer, and carried unanimously. The Chairman said it was already the privilege of women in Glasgow to vote for the School Board. They had voted in considerable numbers, and, so far as he knew, they had bestowed their votes as judiciously as the men. But there was one thing they ought to keep in mind, and that was the exceeding desirableness of having one or two women on the School Board itself. He thought, therefore, that the women of Glasgow should look to this, and make their opinions known and their influence felt by sending at least two women as members of the Board. (Applause.) The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the lady speakers and to the chairman.

PARTICK.

On October 3rd a meeting was held in the Burgh Hall, Partick. Professor Lindsay, of the Glasgow Free Church College, occupied the chair, and among those on the platform were Sheriff Murray, Professor Young, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Scatcherd, Mrs. Walker, and Miss Kirkland. The Chairman said the question might be regarded in several ways. His point of view was from that of a Christian minister working among the poorer class in lower districts, and from the manner of his own experience he found that women were in many instances the bread-winners and the heads of families. He held it that these were the persons who should be helped rather than hindered.—Miss Kirkland proposed and Mrs. Shearer seconded the first resolution. The second resolution was proposed by Professor Young, and seconded by Mrs. Scatcherd. The resolutions were carried unanimously. A cordial vote of thanks to the speakers and a similar compliment to the chairman concluded the meeting.

GOVAN.

On October 24th, a meeting under the auspices of the Women's Suffrage Society was held in the Govan Hall, Robert-street, Govan. Provost Thomson presided, and there was a good attendance. The Chairman briefly explained that the meeting was held for the purpose of promoting a mass meeting to be held in the St. Andrew's Halls on 3rd November, in order to consider the advisability of exercising the municipal vote now extended to women, and to ascertain the prevalent opinion regarding the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. Motions were afterwards submitted to the meeting, and supported by Mrs. Scatcherd and Mrs. Shearer, approving of these objects, and they were unanimously adopted. The usual votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

HELENSBURGH.

A meeting in connection with the approaching women's suffrage demonstration in St. Andrew's Halls was held on October 25th, in King Street Hall, Helensburgh. Provost STUART presided, and was accompanied to the platform by Mrs. Scatcherd, Leeds; Mrs. Shearer, London; Miss Jaffray, Helensburgh; Bailie Muir; Andrew Oswald, Glenan Bank; William Logan, Dunfillan; and William Barron, Gowanlea. Among others present were the Rev. Mr. Carlsaw; Commissioners Walker, McCulloch, and Tait; John McIntyre, Cawdor Lodge, and other prominent residents. The hall was crowded, a large number of ladies being present.

After a brief introduction by the Chairman, Bailie MUIR eloquently moved the first resolution, and trusted that there would soon be complete emancipation of female ratepayers from all existing disabilities. (Cheers.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD seconded the resolution.

Mr. ROBERTSON, of Northwood, moved the second resolution, urging the right of female ratepayers to all the privileges of representation enjoyed by men.

Mrs. SHEARER, of London, seconded.

On the Provostrising to ask the opinion of the meeting, a Mr. BOND rose, and after a gallant reference to the female advocates instanced the experience of America, from which the word "home" had been banished. (Cheers and uproar.) He regarded the claim of the women as a dangerous one. (Booh.) With much gesticulation and amid great dissent he combated the ladies' arguments. Privilege brought responsibility, and if the franchise was given to women they might demand membership. (Oh.) Then they should be placed in the jury box. (Booh.) Then if they demanded the voice on the question of war they must recognise their duty of joining the army. (Uproar.) He considered the women had failed on the temperance question; in fact, most of the drinking was owing to women. (Shame and uproar.) After a violent harangue he concluded by moving a direct negative to the resolutions, but found no seconder.

Mrs. SHEARER, amid great cheering, replied that the women of America had not the Congress vote except in the State of Wyoming, of which the reports were very favourable. Amid continued cheers she answered all the points raised by Mr. Bond, and on the temperance question quoted Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who considered that if women were enfranchised the temperance question would have been long ago carried and passed—an eloquent eulogium on the women of America. (Cheers.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD moved a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. LOGAN proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was heartily accorded.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

GLASGOW.

On Wednesday, October 4th, a drawing-room meeting was held at the house of Mrs. D. Greig, 18, Lynedoch Crescent, Glasgow. There was a numerous attendance. Mrs. Greig presided, and a petition in favour of women's suffrage was adopted.

CAMBUSLANG.

On Wednesday, October 18th, a meeting was held at the residence of Dr. Muirhead, Baskerville, Cambuslang. There was a large attendance. Dr. Muirhead presided. Addresses were delivered by Mrs. Scatcherd and Mrs. Shearer, and a petition was adopted.

WASHINGTON HOTEL.

On October 20th, a meeting was held in the Washington Hotel, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow. Mrs. Mason occupied the chair. There was a very good meeting, well attended, and the petition was adopted.

SANDOWN.

On October 21st, a meeting was held at Sandown, Montgomerie Drive, Glasgow; Mrs. Lindsay presided. Mrs. Erskine Murray and others were present. There was a large attendance, and the meeting adopted a petition.

POLLOKSHIELDS.

On October 24th, a meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Henderson, Glenvale, Pollokshields; Mrs. Henderson presiding. There were about forty ladies and gentlemen present, and the petition was adopted.

EDINBURGH.

ST. CUTHBERT'S WARD.

A meeting for women in view of the approaching municipal election was held on October 17th, in the Oddfellows' Hall, Forrest Road, Edinburgh. Mrs. WELLSTOOD occupied the chair, and was supported by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. Nichol, Miss Stoddart, Kelso; Miss Burton, Miss Wigham, Mrs. Grieve, Miss Simpson, and others.

In opening the proceedings, Mrs. WELLSTOOD said that the subject had for many years seemed to her of great importance, for she looked upon it as the grand and stable foundation stone of women's work and influence.

Miss WIGHAM moved the first resolution: "That the thanks of this meeting, representing the women householders of Edinburgh, be accorded very heartily to Dr. Cameron, M.P. for Glasgow, for having secured the right of the municipal voting to women householders in Scotland, and this meeting further pledges itself in token of gratitude to endeavour to promote a general intelligent and conscientious exercise of the privileges thus secured." When they remembered the numerous women voters in Scotland they found out the importance more than ever of the franchise being exercised. There were 7,599 women voters in Edinburgh—one-fifth of the whole number of voters; in Glasgow, 12,986—one-sixth; in Aberdeen, 3,388—one-fifth; Perth, 1,376—one-fourth; Leith, 1,365—one-seventh; Paisley, 1,100; and Greenock, 1,000. If they summed up all these numbers, they would see what a power the women had all over Scotland. She wanted women—everyone—to consider well what they were to do in this matter, as a privilege placed in their hands to exercise for their own interests, as also those of their children and of the poor, and even of those who were the neglected, almost the criminal, population of their cities. (Applause.)

Mrs. GRIEVE seconded the motion.

The resolution was supported by Mrs. SCATCHERD, and carried unanimously.

Miss STODDART, Kelso, moved: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, there exists no sound reason why the Parliamentary franchise should not be extended to those women who possess the qualification which entitles men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, are now themselves entitled to vote, and that a petition to this effect be signed by the chairman on its behalf and sent for presentation to the House of Commons in the care of the members of the city, asking them to support its prayer." She moved this resolution with grateful sympathy, believing the time was ripe for the end which the resolution desired.

Mrs. SHEARER seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Miss BURTON moved: "That this meeting sends sympathetic greetings to the great meeting of women to be held in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on November 3, desiring the complete success of the demonstration, and that it might greatly further the object for which it is held."

