

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XX.—No. 240. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

DECEMBER 2, 1889.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

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Women who are householders and ratepayers are earnestly requested to sign the Women Householders' Declaration. For terms see next page.

Women desirous to sign are requested to send their names and addresses, with a statement of the nature of their qualification whether as occupier or owner of property, to the Editor, *Women's Suffrage Journal*, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester. Forms will also be sent for collecting signatures or application.

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

CONTENTS FOR NOVEMBER 15TH, 1889.

- Notes of Progress in America.
- Mixed Schools in France.
- How many Women Voters?
- Industrial Instruction of Girls in Ireland (continued).
- Women Burgesses.
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Foreign Notes and News.

Paragraphs.

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

In the Press.

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[Continued from our last issue.]

WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' DECLARATION.

We, the undersigned unmarried women and widows, possessing qualifications which would entitle men to vote in elections for members of Parliament, declare that we consider our exclusion from the privilege an infraction of the principle that taxation and representation should go together, and we hereby express our desire for an alteration in the laws which shall enable such women to exercise the Parliamentary franchise if they desire to do so.

NAME.	Qualification, whether as occupier or owner of houses, land, or other property.	ADDRESS.	Parliamentary division in which the qualifying property is situated.
CLARA, Lady RAYLEIGH	...Occupier of house	...90, Onslow Gardens	...South Kensington
" " "	...Owner of houses and land	...Tofts	...Durham, S.E.
" " "	...Owner of house and land	...Little Baddow, near Chelmsford	...Essex, Chelmsford
Mrs. R. ALLAWAY	...Occupier of house	...Undermount, Sydenham Hill Bar, Sydenham	...Lewisham
Miss MARY R. EDMY	...Owner of houses and land in Sydenham, Dulwich, & Bromley	...7, Myrtle Grove, Lower Sydenham	...Lewisham
ELIZA SMITH	...Occupier of house	...Omega Lodge, Sydenham Hill Road, S.E.	...Lewisham
Mrs. M. E. BROWNJOHN	...Occupier of house	...37, Cambridge-st., Eccleston Square, S.W.	...St. George's, Hanover Sq.
Miss MARY H. HART	...Occupier of house	...405, Oxford-street, London	...St. George's, Hanover Sq.
Mrs. WOOLMER	...Occupier of house	...93, Grosvenor Road, S.W.	...St. George's, Hanover Sq.
Miss M. A. BENEST	...Occupier of house	...41, York Terrace, Regent Park	...Marylebone, East
Miss ANNA L. JAMRIN	...Occupier of house	...41, York Terrace, Regent Park	...Marylebone, East
Miss ALICE T. JAMRIN	...Occupier of house	...41, York Terrace, Regent Park	...Marylebone, East
Miss MARY E. JAMRIN	...Occupier of house	...41, York Terrace, Regent Park	...Marylebone, East
Miss LAURA A. JAMRIN	...Occupier of house	...41, York Terrace, Regent Park	...Marylebone, East
Mrs. J. E. MYLNE	...Occupier of house	...122, Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park	...Paddington, South
Mrs. J. JEFFCOCK	...Occupier of house	...104, Palace Gardens Terrace	...South Kensington
Mrs. BOLDEIRO	...Occupier of house	...31, Addison Gardens, W.	...South Kensington
Miss TACEY	...Occupier of house	...20, Holland Villas Road, W.	...South Kensington
Miss ALICE E. TACEY	...Occupier of house	...20, Holland Villas Road, W.	...South Kensington
Miss ANNIE TACEY	...Occupier of house	...15, Upper Phillimore Gardens, W.	...South Kensington
Mrs. MARGARET J. SHAEN	...Owner of house	...207, Marylebone Road, W.	...Middlesex, Harrow
Miss A. ELIZABETH SHAEN	...Occupier of house	...15, Upper Phillimore Gardens, W.	...South Kensington
