

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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more reasonable to suppose that he withdrew his notice because it had been rendered practically obsolete by the resolutions on the Budget. It therefore appears to us that there was a by no means unhopeful prospect of coming on if Mr. M'LAREN had been advised to leave his motion on the paper, and watch its chances, and we believe we shall be in accord with the general feeling of the friends of the cause outside Parliament in expressing extreme regret that this course was not at the time deemed advisable.

MR. M'LAREN will continue to ballot for a first place for the Resolution as long as there is a chance of a day during the session, and we hope that better fortune than has attended his past efforts may yet reward his exertions.

FOLLOWING the example of many newly elected members of Parliament, Mr. LENG has made a praiseworthy effort to improve the accommodation for ladies in the gallery of the House of Commons. He urged that the space should be enlarged so as to admit a greater number, and that the grille should be removed. Mr. PLUNKET was unable to promise any alteration in the desired direction. Structural and architectural difficulties stood in the way of the first proposal, and the second was opposed on the ground that on inquiry it had been ascertained that while some of the ladies who visit the gallery complain very much of being encaged, the feeling of the majority was found to be against the removal of the grating.

We are not informed by what means the feeling of the majority was ascertained. It appears to us that the only satisfactory method by which such feeling could be gauged with accuracy would be to place a ballot box in the charge of the attendant, with instructions to furnish every lady who visited the gallery with a ballot paper which she might be invited to mark and place in the box, under the same conditions of secrecy as prevail in other elections by ballot. If the box were kept sealed until the end of the session, and the papers then counted, a really trustworthy indication of the feeling of the majority of the ladies who visit the gallery would be obtained.

It would not greatly surprise us to find that the result of such a ballot might be in favour of the present arrangement. The worst thing that can be said of the grille is that it places the occupants in an undignified position, and that it is ridiculous that the House of Commons should be the only legislative assembly in the world that

deems it necessary to enclose the ladies who come to listen to the debates in a cage. But as regards practical considerations there is a good deal to be said on the other side. The slight obstruction to the view of the House caused by the grille is compensated by the ease and freedom it secures. Under this friendly shelter ladies can change their places during a long debate, while the tedium of over-prolix oratory can be tempered with tea. The spectacle of the rows of strangers in the gallery opposite, wedged as straitly in their places as rows of pins in a paper, with the knowledge that no one can vacate his seat for a moment without the risk of losing it, may well make zealous reformers in the cage hesitate before desiring to disturb the present privacy of the gallery. But we suspect that, if architectural or other considerations were to permit of the experiment being made of removing a portion of the screen from the gallery, it might be found that most of the visitors would crowd to the open part.

MEMBERS of the House of Commons who profess alarm lest in the progress of their demand for political rights women might obtain admittance to Parliament, and even occupy the Speaker's chair, may find their fears strengthened by the contemplation of what happens in assemblies where these terms of equality actually exist. Such are the conditions of membership of the lodges of the Society of Good Templars. At a recent conference of the Grand Lodge at Bristol, Sister WALKER, of Doncaster, is reported to have said, "She was President of her Lodge, and that gave her power over her husband, who sat down directly when she said, 'Brother WALKER, you have spoken upon that subject before.'"

It is curious to imagine what would be the effect on the course of Parliamentary debate should the events of the dim and distant future bring into the Speaker's chair an occupant with the tenacious memory and plainness of speech which appear to characterise the lady president of the lodge at Doncaster. Possibly, the function of Parliament as a place for talk might be restricted, but whether the conduct of public business would suffer a corresponding check is a matter on which it would be rash to pronounce an opinion.

HER MAJESTY in Council has given favourable consideration to the petition of the Institute of Journalists, and has granted that body a Charter of Incorporation, thereby converting nearly 2,000 newspaper writers in this country from an inorganised body unable to act effectively under

any circumstances into a Corporation under Royal Charter.

It is a matter for congratulation that a number of women were members of the Institute at the time of its incorporation, and thus from the first, in the natural and ordinary course, women will participate in the benefits conferred by the Charter on a profession rising in public estimation and importance.

The Institute, by means of its Charter, is empowered to promote whatever tends to improve the status of journalists, it will be able to grant degrees as Fellows or Members of the Journalist Institute, and in many ways secure the advancement of journalism and obtain definite professional standing for its members.

H. B.

A GREAT step forwards in the cause of women's suffrage in the United States has been made by the passing through the House of Representatives of the Bill admitting the territory of Wyoming into the American Union as a State. The constitution passed by the Legislature of Wyoming retained women's suffrage, which has been in operation for twenty years with unqualified success and advantage. The passing of the Bill was opposed in the House of Representatives of the Federal Legislature on the ground of objection to the provisions for women's suffrage. But the measure has been carried through the House, and thus the first steps have been accomplished to the full citizenship of women in a Sovereign State of the Union. Much yet remains to be done, the Bill has to pass the Senate, and to receive the assent of the President before the end is attained. But the success that has been won justifies the hope that the franchise for women may ere long be lifted from its present precarious and uncertain position of existence on sufferance in a territory to that of a recognised provision of a Sovereign State amongst the United States of America.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, April 17th.
THE LADIES' GALLERY.

