FFRAGE JOURNAL. WOMEN'S ST

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MARCH 1, 1882.

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Contents:

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Women's Rights in Switzerland.
Petitions.
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Bristol and West of England.

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

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

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

Lecture: "Women's Suffrage as an Element in the Progress of Culture."—Miss BLACK-BURN would be glad to give the above Lecture to Schools, or at Drawing-room Meetings, within easy reach of Bristol. Syllabus:—The Province of Culture: its fourfold aspect; its share in national stability: the Relative Positions of Men and Women in the Culture of Greece, Rome, Saxon England, Feudal England; the Present Prospect. Terms on application, 20, Park-street, Bristol.

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

SOUTHAMPTON.—A Public Meeting to consider the claim pay being made on belief sider the claim now being made on behalf of Women Householders to the Parliamentary Franchise will be held in the Philharmonic Hall, Southampton, on Monday Evening, March 20th. The meeting will be addressed by several ladies. Further particulars will be announced in due course.

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

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—

Volume XII. January to December, 1881.

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ell fill fill to	EXECUTIV	VE COMMITTEE.	
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DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

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

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

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

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

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

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN KENT.

A branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage has just been inaugurated under the title of the Bromley, Beckenham, and Shortlands Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. The infant society shows a healthy and encouraging amount of vitality. A series of drawing-room meetings in the neighbourhood is in contemplation, and the first of these is to take place, by invitation of the Rev. C. and Mrs. Green, at the Vicarage, New Beckenham, on March 14th, when Mrs. E. Lynch will read a paper on the question, and Mrs. Ashton Dilke and some local sympathisers with the movement will address the meeting. Great interest in the question has been shown, and much support has been forthcoming since the formation of the committee.

The Bromley, Beckenham, and Shortlands Branch of the society seeks to achieve its object by spreading information on the question in various ways—through the local press; by the gratuitous distri-

THE CALENDAR.

	MARCH, 1882.												
	120	h La	MOON. Rises. Sets. Il Moon, 0h 40m morn: 6 39 5 45 to 4 4 4 5 to 4 5 5 57 to 5 57 to 5 57 to 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5										
ı	1	w	"Women's Suffrage Journal" started 1870.										
	2	Th	"Englishwoman's Journal" (now Review) started 1858.										
1	3	F											
	4	S	New Charter of Lond. Univ. admitting Women to Degrees, 1878.										
ı	5	5	Second Sunday in Lent.										
ı	6	M											
ı	7	T											
	8	W											
ı	. 9	Th	Mrs. Barbauld died 1825, aged 82.										
	10	F											
	11	8											
	12	5	Third Sunday in Lent.										
7	13	M											
	14	T		1									
-	15	W	Peeresses summoned to Attend Parliament by Proxy, 35th Edward III.	dy.									
	16	Th	Manage County and Management	1									
0	17	F	Mrs. Jameson died 1860, aged 85.										
-	18	S	- DEFENSE	ř									
	19	5	Fourth Zunday in Lent.										
-	20	M		-									
0	21	Т	Women Voted for first time in Isle of Man 1831. Rosa Bonheur born 1822.										
	22	W	Anne, Countess of Pembroke, Hereditary Sheriff of Westmore- land, died 1675.										
1	23	Th											
	24	F											
1	25	8	Mrs. Chisholm died 1877.										
	26	e	Fifth Sunday in Lent. Victoria Press established 1860.										
	27	M	Last day for sending in Nominations for Poor-Law Guardians.										
	28	T	S. Theresa born 1515.										
	-29	W	the Money of the Land County of the self and the										
	30	Th	Compatible impatible back to make a market being being being										

bution of pamphlets; by holding meetings for the discussion of the subject; and by promoting petitions to Parliament in favour of men's suffrage, &c.

At the end of the year, half the committee's balance in the treasurer's hands will be handed over to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. HARVEY, 8, Bromley Grove, Shortlands, from whom pamphlets, forms of petition, and all information may

Hon. Treasurer: Miss Isabel Willis, Plaistow, Bromley.

List of Members of the Executive Committee for 1882. Mrs. Harvey, | Mrs. Chater, | Miss Isabel Willinger, | Mrs. E. Lynch, | Miss Isabel Willis, Mrs. Green, Mrs. James Macdonell, with power to add to their number.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

Vol. XIII.-No. 146. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MARCH 1, 1882.

PRICE ONE PENNY. By POST THREE HALFPENCE.

MR. MASON has continued to ballot without intermission on every opportunity, in order to obtain a place for his resolution, but hitherto without success. In reply to the very numerous inquiries we receive as to when the discussion will come on, we can only repeat that the very earliest opportunity to bring the question forward will be seized by our Parliamentary leader; that the date can be known only four weeks beforehand, and that the notice will appear in the report of Parliamentary proceedings in a Wednesday's or Saturday's paper. Meantime we beg them to continue their efforts to promote petitions. It is desirable that as many petitions as possible should be sent on or before the 21st of March, when the question of the franchise for women householders will be brought to the notice of Parliament in connexion with the discussion on Mr. ARNOLD's resolution for extending household suffrage to the counties.

THE discussion of the resolution respecting the county franchise to be brought forward by Mr. ARTHUR ARNOLD on March 21st will afford an opportunity for Parliamentary discussion on the question of including all householders, women as well as men, in the proposed extension of the principle of household suffrage beyond its present limits. Indeed, it might almost seem as if Mr. ARNOLD had raised the question at this time for the very purpose of affording an opportunity for discussing the franchise for women in connection with the franchise for the agricultural labourers. The House of Commons and the Government are already so absolutely pledged to the principle of the extension of household suffrage to the counties, that to call upon the House of Commons to record a formal vote in favour of the principle of a measure to the acceptance of which they are already committed, appears to be a work of supererogation so far as that measure alone is concerned.

But whether or not the opportunity has been intentionally afforded, certain it is that our friends in the House of Commons will not neglect the occasion of bringing forward the question of the franchise for women.

All the reasons which can be adduced in favour of giving votes to labourers in counties apply with equal force to the women ratepayers and taxpayers whose claim for representation is now put forward. Many of the objections raised against the admission of either class are curiously similar, and of these such objections as the want of general education and ignorance of political affairs are much more generally applicable to the unenfranchised county householders than to the disfranchised women. The extension of the county franchise, if limited to men, would admit a very large number of men mostly belonging to the poorest or lowest classes of the community; while the enfranchisement of women owners and occupiers of property would enfranchise one-seventh of the landowners of the county, one-tenth of the farmers of the land, a large proportion of manufacturers, merchants, shopkeepers, the bulk of the school-mistresses, and about one-sixth of all the householders of the towns. Surely these classes, comprising so large a proportion of the property, the intelligence, and the industry of the nation, have at least as good a claim to a share in controlling the expenditure to which they are required to contribute, and to a voice in making the laws they must obey, as the cottagers and small householders whose claim to the Parliamentary suffrage Mr. ARNOLD is about to ask the House of Commons to affirm.

A GREAT demonstration of women in support of the admission to the Parliamentary franchise of women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, took place in the Albert Hall, Sheffield, on Monday, February 27th, under the presidency of Viscountess HARBERTON. The demonstration was in no way inferior in interest and enthusiasm to any of the previous gatherings of women that have been held in Manchester, London, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, and Bradford. The great hall was crowded to overflowing with women of all ranks and conditions of society. Not only was every seat filled, but the gangways were packed with women who remained standing

during the whole of the proceedings, and who, even at the close, seemed reluctant to leave the meeting. The overflow meeting was equally earnest and interested, and the resolutions were passed with unanimity and enthusiasm. The chair was taken precisely at half-past seven by the Viscountess HARBERTON, and the meeting was addressed by Miss Carbutt, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Miss Müller, Mrs. SHEARER, Miss BECKER, Mrs. LUCAS, Miss ELIZA STURGE, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. O. Scatcherd, and Mrs. Cowen.

The preliminary district meetings were all influential, and well attended. The workers engaged in organising the demonstration found the most efficient and willing help from the inhabitants of Sheffield. It is to this ready and hearty support, also to the absence of anything that bore the appearance of opposition or objection to the proposed extension of the franchise, that we may attribute the success of the ladies who were engaged only during the short period of three weeks in organising so many preliminary meetings, and in gathering together so magnificent an assemblage of the representative women

A meeting is fixed for March 20th in Southampton, and on April 24th a great meeting is to be held in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, London.

WE have just received a letter respecting the levy now being exacted from the women ratepayers of Chester for the expenses of the election commission rate. We understand that there is no doubt that the rate is as legal as an Act of Parliament can make it, and that the women must pay. But whether or no it is right is quite another matter. The women ratepayers, who constitute about one-sixth of the whole, might justly claim exemption on the same moral grounds as those on which the University of Oxford claims exemption from their share of the election commission rate at Oxford-namely, that the rate is a fine incurred by the people who constitute the other fivesixths for the abuse of a franchise which they possess and which the women do not share. But as there is no probability that the women will be excused payment of the rate, the only remedy that remains is to admit them to the franchise, and thereby to give them the right and the duty to use their influence in preventing such abuses for the future. The letter is as follows:-

THE CHESTER ELECTION RATE.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

vote, in my own opinion I ought not to suffer, therefore wish for your advice on the matter, seeing it is a matter which concerns so many women.—Trusting you will accept my apology for so troubling you, with much respect, I am, yours faithfully,

MARTHA ANDREWS. February 27, 1882.

Immediate payment is required. CHESTER UNION.

DEMAND NOTE.

TOWNSHIP OF GREAT BOUGHTON.

Mrs. M. ANDREWS.

The Overseers of the Poor demand immediate payment of the Chester Election Commission Expenses Rate made on the 11th day of February, 1882, and of the arrears of former rates as below, now due from you.

Amount of rate at 1s. 1d. in the pound on £12 assessment... £13 0 0

Kindly remit a P. O. O., and oblige, yours, &c. Chas. James Owen, Collector, 5, Derby Place, Hoole.

Particulars of the purposes for which the above rate is made, viz. :-Chester Election Commission Expenses £134 0 For other expenses of the Overseers... 10 0

The above rate is payable on demand, and must be paid forthwith. The ctor is not bound to call more than once.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN AT SHEFFIELD.

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE.

A number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the demonstration of women which was held in the Albert Hall on the 27th February, under the presidency of Viscountess Harberton, in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women ratepayers, met in the Mayor's Parlour on February 14th, to confer as to the best means to promote the success of the demonstration. Mr. Whit-MELL (Government Inspector of Schools) was voted to the chair, and among those present were Mrs. and Miss Langley, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Wilson, the Rev. J. Bailey, Mrs. Woodhouse (Girls' High School), Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. D. T. Ingham, Mrs. Roberts, the Misses Parker, and Mrs. Alice Scatcherd (hon. secretary of the Yorkshire Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage).