" " "	...Owner of house	...207, Marylebone Road, W.	...Middlesex, Harrow
Miss ANN A. SHAEN	...Occupier of house	...15, Upper Phillimore Gardens, W.	...South Kensington
" " "	...Owner of house	...207, Marylebone Road, W.	...Middlesex, Harrow
Mrs. DUNCAN	...Occupier of house	...12, The Terrace, Hammersmith	...Hammersmith
Miss MARY F. GOUGH	...Occupier of house	...30, Leathwaite Road, S.W.	...Wandsworth
Mrs. CHEATLE	...Occupier and owner of houses	...32, Carlisle Mansions, Victoria-street, S.W.	...Westminster
Mrs. HUMPHREY	...Occupier of house	...12, Trafalgar Road, S.E.	...Southwark
" " "	...Owner of houses	...Wickham Lane, Welling	...Kent, Dartford
" " "	...Owner of houses	...Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Walworth	...Surrey, Wimbledon
— FENNEL	...Occupier of house	...6, Madeley Road, Ealing	...Middlesex, Ealing
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" " "	...Owner of houses, &c.	...High-street and Culver-street, Colchester	...Essex, North East
Mrs. DENNIS	...Occupier of house	...Crouch-street, Colchester	...Colchester
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Mrs. ELIZABETH PIGOTT	...Occupier of house	...Salthouse, Holt, Norfolk	...North Norfolk
Mrs. HANNAH HIGH	...Occupier of house	...Salthouse, Holt, Norfolk	...North Norfolk
Mrs. HANNAH PIGOTT	...Occupier of house	...Salthouse, Holt, Norfolk	...North Norfolk
Mrs. SARAH WILLIAMS	...Occupier of house	...Salthouse, Holt, Norfolk	...North Norfolk
Mrs. CLINKER	...Occupier and owner of house	...14, Westfield Park, Bristol	...Bristol, West
Miss F. A. N. JEFFREYS	...Occupier and owner of house	...38, Canynge Square, Clifton	...Bristol, West
Miss MARY TURTON	...Occupier of house	...4, Canynge Square, Clifton	...Bristol, West
Mrs. GILZEAN	...Occupier and owner of house	...Colchester House, Clifton Park	...Bristol, West
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" " "	...Owner of cottages and land	...Ilminster	...Somerset, South
Mrs. PERRY	...Occupier of house	...4, Linton Villas, Weston-super-Mare	...Somerset, North
Miss ALICE M. MCADAM	...Owner and occupier of house	...5, Raglan Circus, Weston-super-Mare	...Somerset, Wells
Mrs. ELIZ. BEARD	...Occupier and owner of house	...Hope Villa, Bycroft-street, Gloucester	...Gloucester
Mrs. STRACEY HARRISON	...Occupier of house	...Vashen, Stoke Bishop, Bristol	...Gloucestersh., Thornbury
Miss E. C. GRIFFITHS	...Occupier of house	...Putloe, near Stonehouse, Gloucester	...Gloucestersh., Tewkesbury
Mrs. HANNAH ALDRIDGE	...Occupier of house	...Putloe, Stonehouse, Gloucester	...Gloucestersh., Tewkesbury
Mrs. MARY PANTING	...Occupier of house	...Putloe, Gloucester	...Gloucestersh., Tewkesbury
Miss HANNAH HYETT	...Occupier and owner of house	...Haresfield, Gloucester	...Gloucestersh., Tewkesbury

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THE annual meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage took place on the twentieth of November under the presidency of the MAYOR of MANCHESTER in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall. Sir W. H. HOULDSWORTH, Bt., M.P., in moving the adoption of the Report, said he must congratulate them on the progress they were distinctly making. The meeting was also addressed by Professor ADAMSON, the Rev. H. A. NOEL, Miss BECKER, Mr. N. C. SCHOU, Mr. C. ROWLEY, and others. At the conclusion of the meeting tea was served at the offices of the Society, by invitation of the members of the Executive Committee.

THE movement for bringing women into the affairs of political life rapidly gathers strength, and includes all political parties. On November 27th, the second annual meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary Council of the Midland Union of Conservative Associations took place at Nottingham, under the presidency of the MARCHIONESS of HERTFORD. Early in December, the annual meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation is to be held at Manchester. On December 5th, the subject of women's suffrage will be discussed.