Mrs. NICHOL seconded the motion, expressing her hearty desire that the demonstration of women in Glasgow might fall in no way short of the similar gatherings which had been held in various parts of England.

Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN moved that the thanks of the meeting should be given to the various speakers.

Miss SIMPSON seconded the motion, which, like those preceding, was unanimously adopted.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Wellstood for presiding.

PERTH.

On October 10th, a public meeting in connection with women's suffrage was held in the City Hall, Perth. Bailie SIME occupied the chair, and was accompanied on the platform by Miss Craigen, from England; Bailies Martin, Walker, and Gow; Treasurer MacLeish; Councillors John Chalmers, James Chalmers, Bridges, M'Intosh, Logan, Russell, &c.

Bailie SIME, in opening the proceedings, said that it was absurd that the privilege of voting in Parliamentary elections should be withheld from ladies quite as well qualified to judge and discriminate as men, and who had the same local and Parliamentary burdens to bear. Referring to the Municipal (Women's) Act, he urged the women to avail themselves of the privileges it afforded, and thereby a step would have been taken that would tend towards the Legislature sooner conferring upon them the privilege of Parliamentary election.

Councillor BRIDGES afterwards moved the following resolution:—"That political power should be extended to women on equal terms with men." In support of the resolution, he said that one of the great principles laid down in the Reform Bill introduced by Lord Beaconsfield (then Mr. Disraeli) in 1867 was that the franchise should belong to householders who paid certain rates. It was, therefore, unjust, in his opinion, that females, who paid rates equally with men, and were perfectly competent to form an opinion upon any question which came before them, should be deprived of the franchise.

Councillor M'INTOSH seconded the resolution.

Miss CRAIGEN afterwards spoke at length in support of the resolution, and her address was attentively listened to, and at the close, after the resolution had been put to the meeting and unanimously carried, she was awarded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Councillor RUSSELL. The proceedings terminated by a vote of thanks being passed to Bailie Sime for presiding on the motion of Miss Craigen, who also thanked the gentlemen who had accompanied her on the platform.

ABERDEEN.

On September 29th, Miss Craigen gave a lecture on the subject of women's suffrage in the Ball-Room, Music Hall Buildings, Aberdeen. There was a large attendance of women, and numerous men were also present.

The chair was occupied by the Rev. Mr. MASSON, Melville Free Church, who expressed regret that the Lord Provost was not there instead. His lordship, he added, was in full sympathy with the cause which Miss Craigen had come to the city to plead, and would have occupied the chair there that evening if it had not been for the circumstance that he resided in the country just now. This was not something new. It was not, as some people said, a new departure. It was an old question in the country; it was just but one phase, as it were, of the old question. They had ladies occupying worthily and well seats at the most important School Boards of the country, and he need not say that, as a lady once remarked not long ago, they owed the half of the best and purest literature of this country to women. (Applause.) Then, again, the most exacting professions were being opened to women. The doors of the Universities were being thrown open to them that they might sit side by side with the most gifted sons of the country, and nobly and well had they done their work. And was it to be said for a single moment that in the exercise of this right and this privilege women were indeed inferior to men? No. The question as to women's suffrage was permeating all ranks of society in the country and would force itself to the forefront, and it would be a pity if the 3,000 women in Aberdeen who in November were, for the first time, to have the municipal privilege, did not take up this question, come forward and exercise their rights. (Applause.)

Miss CRAIGEN then delivered her address, which was received with loud and prolonged applause.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN a hearty vote of thanks was given to Miss Craigen for her address. The Chairman said he was sure the address was the best to which those present had listened for many a long day. For its ability, its nobleness of sentiment, and its high tone, they could have desired nothing better—(applause)—and the cause which Miss Craigen

represented in Aberdeen would not suffer from her advocacy if the address just given were a fair specimen of the mode in which Miss Craigen appealed in public on its behalf. (Applause.)

On September 30th, Miss Craigen delivered a lecture in St. Katharine's Hall, Shiprow, Aberdeen, Mr. A. S. Cook presiding. At the conclusion of the lecture, Miss Craigen proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting is of opinion that it would be of advantage to the community to admit women to political power on equal terms with men. Mr. Annand, delegate of the Aberdeen Trades Council, seconded, and on the resolution being put to the meeting, it was carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. A. S. Cook, a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to the lecturer for her interesting lecture. A like compliment, on the motion of Rev. Dr. Robson, was passed to the chairman for so ably presiding, and the meeting thereafter adjourned.

DUNDEE.

On October 26th, a meeting was held in Victoria Hall, Dundee. Mr. JAMES STEEL presided, and was accompanied to the platform by Miss Craigen, Councillor Blair, Mr. Alexander Ewan, and Mr. James Scott Loches.

The CHAIRMAN opened the meeting, and Miss CRAIGEN delivered an address, concluding by moving a resolution, "That the power of voting in the election of members of Parliament should be extended to women on equal terms with men." (Applause.)

Councillor BLAIR seconded the resolution. Mr. DANIEL GARRITY rose in the body of the hall and asked to move an amendment. After some bandying of words Mr. Garrity said, "My amendment is that no woman ought to be allowed to vote for a member of Parliament." (Howls.)

Mr. EWAN said he sympathised with the motion, and he believed the gentleman was alone in his amendment. The Chairman asked whether any one seconded the amendment. No response was made, and on a show of hands being taken for the resolution, it was carried unanimously. Votes of thanks to Miss Craigen and the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

ENGLAND.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

HYDE.

A meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institution, Hyde, on October 16th, in connection with the National Society for Women's Suffrage, more especially with reference to the course to be pursued at the approaching municipal election, the addresses proposed to be delivered bearing upon the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote. There was a very good attendance, the room being comfortably filled. Mrs. Dowson, of Gee Cross, occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds; Mrs. Osler, of Birmingham; Miss Smith, secretary; Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Tweedale, and Mrs. Thorley, Hyde. Mr. G. Brownson was also present, but retired at an early stage of the meeting. Miss Wagstaffe presided at the piano, and played an excellent selection of music whilst the ladies assembled.

Mrs. Dowson, on rising, was loudly applauded. She observed that a letter, of which the following is a copy, had been sent to the respective candidates at the municipal election:—

"The National Society for Women's Suffrage.

"October 13th, 1882.

"Sir,—I enclose a circular announcing a meeting which it is intended to hold on Monday next. As one of the candidates at the approaching election of town councillors for the borough of Hyde, will you please attend this meeting, and address a few words to the women; if unable to attend, will you please state, in writing, whether, if returned, you will sign a petition from the Council in favour of the Parliamentary franchise being granted to women who possess the same qualifications which entitle men to vote? An early reply will oblige yours respectfully,

"ELIZABETH SMITH, Hon. Sec."

In answer a number of letters had been received, in all of which the candidates expressed themselves in favour of the question.

Mrs. Dowson said in prospect of the approaching municipal election in the borough, it had been thought desirable to call that meeting; its object was to place before the women electors their responsibility in the matter. That responsibility, in her opinion,

could only be truly discharged by giving their votes, without regard either to party or any private consideration, to those candidates whom they believed would be the best workers for the good of the town—(applause)—and who would perform their duties in a quiet and sober manner. (Hear, hear.) She congratulated the women on the orderly manner in which their share of the last election was conducted. They were in that way preparing themselves for the greater privilege, which, she felt sure, would in some future day be theirs, when Hyde should have risen to the high position of a Parliamentary borough—(applause)—and when they, the women ratepayers, should exercise the Parliamentary franchise. (Renewed applause.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is the duty of every woman on the Burgess roll of the borough of Hyde to use her municipal vote with a view to the good government of the town, and also to exert her influence for the promotion of such measures of justice to women as can be effected by the action of the Town Council."