Mrs. Scatcherd spoke of the demonstration, and said it was also intended to hold public meetings in the different wards of the town, and one also at Rotherham. She stated that she had not been in any town where she had received a readier response than that Sheffield, and she had been able to secure, without much difficulty, a chairman for each of the meetings. She advocated the holding of drawing-room meetings prior to the intended demonstration, so that they might convert those who differed from them, and thought the movement a wild notion. She also asked that the matter might be brought before mothers' meetings, because it had been found that the movement had been thereby assisted. It had been stated in the House of Commons that women did not want the franchise, so they had been answering this statement by holding demonstrations in various parts of the country. Women could already vote in the election of town councillors and members of school boards, and they thought that women who paid rates should vote in the election of members of Parliament.

A discussion followed, and ultimately arrangements were made for the reception of delegates in connection with the ward meetings, and for bringing the movement forward at some mothers'

DISTRICT MEETINGS. TABERNACLE SCHOOLROOM.

The first of a series of public meetings held for the purpose of promoting the demonstration of women at the Albert Hall, to advocate the granting of the franchise to women who are ratepayers, Madam,—Permit me to request your opinion as to the legality or right of the enclosed tax, which I understand is to pay for the recent bribery investigation in Chester. Seeing that I have no the was a good attendance, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather. The chair was taken by Mr. F. Percy Rawson, and

upon the platform were Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd and Miss Carbutt (of Leeds), Messrs. W. Clague, F. Wood, and J. Kay.

March 1, 7

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said the question they had met to discuss was not a new thing. The principle they were about to consider was one that had been admitted for the last fifty years, namely, that taxation and representation should always go together. At present there was a great movement going on in the country for the extension of that principle to persons who lived outside the borough. If all men who paid rates should have the franchise given to them, it was only carrying the principle to a logical conclusion to say that all persons, male or female, who had to contribute towards the revenue of the country should be dealt with equally. Women had a vote in the election of the town council, and were not only allowed to vote in the election of the School Boards, but were even permitted to sit on these boards.

Mr. Francis Wood moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualification which entitles men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting, and that this meeting, believing such exclusion to be unjust, pledges itself to support the great demonstration of women in the Albert Hall on February the 27th."

Mrs. O. Scatcherd seconded the resolution in an able address. The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. Clague moved: "That a petition to the House of

Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him.' Mr. J. KAY seconded the motion.

Miss Carbutt supported the motion in a very able speech.

The resolution being put and carried, a vote of thanks to Mrs. Scatcherd and Miss Carbutt was moved by Mr. J. S. Bartlett, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting, and as

the audience left the room tickets were given for admission to the demonstration in the Albert Hall.

The second of a series of meetings to promote the great demonstration of women held in the Albert Hall took place on February 20th, in the Vestry Hall, Attercliffe, Mr. Battry LANGLEY presided, and there were present Mrs. O. Scatcherd (Leeds), Mrs. Ronald Shearer (London), Mrs. Ellis (Batley), Mrs. Langley, Mr. Whitmell, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said some few years ago two working men were talking in a grinding wheel about a pending election, when one of them said to the other, "Jack, who are you going to vote for?" Jack said, "I don't know; I will ask my old lass." (Laughter.) His companion remarked, "Do you intend to ask your old lass? What has she to do with it? Arn't you the head?" "Yes," Jack replied, "I am the head; but my old lass is the neck, and the neck turns the head." (Renewed laughter and cheers.) It seemed to him (the chairman) that Jack had a very high opinion of the common sense of his good wife; and, therefore, he intended to talk with her about the election, and to be guided in some measure by her opinion. Supposing Jack haddied, and his wife had become a widow, and a Parliamentary election had taken place, the wisdom of the widow would have gone for nothing, as she would not have been able to vote. He thought that was a great injustice. (Cheers.) He did not believe exactly in manhood suffrage, but he believed in household suffrage, pure and simple. That was, if a lady took upon herself the responsibilities of a house, and met those responsibilities, she ought to have a voice in the management of the affairs of the country. (Cheers.) They all knew very well that ladies could vote in municipal elections, and as they had something like 6,000 lady voters in Sheffield, it was possible for them to very greatly influence the return of members at the next election. In conclusion, he said he regarded it as an injustice to prevent a lady from exercising her just rights

when she paid her rates and taxes.

Mr. C. T. Whitmell was received with loud cheers on rising to propose: "That in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting, and that this meeting, believing such exclusion to be unjust, pledges itself to support the great demonstration of women in the Albert Hall on the 27th."

Mrs. Scatcherd, who met with a very cordial reception, seconded the motion, and delivered an effective and interesting speech in defence of the movement.

The motion was adopted

Mrs. Shearer moved, "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the Chairman and forwarded by him.'

Mrs. Ellis seconded the motion, and on being put to the meeting it was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. E. Langton, seconded by Mr. J. Roberts, a very cordial vote of thanks was passed to the ladies for their addresses; and a similar compliment to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

ROTHERHAM.

A meeting, preparatory to the demonstration in favour of the women's suffrage movement held in the Albert Hall, Sheffield, was held February 21st, in the Mechanics' Hall, Rotherham. The MAYOR (Ald. Neill) presided, and he was supported by Mrs. Shearer (London), Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd (Leeds), the Rev. Dr. Falding, the Rev. Professer Barker, and Ald. Morgan. Near the platform were Mr. J. Newsum, Mr. W. H. Gummer, Mr. G. B. Willis, Mr. Rawson, Mr. G. Jennings, and others.

The CHAIRMAN said this was the first time he had taken the chair at what might fairly be termed a ladies' meeting. The reason of that was simply because it was the first time he had been asked to preside over such a gathering. (Laughter.) The question they were met to consider was not a party one. (Hear, hear.) Conservative as some people might think him, he favoured the extension of the franchise to women in Parliamentary elections, and he would even go much further and give all women householders votes in the counties as well, because he believed in the assimilation of the borough and county franchise. (Applause.) He had had every oppor-tunity of judging how women used the franchise so far as they possessed it, and he had no hesitation in saying that women usually

voted with excellent judgment. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Dr. Falding moved a resolution to the effect that the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who had the same voting qualifications as men. (Hear, hear.) He expressed entire concurrence with the women's suffrage movement, and was at a loss to conceive what arguments worth powder and shot to refute

could be advanced on the opposite side.

Alderman Morgan seconded the resolution, contending that as the property gave the vote, the vote should be exercised whether a man, a widow, a spinster, or trustees had the control of the property. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. Shearer supported the resolution in a telling address.

The Rev. Professor Barker proposed, and Mr. J. Newsum seconded, a resolution that a petition in favour of women's right to vote at Parliamentary elections be sent to the House of Commons, and a memorial be forwarded to the members for the South West Riding asking them to support it. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD supported the resolution in a spirited speech. This resolution was also carried without a dissentient, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded an interesting meeting.

ECCLESHALL.

Another of the series of meetings organised to promote the great demonstration of women held in the Albert Hall took place in the Vestry Hall, Cemetery Road, Eccleshall, on Feb. 22nd. Mr. R. E. LEADER, B.A., presided; and there were on the platform Mrs. Scatcherd (Leeds), Mrs. Ronald Shearer (London), Mrs. Tyzack, Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth, and Mr. C. T. Whitmell, her Majesty's Inspector of Schools. There was a very good atten-

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said they had met to hear addresses from those who were not often to be heard on that platform, and he was quite sure they would be listened to with the

greatest attention. (Cheers.)
Mr. Charlesworth moved: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possessed the qualifications which entitled men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting; and that this meeting, believing that the exclusion of women ratepayers from voting is unjust, pledges itself to support the great demonstration of women to be held in the Albert Hall, on the 27th

February, in support of a memorial to her Majesty's Government, praying for a vote for women householders." (Hear, hear.) The women's suffrage movement, he said, was distinctly based upon what he conceived to be the principle of fair play; and because it had that basis it was certainly going to win. (Cheers.)

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. SHEARER, and carried

Mrs. O. SCATCHERD moved the adoption of a petition to Parlia-

ment in favour of Mr. Mason's resolution. Mr. C. T. WHITMELL, in seconding the motion, spoke of the progress the movement had made, and said for at least ten years it

had had his support. (Cheers.) The motion was adopted.

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On the motion of Mrs. Shearer, seeonded by Mrs. Scatcherd, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, who briefly acknowledged it, and the meeting terminated.

BURNGREAVE.

The fourth of the series of public meetings in Sheffield, to promote the great demonstration of women, was held in the Burngreave Vestry Hall, February 23rd, and was numerously attended. Mr. H. J. WILSON, J.P., occupied the chair, and on the platform were Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Castle, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs.

Scatcherd, and Mrs. M'Cormick.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing so many ladies present, and said it indicated that they took considerable interest in the question. He had never been able to see what there was to be said against the movement. He was in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women because it was a simple act of justice, a thing that in itself was right. As a matter of fact there was comparatively little to be said against it. It was astonishing, therefore, that there should be so much difficulty in achieving their object; but he supposed it arose from the kind of feeling which pervaded people that what had not been done for so long could not be right. The movement was not a political one, and possibly that was the reason why neither political party when it got into power took it up. He pointed out that it was not proposed that all women should have votes; it was only proposed that those who were ratepayers, who have the responsibility of house-keeping, and of paying rent, rates, and taxes, should have votes, and should not be disqualified simply because they were women. There was legislation affecting vomen, such as the hours of working, &c., and he ventured to accept the varieties that it was not a pointed to a possible to the contract the same and the contract the same and the contract the contract the same and the possible to the contract the same and the possible to the contract tha and he ventured to express the opinion that if women ratepayers had votes, and if members of Parliament were obliged to pay attention to the opinions of women, certain laws would be altered.

Mr. J. Wilson moved the first resolution, which was similar to the one passed at former meetings; it was seconded by Mrs.

SCATCHERD, and passed with two dissentients.

Mr. Castle moved the next resolution: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him."

Mrs. Shearer seconded, and the resolution having been unanimously carried, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. H. J. Wilson, Mr. J. Wilson, and Mr. Castle for their presence at the meeting.

HEELEV

On February 24th the fifth of the preliminary ward meetings for popularising the subject of female suffrage was held in Bramhall's Schoolroom, Sheaf-street, Heeley, and was attended by a large and appreciative mixed audience. The Rev. C. H. Collyns presided, nd amongst those present were Councillors Skelton and Booker.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the business of the evening, said if he understood it aright, the ladies were there to claim that taxpaying householders-who happened not to be men-should have the same right of suffrage as their more fortunate brothers. (Hear, hear.) He would just give them an instance of what he meant His sister was married some years ago to a landed proprietor, who died and left a very considerable part of the estates in her hands for her life. Now she had no vote for the county, but her tenants, if they were happy enough to be men, had votes. (Laughter.) It seemed to him a great deal of the difficulty lay in the notion that men were superior beings to women. That seemed to be the superstition which was at the root of all the opposition to women's suffrage; but how any man who had been married for some years to a woman could think he was superior to women he could not conceive. (Laughter and applause.) There was no real argument against the granting of votes to women. As to the positive side of the question, he maintained that the woman element would be introduced into our political life with the greatest advantage to the country. (Hear, hear.) The influence of women would always be for virtue, peace, justice, and right. (Applause.)