The National Society for Women's Suffrage is, of course, absolutely neutral as to party politics, comprising, as it does, members of diverse views of general politics; but it heartily welcomes support of its principle whether from Liberals or Conservatives. We believe that every effort of women to show their concern in the great political questions on which hangs the future destiny of the Empire is of the greatest value, both in awakening fresh minds to the importance of great principles, and in hastening the day when women shall be enfranchised and have the right and the duty to endeavour to give effect to those principles.

WORKING women would do well to ponder carefully the lesson read by the result of the Forfar strike among the workers in the jute factories. As is usual in textile industries, the great majority of the operatives employed are women and young persons. The workers demanded an in-

crease of wages, and as that was not conceded a strike took place. After lasting nine weeks, the strike was settled at the end of November by what is termed a "compromise." The terms of the "compromise" were that the men should receive an advance of wages and the women should go on at the old rate.

We learn from the *Dundee Advertiser* that "there is much grumbling among the female workers at having had to sacrifice nine weeks' wages that the men only should get an advance," and this dissatisfaction is certainly not surprising. We do not believe that any body of working people who were in possession of Parliamentary votes could have been compelled to submit to so one-sided an arrangement, and the case affords another illustration of the danger incurred by women who make sacrifices in order to enter into industrial or political warfare in partnership with men without the power and protection of the Parliamentary franchise. The men appear willing to accept everything that women can give or do for them, and they are not backward in expression of the highest admiration of their sacrifices and self-devotion, but when it comes to a division of the spoils they are very apt to secure the lion's share.

A NEW benefit of corsets is shown by the incidents of a trial for attempted murder at the last Manchester Assizes. An old man, seventy-nine years of age, was charged with attempt to murder his wife, who had two years before obtained a judicial separation on account of assault. The evidence proved that he lay in wait for her, near her house, with a pistol, and shot her. The bullet entered her back, and, according to the evidence of the doctors, would have penetrated to her chest and killed her but for the stays she was wearing. Thus the corset saved the wife's life, and saved the husband from being a murderer.

THE prisoner was charged on two counts, of attempt to murder, and of the minor offence of unlawful wounding. A jury of actual or possible husbands found the prisoner guilty of the minor offence, and thus placed on record the verdict that to shoot a wife in the back with a pistol does

not amount to an attempt to murder her. Possibly they may have been influenced by the great age and alleged weakness of intellect of the accused. But he was savage enough to have said after the attempt that he "should like to have finished her," and in the opinion of the judge was sufficiently responsible to endure the sentence of twelve months' hard labour which was pronounced upon him. The judge said that if the jury had found the man guilty of the heavier count, he should have pronounced a much severer sentence. In the interests of the personal security of wives perhaps it is to be regretted that they did not.

THE case of MYERS v. MYERS, which was decided in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on November 13th, afforded an instance of the litigation which ensues by reason of the different devolution of real and personal property, and of the injustice caused to widows and daughters by the existing law. In October, 1888, Mr. D. B. MYERS died intestate, leaving a widow, two sons, and two daughters, and the question arose whether certain freehold property comprised in the partnership articles of the intestate's business belonged to his eldest son as heir-at-law, or was to be distributed as personalty amongst his widow and four children. It was stated that the conveyances of the real property contained declarations in bar of dower.

Mr. Justice CHITTY, in giving judgment, said that the property was to be taken as real property, and that result was that the eldest son got a preference which his father, if he had made a will, might have avoided.

The injustice by which the younger sons and the daughters were deprived of all share in their father's estate is the effect of a law of very long standing, but the injustice under which the widow was deprived of her right to dower is caused by a law passed so lately as 1833. In that year an Act was passed which took away from wives their ancient and up to that date their indefeasible right to dower out of their husband's estate, and gave power to bar the wife's right to dower in all cases. As these dower rights increased the complications of land transfer, conveyancers began, as soon as the law which destroyed these rights came into operation, to insert as a matter of course in every deed of conveyance, a clause barring the right to dower, and thus a wholesale spoliation of widows' rights to dower was instituted, the cruelty and wrong of which continues to the present day.