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Moss, who, in the course of her speech, said they had great cause for rejoicing in the work of the last session—the fag end. (Laughter.) There was a measure passed affecting women, which would make a great mark before long. It was the Married Women's Property Act. That was a great advance, and it had come upon them, as Tennyson said, "Like morning light melting the darkness." The old law was that when a man married a woman, whatever she possessed, if not made over to her, belonged to him, and though he said at the altar "With all my worldly goods I thee endow," and was not worth a sixpence—(laughter)—and she thousands, it all became his. (Hear, hear.) The new Act which was coming in force, she was glad to say, would put an end to all that; so those men who wanted to marry for money would have to be quick—(laughter)—they would have to do it this year, therefore the "money-hunters" would have to be sharp. (Applause.) When she was thinking over those things as she bent o'er the washtub, she wished she could throw over every woman what she saw. Then they would see the importance of politics. She had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Loud applause.)

Mrs. DOWSON put the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Mrs. OSLER, who was heartily received, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting urges every woman elector to ascertain from each candidate for municipal election whether he will, if returned, vote in the Council in support of a petition to Parliament in favour of a law to give women ratepayers the suffrage to Parliamentary elections; and that a petition be signed by the Chairwoman of this meeting in support of Mr. Hugh Mason's resolution, which will extend the Parliamentary franchise to women householders."

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. THORLEY, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Councillor BARLOW, on the invitation of the President, then addressed the meeting; after which Mrs. SCATCHERD moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Dowson for presiding.

Mrs. TWEEDALE seconded the vote of thanks, which was heartily responded to.

Mrs. Dowson having briefly responded, the meeting terminated.

MANCHESTER.

CHEETHAM WARD.—A meeting of lady electors of this ward was held on October 23rd, in the Victoria Hall, Bignor-street. There was a numerous attendance. The chair was taken by the Rev. F. Moore. Mr. Holt then addressed the meeting, referring to the various items in his address, and particularly to the supply of water for baths in the smaller kind of houses, which, in his opinion, ought to be furnished by the Corporation at a nominal cost. Resolutions were passed approving of Mr. Holt as a fit and proper person to represent the ward in the City Council, and pledging those present to use their utmost endeavours to bring the contest to a successful issue.—Mr. W. H. Crossland, Mr. E. Sowerbutts, Mr. F. Royle, Mr. C. Hall, Mr. T. W. Hope, and Mr. Robert Smith also addressed the meeting.

Another meeting of women electors and other women was held in Cheetham Town Hall, on October 25th, Alderman George Booth in the chair. The chairman said there were 700 women electors on the citizen roll of Cheetham Ward, about one-

fifth of the whole number; therefore he thought it only right they should have a meeting. Miss Becker then delivered an address, after which the candidates, Mr. Councillor Croston and Mr. Holt, spoke to the electors present. A vote was afterwards taken of the supporters of each candidate, the result being in favour of Mr. Holt. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Miss Becker and to the chairman.

ALL SAINTS' WARD.—A meeting of the women electors in this ward was held on October 25th, in the Chorlton Town Hall, to hear an address from Miss Becker and the two candidates for municipal honours—Mr. Ryder and Mr. Roberts. Mr. Little occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. After Miss Becker had spoken on the importance of women exercising the franchise with care and intelligence, Mr. Ryder delivered an effective address, disposing of the taunts and charges brought against him by his opponent. Mr. Roberts was not then present, but the chairman asked for a show of hands in his favour. Only a few persons responded to the appeal. For Mr. Ryder a majority of those present lifted their hands. Mr. Roberts afterwards attended and addressed the electors present, after which votes of thanks to Miss Becker and to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

SANDHURST.

On October 16th, a meeting was held in the Working Women's Club, instituted by Mrs. Savile at the Stores, Sandhurst. It was, in spite of the rain which had fallen heavily all day and flooded the roads, attended by several of the members, accompanied by their husbands; and after addresses had been given by Miss Becker, Miss C. A. Biggs, and Miss Stapoole, the ladies who attended from London, a petition to Parliament was signed on behalf of the meeting.

YORKTOWN.

A numerously-attended meeting was held on October 17th at the National Schoolroom, Yorktown, which had been kindly granted for the purpose by the vicar, the Rev. F. M. Middleton. Major Savile presided, and introduced the deputation, consisting of Miss Becker, Miss Biggs, and Miss L. Stapoole. After these ladies had spoken, and a resolution had been unanimously passed to petition Parliament to pass a measure for women's suffrage, the vote of thanks to Major Savile, for his exertions in summoning and presiding over the meeting, was proposed by the Rev. Mr. Middleton, and carried with acclamation.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

TEKELS CASTLE.

On October 16th, a drawing-room meeting was held, by the kindness of Colonel and Mrs. Byrne, at Tekels Castle, near Frimley. Mrs. Byrne presided, and opened the meeting with a few earnest and well-chosen words. Addresses were delivered by Miss Becker, Miss Biggs, and Miss Stapoole, and a petition in favour of women's suffrage was adopted, and signed by Mrs. Byrne on behalf of the meeting.

SANDHURST.

On October 17th, a numerous and influentially attended meeting took place at Government House, Sandhurst. General Napier presided, and many of the officers attached to the College, and gentlemen and ladies resident in the neighbourhood, were present. After the objects of the National Society had been explained by Miss Becker, Miss Stapoole, and Miss Biggs, the usual resolutions and votes of thanks were very heartily proposed and carried.

LECTURES.

NOTTINGHAM.

On October 19th Mr. H. Stanger, barrister-at-law, delivered one of a series of lectures, which are being arranged in the different wards by the Liberal party. Mr. Stanger's subject was "Women's Rights," with special reference to the Parliamentary franchise being given to women.

Mr. Councillor LOVERSEED occupied the chair, and, in introducing the lecturer, said he was in favour of the franchise being given to the ladies, because he believed they would exercise it in an upright and faithful manner. He should be very pleased to see ladies as members of the Board of Guardians, because they would be very useful in inquiring into certain cases, and he believed their influence

would be for good. He hoped the time was not far distant when those ladies who paid rates would vote at Parliamentary elections as they did at municipal contests.

Mr. STANGER, after expressing his concurrence in what had fallen from the chairman as to the desirability of ladies having seats at Boards of Guardians, contended that it was an injustice that Parliament ought to remedy, and a source of mischief to the community to deny a woman a vote because she was a woman. If it were admitted that taxation without representation was tyranny, and that taxation ought to go hand in hand with representation, they had at once a *prima facie* case in favour of the women's Parliamentary suffrage. He then dealt with the several objections raised to this right being granted. He must say, however, that all these objections came late in the day, because if it was wrong to give a woman the Parliamentary vote it was equally wrong to give her a vote for municipal matters, and to allow her to sit on School Boards. He admitted that this was not a party question, and that they had been indebted to a considerable extent to their Conservative friends, but at the same time he did not see how any man who professed to be a thorough Liberal, and who believed that taxation should go with representation, could refuse his support to this movement. (Cheers.) He observed that Mr. Fawcett, a member of the Government, had recently spoken out on this matter, and the time was not far distant when this measure of justice would be granted.

Mr. Councillor BENNETT proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Stanger for his able and interesting lecture.