MR. LENG asked the First Commissioner of Works whether, seeing the keen interest taken by ladies in the proceedings of the House, and the eager but often ineffectual attempts of members by the daily ballot to obtain seats for them in the ladies' gallery, it was in the resources of architectural skill to enlarge the space within which ladies were at present encaged, so as to provide more equal accommodation for strangers of both sexes, and whether there was any good reason for caging off the ladies' gallery and so obstructing the view which ladies would otherwise have of the House and its proceedings.

MR. PLUNKET: I am sorry to say that, owing to the structural

conditions of that part of the House in which the ladies' gallery is situated, it would not be possible in an architectural sense to enlarge it. As to the removing of the grating in front of the ladies' gallery, that is certainly a burning question—(laughter and "Hear, hear")—and one which has frequently been raised and debated in the House, but which has always been decided in the negative, and, I believe, principally because on inquiry it has been ascertained that while some of the ladies who visit the gallery complain very much of being encaged, the feeling of the majority is found to be against the removal of the grating. (Cheers.)

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

On April 24th, at the Westminster Town Hall, the annual meeting of this society was held. The chair was occupied by MARGARET, Lady SANDHURST. On the platform were Mrs. F. Morrison, Mrs. Massingberd, Lady Plowden, Mrs. Pearsall Smith, Mrs. F. Pennington, Mr. Webb, M.P., Sir J. Puleston, M.P., Baron Dimsdale, M.P., Miss Florence Balgarnie, Mr. M'Laren, M.P., Mr. W. Woodall, M.P., Mrs. Wynford Phillips. Among the audience were Mrs. Eva M'Laren, Mrs. Broadley Reid, Mrs. Ramme, Canon Haddock, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Cowen, of the Nottingham School Board, Dr. Kate Mitchell, Miss C. Fothergill, Miss Torrance, Mrs. Grenfell, Miss Malcolm-Kerr, Miss Woolcott Browne, Miss Caroline Williams, Mrs. Bateson, Mrs. Benjamin Clarke, Miss E. Gittins (Leicester), Mrs. Duncan M'Laren, Sir Richard Temple, Bart., M.P., &c.

Letters of regret were read from The Right Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Sir Albert Rolit, M.P., Mr. Augustus Burrell, M.P., Mr. Gerald Loder, M.P., Mr. Carew, Mr. Henry Pochin, Mr. Justin M'Carthy, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and others.

The secretary, Miss Balgarnie, read the report, which has been published separately.

Lady SANDHURST, in opening the proceedings, said she was strongly on the side of the promoters of the meeting, and she had lost no opportunity of impressing upon those whom she occasionally addressed the advantages which would result from an extension of the franchise to women. One could not help seeing how many wrongs there were in the world, which the granting of women's suffrage would right, and although she had only come among them of late years her eyes had been greatly opened. She thought the report altogether satisfactory, and was glad that such commendable work had been done by the secretary (Miss Balgarnie), and that the movement was really being taken hold of by men and women. It was an anomaly in the advanced state of our high civilisation that at least one-half of our population should remain without the vote. She approved of the work that members had tried to do in Parliament. In England great good had been done by the meetings held, and greater interest was being excited in every part of the country. Almost wherever she went the subject was being continually talked about, and only in two districts had she found it unpalatable.

MR. WOODALL, M.P., proposed the first resolution: "That this meeting adopt the report and statement of accounts just read, and direct that they be circulated." He said that Lady Sandhurst had already expressed her opinion that the report was very satisfactory; he thought it a very able and encouraging report. It told a story of continued activity in the cause of women's suffrage; and if some of his audience found it to be a further illustration of hope deferred, he thought they would also find evidences of many indirect results and various good achievements in all directions which prevented their hearts being sick. One beneficial result was to be found in the difference in character of the opposition with which they had to contend. There might be some present who remembered the time when, under the advocacy of Mr. John Stuart Mill, the proposal they now made was only a theme for derision. They had passed from that period, and were now face to face with many evidences of approval throughout the country, and the early certainty of the accomplishment of their purpose. The opposition had, therefore, taken an altogether different form; it had resolved itself into definite proposals. Mr. Samuel Smith among others had printed and circulated his opinions with results which they had nothing to regret. They would find that Mr. Smith's objection was not directed against the proposal of this society. The propositions they