Mr. Skelton moved a resolution to the same effect as that pro-

posed at other district meetings. This was seconded by Miss

CARBUTT, and adopted unanimously.

Mr. BOOKER moved that a petition to the House of Commons based upon the foregoing resolution be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him, and assured them that he would do what he could for the women voters. (Applause.)—Mrs. Shearer seconded the motion. The lady was listended to with great attention, and frequently applauded.

On being put, the motion was carried, and a vote of thanks to

the chairman terminated the proceedings.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

On February 20th a morning drawing-room meeting was held by nvitation of Mrs. H. J. Wilson, at 225, Pitsmoor Road. Mrs. Scatcherd gave an address explaining the object of the movement, and asking support for the proposed demonstration; after which a petition to the House of Commons was carried unanimously.
On February 21st Mrs. Charles Harding Firth held a drawing-

room meeting at her residence. The ladies present were addressed by Mrs. Scatcherd and Mrs. Shearer. A discussion took place, on February 22nd Mrs. Shearer addressed a meeting at the resi-

ence of Mrs. Templeton, Westbourne Road. A petition was

On February 23rd Mrs. Batty Langley had a drawing-room meeting at her residence, Long Hill. Mrs. Scatcherd and Mrs. Shearer delivered addresses, after which a petition was carried unanimously.

On February 24th Mrs. Wycliffe Wilson held a drawing-room meeting. After an address by Mrs. Shearer, a petition was unanimously adopted.

MOTHERS' MEETINGS AND TEA PARTIES.

On February 20th, at two o'clock, Mrs. Scatcherd gave an address to the mothers' meeting in connection with Pitsmoor

At half-past three on the same day, Mrs. Scatcherd and Mrs. Ellis addressed a mothers' meeting in connection with the Queenstreet Independent Chapel.

On February 21st, at two o'clock, Mrs. Shearer addressed a mothers' meeting at Cross Smithfield Schoolroom.

At five o'clock the same day, Mrs. Scatcherd addressed a large

gathering, numbering about 600 men and women, assembled at a tea meeting at Nether Chapel School, Norfolk-street.

On February 22nd, Mrs. Scatcherd addressed a mothers' meeting at the Sussex Mission-room; about sixty-five were present.

On the 27th of February, Mrs. Scatcherd addressed a largely attended mothers' meeting at the Tabernacle School, Albert Road. At all the above meetings the speakers were received with hearty sympathy, and petitions in favour of the resolution to be proposed in the House of Commons were carried unanimously.

GREAT MEETING IN THE ALBERT HALL.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held on February 27th at the Albert Hall in favour of extending the suffrage to women. The hall was crowded, the body and the galleries being filled with women. Some of the seats in the balconies were occupied by gentlemen, but even there the ladies largely predominated. The Viscountess HARBERTON presided; and on the platform were Mrs. J. Hollond, Mrs. Lucas, Miss Müller, and Mrs. R. Shearer, London; Miss Becker and Mrs. M'Cormick, Manchester; Miss Carbutt and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Leeds; Mrs. B. G. Wilkinson, York; Mrs. Cowen, Nottingham; Miss E. M. Sturge, Birmingham; Miss Booth, Miss Jeffreys, and Miss Pike, Chesterfield; Miss Maria Colby, Bristol; Miss Louisa Wright, Mansfield; Mrs. Vero and Mrs. C. Ellis, Batley; Miss Hibbert and Miss Smith, Hyde; Mrs. Charlesworth, Mrs. D. Doncaster, Mrs. C. Harding Firth, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. and Miss Honnam, Mrs. Longdon, Mrs. Batty Langley, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Mrs. J. Wycliffe Wilson, &c., Sheffield.

Viscountess Harberton, who was received with applause, said she would first call upon Mrs. Shearer to read the names of some

of those who sympathised with the object of their meeting, but who were not able to be present.

Mrs. Shearer said they had received letters from Mrs. Fawcett (London), Mrs. M'Laren (Edinburgh), Mrs. Thomasson (Bolton), Mrs. R. W. Dale (Birmingham), Mrs. A. Osler (Birmingham), Miss Edith Brook (Huddersfield), Miss Marianne Farningham, Miss Ellen Hopkins, Miss Swanwick, and Miss Gill (Leicester Committee) They had also received a letter from the Mayor of Rotherham, received by him from Mr. W. H. Leatham, saying that he had presented the petition from Rotherham in the House of Commons and that he intended to support Mr. Mason's resolution. (Cheers.)

Viscountess Harberton, who was again received with cheers said: Ladies, as I stand here to-night to bid you all welcome, and feel myself one of this vast assembly of women met together to protest against the continuance of a law which may well be said to be the foundation of all those laws we have so long petitioned against, as it alone has made and does make them possible, I cannot help feeling glad of one thing. Glad to see that all of you, as evidenced by your presence here, are one with me in the know-ledge that it is in this lies our real danger, and until we can get it altered we are living on a social quicksand. You will find statesmen in a continual agitation about the importance of lowering or not lowering the franchise from £10 to £5, or any other sum, on the ground of the hardship to those left out. What sum the franchise should be fixed at is not the question we have here to-night to discuss, but if it is such a terrible grievance and danger to men to be left without a vote for the few years during which they are working their way up to the required point, what is it for us though we may amass thousands to know we never can have it at all? Petitions signed by men carry weight, as those to whom they are presented do not know exactly whether they are from voters or not, and they also know they may at any rate become so at any time. Therefore, they at least receive a courteous reply. But no woman can ever have a vote; therefore petitions signed by us are things of no moment. Why, what could prove it more clearly than this very subject we are at this minute meeting about? Would anything so just, so right, so reasonable, I may even say so constitutional, as this demand of ours be refused one day to any set of people who were not first set apart by an impassable barrier? We know it would not. At present the reply we get to our earnest petition is that we had better mind our homes and our children. Our homes our children! Where are they? Without a special settlement to defeat the regular law, when a woman marries, if she has property, it becomes so absolutely the husband's that he may even leave it at his death to some other woman and her children if he pleases. Our children exist but in the poetical imagination of those who do not trouble to study the laws of their country. A woman has no right to her own child but at the good pleasure of her husband—a state of things that is none the less real for its being wicked and opposed to every law of nature. The wording of the law of trial by jury lays it down that every man shall be tried by his peers. That means—if it means anything—that he shall be tried by those whose surrounding and circumstances are somewhat akin to his own, yet no woman may serve on a jury nor qualify as a barrister to plead the cause of another woman. In cases of the vilest injury to women, those of their own sex are even ordered out of court, so that the inadequacy of the punishment too often inflicted may not be so strongly noticed. Could a boy be brought to shame and dishonour, which would cease but with his life, what punishment would be thought severe enough for such a crime; but as matters now stand, eighteen months' imprisonment was in the last case I noticed considered ample retribution for the degradation of five or six girl children, and then this man will come out from prison a free and independent elector, to help to make the laws which arrange the working hours of honest women, and the right of mothers to their babies. Ladies, you know the old saying, he who determines half succeeds. Let us determine, if we are not so already, that we will never rest till we do succeed. Particular bits of law may be altered as time rolls on, but if we continue disfranchised among an enfranchised people we never can hope for any real justice. I care nothing as to whether marriage continues to be a disqualification for voting or not. Two people cannot vote on the same property qualification, and no woman would wish to vote instead of her husband. The details are beside the question. The hard and fast line which holds up this iniquity being withdrawn is

fore always in the wrong, not indeed from positive ill-will on the part of men, but rather, as Miss Tod most ably put it in a letter to the Northern Whig of Belfast this month:—"From that common cause of injury to women, the forgetfulness of those who are not conspicuously within the circle of official notice." That expression to my mind defines the position exactly, and also explains to any one who chooses to think why it is so dangerous. I have not come here to make a long address. Many points of interest will, I hope, be touched upon by those who are to address the meeting. (Loud

Miss Carbutt, who was received with applause, said it was delightful to stand there and see that multitude of faces. She only wished the hall were twice as large, and that every one could find a seat, for she must say her knees ached when she saw so many women standing, and she only wished they had had some members of Parliament present, that they might see so large a meeting. If they did, she thought they would cease to say women did not want to vote. The resolution she was going to submit she wished to send to Mr. Gladstone-(cheers)-who had said "women had less than justice given to them," and she was told that the large Bradford demonstration made a deep impression upon him. A great man like Mr. Gladstone, who had had the courage of going on growing and developing his opinion, would be impressed when he read of such meetings as these. The resolution was in these words:—"That the following memorial to Mr. Gladstone be adopted and signed by the President, on behalf of this meeting:—

"To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., First Lord of Her

Majesty's Treasury.

"The Memorial of Women Delegates and others in Public Meeting assembled on February 27, 1882, in the Albert Hall,

"Respectfully Sheweth,—
"That in the opinion of this Meeting the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government

have the right of voting.
"Wherefore, your Memorialists earnestly pray that in any measure for the extension of the principle of household suffrage which may be submitted by Her Majesty's Ministers for the consideration of Parliament, provision may be made for enabling women qualified according to statutory conditions, to be registered as voters and to vote in the election of Members of Parliament.

"And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c."

Referring to the terms of the resolution, she hoped no one would go away misunderstanding their object in meeting together. They asked simply that women householders should have the vote for the men that were sent to Westminster to make the laws for women as well as for men. (Cheers.) They did not doubt that married women would have as good judgment and as good opinions, but they were going on strictly constitutional grounds, and they only asked for those women to have the vote who had the same qualification with men-namely, women who lived in houses and paid their rates. They were told they would create dissension between husband and wife; but there was no fear of that, for at present they did not ask for a vote for them. She had no doubt they all knew that women householders had already the local vote. In Sheffield she was told they had four votes, for the Town Council, Board of Guardians, School Board, and Burial Board. Now they asked for one vote more-for the vote to send men to Parliament She hoped when it was put to them they would show by their earnest clapping they did desire that women householders should have the franchise. (Cheers.) Many people said "We want women to attend to their households and to mend their stockings." (Laughter.) These people thought the exercise of the franchise would make women unwomanly. Had it made them "unwomanly" because they had used their local votes? One of the newspapers in this town said "We shall be sorry to see women transformed into Amazons." (Laughter.) Oh, they should be sorry indeed! Amazons were female soldiers—(laughter)—and she did not want to make any female soldiers of anybody. On the contrary, she thought women would try to do without soldiers altogether. (Cheers.) Their helpless position made them wish for order, for peace, for justice, for quiet. They did not like to see their brothers and their husbands and their own money going to such sufficient. We should no longer be those always absent, and there- | dreadful wars as they had had in Afghanistan, where between

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thought the nation would be all the better for women's peaceful votes and peaceful opinions. (Cheers.) And having such large interests would make them perhaps attend to their household duties all the better. Another objection was that women would all vote for the Conservatives. Now, they did not make this a party question at all. Members of Parliament on both sides of the House voted for it, and they did not consider that it belonged either to the Conservative or the Liberal. They would find that in a town probably the Liberal women would predominate, and in the country the Conservative women. Most women were born to their politics as they were born to their religion; and would it be right to withhold that which was just to women merely because one party would gain by it? The Conservatives said the women would be Liberals, and the Liberals asserted that the women would be Conservatives, and so between the two neither party would give them the vote. But she said : Do the right thing and do not fear the consequences. It was also objected that women did not want it. If that was the case she thought it was very sad. There were many women who had been brought up to think that they had nothing to do with such things as governing. And yet if they were but to remember that the laws which were made in Parliament affected women-wives and mothers-they ought to feel ashamed of themselves. Up to this time women had been allowed to meet at theatres, concerts, or dances, but when they asked to meet for earnest work then it was said it would make them unwomanly. She had great pleasure in moving the resolution. (Cheers.)