Mr. Councillor LEES (Byron Ward) seconded, and said he quite supported the principle of women who paid rates having votes. He also coincided with the chairman's remarks as to the desirability of having women members of the Board of Guardians.

Mr. DALY, of Birmingham, supported the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. STANGER acknowledged the vote, and proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and expressed a hope that as Mr. Loverseed had been their wise councillor in the past, he would continue so in the future. (Applause.)

Mr. Councillor PALMER seconded the motion, which was carried, and Mr. Loverseed, in reply, said he was always very glad to make himself useful to his friends in the ward.

The meeting then terminated.

TOTTINGTON.

On October 25th, Miss Becker lectured on behalf of the National Reform Union on the claim of women to the Parliamentary franchise in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Tottington, near Bury, Lancashire. The chair was occupied by Dr. Wormald. There was a large attendance, and the address was very cordially received. Resolutions, expressing support of the claim and thanks to the lecturer, were moved and supported by Mr. Thomas Holt, Mr. Councillor Horridge, and Mr. Knowles, and unanimously adopted. Mr. Beswicke moved, and Mr. Yates seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

LISKEARD.

A lecture, in connection with the Liskeard Working Men's Liberal Association, was delivered in the Temperance Hall, Liskeard, on October 30th, by Miss Helen Blackburn, of the Bristol and West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. The subject was "What the Reform Act has done for Women."

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE IN AMERICA.—The National Woman's Suffrage Convention has met in Omaha this year. Resolutions were adopted declaring it the paramount duty of Congress to submit a sixteenth amendment to the Constitution establishing woman suffrage; declaring that "the action of the State Convention of the Republicans in Kansas and Indiana, the Democrats in Massachusetts, and the Prohibitionists in Chicago, indicates a recognition of the strength of our platform and the near approach of the full recognition of woman's political rights; that it is the duty of the Legislatures of Iowa, Oregon, and Indiana to ratify the proposed woman suffrage amendments, and that the enlargement of woman's political freedom in Ireland, Scotland, India, and Russia are encouraging signs."

ORIGIN OF THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY AGITATION.

The beginning of the movement for the amendment of the laws relating to the property of married women is a subject of great interest at a time when complete success has crowned the efforts of the promoters of a change in the law. The earliest authentic documents we have been able to obtain relate to the movement in 1855. A committee of ladies was then formed, of which Mary Howitt was secretary. A circular in the following terms was addressed to ladies in many parts of the country:—

"The Hermitage, Highgate Rise.

"Madam,—The enclosed explains itself, and will, I trust, so far meet the approbation of yourself and your husband as to induce you to give your name and support.

"It originates with a number of ladies who, having seen, as all have done, more or less, the unjust operation of the laws with regard to women and their property, are anxious to turn the attention of thinking men, and especially of the Legislature, to the subject. I have been requested to act as temporary secretary, and as it is intended to present the petition early this session your prompt reply will oblige.—Yours faithfully,

"MARY HOWITT."

Petition forms to both Houses of Parliament were enclosed. Many forms seem to have been circulated for signature, all setting forth in great detail the hardship—the prayer of them all being similar—to the effect that Parliament would take the allegation under consideration, and apply such remedy as to its wisdom shall see fit.

The following is a copy of a petition of inhabitants of Liverpool, representing the character of the petitions circulated at that period:—

Presented by Mr. Joseph Ewart, who was then one of the members for Liverpool, in April, 1856.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

"The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of Liverpool
[5,914 signatures]

"Humbly Sheweth,—That your Petitioners fully recognise those essential principles which give to all the members of civilised society liberty of action, and security in the inviolable possession of the fruits of their industry.

"That the existing law of this country, which gives to the husband, under ordinary circumstances, the entire control over the wife's property and earnings, is a violation of those principles, and is manifestly unjust.

"That the power thus conferred on the husband is frequently abused by the selfish and profligate; the law thus tacitly encouraging that violence and brutality which is of so frequent occurrence, and which is such a disgrace to our age and country.

"That, by the operation or silence of the law, the power of the industrious and prudent wife to support and educate her children, when these duties are neglected by the idle and dissolute husband, is seriously impaired or rendered impossible; thus extending the injury sustained by the wife to the hapless children, who are too often brought up in pauperism, ignorance, and crime.

"That the law with respect to settlements and trusteeships, by which women possessing property can in some cases imperfectly protect themselves, is too complicated and expensive to be available to the poor, for whose earnings the law provides no protection, and upon whom the evil falls in unmitigated severity.

"That the altered circumstances of modern society have afforded to women many new sources of honourable self-support, in literature, art, and manufactures, of which they have largely availed themselves; that great interests have thus arisen, which it is full time should be recognised and adequately protected by the State.

"That the political disqualification of women, in a country which boasts that all are equal before the law, should make the British Legislature especially anxious to improve her condition, and jealously to protect her civil and social rights.

"That the condition of woman, and her individual rights, have been considered, and legally protected, in the United States of America, and other countries, and with the best effects.

"Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable

House will be pleased to take into your earnest and immediate consideration the condition of women in this country; and also cause enquiry to be made as to the condition of women, and the laws respecting them, in other countries; and promote such legislation as, in the wisdom of your Honourable House, you may deem fit to remedy the grievances of which your Petitioners complain.—And your Petitioners, &c."

The same petition was used for Bebington (which includes Rock Ferry and Tranmere). This had 982 signatures. A petition was also sent from Birkenhead.

PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY OF THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY LEGISLATION.

(Continued from page 155.)

The scene now shifts to the debates in the House of Lords on the Divorce Bill. In Committee on May 25th, 1857, Lord St. Leonards moved the insertion of a clause to provide for a wife's earnings and property becoming her own after a period of one year from being deserted by her husband, by making it lawful for her to apply to any justice of the peace, who should be empowered to make an order for the protection of such property and earnings.

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Cranworth) said it was extremely difficult to make a provision in these cases which would not lead to greater evils than it was sought to remedy. He did not think it would be well to take away the conjugal rights of the husband until a divorce had been obtained. The repeated application to a justice for the reversal of the order would swallow up in costs the whole of the wife's earnings, and lead to difficulties which would render the whole law delusive.

Lord St. Leonards said he did not see where the difficulties could arise. This clause did not go anything like the length of the Bill which had been introduced in the other House, which would, in fact, give a wife all the attested rights of citizenship. He believed that measure to be a most mischievous one, and he proposed his amendment as going as far as was desirable; and so prevent a greater evil.

Lord Campbell said the object of the amendment was most meritorious, but he believed it would not work any good, while it would produce the greatest confusion.

The Bishop of Oxford said he should support the amendment because it would give the woman protection for her earnings without driving her to the courts to seek divorce.

The Earl of Harrowby thought the amendment insufficient, as it only gave protection for one year. The debate was continued by the Bishop of St. David's, Lord St. Leonards, the Earl of Derby, Earl Granville, the Earl of Wicklow, the Lord Chancellor. Ultimately Lord St. Leonards assented to make certain alterations, and the clause as amended provided that where a wife is deserted by her husband for one year, and is maintaining herself by her own lawful industry, she might make an application to any justice of the peace, who should be empowered to make any order protecting her property and earnings for a period of six months, and any such wife should be at liberty to apply for a renewal at the expiration of the former order.

On the question whether the clause should be inserted, their lordships divided, when there appeared—Contents, 52; Non-Contents, 44; majority for the clause, 8.

The Divorce Bill came down from the Lords after the second reading of Sir Erskine Perry's Bill had been carried in the House of Commons.