made were well known, although often much misrepresented. Where the duties and responsibilities of citizenship were fulfilled, where rates and taxes were paid, then those who exercise these duties should not be deprived of their rights as citizens merely because they were women, especially as they were recognised as voters in every form of local franchise. Women had proved themselves to be capable of exercising these rights as members of boards of guardians, members of school boards, and some of his friends present had done useful work on the county council. Mr. Samuel Smith wished to know what ladies thought of bi-metallism; he did not think many of those who voted understood the question. The result would be rather strange if members of Parliament were put through an examination on this complicated subject. But Mr. Smith went further and asked them to conceive the inconvenience that would arise in the canvassing were ladies to become voters. He did not know that any such inconvenience had been experienced on the county council. Was it not, he asked, a little ludicrous in regard to the canvassing of women voters by men that neither party had the slightest reluctance to influence voters now? These objections appeared to him so absurd that again, he repeated, the opponents of women's suffrage had done them a real service by making them apparent. He thought they had, in the good women were doing, a fair justification for the hope they felt that in agitating for women's suffrage they were seeking a common advantage for the whole country. With regard to such questions as the social condition of the people, their elevation by means of education and improving the dwellings of the poor, in the name of common-sense where would they be to-day if it were not for women workers? These questions had not received the amount of attention which they ought to have had. They had not the weight they ought to have in the selection of members, and this was one reason why women voters would be an advantage. Householders should not be debarred merely because they were women, he repeated. Everybody agreed England was coming to a wider franchise some day, and they would not rest until they had got manhood suffrage. This they might safely say. The franchise was always extended with a view of bringing the state the largest number of good citizens. He held that the question of admitting women to the franchise was one of extreme simplicity, and it was expedient that the matter should be settled as soon as possible. Whatever would satisfy their opponents, he asked, if not declarations like those which had been evoked by the latest appeal of some of the women of the nineteenth century, and, moreover, those definite declarations from women who were well qualified to speak, which appeared from time to time in the *Women's Suffrage Journal*? If there were a considerable number of women who did not take an interest in politics, there was also reason for it. Why should they, when they could not express their views? Where they had the franchise for local matters women used it in about the same proportion as men. He claimed women's suffrage as a right.

Baron DIMSDALE, M.P., seconded the resolution. He congratulated the society with hearty warmth upon the fact that it contained among its adherents men and women of every political party. If members of the association were confined to the Liberal or Conservative party he would not have so many hopes of the women's suffrage question being speedily settled as he had that day. Referring to the efforts which were being made in the House of Commons, he said he thought it would be possible to take a division on the subject of women's suffrage in the House of Commons the next night. He hoped that some such debate would take place, for if it did not this Parliament would differ from any other which had preceded it. Personally he seemed to regret the necessity of testing the opinion of members by an abstract resolution. When before their constituents, members of Parliament were very apt to say that they were in favour of a question, and then when their opinion was tested to run off into the wrong lobby. If there were no division to-morrow evening, or at any other time during this Parliament, those who believed in the question would not know for whom to vote. That which they had principally to contend against was not active opposition but inactive and lukewarm support. Speaking of Mr. Samuel Smith's letter, he said that this politician thought it a great misfortune that women should take any part in political controversy. He was reminded of a remark made some time ago as to the absurdity of allowing the Jews to have the municipal franchise, and debarring them from political power. Similarly women were allowed to vote for the

county council, and he thought it was time everyone asked, Why were they prevented from voting in Parliamentary elections? Women did not look at all political questions in the same light as men. They thought more of social than of political questions. He thought it their duty to give hearty and cordial support to Mr. M'Laren, and they would speedily arrive at a date when the electoral disabilities of women should be removed.

Mr. WEBB, M.P., supported the resolution in a few words, as there were important debates on at the House of Commons, at which he wished to be present. He said they were agitating for the rights of Ireland, and women were struggling for the rights of women. The objections which were continually being urged against the admission of women to the vote had, he thought, no reality. He was glad that when women were educated like men there were no wrong results from it. The educated woman was a less one-sided creature than those who were less educated. It was his good fortune to know women of both classes. He then devoted himself to considering the work of women and the beneficial results which had resulted from it. He did not think man had managed social problems so well that there was no need for female assistance. Women brought into the work higher feelings and more delicate perceptions. One of the greatest privileges he had had was to see the gradual elevation of women, and he hoped that before long they would have an equal vote with men.

Sir JOHN PULESTON, M.P., supported the resolution. He said that he had come to testify his continued interest in the work of the society. He could only express his great astonishment that they came there year after year in face of the important fact that they had a majority in the House of Commons. They must not expect too much from the next evening because members often would not take the trouble to go to the House to an evening sitting. It was, of course, desirable that the motion should have a better place. He hoped he might be allowed to remind them that "United they stood, divided they fell." It was thought they had a large majority in the House, on several recent occasions, but when the time for division came, the members who had declared themselves in favour of granting the vote to women ran away into another lobby. He sincerely hoped that the next time they might be more successful. Reference had more than once been made to the definite position taken up by Mr. Samuel Smith. He had thought him generally a very sensible man and imagined that he had had more wisdom than to give reasons which were not reasons. The position occupied by that gentleman had surprised him exceedingly.

This resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mrs. MASSINGBERD then proposed: "That the members of this society desire to express their cordial recognition of the efforts made this session by Mr. Woodall and the other members of the Parliamentary committee; and while deeply regretting the adverse fortune in the ballot which precluded the bringing in of a Bill for the enfranchisement of women, they pledge themselves to use every means in their power to support the resolution standing in the name of Mr. W. S. B. M'Laren." She was there, she said, as a curious illustration of men's ideas of justice. She possessed land and houses in three counties; she could read and write and speak the Queen's English; she was permitted by her Majesty the Queen to use her maiden name and her coat of arms, and yet she was accounted no better than a pauper, and was indeed classed with paupers, maniacs, prisoners, and idiots. In fact, she was a zero and counted for nothing, while the most ignorant of her own farm labourers was allowed to vote. She would like to call that a crying shame, but if she dared to do so, all the go-to-sleep, let-alone, stay-as-you-are people would exclaim with horror! They would say: "There they go, those screaming women of the shrieking sisterhood." She would, therefore, content herself with merely saying that she thought that the arrangement was, to say the least of it, funny—very funny! If women would be more energetic and carry their ideas more boldly into the world; if they would make up their minds definitely and strongly and fearlessly on the subject of women's suffrage, and join some society, it did not matter which, then the work would grow apace. But indeed women must wake up, they must rouse themselves to take an active part in the movement; each individual, however insignificant or powerless or without influence she might believe herself to be, could by her mere words produce an effect, as also by her deeds; indeed even by her thoughts she could do something to hinder or to advance this and all great principles.

She went on to say that all should throw in their lot with the supporters of women's suffrage, that they should do so at once, and not wait until the cause was on the eve of victory. She offered them a motto which should serve as a rule of life to all who were working in public or for any reform—"They say, they will say, let them say!" These words should be engraven on their hearts, and written on their walls and ceilings of their houses. They were words which should never be forgotten by us, for they would help us all to have the courage of our convictions, and not to mind even being laughed at. The women's suffrage party meant to win, for they never knew, and never would acknowledge, defeat.

Lady PLOWDEN, in seconding the resolution, explained in a very few words how far she thought the franchise should be extended to women, and to what extent they should have votes. She thought it should be on the same line as it was given to men. She hoped they would quite understand that she approved of the franchise being granted to widows and single women who paid rates and taxes as well as all married women who had a business of their own and paid rates and taxes.

Before Lady Sandhurst could rise to put the resolution, Miss EDITH LUPTON, from the body of the hall, expressed her wish to move an amendment. She was invited to the platform, when it appeared that she objected to the wording of the resolution which thanked the members of the House of Commons for the efforts which had been made during the session. She was exceedingly angry that the Irish and other questions should have obtained precedence in Parliament, and she very plainly hinted that friends in the House had been remiss in their duty. She urged that the question should no longer be taken up in a half-hearted manner. Some cheering greeted her remarks, which was renewed with redoubled force when Mr. M'Laren rose to make his reply. He had not, he said, the slightest objection to the amendment. They had made many efforts in Parliament and no one was more sorry—no one could be more sorry than he was that they had not been successful.

The amendment, however, fell to the ground, as Lady Sandhurst ruled that it was not, properly speaking, an amendment, but rather a fresh resolution.

Mr. WALTER M'LAREN, M.P., moved: "That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Margaret, Lady Sandhurst for presiding on this occasion." Speaking of Lady Sandhurst, he said perhaps she had done as much, if not more, than any other woman for the cause of women's suffrage. She frequently addressed meetings in every part of the country, speaking on a great variety of important subjects; and she made a point of introducing a few words in favour of women's suffrage at all her meetings. In this way she was able to introduce the question to a great number of people who had not yet considered it, and who might be quite unwilling to attend women's suffrage meetings. It was very important that the advocates of this cause should follow Lady Sandhurst's example and should put in a word in this way on every occasion that offered itself. Miss Lupton had moved an amendment on the proposed vote of thanks to members of Parliament for their action in the House of Commons. He quite agreed with Miss Lupton's regrets that their efforts in the House had not been attended with greatest success. He did not believe that this arose from any want of zeal or sympathy on their part, and he proceeded to explain some of the technical difficulties which stood in the way of securing a night for discussion. These were greater than most people realised. Balloting was only possible on Tuesdays and Fridays, and on Fridays only one division might be taken, therefore any question coming second for discussion had but a poor chance. Up till now the friends of the cause had balloted for every possible night, and had only succeeded in getting one night, that was March 4th; this had been taken by the Government. Mr. Provand had secured precedence for his motion on a duty on raisins for April 25th. Mr. M'Laren had secured the second place. He certainly thought that women's suffrage was a more important question to consider than the duty on raisins. As no second division might be taken on Friday, Mr. M'Laren had thought it would be best to ballot again in the hope of securing a better place on another night. He went on to say that although Miss Lupton had blamed members of Parliament for the want of progress of the cause, he thought that the fault lay partly with women themselves; many of them were indifferent to or, at least, not strongly enough in favour of, their own enfranchisement. Those who were in favour