The VISCOUNTESS intimated that an overflow meeting was being held in St. Paul's Schools, Mrs. Scatcherd in the chair. (Cheers.)

Mrs. H. J. WILSON, addressing her fellow townsmen, said, in seconding the resolution, which she did most heartily, she was anxious to avoid interposing between the meeting and the speakers they had all come to hear; but she wished to say a word or two on one point. Miss Carbutt had cleverly explained that the vote which was claimed in the memorial was only claimed on behalf of women householders. Now, she as a married woman would reap no direct personal advantage from the granting of the suffrage to women ratepayers; but if that element led women to take a more intelligent interest in social and political matters, it seemed to her that the nation at large would be the gainer. She was the mother of growing sons, and so were many of those whom she was addressing. They all felt it to be one of their first duties to make home as pleasant and attractive to the sons as they possibly could. That was the advantage of Junior Liberal Associations; and many of them were very glad for their sons to join these Junior Liberal Associations; and glad for them to join Junior Conservative Associations also. Not "also," but they wished them to join one or the other. She believed that the knowledge that their mothers and sisters took an interest in the subjects discussed by these associations, and that mothers and sisters could and would converse intelligently and sympathisingly about them, would not only increase the attractiveness of home to young men, but would exercise the most beneficial effect upon the political life of our nation.

Miss MULLER, a member of the London School Board, supported the resolution, and denied the statement so often made that women did not want the franchise. She took it that the large meeting she was addressing proved that the women did want the franchise. Another objection was put in this way, "Even if you do want it, why should you have it, since you are already indirectly represented by men." This objection required a little examination to test how far it was accurate to say that women were already represented by men in the House of Commons. She had recently conversed with a lawyer, a clever man, who had thought upon the subject of

women's suffrage, and he admitted that, as a matter of pure justice and consistency with the principles of the English constitution, women should have the suffrage. "But," he added, "you know your grievances are not very great, for, after all, you have your exemptions." She asked what these exemptions were. The lawyer replied that women were not called upon to serve upon juries—a duty which men considered a great tax upon their time and strength.

She answered: "Here is an instance of male representation of feminine requirements and needs. You bring forward to me as an

twenty and thirty millions were spent on a useless war. She Another exemption mentioned by the lawyer was that women were not obliged to serve in the army. "Nor are you," she said, "no individual man in England is obliged to serve in the army; and when it comes to the question of volunteering, I should like to know who can accuse Florence Nightingale and those who have followed in her train of being backward in coming forward in matters of war." So much for the male view of women's exemptions: the first was really a grievance, and the other they considered a holy duty. She then alluded to an article recently written by a learned Professor on the subject of married women working factories. He wrote very learnedly upon the subject, and said with a very mistaken philanthropy, that married women ought not to be allowed to be employed in factories, certainly not during certain periods of their lives. When she read it she felt very indignant, for it seemed another instance of male judgment of the needs of women. Only in the last Session of Parliament a member tried to pass a Bill enabling a woman to demand maintenance for herself and children from her husband, and he was unable to do so. What could be more illogical? On the one hand there were laws preventing women from earning their livelihood, and on the other and they were prevented from demanding maintenance from their Would women legislate for themselves in that way She knew perfectly well not. Men, with the most profound goodwill, made a mistake because they did not know where the shoe pinched, and could not know. Alluding to the present indirect representation of women, she submitted that it had a bad moral effect. There should be a recognised official influence, and not what she called backstairs influence. Concluding, she said that men and women were intended to work together. The way in which men had hitherto liked to do all the work by themselves reminded her of a story that she did not intend to be personal: A goose, with one leg carefully tied up, tried to get along, cackling very much, spreading out its wings, and tumbling about to the right and left; finally it moved about half an inch, and then it cackled more, and said, "You see how well I get on with my one leg." (Laughter and cheers.) She thought when they had two legs it was better to walk on both. Men and women had better do

the work of the world together, and not apart. (Hear, hear.) Mrs. Shearer, who also spoke in support of the resolution, read the following telegram from Mrs. Ashton Dilke: "Hope you will have a splendid meeting. It is of the greatest importance we should have big meetings this year." Alluding to the statement published in a contemporary that there were not many Englishwomen who would be ready to exchange their present privileges for equality of political rights, she asked if the privileges they possessed s women were of such importance, and so much beyond all that they might possibly enjoy, that they were willing to forego any of the political rights which their fathers, and brothers, and husbands took good care they never would forego for any privileges that women could offer them. (Cheers.) She thought that question would be pretty conclusive from Sheffield. As to the statement that there might be female Prime Ministers and female Lord Chancellors, she had never put forward such an impossible dream of the future. Women could not even be returned to Parliament, not to speak of being Prime Ministers and Lord Chancellors, unless they were returned by the vast majority of the men voters, and if seven men could not hold their own against one woman voter it only showed that they must feel themselves of a very weak constitution indeed. (Laughter and cheers.) They were told that the fear lying at the back of all Liberal opposition was that the women would be Conservatives and strengthen the Conservative interest. If this were so, then the Government at present at the head of affairs was not an honest Government if the majority of the people of the country, including the women, happened to be Conservatives. She did not believe there was any reason to fear this result. Let them first build up the foundation of the English constitution upon what was right, and true, and just, and then let party questions follow. (Cheers.) In concluding she called attention to the fact that all the leading intellectual women of the time were in favour of extending the franchise to women, as well as the mass of working women. The mere drawing-room woman, who went out to balls and operas, and knew nothing of life but the sunny side, might not take any interest in the subject, but exemption that which I, as a woman, consider a grievance." The lawyer had no desire to be unfair or cruel, but he had never had her shoe on, therefore he did not know where it pinched. (Laughter.)

all the earnest and philanthropic women, who knew how shady life was to countless thousands, were taking part in the movement. She referred to the successful drawing-room meetings held in

Sheffield, and asked all women to share the burden, and raise their fathers and sons and brothers to a higher level than they had yet

The motion was put to the meeting by Viscountess Harberton, and was unanimously carried.

Miss Becker was cheered on moving: "That a petition to the House of Commons based on the foregoing resolution and memorials in the following terms, be adopted and forwarded to the Right Hon. Anthony J. Mundella and Charles B. Stuart Wortley, Esq. members for the borough of Sheffield :-

"The Memorial of Women Delegates and others in Public Meeting assembled on February 27, 1822, in the Albert Hall, Sheffield :-

"Respectfully sheweth,—
"That the exclusion of a large part of the intelligence, industry. and property of the country from participation in its government is injurious to the highest interests of the nation.

"That 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.

"That this Meeting earnestly requests you to give your support to the resolution of which Mr. Mason has given notice to the above

"And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c."

In proposing this resolution for their acceptance, she was glad to say that in one instance at least it might be called a work of supererogation, for, as a matter of fact, one of the members for Sheffield, Mr. Mundella, had always voted for this measure on every occasion on which a division had taken place since he became a member of the House of Commons. (Cheers.) Mr. Stuart Wortley had not yet had an opportunity of recording his vote in favour of it, but she was sure if he had been present and seen that interested and enthusiastic meeting, he would recognise it as the expression of an opinion to which he was bound to give very respectful consideration. And she was in hopes that the expression reaching him in the proper way might induce him to join with his colleague, so that Sheffield might give an undivided vote in favour of true and just representation of the people. There never was a time when such a measure as this was of more consequence. They heard on all hands a cry from governing bodies of "more power. The House of Commons itself was through its leader asking for more power to make laws; municipal corporations everywhere were asking Parliament through private Bills for more power to regulate the lives of the people and to prescribe their actions; Bills were promised by the Government, one for making a great governing body for the Metropolis, which body, if it should be formed, would be a most powerful legislative body, and its acts would affect directly every person who resided within its boundaries. They were also promised a Bill for extending to counties the same direct government which was now exercised in municipal towns. They were promised county boards, elected by the ratepayers, and these boards would have great powers for legislating, and what they did would affect the well-being of every man, woman, and child in the country. Now, it behoved women when that power was being created and increased in all directions to take care that there should be every possible guarantee that that power would be exercised well and wisely, and with a full consideration for the wishes and interests of all the persons who were to be subject to that power. They had no reason to think that the Government in creating county boards would exclude the women ratepayers. Therefore, whatever became of Mr. Mason's resolution, they might expect to see a great measure of woman suffrage passed for the government of the counties. She proceeded to show that it was not logical to allow women local votes, and yet deny them the right of voting for members of Parliament. She had often observed that many of the objections which had been raised against what was called "women's rights" almost always began by saying that "to this particular measure we see no objection," and then spoke of a long string of horrible consequences which might be supposed to follow from it. If people chose to allow their imaginations to run riot they might draw a very fanciful picture of what would happen But they would never take any step forward if, before doing so, they were obliged to forecast every possible consequence from it They must act in the living present, and leave the future men and women to regulate their own affairs in their own way. (Hear, hear.) Neither did she see the necessity or the logic for

saying that women must give up any attention, or politeness, or gallantry they received now from men because they were placed on political equality. It was perfectly clear to her that this equality was coming. This meeting would help it. Nothing would stop the movement, but they might push it forward. In the House of Lords the Lord Chancellor proposed for second reading a Bill to give to married women the full control of their own property. She held in her hand a Bill for the regulation of shop hours, which only applied to women, and which said "It shall not be lawful for any shop or warehouse for the sale of textile fabrics or articles of wearing apparel where women or young persons are employed to be open more than ten hours a day." She was not by any means an advocate of long hours for any class, but she thought it was simply monstrous to pass a law like that affecting women only, while no women had the power of saying whether it was to be the law or not. (Cheers.) The effect of law would be to turn thousands of shop girls into the streets, and their places would be filled by the young men who were so anxious to have the Bill passed. (Cheers.) Among other things Parliament was asked to pass a "Women and Children's Protection Bill." From her experience of what men meant by "protection of women" she found it usually meant depriving women of some liberty they now enjoyed, and not making the law more severe upon those who molested women. (Cheers.) She did not think married women really recognised what little right they had over their children. Children belonged to the mother more than to the father, and until this was recognised by the law men would not cease to do an immense injustice to women. (Cheers.) Alluding to the education of women, she believed Sheffield possessed a very admirable Firth ollege, which was an honour to the gentleman who gave it to the town, and a credit to the town, and all the education in that college, she understood, was equally free to women and men. She hoped the women and girls of Sheffield would take full advantage of it. If they looked back on all history they would see those nations had been the most powerful in which the women had been the most enlightened and had the greatest liberty. (Cheers.) She looked to no distant day when the political forces of this country that were to guide and direct its destinies would receive that infusion, which they so much needed, of the feminine half of the nation. She had great pleasure in moving the resolution. (Cheers.)