SIGNATURES to the women householders' declaration

continue to reach us from all parts of the country. The limited space at our disposal this month compels us to postpone the printing of some of those we have received until our next issue, when we hope to give all that shall have come in during December. We ask all our friends to assist in this demonstration by sending names of those qualified to sign. Forms will be sent on application, but in the absence of a form it will suffice to send a letter or post card with the necessary particulars to the editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of the supporters of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on November 20th, in the Mayor's Parlour, at the Town Hall, Manchester. The MAYOR (Mr. Alderman Mark) presided, and was supported by Sir W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., Professor Adamson, Mr. N. C. Schou, Miss Becker (hon. secretary), the Rev. H. A. Noel, Mr. C. Rowley, Miss Atkinson, Miss Dacre, Mrs. Henry Murgatroyd (Macclesfield), Mrs. Rose Hyland, Miss Smith (Hyde), Mrs. R. Handley (Blackpool), Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Phillips (Liverpool), Miss Lomas (Stockport), Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Jas. Eccles, Mrs. Maylor (Llandudno), Miss Caroline Fothergill, Miss Law, Miss Woodcock, and others. Miss Becker announced letters of apology from the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., Mr. C. E. Schwann, M.P., Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P., Colonel Cotton, M.P., Captain Edwards Heathcote, M.P., Colonel Bridgeman, M.P., Mr. Mowbray, M.P., Colonel Sidebottom, M.P., Mr. Mather, M.P., Sir Richard Temple, M.P., Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., Mr. J. W. Maciure, M.P., the Hon. Lady Grey Egerton, and others.

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, said that was the twenty-second annual meeting of the society, which was founded in 1867. At the second meeting in 1869 the chair was first occupied by the Mayor of Manchester. In that year the municipal franchise was conferred on women ratepayers, and since then the chair at the annual meetings had been with few exceptions occupied by the Chief Magistrate of the city. The late Mr. Alderman Bennett, whose recent loss they all so deeply deplored, took a great interest in that movement, and last year at the annual meeting, in the unavoidable absence of his predecessor, the chair was taken by Mr. Alderman Bennett. He was informed that at present all the six members of Parliament for this city were agreed as to the justice of the claim made by the association on behalf of the women ratepayers to the Parliamentary franchise. He had not before him the means for estimating the exact number of electors who would be added to the Parliamentary register of Manchester if the Bill became law, but it would probably be not less than 10,000. Whatever might be the individual or personal opinions of the Mayor of Manchester as to the expediency of the enfranchisement, inasmuch as the question affected the interests of a large proportion of the citizens over whom he presided, it seemed fitting that he should occupy the chair at a meeting where those claims could be openly discussed. (Cheers.)

Miss BECKER then read the annual report, which is published in a separate form.

Professor ADAMSON read the treasurer's statement, which showed an income of £596 for the year, and an expenditure of £573.

Sir W. H. HOULDSWORTH, Bart., M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, said he must congratulate them upon the progress which they were distinctly making. If the figures in the report indicated the facts, it was quite clear they were steadily making progress amongst members of the House of Commons; and not only this, but they were distinctly making way in the progress which legisla-