On August 7th, on clause 17 (Protection of a wife's earnings when deserted by her husband), Sir Erskine Perry moved the omission of the words "deserted by her husband." He said the clause now before them gave protection for the property of a wife when she was deserted by her husband "for one year or upwards," but if the husband came down on the unfortunate wife at the end of eleven months she would have no protection whatever. Under this provision a man might come upon his wife every eleven months and sweep away all she had. Mr. Hardy opposed the amendment.

Sir Erskine Perry said he had received a letter from a Liverpool magistrate to the effect that wretched women were daily coming before him stating that they could support themselves and their children if only protected from their husbands, who made a practice of seizing and selling whatever property they acquired.

Mr. Malins said nothing could be more monstrous than the proposal of the hon. member for Devonport (Sir Erskine Perry), and he hoped the House would not sanction it for a moment.

The Attorney-General (Sir A. E. Cockburn) said the proposal would affirm that the profits of a wife's industry, even when she was living with her husband, should be set apart for her separate use. This would open a door to endless confusion, and he hoped it would be withdrawn.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Drummond moved to insert the words, "or has been cruelly treated," the effect of which would be to extend the remedy to the wife not only in cases of desertion but in cases of ill-treatment.

The Attorney-General opposed the amendment, which was negatived.

Sir John Buller moved an amendment, providing that the application should be made to two justices in petty sessions instead of to one justice only.

The Attorney-General said the clause was not in the Bill as originally introduced by the Government, but a noble and learned lord (Lord St. Leonards), from motives of benevolence, was desirous to introduce into this country a practice which prevails in France, where a wife who had been deserted or cruelly beaten by her husband could apply to a magistrate, even of the lowest class, and obtain an order to protect her earnings against her husband. He should be very glad if he could see his way to a certain, ready, and economical mode of giving wives in the humblest class this description of protection; but he was afraid that the clause as it at present stood would be most mischievous. He should therefore recommend hon. members to agree to the motion of the right hon. gentleman the member for Oxfordshire (Mr. Henley) for its rejection.

Mr. Henley said he was very desirous of framing some clause that would carry out the object, but to amend this clause was impossible.

Mr. Ayrton spoke on the clause, and Mr. Bowker Blakemore said he must strongly urge both the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General to apply their powerful minds to the discovery of some practical remedy for this scandal to our legislation.

After further debate, in which Mr. Napier, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Henley took part, the Attorney-General promised to frame a new clause on the subject. Sir Erskine Perry accepted the assurance as satisfactory, and the original clause was negatived.

On August 20, 1857, the Attorney-General proposed a clause to enable a wife deserted by her husband to apply to a police magistrate or justice of petty sessions for protection.

Mr. Macaulay said he wished to have some further explanation as to the remedy which the wife would have under the Bill for the loss she might sustain by the husband disobeying the order and making an incursion upon her home.

The Attorney-General said the husband would be in exactly the same position as a stranger who entered the house of the wife and took away her property. There would be a remedy under the criminal law against him.

Mr. Henley and Mr. Adams spoke on the legal question, and after some further discussion the clause was adopted.

The clause passed into law in the following form. This remained up to 1870 the sole protection to any particle of property which the law allowed to married women. This protection was extended only to women deserted by their husbands; it gave no redress in the far more frequent and cruel cases of wives whose husbands remained to prey upon the earnings of their wives, while ill-treating and neglecting to provide for them.

THE DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT, 1857.

20 & 21 VICT. c. 85.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in England. [28th August, 1857.]

21. A wife deserted by her husband may at any time after such desertion, if resident within the metropolitan district, apply to a police magistrate, or, if resident in the country, to justices in petty sessions, or in either case to the Court, for an order to protect any money or property she may acquire by her own lawful industry, and property which she may become possessed of, after such desertion, against her husband or his creditors, or any person claiming under him; and such magistrate or justices or Court, if satisfied of the fact of such desertion, and that the same was without reasonable cause, and

that the wife is maintaining herself by her own industry or property, may make and give to the wife an order protecting her earnings and property acquired since the commencement of such desertion, from her husband and all creditors and persons claiming under him, and such earnings and property shall belong to the wife as if she were a feme sole: Provided always that every such order, if made by a police magistrate or justices at petty sessions, shall, within ten days after the making thereof, be entered with the Registrar of the County Court within whose jurisdiction the wife is resident; and that it shall be lawful for the husband, and any creditor or other persons claiming under him to apply to the Court, or to the magistrate or justices, by whom such order was made for the discharge thereof: provided also, that if the husband or any creditor or person claiming under the husband shall seize or continue to hold any property of the wife after notice of any such order, he shall be liable at the suit of the wife (which she is hereby empowered to bring) to restore the specific property, and also for a sum equal to double the value of the property so seized or held after such notice as aforesaid. If any such order of protection be made, the wife shall during the continuance thereof be and be deemed to have been, during such desertion of her, in the like position in all respects with regard to property and contracts, and suing and being sued, as she would be under this Act if she obtained a decree of judicial separation.

25. In every case of a judicial separation, the wife shall, from the date of the sentence, and whilst the separation shall continue, be considered as a feme sole with respect to property of every description which she may acquire or which may come to or devolve upon her; and such property may be disposed of by her in all respects as a feme sole, and on her decease the same shall, in case she shall die intestate, go as the same would have gone if her husband had been then dead: Provided that if any such wife should again cohabit with her husband, all such property as she may be entitled to when such cohabitation shall take place shall be held to her separate use, subject, however, to any agreement in writing made between herself and her husband whilst separate.

26. In every case of a judicial separation, the wife shall, whilst so separated, be considered as a feme sole for the purposes of contract, and wrongs and injuries, and suing and being sued in any civil proceedings; and her husband shall not be liable in respect of any engagement or contract she may have entered into, or for any wrongful act or omission by her, or for any costs she may incur as plaintiff or defendant: Provided, that where upon any such judicial separation alimony has been decreed or ordered to be paid to the wife, and the same shall not be duly paid by the husband, he shall be liable for necessities supplied for her use: Provided also, that nothing shall prevent the wife from joining, at any time during such separation, in the exercise of any joint power given to herself and her husband.

The passing of this clause seems to have had the effect of arresting the further progress in the amelioration of the law. The promoters of the movement which led to the introduction of Sir Erskine Perry's Bill appear to have given up the enterprise in despair, for we cannot suppose that they were contented with the miserable instalment of justice provided by the clause in the Divorce Act. But in those days there was no organised movement for obtaining the political franchise for women, and no publication devoted to the discussion of questions affecting their interests. The *Englishwoman's Journal*, the precursor of the *Englishwoman's Review*, was not then started, and the agitation seemed to suffer so complete a collapse that the memory of the earlier effort was well nigh blotted out when the time arrived for a fresh attempt to be set on foot on the original lines. The sole surviving link between the earlier and the later promoters of a change in the law seems to be found in the Law Amendment Society, since incorporated with the Social Science Association. It was in connection with this earlier body that the second and successful organisation was begun.

The following particulars are mainly compiled, with some alterations and abridgments, from an article in the *Englishwoman's Review* for December, 1881.

In 1867, at the time of the Belfast Congress of the Social Science Association, a Memorial promoted by four ladies, Mrs. Josephine Butler, Miss Jessie Boucherett, Mrs. Gloyd, and Miss Wolstenholme, and supported by numerous and influential signatures, was presented to the council, calling their attention to the harshness and injustice of the law of England and Ireland with regard to the property, earnings, and maintenance of married women.

The memorial was favourably received by the council, who referred to the Personal Laws Committee the consideration of the law of property as it affects married women.