Mrs. Lucas seconded the resolution, and said she was very anxious that the vote on the temperance question, for prohibition and other things for increasing the sobriety of the nation, should be understood by women, so that when they got the vote they would know how to use it. And she was quite sure the women of Sheffield would be ready to act wisely. She heartily seconded the resolution for the adoption of this memorial to the borough members, and hoped whenever another election came round the women of Sheffield would "put a spoke in the wheel" to get the right people sent to Parliament, the people who would advocate their cause.

Miss STURGE (Birmingham) said it was an axiom of the British Constitution that taxation without representation was robbery. The British Constitution must be rather weak-minded, for directly woman attempted to stand upon it it broke down. Why should women be robbed? Why should they be classed with idiots criminals, minors, and lunatics? She thought Mrs. Shearer would not have invited her to speak had she been a lunatic, an idiot, or a criminal, and she was sure she was too old to be a minor. (Laughter.) They were frequently told that politics were not women's sphere. No man could tell her her sphere better than she knew it herself. (Hear, hear.) Without liberty of action liberty of conscience was a mockery. The fact was all this talk about women's sphere was very sentimental. She remembered arguing with a young gentleman, who objected to female suffrage because it was "against his feelings." (Laughter.) Why should not women's feelings be considered just as much as men's, particularly as they were supposed to have the privilege of being exclusively sentimental? She denied that domestic interests would suffer by the granting of the franchise to women, and humorously remarked that the Chinese were perhaps more logical in this matter than the English. One of the Chinese proverbs said the reason women's feet were squeezed small in that country was to prevent them "gadding about gossiping." (Laughter.) If she were one of those men who strongly objected to women suffrage she would bring in a Bill to prevent women travelling by rail, for that would keep them near home, and perhaps have prevented the meeting that evening. The real horror felt by men was that March 1,

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the present agitation was only the thin edge of the wedge, and that women would eventually get into Parliament. She did not suppose any woman would get into Parliament unless the men sent her there, and if they did she would not contest the wisdom of their choice. (A laugh.) If all restrictions were removed women would find their level, just like water. They advocated the movement because they believed it would be good to men as well as to women. Men needed helpmeets in politics as much as in other things, and if they did not allow women to share their higher and nobler interests, how could they complain of them being small-minded and frivolous? They wanted to stop at nothing short than the uplifting of all womanhood. They wanted women to gain knowledge, because whereas knowledge wrongfully acquired brought the curse,

knowledge rightly acquired would take it away.

Mrs. Ellis (Batley), in the course of a spirited address, said that in her little circle at home her husband was the Prime Minister, she was the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the children were the Privy Council. (Laughter.) It was very difficult to define a woman's sphere; to her mind it was a pretty wide one. At a recent election near Batley a lady used her conveyance to drive voters to the poll, and that was considered out of her sphere. But it would not be so thought in Sheffield, because since she had been here she had seen more women driving ponies, and horses, and donkeys to market and one thing or another than she could have imagined. (Laughter.) She alluded to the employments which were not open to women, complained of the abominable character of the laws which debarred them from certain situations, and upon the question of long or short hours insisted that they should be fixed by the freewill of the women themselves.

The resolution was then submitted to the meeting, and unanimously carried.

Viscountess HARBERTON then vacated the chair, which was occu-

pied by Mrs. Lucas. Mrs. Scatcherd proposed a hearty vote of thanks to her ladyship for presiding. She said that so far from Sheffield being a benighted town, it was upon this question one of the foremost towns in the kingdom. During her three weeks' visit she had received help all round from the Mayor of Sheffield down to the humblest cottager. She spoke with much feeling in reply to the objection sometimes made that the granting of political privileges to women would decrease the gallantry of men. Gallantry! when wives were murdered, and sentences of four days' imprisonment passed upon the murderer. Gallantry! when they could scarcely take up a newspaper without reading of some poor soul well night mauled to death, and the magistrates, these fine middle class gentlemen, who had so much gallantry in their hearts, giving sentences of one week or fourteen days' imprisonment. Gallantry when the English law refused to give protection to little girls over thirteen years of age from the worst outrage that could befall them. Gallantry! when two successive Governments passed grossly immoral laws which punished the women, but dare not punish the men, and which condemned the women of our seaports and garrison towns to a life worse than slavery. Gallantry! word, she thought, had an old world flavour. Some men were gallant to the women of the richer class, but they would give up such gallantry as the opening of doors and the offer of the best seats for one shred of justice to the many. They wanted less admiration for the few and more justice for the many. (Cheers.) In conclusion she referred to the question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and urged that marriage with a deceased husband's brother was equally a subject for legislation, and it would be a gross injustice to legalise the one and not the other.

Mrs. Cowen (Nottingham) seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried with much cordiality.

Viscountess Harberton briefly replied, and the meeting closed.

The following description of the meeting appeared in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph, to which paper we are also indebted for the principal portion of the foregoing report.

A rural poetess, who saw the young men of her day and district passing away to the busy haunts of labour, and the young ladies remaining in rapidly augmenting numbers, broke out into rhyme as she surveyed the hosts of girls the young men had left behind them.

Prose, she felt, was unequal to the crisis, and thus she commenced her pitiful tale:—

There's a mighty famine round about, 'Tis not of meat, but men; For every eligible beau
Of belles we can count ten.

At the Albert Hall last evening there was another mighty famineit, too, was not of meat, but men. Every part of the building, from saloon to gallery, was filled with women, except the balcony, where the male sex were permitted to enter, and for that privilege had to pay one shilling. Those of the tender sex who desired to sit in that favoured part had also to pay the same price. Whether it was the shilling, or the fear of facing so mighty a phalanx of the fair, it would be hard to decide, but there could be no doubt of the wretched minority in which the males found themselves-a thin black line, who had rather a hard time of it during the evening. To be sure there were several in the balconies who may fairly be called representative men. There, for example, beaming from the back row of the side balcony sits Mr. H. J. Wilson, who is a potent factor in local politics; there, too, right in front, facing the platform, is Mr. Charles Harding Firth, our esteemed borough auditor, and it is certainly not his fault that he is not a representative man also. Mr. C. Harding Firth has special claims upon the sex, for did he not, during the last election in Eccleshall, gallantly invite the ladies to meet him in a certain schoolroom, somewhere in the rear of one of our third-rate thoroughfares To be sure the ladies did not respond in very large numbers, but they had a pleasant time of it nevertheless. Probably when Mr. C. Harding Firth appears a second time he may profit by all this agitation about ladies' suffrage, which, it may be remembered to his credit, he recognised in the first effort he made for himself. There, too, in the balcony is a well-known Liberal all the way from sweet little Dore," and on the other side medicine is represented by Dr. Banham. Not far from his political chief may be seen the pleasant smile of Mr. Charles Castle, and near him are Alderman W. Pye-Smith, Councillor T. Firth, Mr. G. H. Hovey, and Mr. Benjamin Bagshawe. There are not many others, and, beside, why ould they be singled out for special notice, seeing that this is, as the tickets say, "specially a women's meeting," and "mer cannot be admitted to the free seats." There is no mistaking the importance of this gathering. It is without doubt a great meeting, quite as great as the political meetings which the men hold in the same place, and certainly far more orderly and well-behaved. The doors had been opened fully an hour before the time appointed to begin the business, and those who are not early in the hall find it impossible to get in. For fully twenty minutes a dense mass of women wait patiently in the hope of finding standing-room somewhere; but even this modest accommodation is soon all exhausted, and an overflow meeting has to be held in St. Paul's Schools, to which a few hundred at once proceed.

Punctually to time Viscountess Harberton takes the chair amid general applause. Around her on the platform are, among others, Mrs. J. Hollond, Mrs. Lucas, Miss Müller, Mrs. R. Shearer, London; Miss Becker and Miss M'Cormick, Manchester; Miss Carbutt and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Leeds; Mrs. B G. Wilkinson, York; Mrs. Cowen, Nottingham; Miss E. M. Sturge, Birmingham; Miss Booth, Miss Jeffreys, Miss Fike, Chesterfield; Miss Maria Colby, Bristol; Miss Louisa Wright, Mansfield; Mrs. Vero and Miss C. Ellis, Batley; Miss Hibbert and Miss Smith, Hyde; Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Mrs. J. Wycliffe Wilson, Mrs. Charlesworth, Mrs. D. Doncaster, Mrs. Barber, Mrs. C. Harding Firth, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Batty Langley, Mrs. and Miss Honnam, Mrs. Longdon, &c., Sheffield. The general audience is composed of representatives of all ranks-from the wives of working men to the wives of the well-to-do. There are clergymen's wives, ministers' wives, manufacturers' wives, shopkeepers and merchants' wives, grinders' wives, and labourers' wives; and there are hundreds of young women who are "still in the market," waiting for the call. Scores are standing, and remain standing during the whole of the meeting, and firmly packed, too, in their places. A few adventurous souls, determined to have the right of a seat at their own meeting, have taken possession of the place marked off for reporters, who are too polite to turn them out. These gentlemen are fairly overwhelmed by the ladies. Ladies to right of them, ladies to left of them, ladies behind them-ay, ladies even in front of them, if they could see them; but some unkind and unsympathetic soul has put up an unwonted obstruction, in the form of a partition, between the reporters and the ladies on the platform. Where we sit we can see neither Countess nor her fair companions. It is only when they rise to speak we catch a peep at the countenances of the fair ones behind the barricade. Those who sit in their places might as well be closely veiled as the beauties of the East, for nothing can penetrate the crimson barrier which screens off our vulgar gaze. We feel this to be an unspeakable affliction; but before we have time to complain, the Viscountess Harberton rises to open the proceedings.