tion was making in this direction. It was evident that this subject was not in the position of a fad which was being left behind, but showed that in every measure dealing with enfranchisement the women were coming more and more to the front and that their position was being more and more recognised as one that was to be taken into account. (Hear, hear.) He had never had any hesitation himself in thinking that legislation on the lines of their Bill ought to be sanctioned by Parliament. He could not conceive any reason why a woman who was performing the duties of a citizen, performing the full duties of a ratepayer as head of a household and as a householder should be excluded from the franchise simply because she was a woman. (Hear, hear.) Their franchise was for the present, whatever it might be in the future, a household franchise, and he should have thought that the principle ought to be one household one vote, and that they ought not to disfranchise any householder simply because the head happened to be a woman and not a man. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gladstone's only objection to this movement seemed to be that it would be a tremendous change; but he should have thought that Mr. Gladstone would not have been afraid of tremendous changes. (Laughter and cheers.) Personally he did not feel it would be such a tremendous change. The Mayor had told them what would be the result of the enfranchisement of women in Manchester, and the 10,000 women who would receive the votes would only mean an addition of 1,500 to each of the six electoral divisions in the city. A considerable proportion of these, he was inclined to think, would not go to the poll, and therefore the change would not be so tremendous. If they were to go a step further, which he was not disposed to go, and include in their scheme married women, whether they were living with their husbands or not, he believed that would be a tremendous change. There were some who would not heartily support that, and would do it on principle, but he could not support that change, which he believed they were not yet ripe for. Household franchise was their present constitution. It might be changed to universal suffrage as it was in America, but it was to be noted that America had not ventured to franchise women. That question must be left over to the time when it arose. It seemed to him that it was nothing more nor less than an act of justice that those who were performing the duties of householders should, under their present régime, have the household suffrage, even though they were women. He was very sorry to notice in the report that something like a division had taken place in their movement. He was not going to enter into the causes of that division. He was not sufficiently acquainted with them to give an opinion upon them or even describe them. He did not know who was right or who was wrong. He noticed that the Manchester association stuck to their old lines. Well, he was always in favour of sticking to the old lines unless they could show him anything better. It was rather unfortunate that there should be a division, and it had beyond doubt done the movement a considerable amount of harm. If in any way they could heal the breach, he was sure they would recognise the fact that "union is strength," and that division was weakness. There was no doubt that the slight division which had taken place had put members of Parliament to some extent in an unfortunate and sometimes awkward position. However, if the friends of the movement worked on he hoped that members of Parliament would not, when the matter came up for consideration and voting, allow themselves to be disturbed by the fact that there were divisions outside, but would as far as possible endeavour to do justice, and give their votes for what they believed to be justice, and the true interests of the country. He had had a pamphlet sent him from the Women's Franchise League. He had not read it, and was therefore not in a position to express any opinion with regard to the matter. At present he might say he was thoroughly in harmony with the Bill as drawn by this association, and should be glad on every opportunity to support it in the House of Commons, and he sincerely hoped their efforts would soon be rewarded with the success which they deserved. (Applause.)

Professor ADAMSON, in seconding the motion, said that there were several points of division between that society and the Women's Franchise League. Some of them were important; some were not. He thought that society was wise in endeavouring to cling as firmly as possible to its old position of keeping the movement free from party politics. The object of the Women's Franchise League was to secure that the Parliamentary franchise should be conferred on all women, married or unmarried; whereas in the Bill promoted by the National Society married women were excluded.

This exclusion was regarded by the supporters of the league as casting a stigma upon married women. This was not only unfortunate but also entirely unfounded. Legislative matters were after all affairs of practice. It was useless to sketch out a Bill which there was no prospect of seeing brought into the arena of practical politics within any given time. Those who first initiated this movement towards securing the Parliamentary franchise for women did so on perfectly general grounds. They thought it was a bad thing for the community that what was of the greatest interest publicly should be held aloof from one large section of the community, and that it was a bad thing for that section that they should not have an opportunity of taking an active part in all affairs of public interest. He sympathised with those thoughts, and acknowledged without hesitation that the logical consequence was that the Parliamentary franchise should, under appropriate circumstances, be exercised by all women. Those eminent men and women who were concerned in the initiation of this movement were perfectly aware that they must first endeavour to do what was in harmony with the existing principles of the Constitution, and must not run violently counter to what were the accepted rules of the Parliamentary franchise in the case of men. The basis of the electoral system in this country was the household, and this fact was recognised by those who supported Mr. Woodall's bill. They were working for what seemed to be reasonably possible, and no ulterior motives or intentions ought to be attributed to them. They might fairly claim to be in no way in conflict with the views of the League, but they preferred to concentrate all their efforts to secure a legislative change which seemed to be generally agreed upon and to need only a favourable opportunity in order to be carried.