of it were not sufficiently outspoken, nor ready enough to defend their principles in the face of ridicule or opposition. It was absolutely necessary that women should take a very much stronger and also a more decided line in this matter. They must be prepared fearlessly to meet opposition, to carry their question boldly into the ranks of the enemy, and to win their cause with courage. As an example of the proper methods to be pursued, Mr. M'Laren quoted the action of Mr. H. Pochin, who, having ascertained that Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., was opposed to the principle of women's suffrage, informed him of his attention to do his utmost to prevent his return to Parliament at the ensuing election. It was now arranged that a series of meetings should be held by ladies who are supporters of the principle of women's suffrage, in Mr. Samuel Smith's constituency.

Mrs. PEARSALL SMITH seconded the vote of thanks to Lady Sandhurst, which was adopted, and brought the proceedings to a close.

[The foregoing report is arranged and slightly condensed from the special report of the meeting in the *Women's Penny Paper*.]

DORCHESTER.

A public meeting, under the presidency of the Mayor, was held at the Town Hall, March 28th, to hear an address by Miss Balfour. The Mayor was supported by the Revs. H. S. Solly and W. J. Bain and Mr. H. Rendall. The Mayor suitably opened the proceedings, and then Miss Balfour spoke at length in favour of suffrage for women. The Rev. W. J. Bain moved the adoption of a petition to be presented to the House of Commons on behalf of the meeting in favour of women's suffrage. Mr. H. Rendall seconded, and the resolution was carried. Rev. H. S. Solly moved a vote of thanks to Miss Balfour, which was seconded by Mr. W. H. Marshallsay, and carried by acclamation.

TORQUAY.

A well-attended public meeting was held at St. George's Hall, Torquay, on March 27th, under the auspices of the Torquay Women's Liberal Association. Dr. Black occupied the chair. Miss Balfour gave an address on the political duties of women. Before the meeting terminated, Mrs. Louisa Herford, in a brief telling speech, advocated the political claims of women. She proposed a resolution in favour of the chairman signing a petition to the House of Commons in favour of the Parliamentary vote for women. Mr. Walter Grogan seconded, and it was carried unanimously, most of the meeting voting for it. The Rev. S. Allin moved and Mr. Herford (Leeds) seconded a vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers, with which the proceedings concluded.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

A public meeting was held in St. George's Hall, Garrick-street, on March 25th, in connection with the Wolverhampton Central Women's Liberal Association; Miss Mander in the chair. Mr. M'Laren, M.P., and Miss Balfour addressed the meeting, and at the close a petition was adopted in favour of Mr. M'Laren's resolution.

HURST.

Mrs. Newton presided over a meeting held on the 25th of March, addressed by Miss Ellen Chapman on the subject of women's suffrage. The lecturer pointed out that they were often told their wants were sufficiently seen to by the votes of the men of the family; but every family had not a man belonging to it. The women in such households had no votes; politically they were dead, but they were very much alive so far as taxes were concerned. Their chivalry went so far as to say they ought not to be contaminated by a vote, but she never knew that chivalry went so far as to say they were not to be troubled with taxation. The resolution in favour of the extension of the franchise was seconded by the Rev. T. Masterman and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and to Miss Chapman.

LECTURES.

LEICESTER.

Miss Edith Gittins delivered an able lecture, at the Leicester Liberal Club, on women's suffrage, on April 14th. The audience was large, being chiefly composed of ladies. Miss Fullagar presided.

At the close the hearty thanks of the meeting were passed to Miss Gittins, whose address had been met throughout with frequent applause.

PORTADOWN.

At a recent meeting of the Portadown Young Men's Association a very able paper on women's suffrage was read by Mr. John Eccles. The address was extremely well received, and was published in full in the *Portadown Lurgan News* of April 5th.

LEEDS.