This committee, after carefully enquiring into the state of the law, both as administered by Courts of Law and Courts of Equity, and also examining the legislation of other European countries, and of the United States, on the subject, submitted a report, in which they suggested the following heads of new law of property as to married women:—

1. The common law rule which makes marriage a gift of all the woman's personal property to the husband to be repealed. 2. Power in a married woman to hold separate property by law as she now may in equity. 3. A woman marrying without any ante-nuptial contract, to retain her property and after acquisitions and earnings as if she were a *feme sole*. 4. A married woman, having separate property, to be liable on her separate contracts, whether made before or after marriage. 5. A husband not to be liable for the ante-nuptial debts of his wife any further than any property brought to him by his wife under settlement extends. 6. A married woman to have the power of making a will; and on her death intestate, the principles of the Statute of Distributions as to her husband's personalty *mutatis mutandis* to apply to the property of the wife. 7. The rights of succession between husband and wife, whether as to real or personal estate, to curtesy or dower, to be framed on principles of equal justice to each party.

Upon these suggestions a Bill was carefully drafted, and introduced into the House of Commons, in the session of 1868, by Mr. Shaw Lefevre, with whose name on the back of the Bill were associated those of Mr. Russell Gurney and Mr. John Stuart Mill.

The Bill opened by declaring in its preamble that "the Law of Property and Contract with respect to Married Women is unjust in principle."

It came on for second reading on the 10th of June, and a division being challenged by Mr. Lopes, the Ayes were 123, and the Noes 123. "And the numbers being equal Mr. Speaker stated that he should follow the wise rule usually adopted in similar cases, by giving the House a further opportunity of considering the merits of the Bill at a future stage, and accordingly he declared himself with the Ayes."

The Bill was thereupon read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee, including the following gentlemen:—Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. Solicitor-General (Sir C. J. Selwyn), Mr. Lowe, Mr. Russell Gurney, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Baggallay, Mr. John Simeon, Mr. Beach, Sir Colman O'Loughlin, Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Goldney, Mr. Baines, Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Mr. Powell.

The Committee carefully considered the subject, took most important evidence, and, on the 17th of July, the session being too far advanced for the further progress of the Bill, that year submitted to the House their report, together with the minutes of evidence.

Between the sessions of 1868 and 1869 came a general election, in consequence of which, Mr. J. S. Mill being no longer in the House of Commons, and Mr. Shaw Lefevre having taken office in Mr. Gladstone's first administration, the Married Women's Property Bill was introduced by Mr. Russell Gurney, with whom were now associated Mr. Headlam and Mr. Jacob Bright. The Bill passed the second reading in the House of Commons on Wednesday, April 14th, without a division. It was again referred to a Select Committee, to whom the report made from the Select Committee of the previous session was also referred. The Committee of this session consisted of Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Lowe), Mr. Cross, Mr. Solicitor-General (Sir J. D. Coleridge), Mr. Amplett, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Scourfield, Mr. Lefevre, Mr. Lopes, Sir John Simeon, Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Jessel, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Dowse, and Mr. Russell Gurney.

This Committee did not take evidence, but went through the Bill, and on the 13th of May reported it, as amended to the House.

Of the amendments introduced, the only one which seriously limited the application of the principle of the Bill was the amendment restricting the power of a married woman to dispose of her real estate during her lifetime, except with the consent of her husband.

Mr. Raikes now put down notice of opposition, and was so far successful as to delay the third reading of the Bill to the 21st of July, when it was carried by 131 votes against 33. The Bill was presented to the House of Lords by Lord Penzance, and passed the second reading without a division, but as the session was already

so near its close the Peers refused to proceed further with a measure which had not before received their consideration, and the labour and time which had been expended upon it in the House of Commons were for the session thrown away.

In 1870, Mr. Russell Gurney again introduced the Bill.

A rival Bill, entitled a Bill to protect the property of Married Women, was introduced by Mr. Raikes, Mr. Stavely Hill, and Mr. West. This Bill proposed to make every husband a trustee for his wife, but he was not to be allowed to sell the property or invest the trust money even with the full sanction of the wife without the consent of a County Court Judge. As to earnings, the Bill provided that a judge should have power to protect a wife's earnings, provided she could show that for the six months previous to the application she had earned more than half the expenses of the family.

Both Bills stood for second reading on May 18th, 1870. Mr. Gurney's Bill came on first, and the debate on both Bills was taken on this. Mr. Raikes did not oppose Mr. Russell Gurney's Bill, but he pressed the House to allow both Bills to be read a second time, and refer both to a Select Committee; but the House marked its sense of the incompatibility of principle of the two Bills in the most emphatic manner. Mr. Gurney's Bill was read a second time without a division. Then the question was put in regard to Mr. Raikes's Bill. This was rejected, on the motion of Mr. Jacob Bright, by 208 votes to 46, a majority against the Bill of 162.

Mr. Gurney's Bill was introduced in the Lords by Lord Cairns who was understood to be heartily in favour of the principle of the measure. Other law lords showed themselves less tolerant of the proposed changes. The second reading of the Bill was taken on the 21st of June, when some of these Peers, including Lord Penzance, who had introduced the Bill in the previous year, and Lord Westbury, made speeches against the principle of the measure.

The Bill was, however, read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following peers, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Airlie, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Morley, the Earl of Lichfield, the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Lord Dynevor, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Clanciboye, Lord Westbury, Lord Romilly, Lord Cairns, Lord Penzance, and the Lord President.

This Committee dealt with the Bill after the most trenchant fashion. They struck out of the Bill fourteen clauses, inserted eleven new ones, modified four others, and only left intact the two formal clauses which gave the short title of the measure, and provided that it should not extend to Scotland. Nor was the change one of form merely, but of substance. The vital principle of the Bill—the abrogation of the Common Law rule which vested the property rights of the wife in the husband—was abandoned. But an exception was made to the operation of this rule in the case of the wages and earnings of any married woman acquired or gained by her after the passing of the Act, and any money or property so acquired by her through the exercise of any literary, artistic, or scientific skill. Such property was declared to be property held and settled to her separate use. The same protection was extended, in the case of wives married after the passing of the Act, to property under £200 in value to which such wives should become entitled under any deed or will, and to all property to any amount to which such wives should become entitled as bearers or next-of-kin to a person dying intestate.

The Act further imposed upon a wife possessed of separate property, the same Poor-Law liability for the maintenance of her husband which the husband was subject to for the maintenance of his wife, and further made her liable, like a widow, for the maintenance of her children, though not to the exclusion of the liability of her husband.

The Act contained several other provisions of minor importance, many of which are retained or re-enacted in the new Act, while others which have now become unnecessary are repealed.

Enough has been said to show how miserably defective was the measure which the Peers substituted for the reasonable and just measure, which had, after three years of consideration and discussion, received the decisive approval of the House of Commons.

Unfortunately, just at the time at which the Commons were called upon to consider the Lords' amendments, the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war made the whole political outlook uncertain. The promoters of the measure did not, therefore, venture as they probably would otherwise have done to ask the House to reject the

Lords' amendments and postpone the Bill for another session. They felt that under the circumstances they dared not take the responsibility of indefinitely prolonging the injustice suffered by the million or more of married women earning wages, to whom the Bill, even as mutilated by the Lords, did offer effectual relief. The Lords' amendments were therefore agreed to, though not without a vigorous protest, and the Bill received the Royal Assent on the 9th of August, 1870, coming at once into operation.