The Rev. H. A. NOEL moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the principle of women's suffrage, as now established by common and statute law for unmarried women and widows in local elections, should be extended to Parliamentary elections; this meeting therefore respectfully request their Parliamentary friends to take steps for the reintroduction of the Parliamentary Franchise Extension to Women Bill in the same form as last year at the earliest period of the next session, and pledge themselves to support such action by every means in their power."

Miss BECKER, in seconding the motion, said it defined the policy which had been pursued by that society from the very beginning. They had always asked for the extension to Parliamentary elections of women's suffrage as an existing political institution. The House of Commons was not prepared to grant the suffrage to married women, but it was pledged, if not prepared, to grant it to unmarried women. They must make the first step sure. There were some unreasonable men and women who objected to this, but they were much in the position of a man who, being blind of both eyes, objected to have the sight of one restored unless the other could be restored also. If they could get the franchise for unmarried women and widows, whatever was just would afterwards follow. Since the agitation for women's suffrage began there had been a great change in the public mind with regard to women's proper place in politics. The Primrose League had been started, and women's Liberal associations were springing up, and now no candidate felt that he had availed himself of all the chances of success if he had not enlisted the aid of earnest and self-devoted women. Women needed to have the franchise before they entered into political warfare. She was indignant when she read the epithets showered on the ladies of the Primrose League by the defeated candidate for Brighton. She was sure no candidate would have dared to fling such aspersions at canvassers who had votes. It was necessary for women to be in the position of persons who had a legal right to interfere in elections before they could do so with absolute safety. She hoped too much stress would not be placed upon the difference that existed among women on the question of the franchise; there were many differences among men on political and other questions, but no one said that men should be deprived of votes because of their divisions. She rejoiced to hear that at a meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation, shortly to be held in Manchester, the question of women's suffrage would be discussed. She would not say the flowing tide was with them; tides were subject to ebb as well as to flow. She would rather compare their movement to one of the great secular changes, such as the giving way of the glacial period. They knew that for hundreds of centuries the land had been covered by a great ice cap, which had slowly melted and disappeared; so the ice cap which had hindered

the development of their movement was gradually and surely dis- appearing under the humane influences of the present age. She had faith that the movement would go on until women were as free as men for the development of everything that concerned their aspirations and well-being. (Cheers.)

The resolution was approved. Mr. N. C. Schou moved the appointment of the following Executive Committee: Mr. J. E. W. Addison, M.P., Colonel the Hon. F. Bridgeman, M.P., Colonel E. T. D. Cotton, M.P., Captain Edwards-Heathcote, M.P., Sir W. H. Houldsworth, Bart., M.P., Mr. H. H. Howorth, M.P., Hon. G. T. Kenyon, M.P., Mr. J. W. Maclure, M.P., Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P., Colonel Sidebottom, M.P., Mr. W. Summers, M.P., Professor Adamson, Miss Atkinson, Miss Becker, Mr. Thomas Chorlton, Mrs. E. T. D. Cotton, Mrs. Joseph Cross, Miss S. Isabel Dacre, Mr. Thomas Dale, the Hon. Lady Grey Egerton, Mrs. James Eccles, Mrs. Christopher Hyland, Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. Hy. Murgatroyd, the Rev. H. A. Noel, M.A., Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. N. C. Schou, Mr. H. Slatter, and the Rev. Alex. Thomson, D.D.

Mr. C. ROWLEY seconded the resolution, and it was carried. A vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding concluded the proceedings.

A large number of ladies who had attended the meeting afterwards availed themselves of the invitation of the Executive Committee to an "at home" at the offices of the society, in John Dalton-street, in Manchester. The rooms had been charmingly decorated with flowers, plants, and fairy lights. The guests were received by Miss Becker, Miss Backhouse, and members of the committee. A sale of work, the proceeds of which are to go towards liquidating the £200 debt under which the organisation suffers, was also opened. A varied selection of the articles usually sold at bazaars was on view, and secured ready purchasers. Miss Isabel Dacre had sent a choice pastel drawing, "A Chaplet of Roses;" and other friends of the movement had made gifts to the society. One of the objects exhibited was a pair of corsets, which had been sent by an enthusiastic Vienna manufacturer to Miss Becker in recognition of her defence of the use of that article of ladies' attire, and of her long services on behalf of women.