A lecture on the extension of the franchise to women was delivered by Miss Isabella O. Ford, on April 15th, in the Congregational School, Headingley Hill, Leeds, before a numerous audience, presided over by Mrs. Luccock. Mr. Greaves Fisher, Mrs. M'Roberts, and the Rev. Charles Hargrove made a few remarks on the subject. A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Ford for her address, on the motion of Mr. Talbot Baines, seconded by Mrs. Child, and supported by Mr. B. G. Wilkinson (chairman of the School Board). Mrs. Luccock was thanked for her services in the chair, on the motion of Mrs. Rawlinson Ford, seconded by Miss Butler.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

ALL SAINTS', HATCHAM, LITERARY SOCIETY.

At a meeting of this society, held at the Institute, Monson Road, New Cross, on Thursday evening, March 27th, a paper advocating women's suffrage was read by Miss Anderson, and it was resolved "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be conferred upon women who possess the school board, municipal, and county council votes." It was also resolved "That a copy of the foregoing resolution should be forwarded to Mr. Charles Darling, Q.C., M.P. for Deptford." Votes of thanks were afterwards passed to Miss Anderson for her paper, and to the Rev. J. B. Mylius for presiding.

ECCLES.

On March 21st, a joint debate of the Eccles Methodist New Connexion Mutual Improvement Society and the Patricroft Congregational Mutual Improvement Society was held in the New Connexion Schoolroom, Eccles, the Rev. J. H. Dingle, the president of the Patricroft society, presiding. Mr. R. Heaton opened a debate on women's suffrage by moving "That this meeting is of opinion that women ought to vote by right, and vote for members of Parliament, where the same conditions of citizenship exist as now qualify men to vote." The opposition mustered in strong force, led by Mr. Jas. Roper, several of them objecting to the right of voting in municipal and other elections already possessed by women. After an interesting and exciting discussion a division was taken, and the resolution declared to be carried by twenty votes to fifteen.

POLITICAL SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB.

On the 25th March, at the National Liberal Club, a discussion on "The Parliamentary Suffrage—should Women be admitted to it?" was opened by Mr. J. Stuart Glennie and Dr. Pankhurst. Mr. Stuart Glennie was against the admission of women to the franchise, and Dr. Pankhurst for it. A good deal of discussion followed their speeches; and finally Miss Jane Cobden moved the adjournment of the meeting. The adjourned discussion took place on April 1st, Mr. B. F. C. Costelloe presiding, Miss Cobden continued the discussion, as did also Mrs. Stanton Blatch. Dr. Pankhurst and Mr. Glennie followed at the close.

DARWEN LIBERAL LEAGUE.

The Darwen Liberal League held their annual festival on March 23th, when Mr. M'Laren gave an address on women's suffrage. At the conclusion of the address, which was cordially received, a vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Mr. Alderman Lightbown, and carried by acclamation.

CARDIFF WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At a committee meeting of the Cardiff Branch of the Women's Liberal Association, held on April 15th, in the offices of the Liberal Association, Queen-street, Mrs. Waite in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "That the time has come when the enfranchisement of women ought to be included in the Liberal programme."

SOLIHULL HABITATION OF THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

MR. P. A. MUNTZ ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

At the annual meeting of the Solihull Habitation of the Primrose League, which was held on April 22nd, at the Public Hall, Solihull, Mr. J. Courtenay Lord (the Ruling Councillor) in the chair, Mr. P. A. Muntz, in the course of an address, alluded to the increase in the numerical strength of the Primrose League during the past year. It had increased something like ten per cent, and he believed the associates of the Primrose League numbered at the present moment close upon a million. It would be at the next election that they would recognise what the support of the Primrose League really was. It would be then that their gratitude would be due not only to those who would be useful to candidates during that period, but also to those who in slack times of politics had been able and industrious. (Applause.) Commenting on the recent epistolary communications of the members for the Birmingham divisions on the subject of female suffrage, he—(the speaker)—said he was not ashamed of his opinion on the matter. He was pleased to see that Mr. Jesse Collings had, as he—(the speaker)—thought, acted in the right direction. He could not help admiring the independence and freedom of Mr. Jesse Collings when he publicly declared that he recognised the services rendered by the ladies of the country to politics, and was in favour of female suffrage. He (the speaker) believed that the general feeling throughout the country was that those ladies who possessed property and paid rates should have votes. He further believed that the decided opinion of the community was that ladies throughout the country had during the last few years done as much as, if not more than, anybody to preserve the Union and to support the Unionist party. For his own part he considered that ladies would be found Conservative in the future as they had been in the past. (Applause.)

SCOTLAND.

MR. WALLACE, M.P., ON THE POLITICAL POWER OF WOMEN.