Three years elapsed before any further attempt was made to effect the desired improvement in the law in the direction of obtaining the assent of the Legislature to a Bill embodying the principles contended for by the promoters of the original Bill. But the promoters never lost sight of their object, and as soon as the time seemed ripe another Parliamentary effort was made to pass a Bill.

In 1873, Mr. Hinde Palmer, assisted by Mr. Amplett, Mr. Osborne Morgan, and Mr. Jacob Bright, introduced a Bill for the further amendment of the law, which measure was read a second time on the 19th of February. On the 21st, Mr. Lopes gave notice that, on going into Committee, he would move the rejection of the Bill, and on the same day, for which the Bill stood for Committee, there was a "count-out" before the Bill was reached. On March 4th, a few minutes before the Bill was reached, the House agreed that no opposed business should be discussed after half-past twelve o'clock, and the Bill had, therefore, to be again postponed. This rule, now so well known as the half-past twelve o'clock rule, was at that time only a sessional order, expiring with the session; but on the 18th February, 1879, it was made a standing order of the House. The Parliamentary history of the Bill that session may be summed up as follows:—

"Read a second time: February 19th.

"Counted out: February 21st, March 20th and 25th, April 4th, May 2nd, and June 24th.

"Progress reported: March 28th, April 25th, and May 5th.

"Postponed because of the half-past twelve o'clock rule: March 4th, 11th, and 21st; April 7th, 21st, and 22nd; May 9th, 23rd, and 26th; June 5th and 13th; and July 15th, 22nd, 24th, and 28th.

"Other postponements: March 13th (ministerial crisis); Wednesdays, May 14th and 21st, June 25th, July 23rd, and August 1st."

In consequence of these repeated delays, the Bill only succeeded in passing through Committee late in the session, and was awaiting the stage of Report, when the close of the session compelled Mr. Hinde Palmer to withdraw it. But in doing so, he gave notice of his intention to introduce the Bill early in the next session.

The general election of 1874, however, intervened, and Mr. Hinde Palmer was not returned to the new House of Commons. Besides this loss, some eighty-four other members who had, in 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1873, most steadily supported this amendment of the law, were no longer in the House, whilst the opponents of such legislation were in strong force.

Under these circumstances, the Parliamentary friends of this reform held it inexpedient to attempt the introduction of a Bill, and the matter stood over till 1877.

Meantime an amending Act was rendered necessary by a curious blunder made by the Lords in their attempts to fit in their amendments with the few fragments they retained of the original Bill sent them from the Commons. The 12th Section of the Act provided that a husband should not become liable by marriage for his wife's pre-nuptial debts. In the original Bill this clause was balanced and rendered necessary by the clause declaring that a wife's property should be her own, and that she should be liable to be sued for her own debts. But the Lords struck out the clauses giving to the wife her own property and liabilities, while retaining the clause freeing the husband from his wife's debts. Hence it sometimes happened, after 1870, that when a man married a woman possessing property, the pair would enjoy the property free from liability and set her former creditors at defiance. She could not be sued, for she had no separate assets, he could not be sued, for the Act had exempted him.

The Legislature found it necessary to amend its work. Accordingly, the "Married Women's Property Act (1870) Amendment Act (1874)" (37 and 38 Vic. c. 50) was passed. This provided that any husband married after its enactment might be sued with his wife for her pre-nuptial debts, breaches of contract, and torts, but it limited his liability to the real and personal estate that the wife had brought him.

English law thus maintains, and long into the twentieth century

will maintain three separate rules as to the liability of husbands for the pre-nuptial debts of their wives.

- (a) Those married before August 9th, 1870, are under a general personal responsibility.
(b) Those married on or after August 9th, 1870, but before July 30th, 1874, are entirely exempt.
(c) Those married on or after July 30th, 1874, are under a limited liability.

The Act of 1874 was, in a certain sense, a retrograde measure, since it provided, not that the wife should be liable and might be proceeded against just as though unmarried, and should keep her own property to discharge her own debts; but, refusing to recognise an independent legal existence in the wife, it provided that the husband and wife might be sued jointly, whilst it guarded the husband's interests by limiting his liability.

In 1877, Lord Coleridge introduced in the House of Lords a Married Women's Property Act Amendment Bill, substantially the same with Mr. Hinde Palmer's Bill, as amended in Committee. On the 21st of June, 1877, Lord Coleridge moved the second reading of the Bill in an admirable speech, but was opposed by the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Cairns, who—on the 21st of June, 1870—had moved the second reading of Mr. Russell Gurney's Bill. Lord Coleridge's Bill was, upon the opposition of the Lord Chancellor, negatived without a division.

Lord Coleridge then advised that the Bill should not again be presented to the House of Lords before it had been submitted to the House of Commons and obtained the decisive support of the Lower House. Accordingly, in the session of 1878, Mr. Hibbert re-introduced the Bill in the House of Commons, but as he could not secure an earlier day for the second reading than the 24th of July, before which date the Government had taken the remainder of the session, the Bill was lost for the time.

When Parliament was suddenly summoned in December, 1878, Mr. Hibbert was unavoidably absent from England, and could not introduce the Bill. At the re-assembling of Parliament after Christmas, it was found that every available private members' day was filled up, and that it would therefore be impossible to secure a discussion on the Bill itself. Mr. Hibbert thereupon determined to take the sense of the House on a resolution in favour of this amendment of the law. But no opportunity for discussion could be found till July 18th, and it was then lost, owing to the earnest appeal of the Government to be allowed to proceed with the Army Discipline Regulation Bill.

On Friday, the 6th of February, 1880, Mr. Hibbert again introduced his Bill, and the second reading was fixed for the 9th of June.

But before this date Parliament was dissolved, and the general election took place with a result which materially improved the prospects of the measure, although it necessitated a change in the leadership.

Mr. Hibbert, who had had charge of the Bill for three sessions, with Mr. Osborne Morgan, and Sir Charles Dilke as his coadjutors, all accepted office in the new Administration under Mr. Gladstone. Mr. J. Hinde Palmer, who was returned again for Lincoln, therefore undertook the work interrupted by his temporary absence from Parliament, and on the 24th of May introduced the Married Women's Property Acts Consolidation Bill, the other names on the back of the Bill being those of Sir Gabriel Goldney, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Mr. Watkin Williams.

The Bill was read a second time, without a division, on the 16th of June, the only speech directed against the principle of the measure being that of Mr. Warton, who, nevertheless, admitted that "it would be hopeless, in the present feeling of the House, to think of dividing against the Bill." But in spite of this success, and in spite of the decisive feeling of the House in favour of the measure, it went no further that year, Sir George Campbell having at once put down a notice of opposition, which, under the half-past twelve o'clock rule, and with the pressure of other business in that short session, was fatal to its progress.

In 1881 the measure was again introduced by Mr. Hinde Palmer, Sir Gabriel Goldney, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Mr. Horace Davey also putting their names on the Bill. It was read a second time on the 13th of January without a division, and referred to a Select Committee including the following gentlemen: Mr. Bellingham, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Davey, the Attorney-General (Sir H. James), Mr. Grantham, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Hastings, Sir Henry Jackson, Sir Henry Holland, the Judge Advocate-General (Mr.

Osborne Morgan), Mr. Hinde Palmer, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Round, and Mr. Schreiber. On the appointment to a judgeship of Sir Henry Jackson, his place on the Committee was taken by Mr. Shaw Lefevre.

The Committee carefully considered the Bill, improved it materially in form, but cordially accepted and affirmed its main principle—that a woman's right to her own property ought to remain unaffected by her marriage.

They reported the Bill, as amended, to the House on the 10th of March.