THE NORTHERN UNION OF CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

ANNUAL MEETING IN NEWCASTLE.

RESOLUTION IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ADOPTED.

The annual meeting of the Northern Union of Conservative Associations was held on November 15th, in the Banqueting Hall, at the County Hotel, Newcastle; the PRESIDENT (Sir Matthew White Ridley, M.P.) in the chair.

In the course of the proceedings, Mr. J. G. MURRAY (N.W. Durham Conservative Association) moved: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the time has now arrived when the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to duly qualified women." He thought that an opportune moment to ascertain their opinion on the question of women's suffrage. He believed the movement for women's suffrage had in its favour the majority of the present House of Commons. One noteworthy fact in connection with the history of this question was that, whereas the arguments in favour of it were formerly of a vague and sentimental character, the case was now the very reverse. The speaker next referred to the fact that landlords were often deterred from accepting women as tenants and for other business purposes through the inability of the latter to vote. Was it a sound principle, he asked, which allowed the most incorrigible criminal just emerged from prison to have a voice in the representation of the country and to deny the same privilege to women of culture and intelligence? Were women likely to exercise the Parliamentary franchise with less prudence than they showed in municipal, county council, school board, and other elections at which they were entitled to vote? They were educating women in politics, and it was to the endeavours and interest displayed by the female sex that the success of the Primrose League was to a great extent due. (Applause.) With these remarks he had great pleasure in moving the resolution. (Applause.)

Councillor G. T. ABRAHAMS, of West Hartlepool, having seconded the resolution, it was put to the meeting, and the chairman declared it carried.

CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE AT GLASGOW.

A Conservative conference was held at Glasgow on November 5th. A resolution was carried in favour of women's suffrage.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting under the auspices of the Women's Liberal Association was held on November 12th in the Methodist New Connexion School, Ashton-under-Lyne, for the purpose of hearing an address from Mrs. Bateson, of Cambridge, upon "The Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women." The chair was taken by Mr. A. E. Reyner, J.P., who was supported by Mrs. Hugh Mason (president of the Association) and other ladies. Mrs. Bateson, in the course of her address, dealt mainly with the arguments against women's suffrage which appeared in the June number of the Nineteenth Century, and pointed out how impossible it was for women to keep out of politics however much they might profess to do so. The following resolution, moved by Mrs. Bateson, seconded by Mrs. Hugh Mason: "That in the opinion of this meeting women who pay rates and taxes should have the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament," was put to the meeting and carried. It was further decided that a petition be signed on behalf of the meeting praying the House of Commons to pass a measure of reform which would include all duly qualified women. Votes of thanks to Mrs. Bateson and Mr. Reyner brought the meeting to a close.

IPSWICH WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The monthly educational meeting of the Ipswich Women's Liberal Association was held in November at the Assembly Room of the Reform Club, when an address was delivered by Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P. for Cheshire, on women's suffrage. Mrs. W. C. Owen, hon. sec. of the association, occupied the chair. The address was received with applause. At the close, Miss Butler proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. McLaren for the address, which was seconded by Mrs. Jeffries, and carried by acclamation.

STOCKPORT WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

Miss Lomas, hon. secretary of the Stockport Women's Liberal Association, on behalf of that society, forwarded a resolution to Mr. Gladstone in favour of the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women who now vote at the municipal and school board elections. It was accompanied by a letter from her expressing gratitude to Lord Salisbury for giving women the power to vote for county councils. She was favoured by a post card from Mr. Gladstone containing the following reply:—

"Dear madam,—I do not quite understand the views of Lord Salisbury for which you express your gratitude, as I am told that he threw out the bill for allowing women to sit in the county councils. On the main question I refer to former declarations in Parliament, to which, of course, I shall be prepared to add when the proper time comes.—Yours faithfully and obediently, "W. E. GLADSTONE. "Sept. 24th, 1889."