The noble chairwoman is as effective in figures of speech as she

is as graceful in form and face. Plainly dressed in well-fitting black velvet, she stands erect, with her head well-thrown back, and speaks out after the manner of one who is not unaccustomed to think aloud. Her words come out clearly and effectively, her distinct articulation and pleasant voice, added to her charming presence, at once stamping her as one of the foremost of our lady talkers. The Viscountess has a thorough Yorkshire welcome, and looks the pleasure she evidently feels. Miss Carbutt, who follows, has an incisive, if less pleasing style. She is what Sheffielders call a "rasper," and her hard hits greatly delight the ladies, particularly an ancient dame behind us, who prods the floor vigorously with her umbrella. Miss Carbutt takes up an antagonistic article in a local paper, and literally tears it to pieces. Then comes Mrs. H. J. Wilson, who has a very cordial reception. Mrs. Wilson has a quiet effective style of talking, puts her points very neatly and with a gentle emphasis, which is all the more telling because of a certain womanly reserve, which is not usually conspicuous in some of the ladies who appear as advocates of women's rights. Miss Müller, a member of the London School Board, is exceedingly pleasant of person and persuasive of speech. There is no "mouthing" of her words. She talks as Hamlet advised the players, "trippingly on the tongue, and, with a rare command of humorous story and application, keeps her audience in a perpetual titter of merriment, while all the time not a muscle of her face is permitted to move, as if she was utterly unconscious of having said a good thing at all. There is not a little audacity about Miss Müller. After quietly demolishing Sir John Lubbock, and chawing up half-a-dozen scientific big guns, she gives us some ideas about "the origin of marriage," which somehow she associates with "the origin of civilisation," and expresses the opinion that marriage is not a very perfect institution, after all, though it is hard to see how Miss Müller, with all her smartness, can have much practical knowledge on that score. Closing, Miss Müller compares our present one-sided system of no women's suffrage to a goose with one leg. The goose, with its leg tied up, cackles very loud and falls; then gets up again, and cackles louder still, and calls on the world to witness how well it gets on with one As the goose with the one leg is understood to mean the animal called man, we all laugh consumedly, stopping only to cheer the merry little maiden when she adds that "when we have got two legs we should better do the work of the world together.' Mrs. Ronald Shearer, a bright daughter of the Emerald Isle, who has by marrying a Scotchman deprived herself in advance of the right she is struggling to secure for others, was the next speaker. Mrs. Shearer has a happy knack of hitting the nail on the head, and she deliberately proceeds to beard a local editor—not of this paper—and heedless of the chastisement to which Miss Carbutt has already subjected him, literally falls upon him and devours him. She talks contemptuously of "the mere drawing-room woman," who comes down to dinner, and goes out to balls and operasthe woman who seeks only the sunny side of life, and is too selfish to care about the shady side of life. Mrs. Shearer is followed by Miss Becker, who speaks with all her customary force. She ridicules the idea that women will have less of those "light attentions" paid to them when they begin to vote. "Let a charming young lady enter a room, and she will always obtain attention from men whether she is a voter or not"-to which proposition there is a low murmur of assent from the reporters' seats, high there is silence among the elderly sisters around. Becker has a fling at tight-lacing, and scornfully speaks of "those wasp-waisted foolish creatures," to whom she infinitely prefers the one who can ride across country and play lawn tennis, who, however, is still inferior to the girl who goes to Girton to improve her mind. Mrs. Lucas, the sister of Mr. John Bright, contents herself with telling us that every time she pays her heavy taxes she feels very much distressed to feel that she has no vote. Then rises Miss

Sturge, and the male bird has a hard fifteen minutes of it. His feathers are plucked most mercilessly. Miss Sturge, quiescent, seems the very picture of a demure maid, who could not say severe things if she tried; but Miss Sturge, talking, is simply terrible. We think she is going to prophesy smooth things. Her first sentence undeceives us. Her voice is sharp, and somewhat shrill, like a village schoolmistress in a rage, which she is able to suppress. 'Taxation without representation is robbery.' This to start with, spoken in tones of indignation all the more intense because it is kept well in hand. "The British Constitution must be rather weak. because directly a woman attempts to stand upon it, it breaks down.' Then again, "Why should we continue to be robbed?" "They (the men) class us with criminals, idiots, minors, and lunatics. Certainly, I don't think Mrs. Scatcherd would have invited me here if she had considered me a criminal or a lunatic, and I am much too old to be a minor." Here there is a general laugh; but do not let any reader run away with the idea that Miss Sturge is oldor anything approaching an old maid. If she is old, never woman made a more gallant fight against Time, nor with better results. Ridiculing the reasons given by men for denying her sex the suffrage, she singled out one—that women should remain at home. Why she held the Chinese were more consistent than the Englishthey squeezed their women's feet small to prevent them from gadding about gossiping. If Englishmen really wanted to keep their women at home, why did they not bring in a Bill to prohibit women travelling by rail, and perhaps then there would have been no women's suffrage meeting that night. A Batley lady, Mrs. Ellis, tickles us all by frankly confessing that though her husband might be Prime Minister, she was the Chancellor of the Exchequer-(laughter)—and the children were the Privy Council. She declares there are a great many bad husbands, but still more good ones-a remark which one dame repeated as she left the hall, adding, "Ay, many a husband has had to rock the baby to-night to let his wife come here." Mrs. Scatcherd, one of the best of the speakers. astonished the audience by her fervour and that best of all eloquence-earnestness. Nor was she deficient in humour. They were told there were "a great many foolish women in the world." "Of course there are," said Mrs. Scatcherd, "God made them to match the men." After an impassioned and well-deserved denunciation of the wholly inadequate punishments usually inflicted on the ruffians who killed wives and assaulted children, Mrs. Scatcherd gave place to other ladies, and a vote of thanks to the Viscountess' Harberton closed a signally successful and in many respects a most remarkable and important demonstration-by far the greatest of its kind ever held in Hallamshire.

OVERFLOW MEETING. ST. PAUL'S SCHOOLS.

An overflow meeting, to accommodate those who could not find room in the great hall, was held, by kind permission of the rector, in St. Paul's Schools. The room was well filled with a numerous and attentive audience. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd presided during the first portion of the meeting, and her place was afterwards filled by Miss Hibbert. Resolutions similar to those in the great meeting were unanimously adopted. The speakers came at times from the great meeting to support the resolutions at the overflow meeting.

CONFERENCE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

On February 28th, a conference was held of persons interested in the movement, to consider the best mode of carrrying it forward. Mrs. Wycliffe Wilson was voted into the chair, and after a discussion in which Mrs. Scatcherd, Mrs. Shearer, the Rev. C. H. Collyns, Mr. Whitmell, Miss Brennan, Miss Becker, and others took part, the following resolution, which was moved by the Rev. C. H. Collyns, and seconded by Miss Becker, was unanimously adopted: "That a temporary committee be now formed to consist of such inhabitants of Sheffield as are now present, with power to add to their number, the work of which committee shall be to provide for the immediate calling together of the friends of the women's suffrage movement in Sheffield, with a view to aiding the parent society of Manchester, and that Mrs. Wycliffe Wilson be asked to kindly act as convener of the meetings."

The proceedings concluded with votes of thanks to the Mayor for granting the use of the Council Chamber, and to Mrs. Wycliffe Wilson for presiding over the conference.

March 1, 1882.

LECTURES.

GLOUCESTER.

Mrs. M'Ilquham gave a lecture on Women's Suffrage, at the Co-operative Hall, Gloucester, under the auspices of the Educational Department of the Co-operative Society, on January 26th. The chair was taken by Mr. Joseph Clay, and there was a good attendance. The lecture was well received, and at the close Mr. Councillor Turner proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. M'Ilquham. This, he said, was no party question. Two or three hundred ladies exercised the municipal franchise in Gloucester. Our late esteemed member, Mr. Wait, was an advocate of woman suffrage, Conservatives as well as Liberals agitating for this act of justice towards women. Mrs. M'Ilquham was one of the few lady guardians we had, being a member of the Tewkesbury Board.—Rev. Mr. Knight seconded the vote of thanks, and urged the advocates of the movement to be consistent, and return women not only for the Gloucester School Board, but for the Liberal Hundred.—Mrs. M'Ilquham duly acknowledged the compliment paid her, and said the advocates of woman suffrage would continue their agitation until they were

LUTON.

In connection with the Luton Branch of the Women's Suffrage Association, a lecture was given in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, on Friday evening, January 27th, by the Rev. E. Wells, of Flamstead, the subject being, "Woman: her Position and Rights." The chair was taken by his Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Webdale), and there was a large attendance of ladies, including Mrs. and Miss Bigg. Among the few gentlemen present were Mr. Alderman Gilder, Mr. Councillor Pledge, and Mr. P. Wootton. After the opening remarks of the chairman, the Rev. E. Wells delivered his lecture, which contained a general argument in defence of the rights of women; and he said, in conclusion, though the political horizon at the present seemed clouded, and there was a block in legislation, the day could not be far distant when the intellect of the country, and, if not that, the great commercial interests would insist that this block should cease. Then, no doubt, there would be a comprehensive system of electoral reform carried out; and, when this came, it behoved the advocates of women's rights to insist strongly that justice should be done to them and that, as they had got the municipal and school board franchise, so they should have the Parliamentary franchise. This privilege had been shown to be their undoubted right, and they might well believe that victory was certain.—After the lecture a vote of thanks was moved by Miss Bigg, seconded by Mr. Alderman Gilder, and after a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, the meeting separated.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

NOTTING HILL.

On February 5th, a discussion took place in the lecture hall of the Progressive Club, Johnson-street, Notting Hill, on the subject of extending the electoral franchise to women. The chair was taken by James Mowatt, Esq. The discussion was opened by Miss C. A. Biggs, and continued by Mr. F. H. A. Hardcastle, Miss Albert, Mr. Nicass, and many others. A resolution was passed expressing the cordial sympathy of the meeting with the measure now in Mr. Mason's hands, and petitions were signed at the door.

FOREST HILL.

A lecture was given by Mr. Charles Castle, of Croydon, on February 16th. A discussion took place afterwards, in which Miss Frances Lord and others took part.

CREDITON.

On January 25th, the Crediton Debating Society took for their subject : "That it would be most injudicious to admit women into professions or Parliament, or to grant them a voice in the election of its members," moved in a humorous speech by Mr. J. Edgell Searle, who said he did not wish to be thought an enemy of the ladies, but to allow them to take part in elections, or to admit them into the professions, would be only to increase their duties, and at the same time to increase the difficulties of the men. Mr. Pethrick (Exeter) opposed the motion, arguing that women had shown themselves as capable and deserving as men to enjoy the franchise, and to be admitted to the professions. Messrs. Sprague, Jones, Braund, Snell, Snow, Pollard, J. Carthew, T. Carthew, Payne, Card, Perkins, and Revs. H. Tickell and G. Newman took part in the debate. Mr. organisations, which ladies could greatly assist to bring about.

Pollard moved as an amendment "That women should be allowed to vote, but not admitted to the professions or Parliament." On being put to the meeting, the voting was as follows:—For the amendment, 8; for the motion, 3; for the opposition, 7.