At a social meeting, under the joint auspices of the Eastern Radical and Advanced Liberal Association, and the Eastern Branch of the Edinburgh Women's Liberal Association, held on April 7th, Mr. Wallace, M.P. for East Edinburgh, said in the course of his address that he was one of those who had never been able to see that the public usefulness of any human being should be confined to the consideration of sex, or any other consideration, except ability and the willingness to be useful. Any considerations of that description it seemed to him would always be sufficiently guarded by the laws of nature itself. He did not say that they required artificial laws to step in and to prescribe the legitimate sphere of duty that was to be undertaken by any human being. The laws of nature, in his view, were sufficiently strong to determine that. Wherever there was no necessity for a municipal or a statute law he thought it was great waste of energy to be at the trouble to make one and record it on the statute book. The one great difficulty in all those cases was to know whether any class—he was not referring to sex more than to any other differentiating element among human beings—but the difficulty to know how to deal with the claims of any class was whether that class as a whole wanted a claim put forth on their behalf by some of their more distinguished members. What he wanted to know was not whether some clever women in one part of the country, and clever women in another part of the country desired a certain sphere of public activity, but whether the class as a whole desired it, because it would be of no public utility to force privileges, advantages, powers, and capacities upon unwilling people, for the simple reason that whenever a certain class of people did not want to use a particular instrument of power then it would not be useful in their hands—they would not apply themselves to see how it could be made most useful; and he did

not know but that at the present moment the leaders of the movement were most usefully occupied in leavening the whole community with those ideas of the power of women, which once thoroughly diffused would make it clear to the most sceptical that the class was not only demanding the power, but also in the position in which that demand being general, if not universal, from the very fact of its being general, could confidently be granted and successfully carried out. (Hear, hear.) There was a difficulty in putting this notion, but his hope was that, in at least some shadowy way, he might have indicated the position he desired to take up in regard to questions connected with that subject and questions cognate to it. (Cheers.)

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The executive committee of the Edinburgh Women's Suffrage Society at their meeting on April 8th passed a unanimous resolution to send letters of thanks and appreciation to Mr. H. D. Pochin, Denbighshire, and Mr. J. Thomasson, Bolton, for the excellent and convincing letters addressed by them to Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., in reference to the action taken by him in his notice of amendment to Mr. Walter B. M'Laren's resolution on women's suffrage.

THE CONVENTION OF ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY BURGHS.

On April 2nd, the Convention of Royal Burghs, sitting in Edinburgh at that time, passed a resolution by thirty-six to six to petition in favour of women's suffrage.

WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS AT GLASGOW.

At a meeting of the governors of St. Mungo's College, held in Glasgow on April 24th, it was unanimously resolved on the recommendation of a committee, to sanction the teaching of women in the various classes of the medical faculty, leaving it to the professors to have conjoint or separate classes.

REMARKABLE PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A remarkable petition in favour of women's suffrage has been presented by Sir E. Watkin to the House of Commons. It bears the signatures of seventy-seven ladies who are survivors of the signatories to a similar petition presented by Mr. John Stuart Mill in 1866. The first name is that of Madame Bodichon, of Robertsbridge, Sussex, and among the others are Dr. Garrett Anderson, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Helen Taylor, Lady Goldsmid, Miss Davenport Hill, Mrs. Bright Clark, and Mrs. Priscilla M'Laren. Sir Edward Watkin proposes to have the petition photographed and sent to the illustrated newspapers before he presents it to the House of Commons. "Twenty-three years ago," reads the prayer of the petition, "we the undersigned, together with many other women, signed a petition to your honourable House in the following terms: 'That, it having been expressly laid down by high authorities that the possession of property in this country carries with it the right to vote in the election of representatives in Parliament, it is an evident anomaly that some holders of property are allowed to use this right while others, forming no less a constituent part of the nation, and equally qualified by law to hold property, are not able to exercise this privilege. That the participation of women in the government is consistent with the principles of the British Constitution, inasmuch as women in these islands have always been held capable of sovereignty, and women are eligible for various public offices. Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your honourable House to consider the expediency of providing for the representation of all householders, without distinction of sex, who possess such property or rental qualification as your honourable House may determine.' These terms," continues the petition now in Sir E. Watkin's hands, "appeal with even greater cogency in 1890 than in 1866, inasmuch as the franchise has since then, on two separate occasions, been widened to include large additional bodies of men. Your petitioners, therefore, pray that your honourable House will grant speedy fulfilment to the prayer aforesaid, by passing a Bill for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women."

On the motion of Sir Edward Watkin the petition was read by the clerk at the table.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam,—The Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage have arranged a scheme of Associate Membership to afford a means of connecting themselves with the Society to a larger number of sympathisers than those reached by the existing organisation.

An Associate Member is a man or woman who signs approval of the principle, and gives some small donation—the amount is not a consideration, it is received as a token of sympathy and to defray the cost of printing and postage. In return the Associate will receive a card of membership, and so long as that card is retained will be considered a member of the Society.