As soon as the Bill was reported to the House on the 10th of March, Mr. Warton put down notice of opposition. This notice, under the conditions of the public business of the session, which effectually precluded the consideration of the measure at any time to which the "block" would not apply, defeated the Bill for the time as effectually as though a majority of the House had voted against it.

Again and again it stood amongst the orders of the day only to be again postponed, till on the 15th of August, Mr. Hinde Palmer, being hopeless of further progress, withdrew the Bill, giving notice of his intention to re-introduce it as early as possible next session.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—Will you kindly advise in your next issue how an executor of an estate can secure to a married woman her share which was not stated in the will to be absolutely at her disposal. The testator died in 1881, leaving a legacy and share of remainder of estate to a married daughter. The legacy has been paid over, but the estate is not yet closed. The husband is willing to have the legacy and share of estate secured to his wife. The husband is perfectly solvent, and is not or likely to be in business on his own account, but does not wish publicity.—I enclose my card.

Liverpool, 14th September, 1882. Z.

[We have submitted the question to an eminent legal authority, who replies as follows: "In this case the only way to make the property safe against the husband's creditors would be to apply to the court for a settlement on the wife. This could not be done as to any property which the executor has already paid to the husband. But if the husband is in good circumstances, and not engaged in trade, it would be quite sufficient to invest the money in the wife's name; whether after the Act comes into operation or before would make no difference. This would be valid in all circumstances against the husband, but not against his creditors. It is advisable, in order to make the husband's intention quite clear, that he should sign and give to his wife some such declaration as the following:—'I, A. B., do hereby declare that I have invested all the property coming to my wife, C. D., or to me in her right under the will of D. E., deceased, in the name of the said C. D., to the intent that she may hold the same as her separate property, independent of my control, debts, or engagements. (Signed) A. B.' The effect of such a declaration, combined with the investment (not alone) in the wife's name, will prevent the husband, or his representatives, at any time from claiming the property. The above declaration should be signed after or at the time of investment, not before."—Ed. W. S. J.]

WOMEN REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Registrar-General has intimated his approval of the appointment of Miss Evans, daughter of the late Mr. D. H. Evans, as registrar of births and deaths for the Aberystwith district. The Registrar-General had at first declined to confirm her appointment, on the insufficient ground that there are out-stations which have to be attended to in all weathers. Fortunately, the Board of Guardians persevered in their recommendation, and they have been successful in overcoming official prejudice.

WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—At the distribution of prizes at the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, on October 2nd, it was observed that a noteworthy feature of the distribution was the presentation of certificates to the Misses Smith, of the Lancashire and Cheshire Telephonic Exchange, who are the first two young ladies in the kingdom who have gained certificates in the City and Guilds of London Technological examinations.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

The Committee have the honour of inviting their subscribers and friends to meet them at Willis's Rooms, St. James's-street, London, on Saturday, November 18th, when they propose to present their final Report, and to commemorate the passing of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882.

The chair will be taken at half-past two p.m., by the Right Hon. the Lord Coleridge. In forwarding for your information a copy of the Act, the Committee wish to state that during the fifteen years of their existence, from February, 1868, to September, 1882, they have expended not quite £3,000, but they have so carefully administered their small resources as to have had the pleasure of seeing four important measures, promoted by them, placed upon the statute book. These four Acts—the Married Women's Property Act, 1870; the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Act, 1877; the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Act, 1881; and the most important of all, the Married Women's Property Act, 1882—have quietly effected a most just and salutary social revolution.

They desire to remind those who have reaped and will reap the benefits of their labours, that there are still outstanding liabilities to be discharged before the dissolution of the Committee. They do not ask those who have subscribed during the current year—i.e., since the 1st of February, 1882—to renew their contributions, but they ask all friends whose subscriptions would fall due before the end of the year to assist them by forwarding these at once; and they ask the many others, who approve of their work, but who have hitherto given them no financial support, to take this last opportunity of expressing their practical sympathy by such generous contributions as shall pay all the debts, without undue pressure upon those few devoted friends who have so long given not only their money, but their more precious labour, time, and thought.

The Committee will be most grateful to all friends who will kindly forward to the secretary copies of any article appearing in the local newspapers upon the Act.

Cheques and post-office orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Mrs. Ursula M. Bright, Alderley Edge, Cheshire. All other communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, The Low, near Congleton.

RECEIVED.—Three shillings in stamps from "Grateful" towards the fund of the Married Women's Property Committee.

REVIEW.

Remarkable Women as Examples for Girls. By ANN SWAINE. London: Sunday School Association, 37, Norfolk-street, Strand.

This is a very well written and excellent work for girls, which is pleasant reading for all women who like to be reminded of the good deeds of others. It is well adapted for school prizes. The scope of the work is indicated by the following extract from the preface: "Nothing is so encouraging as to see how others have acted in similar relations in life, and the examples of women who have been remarkable for their characters or conversation, or distinguished by their talents, may animate some to follow them, though it may be at a humble distance."

Obituary.

MRS. RATHBONE.—The death is announced, at the advanced age of 92, of Mrs. Rathbone, mother of Mr. William Rathbone, member for Carnarvonshire, and sister of the late Mr. William Rathbone Greg, author of "Enigmas of Life" and other well-known works. Mrs. Rathbone throughout her long life took a warm interest in education, and when Mr. Forster was about introducing the Education Act she forwarded some suggestions, in regard to which Mr. Forster said to Mr. William Rathbone:—"I wish you to know that the suggestions you gave me from your mother were among the most useful and practical suggestions I received during the passage of the Act."

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, OCTOBER, 1882.

Table listing subscribers and donations for October 1882, including names like Miss Ramsbottom, Mrs. John Oldham, Mrs. J. Sidway, etc.

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

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from SEPT. 28 to OCT. 28.

Table listing subscribers and donations for the Central Committee from Sept 28 to Oct 28, including names like Mrs. Ashton Dilke, The Misses Spokes, Mrs. Brown, etc.

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

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from SEPT. 26 to OCT. 21.

Table listing subscribers and donations for Bristol and West of England from Sept 26 to Oct 21, including names like Mrs. Garnett, Mr. Alfred Lusty, Mrs. May, etc.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN AID OF THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AT GLASGOW.

FROM 4TH OCTOBER TILL 25TH OCTOBER.

Table listing subscribers and donations for the Scottish National Demonstration at Glasgow from Oct 4 to Oct 25, including names like Donation from Manchester, Ex-Baillie Burt, National Society, etc.

JESSIE T. GREIG, TREASURER, 237, West Regent-street, Glasgow.

CASH'S EMBROIDERED NAMES, FOR MARKING LINEN.

Any Name can be had in any Type for 6s. 6d. a gross.

SOLD BY DRAPERS AND HOSIERS EVERYWHERE.

DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE.
Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.
FENNINGS' FEVER CURER.
BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose.
TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses.
DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses.
SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses.
DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses.
Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists.
Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps.

SORE THROATS CURED.

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.

EASY TEETHING.

EASY TEETHING.

COUGHS. COLDS. BRONCHITIS.

FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS.
The Best Remedy to Cure all Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.
Sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., with directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.
The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free,) contain three times the quantity of small boxes.
Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

BRONCHITIS CURED.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

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

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

ESTABLISHED 1835.



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

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

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

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

Printed by A. IRELAND & Co., Pall Mall, Manchester, for the Proprietors and Published by Messrs. Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London, and Mr. JOHN HEYWOOD, Manchester.—November 1, 1882.—Entered at Stationers' Hall.