The question, "Are women entitled to electoral privileges?" was recently debated at the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, Launceston, Mr. Alexander Fraser opening in the affirmative. The question was negatived by a majority of one.

LLANELLY.

The admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise was the subject of debate on January 24th at a meeting of the Young Men's Debating Society. There was a large attendance. Mr. W. Thomas moved the affirmative, which was seconded by Mr. J. H. Jones, and supported by Mr. Mee, Mr. Daw, and Mr. W. David. Several speakers took the opposite view, and on a division a resolution in the affirmative. The principle was carried by a majority of

PENTONVILLE.

On February 25th a discussion took place in the Claremont Debating Society, Claremont Lower Hall, Pentonville, on the extension of the franchise to women householders. The debate was opened by Miss Caroline A. Biggs, and continued by Messrs. Chatterton, Taylor, Dickson, and Salter. A petition was signed by those present.

WOMEN AS POOR-LAW GUARDIANS.

A large and influential meeting in support of the candidature of women as poor-law guardians was held, by the kindness of Miss Fry, at Goldney House, Clifton, Bristol, on January 31st. Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., presided, and amongst those present were Mr. Pease, Mr. Mark Whitwill, Mr. Greenwell, Miss Clifford, Miss Elliott, Mrs. James, Mrs. George, Lady Harding, the Revs. F. Wayet, L. H. Byrne, A. Wilson, Phelps, J. Penny, Dr. E. Williams, Miss J. Vining, Mr. Samuel Worsley, Mr. E. Leonard, Mr. Bartlett, &c.

The CHAIRMAN read numerous letters regretting absence. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol wrote: "I am sorry that diocesan work will call me back from Bristol on Monday evening, and that I cannot have the pleasure of being at your meeting. I have been a poor-law guardian myself, and from what I know of the duties can see no reason whatever why women should not be supported, if willing to undertake them." Mr. Killigrew Wait wrote that he earnestly trusted that the meeting would "resolve energetically to support one or more women candidates in the interest, and interest only, of the many helpless women and children inmates of our workhouses to whom the sympathy and insight of a few intelligent women would be invaluable." The Rev. J. B. Clifford "earnestly hoped that some ladies would be returned at the approaching election." Mr. A. F. Woodward had the fullest sympathy with the object of the meeting, and considered the desirability of supporting the election of women as poor-law guardians very great and very important. The Rev. Arnold Thomas was heartily in sympathy with the object of the meeting, and would be glad to render any help in his power. Canon Mather, the Revs. C. H. Wallace, Richard Glover, U. R. Thomas, Canon Clark, Dr. Gotch, Rev. J. Wilson, and many others had also written expressing interest.

The chairman, Mr. Greenwell, and Mr. Leonard addressed the meeting in support of the proposal to promote the return of some ladies at the approaching election in April. The latter gentleman read a letter he had received from Mr. R. Malcolm Kerr, LL.D. (judge of the city of London Court, a magistrate for Middlesex, and chairman of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians), in which Mr. Kerr detailed the work performed by the ladies on that board, where he was watching the experiment being tried with deep interest, and much hope of its success. He described the usefulness of the lady guardians as greatest outside the board; on the board they had little to do and less to say, but in committees their influence had been most marked, and in the administration of out-relief they provide themselves with a vast amount of work. Mr. Kerr's letter was supplemented by another from Miss Lidgett, one of the lady guardians. Mr. Leonard commented on the usefulness of co-operation between the legal work of the poor law and the charitable

Mr. MARK WHITWILL spoke earnestly in support of this useful sympathy which women might bring to the unfortunate.

Mr. Pease, chairman of the Barton Regis Poor-Law Board, said

he had no doubt whatever that a committee of ladies would be useful

The Rev. L. H. BYRNE said he had come doubtful, but was convinced that his doubts were unnecessary. He would move, "That this meeting pledges itself to support two or more lady can-

This was seconded by Dr. Beddoe.

After a few remarks from Mr. Wollaston, the resolution was

On the motion of Dr. Beddoe, a vote of thanks was moved to Mr. and Miss Fry, and carried.

LADY VISITORS FOR THE SALFORD WORKHOUSE.

At the ordinary weekly meeting of the Salford Board of Guardians. held February 24th at the workhouse, Eccles New Road, Weaste, the Chairman (Mr. T. Dickins) moved a resolution in the following terms :- "That a committee of ladies be appointed to visit the women and children in the workhouse under such regulations as shall not interfere with the appointed discipline and management of the house. That such committee be respectfully invited to enter their reports in a visiting book, to be submitted periodically through the house committee to the board, and that the house committee be instructed to carry out these resolutions." He said some ladies had occasionally visited the house, and their visits had been highly appreciated by the women and children in the house, and the object of the resolution was to systematise that visitation. No doubt the poor people in the house were treated with all the kindness and ustice which the circumstances permitted, but the exercise of impartial authority did not permit that sympathy which would be so valuable to the women and children, and the periodical visits of ladies of education and refinement, who would talk with the inmates on their present and future prospects, could not fail to exercise a beneficial effect on them, and might lead to a diminution of pauperism. Mr. Dickins said he had reason to know that there were everal ladies who would be very glad to join the committee and to take up the good work, and he appealed to the clergy of all denominations to assist the house committee in forming the ladies' committee. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Taylor, and, after some conversation, was unanimously adopted.

POLITICAL MEETING OF LADIES AT DARLINGTON.

On Feb. 17th, a women's meeting was held in the Central Hall, Darlington, when interesting addresses were delivered by Mrs. Scatcherd and Miss L. Carbutt, of Leeds, on questions affecting women, comprising the evils of war, the suffrage, the welfare of Ireland, local option, &c. There was a good attendance. Mrs. FRY presided, and was supported on the platform by the Misses Shewell, Mrs. Wood, and other ladies.

Mrs. FRY, in opening the proceedings, said that she had been asked to open that meeting. They had often been told that it was very unwise for ladies to interest themselves in those topics, because, as it was said, they only belonged to gentlemen; but she trusted it was their desire that they should all be wiser and better from

what they were going to hear.

Mrs. Scatcherd delivered an address showing the deep concern which women have in legislative measures affecting the welfare of

the community.

Miss Carbutt then addressed the meeting. She said she was delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear that a Liberal Association of Women had been delighted to hear t formed in Darlington to meet together to discuss such subjects as they were discussing that night, and begged them to meet together regularly to discuss those important questions. She, therefore, had great pleasure in moving the first resolution, as follows: "That this meeting approves of the formation of a Women's Liberal Association in Darlington, and pledges itself to give to it its hearty

support."
Mrs. Thompson seconded this, which was carried unanimously. Mrs. J. G. Blumer said that the first thing which induced them

some ladies had heard of similar associations in York and Bristol, and it was considered that it was desirable to have one formed in Darlington, and some of them met together to discuss the subject. About forty members congregated at the first meeting to consider the advisability of the formation of the Ladies' Liberal Society in Darlington. Two ladies came from York to give information how their associations were carried on. And the feeling of the meeting was entirely in favour of the formation of a society. Another meeting was held, and they had already fifty ladies on the committee. She then read the rules of the association, and moved the following resolution :- "That this meeting approves of the rules of the Darlington Liberal Association and the rules submitted to it."

Mrs. CLEWS seconded this, which was carried without one

Mrs. Charles then proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was seconded by Mrs. Glendenning.

Mrs. Shewell proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fry for presiding, which was supported by Mrs. Scatcherd and carried v acclamation.

The proceedings then terminated.

Rules of the Association.-1. Name: Darlington Women's Liberal Association. 2. Objects: (1) To form sound opinions among the women of Darlington on public questions, political, social, and moral; (2) To diffuse information among them as to the manner in which the special interests of their sex are affected by existing laws; (3) To direct their influence to the securing of the best possible representation in local elections, for which women already possess the vote, as well as in Parliamentary elections; (4) To arrange for meetings, lectures, discussions, social gatherings, the spreading of literature, and such other means as shall seem desirable.

GIRLS IN THE INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION SCHEME.

The following letter respecting this scheme has been addressed to the editor of the Northern Whig: -

"1. From the time that such a measure was mentioned in the Queen's Speech, at the opening of the session of 1878, ladies and gentlemen interested in education in all parts of Ireland were on the watch to secure that the benefits proposed should be shared with girls. 2. On finding that the Bill mentioned boys and their teachers only, these friends instantly took steps to remind the then Government of the claims of girls—claims resting chiefly on the vast importance to the whole community of the education of women of the middle classes, but also, to a lesser extent, on their right to an equal proportionate share of the money to be appropriated from the Church surplus, which belonged equally to women as to men. 3. When questions were put to Lord Cairns in the House of Lords on behalf of girls by Lords Waveney, Spencer, and Granville, he said that the Bill was not intended to include them; and on one occasion, the 2nd July, 1878, that if they were included, the financial arrangements of the scheme would have to be enlarged. 4. But when a very representative and influential deputation of ladies and gentlemen waited upon Lord Cairns, on the 5th July, neither he nor the Chief Secretary, Mr. Lowther, who was present, said one word about the finances, nor raised the slightest difficulty on that ground. It was quite evident to the deputation that his Lordship's attention had been strongly called to the wrong done by the original narrowness of the Bill, and that he was glad of the opportunity of promising to endeavour to have it redressed. 5. That promise was strictly fulfilled; for, when the proper time for amendments came that is, when the Bill was in committee in the House of Commons-Mr. Lowther announced that the Government had obtained legal advice, to the effect that the Bill as it stood did include girls, by virtue of the law which makes all general Acts apply to women as well as men, unless specifically excluded. But, partly for sake of clearness, and partly to mark their positive intention, they accepted the amendment which borrowed a clause from the English Endowed Schools Act, that 'provision shall be made, as far as conveniently may be, for extending to girls the benefits' of the scheme. As the English Eudowed Schools Commissioners felt bound, by that clause, to admit girls to all advantages in the schemes they prepared, excepting in the cases where private founders settled their own money to commence a Ladies' Liberal Association in Darlington was that | restrictively on boys, the precedent was complete, and we all know