The Committee invite friends of the movement to aid in thus widening the circle embraced by the Society, and I shall be glad to furnish all who are willing to become collectors of Associates with little books of forms provided for the purpose, if they will kindly apply, in person when convenient, or by letter.—Yours faithfully,

HELEN BLACKBURN, Secretary.

Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 10, Great College-st., Westminster, April 24th, 1890.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH, M.P., AND WOMEN VOTERS.

Active steps are being taken in Flintshire in opposition to Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., whose action in regard to Mr. M'Laren's motion in the House of Commons as to the enfranchisement of women, and his subsequent correspondence with Mr. H. D. Pochin, of Bodnant, on the subject has given great offence. The constituents have been furnished with the replies of Mr. John P. Thomasson, of Bolton, and of Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy to Mr. Smith, and public meetings are being arranged in Flintshire to discuss the political question which Mr. Samuel Smith condemns.

WOMEN AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

It is stated in the *Manchester Guardian* that a department has been recently opened at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, which is presided over entirely by women. Four ex-Newnham students, at the head of whom is Miss Clemes, a lady who was for some years resident in Manchester, are engaged in daily work at the Observatory. The precise nature of their employment is of a high technical character; it includes exact measurement from photographs, as well as actual photography and night observations. The arrangement is said to be only tentative, but if Miss Clemes and her associates succeed in making themselves useful the Women's Department will doubtless become a permanent institution.

WOMEN AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The *Manchester Guardian* correspondent states that the process which is known in the Civil Service as "de-sexing" is to be extensively applied to the savings bank establishment. An announcement has been made that seventy female clerks are almost immediately to be added to the establishment.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN'S SECRET OF SUCCESS.

A prominent Spanish statesman was asked the other day to what he attributed the strange fact that a woman, and a foreigner, held the reins of government successfully in her hands in a country so undermined as Spain by political intrigue. "The marvel, so marvel there be," was the reply, "can be explained in the simplest manner. The Queen maintains her position because she is the exact opposite of an intriguing and conspiring woman. She tells no falsehoods, has nothing of the hypocrite about her, is as simple and modest as she is honest, and there is nobody in Spain who is not convinced that she tries to do her best for the country. The Queen's popularity—especially with the women of Spain—is a real power, which gives her much of the hold which she has over her subjects. Natural tact, intelligence, and kindness are also among the weapons by which Queen Christine maintains her position."—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Table with columns for names and amounts, titled 'SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, APRIL, 1890.' Includes names like Miss Jessie Boucherett and Mrs. Whateley Cooke Taylor.

CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED APRIL, 1890.

Table with columns for names and amounts, titled 'SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED APRIL, 1890.' Includes names like Miss Bertha Mason and Mrs. Edwin Ransom.

Mrs. FRANK MORRISON, TREASURER, Central Committee Office, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 25TH TO APRIL 25TH, 1890.

Table with columns for names and amounts, titled 'SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 25TH TO APRIL 25TH, 1890.' Includes names like The Countess of Portsmouth and Mr. W. H. Gwinnett.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, TREASURER, Office, 69, Park-street, Bristol.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE. NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 25TH TO APRIL 24TH, 1890.

Table with columns for names and amounts, titled 'SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 25TH TO APRIL 24TH, 1890.' Includes names like Miss F. Davenport Hill and Mrs. Beevington Atkinson.

Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, TREASURER, Central Committee Office, 10, Great College-street, Westminster.

THE LADIES' GALLERY. (With Compliments to Mr. Leng.)

To the Lords of Creation Miss Blue Stocking spoke, "We will not be shut up here like pigs in a poke, So let some cavalier who loves honour and me—" "Here am I," cried the member for Bonnie Dundee. Johnnie Leng he has mounted his hobby horse fleet, The laws shall go backward, the Tories be beat. He will blow the loud trump of a gallant M.P. And deliver the damsels—will Bonnie Dundee. —From the Globe.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.—In Favour. SECOND REPORT, 19—25 February, 1890.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, including dates and names of petitioners like Herne Hill and Sunderland.

THIRD REPORT, 26 February—6 March, 1890.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, including dates and names of petitioners like Kelvedon and Birmingham.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, including dates and names of petitioners like Croydon, Calcutta, and Alverstoke.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, including dates and names of petitioners like Whitehaven, Gosport, and Wolverhampton.

FOURTH REPORT, 7—18 March, 1890.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, including dates and names of petitioners like Ashton-under-Lyne, Croydon, and Wandsworth.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, including dates and names of petitioners like Scarborough, Sunderland, and Walsall.

FIFTH REPORT, 19—28 March, 1890.

Table of petitions presented to the House of Commons, including dates and names of petitioners like Croydon, South Norwood, and West Hackney.

The Petitions marked thus (*) are similar to that from West Dulwich [APP. 1]. The Petitions marked thus (C) are signed officially. (The Fifth Report of Petitions continued next month.)

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