that Parliament is more easily persuaded to adopt a plan with a precedent than one without. 6. It was with this acknowledgment of the rightful inclusion of girls in full view that the Government asked the House of Commons for the money, which they alone could grant. 7. We who are specially interested in the education of girls feel, quite as strongly as those solely interested in boys, that there is no possible object upon which public money can be more wisely expended than upon education. We know also how great the disappointment of conscientious teachers at finding that the year. disappointment of conscientious teachers at finding that the very success of the examinations has led to such diminution in the rewards. The schoolmistresses feel this at least as severe as the schoolmasters. and are far less able to plead their own cause. 8. But we consider it unjust, as well as invidious, to make the presence of the girls the principal argument for an application for an increased grant. Their omission from the scheme at first, whether from narrow indifference or mere forgetfulness (I sincerely believe, and have good reason to believe, the latter), was a wrong, a wrong to all Ireland, no less than to girls and their friends; a wrong which, if it had not been speedily redressed, it would have been hard ever to forgive. Let the grant be asked on its merits, because the candidates have increased in three years from less than 4,000 to nearly 7,000, the boys being still immensely more numerous than the girls. Surely we may be united in asking for help for educating the whole of the young people of Ireland. If divisions of sex are to be recognised we shall have divisions of social position, and questions asked as to why endowed schools should be allowed to compete with unendowed; and other suggestions will be made, very plausible, but tending to break up the simplicity and unity of a serious effort for the permanent elevation of the whole community.—Yours, &c.,
"Donaghmore, 18th Feb., 1882." "ISABELLA M. S. Tod.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LAST CREATED BEING.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam, - I wish that one of the many excellent clergymen who befriend our cause, and who have so much of the genuine spirit of Christianity that they do not fear to question the letter, would take the trouble to clear up a passage which has led to many mistakes. I allude to 1 Timothy ii. 13, where St. Paul is supposed to argue for the subjection of women on the ground that "Adam was first formed, then Eve." Putting aside the question of Verbal Inspiration, which I do not wish here to raise, it seems to me that mere natural respect for so truly great a teacher as St. Paul calls on us peremptorily to refuse to believe that he could have used this argument as it has absurdly been presented to us. I need not point out to the readers of the Women's Suffrage Journal that, in its present inadmissible shape, it would involve the rightful submission of all men to beasts—for beasts were first created, then Adam. Indeed, we should need to go yet further back, and the beasts should submit to the birds, and the birds to the fishes; seeing that the latter were in existence a day before the birds, and the birds before the fourfooted beasts, as the beasts were a day older than Adam. Respect for the Bible and for St. Paul ought to forbid all Christians from admitting for a moment that such logic as this is to be found in one of the great canonical epistles. Will no one prove to us that some monkish copyist in later times has turned the entire argument upside down? The whole teaching, alike of the book of Genesis, and of the great Stone Book of Geology, is, that higher and higher types constantly appeared on earth,—the latest being always the highest. It happened to me yesterday to walk round the ingenious models of the Saurians and Mastodons and Dinotheriums in the gardens of the Crystal Palace, and the reflection struck me forcibly how the huge unwieldy forms of the earlier world had, step by step, given place to creatures, smaller indeed than they, and less strong, but more agile, more graceful, doubtless also far more sensitive and quick-witted. Certainly the analogy of all we know or can deduce of the story of those dim ages tends to raise not the earliest but the *latest* arrival; and rather to bear out Robert Burns' whimsical fancy of Nature, whose "prentice han'"—
She tried on Man.

And then she made the lasses O!

than the opposite idea, that the last created being was an inferior work destined only to subjection.—I am, Madam, truly yours,
February 12, 1882.

One of Eve's Daughters.

LAWS AFFECTING WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,-I shall be much obliged if any of your readers can give me any information as to the laws affecting women in Australia. It may be that the laws vary in different colonies, I mean more particularly in New South Wales.—Yours truly, Wellesley House, Bournemouth.

RIGHTS OF THE "WOMEN OF KENT."

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam, -A neighbour tells me she knows that, thirty years ago, a Mrs. Mount, a married woman, exercised a right secured to her as 'a women of Kent," by a statute of Elizabeth's time, to vote in elections for members of Parliament. It appears there exists, or existed, a legal distinction between "women of Kent," and "Kentish women," the former being privileged to vote, in recom-pense for the devotion all the inhabitants of the Kentish coast isplayed at the time of the preparations against the Spanish invasion. Is the privilege of the "women of Kent" quite a thing of the past, and are we "women of Kent" at Beckenham, or only "Kentish women?"—Faithfully yours,

Beckenham, Kent, Feb. 22nd, 1882.

A HUSBAND'S TITLE TO WEDDING PRESENTS.

In the Court of Queen's Bench on February 15th, before Lord Chief Justice Coleridge and a special jury, the case of Williams v. Mercier came on for trial. The case took the form of an interpleader issue brought to try the right to certain jewellery, of the value of £1,170, which had been seized by the sheriff under an execution issued by the defendant against the wife of the plaintiff. The plaintiff was a gentleman of fortune, living in South Audley-street, and in March, 1881, he married a lady who before her marriage had had dealings with the defendant, a milliner in Park-street, Grosvenor Square, It appeared that at the time of her marriage Mrs. Williams was indebted to the defendant for goods supplied, and that after her marriage the defendant obtained judgment against her for a sum of about £1,000. The jewellery in question was seized to satisfy that judgment. It was now shown on the part of the plaintiff that the ewellery had been given to Mrs. Williams by her friends at the time of her marriage, as wedding presents. Lord Chief Justice Coleridge ruled that in these circumstances the property had passed to the husband, and the defendant had no right to seize it in satisfaction of a judgment obtained against the separate estate of the wife. A verdict was accordingly entered for the plaintiff.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SWITZERLAND.

The women of Switzerland have received a small proportion of their "rights." A law came into operation on New Year's Day by which both sexes are made of age on attaining twenty-one years. Previous to that time the age of majority varied in different cantons; in many cases men were not so called until they were twenty-six years old, and women never were of age at all. The property of the unfortunate sex was held under trustees, the guardianship being in most cases imposed upon the communes. These authorities now find themselves relieved of a burden very grudgingly borne, and an immense sum-more than ten million francs in the town of St. Gall alone—has come into the direct possession of its rightful

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY BUILDING SOCIETY.—This society deserves special regard from those who are anxious to see the extension of employment for women carried on with commercial and mercantile occupations, as well as in handicrafts. So far as we are aware it is the only society of the kind which admits women on its board of management, and thus far the experiment has answered very well. This society also makes a point of requiring sanitary inspection before advancing money. It is noteworthy that the appearance of women on the board of management is simultaneous with this feature in the management of building societies before unknown.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES-For Removal,

		FIRST REPORT, 8-10 February, 1882.	
	Feb		
*1417	8	WHITEHAVEN, Thomas Jackson, M.D., chairman (Mr.	
		G. C. Bentinck)	1
O*1418	"	AYLSHAM, Norfolk (Mr. Birkbeck)	20
O*1419	11	Dublin, Susan Murphy, on behalf of the Members of	
0		the Women's Suffrage Committee, Eustace-street	
		(Mr. Mason)	1
(i) 1420	,,	Dublin, F. W. Harberton, chairman (Mr. Mason)	1
©*1421	11	NOTTINGHAM [Name illegible], chairman (Mr. A.	
	122	Morley)	1
O*1422	17	W. P. SNELL and others (Lord Henry Scott) [APP. 6]	43
	,,	TEWKESBURY, J. R. Yorke, chairman (Mr. Yorke)	1
*1424	9	Brighton (Mr. Hollond)	39
1425	1)	London (Mr. Mason)	31
*1426	10	Wandsworth (Sir Trevor Lawrence)	22
*1427	"	LLANDUDNO (Mr. Rathbone)	59
*1428	,,	MAIDSTONE (Mr. Alexander Henry Ross)	22
			1
		Total number of Petitions 12-Signature	s 241
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SECOND REPORT, 13-17 February, 1882.

DECOME INTERIOR TO THE PERIOR THE PERIOR TO	
Brought forward, Petiti	ions 12—
	tures 241
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Henry Allen)	7
O+1646 ,, TENBY, W. H. Richards, chairman (Mr. H. Allen)	
*1647 ,, A. M. B. HACK and others (Baron H. De Worms)	
*1648 ,, EDITH A. BOWRING and others (Lord G. Hamilton)	
1649 ,, AMELIA ARNOLD and others (Mr. Hinde Palmer)	
*1650 ,, HENRY ATHERTON and others (Mr. Scott)	
*1651 ,, Addington (Mr. Spencer)	
○*1652 14 YORKTOWN, W. Napier, General, chairman (Mr.	
Walter)	1
Of1653 ,, TRURO, Attendants at a Lecture held in the Tov	
Hall, William Norton, chairman (Mr. Willyams	
*1654 ,, Truro (Mr. Willyams)	72
*1655 15 Thomas B. W. Briggs and others (Major Dickson)	
O*1656 ,, Peterborough, John Thompson, mayor, chairm	
(Mr. W. J. Fitzwilliam)	1
©#1657 ,, London, W. Justin Evans, chairman (Mr. Willia	ım
M'Arthur)	1
*1658 ,, AGNESA MEYER SPROTT and others (Mr. W. M'Arthu	r) 23
Ot1659 ,, Peckham, G. L. Jurney, J.P., chairman ,,	1
*1660 ,, Anna C. Andrews and others (Mr. Mason)	14
*1661 ., J. RUDDLE and others (Mr. Murray)	
*1662 17 James Luke and others (Sir Charles Dilke)	
© 1663 ,, Раумонти, Attendants at a drawing-room meetin	g,
Weston Lodge, Mannamead, Margaret Brag	
(Mr. Macliver)	1
*1664 ,, Anne Buswell and others (Mr. Thomas Paget)	70
In extend sall reserved adole makes to be the	-
Total number of Petitions 32—Signa	tures 634

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

APP. 6. Lord Henry Scott. Sig. 43.

1422. The humble Petition of the undersigned,

Sheweth,-That in the judgment of your petitioners the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the alifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of ocal 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 omen.
And your petitioners will ever pray.
WILLIAM PHILIP SNELL.

ROB. RAWSON. GEORGE SHEPPERD. &c., &c., &c.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. GENERAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FI

GENERAL	SUBSC	JK.	IPI	TONS,	FEBRUARI	,	188	Z.			
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1	CENTR	AL	COMMITTEE.	TEVO"
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	Mr. Geo. Palmer. M.P. (Public		Miss M. Higgins The Misses Southall	0 10
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	Mrs. J. Hullah (Public Meetings		Miss A. Greaves	0 6
	Fund) 5	0 0	Mr. Benjamin Taylor	0 5
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	Mrs. C. Holland 5	0 0	Mr. Levy	0 5
	Mrs. C. Holland	2 0	Mr. Levy Mr. James Knight Mrs. Perrier	0 5
	Miss Courtauld 2	2 0 0	Mrs. Perrier	0 5
	Mrs. Howard 2		Miss Rees	
	Miss M. A. Estlin 1		Mrs. S. J. Johnson	0 4
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	Count Metaxa		Miss Van Putten	0 2
	Mr. M. E. Marsden 1		Miss Turle	
	Miss Robertson 1	1 0	Miss S. A. Turle	0 2
	Mrs. Lynch	1 0	Rev. W. H. Turle	0 2
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	Mrs. Hollond 1	1 0	Mrs. Hooper	0 2
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	Miss Ashurst Biggs 1 Mr. E. H. Smith 1	0 0	Mrs. Pettitt	0 1
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