HACKNEY VESTRY AND WOMEN VOTERS.

The Hackney Vestry have just dealt with a report of their Parliamentary Committee which contained recommendations to the effect that the President of the Local Government Board be urged to bring in a Bill whereby all elections in the metropolis, whether for Parliament, County Council, School Board, Guardian, Vestry, District Board, Asylums Board, or managers of School Districts, would be made by ballot and upon one register, "adapted for the purpose by amalgamation with other registers," and that women householders who are now only entitled to vote for the County Council and School Board should have the privilege extended for Parliamentary elections, and that the County Council Register (to include the lodgers) be the register upon which the election of all representative bodies as here set out should be made.

Mr. Kiffin (Radical) moved the adoption of the report, but Mr. G. Chambers (Gladstonian) thought that the question of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women was so large and far reaching, and was also one upon which such great difference of opinion existed, that they should hesitate before thus committing themselves. The speaker put his views in the form of an amendment, which was seconded by a Radical (Mr. G. Hasler), but eighteen votes to twelve disposed of it, and the report was adopted, the clerk being instructed accordingly.—Whitechapel Eastern Post.

SALE OF WORK.

A sale of work in aid of the funds of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage took place at the offices of the society, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester, on Thursday, November 21st, the day after the annual meeting. Contributions of articles for sale had been received from Miss S. Isabel Dacre, Miss Law, Mrs. Maylor, Mrs. Bewicke, Miss Mary Lowndes, Miss Sophia Fothergill, Miss Pung, Miss Atkinson, Miss Athya, Miss Agnes Dyson, Mrs. Denny, Miss Helen Ogle Moore, Miss Grieg, Miss O'Connor, Mrs. Blackburn, Miss Helen Blackburn, Miss Becker, Mrs. Jas. Eccles, Mr. W. P. Snell, Mrs. Jas. Wilson, Mrs. Chatterton, Mrs. Hyland, Miss H. D. Atkinson, Miss Pinnington, Mrs. Handley, Mrs. Sutton, Miss Babb, Mrs. Frank Snoad, and others.

The sale continued briskly throughout the day, and most of the articles were disposed of. Besides these contributions, many friends sent contributions in money, which are acknowledged in the subscription list. Articles for decoration were lent by Miss Dacre, Mrs. Jas. Eccles, Mrs. Blackburn, Miss Backhouse, Miss Becker, and Miss Bigg, Luton. Boxes of magnificent chrysanthemum blooms, palms, and other greenhouse plants were kindly sent by Mrs. Pochin, from Bodnant; other beautiful floral contributions were received from Mrs. Hallett, Bath, and Mrs. Joseph Cross, Colwyn Bay.

The result of the sale fulfilled the anticipations with which it was undertaken. The committee desire to offer their grateful thanks to the friends near and far who kindly assisted them by sending gifts of money and work, and in the not less important function of attending the sale and emptying the stall to enrich the till.

CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED NOVEMBER, 1889.

Table listing subscriptions and donations received for the Central National Society for Women's Suffrage in November 1889. Includes names like Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, Miss H. Justice, Miss Crosfield, etc.

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

Table listing names and addresses of subscribers and donors for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage. Includes names like Mrs. ANN WILLIAMS, Miss TRANMAR, Miss M. A. WEATHERILL, etc.

Signatures already reported, 358; signatures reported 7.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, NOVEMBER, 1889.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage in November 1889. Includes names like Proprietors of the Women's Suffrage Journal, Mrs. Gregson, Mrs. Marsh, etc.

ROBERT ADAMSON, TREASURER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM OCT. 29TH TO NOV. 25TH, 1889.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Central Committee from Oct 29th to Nov 25th, 1889. Includes names like Lady Goldsmid, Miss Mordan, Miss Mortimer Rowdon, etc.

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

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM OCT. 26TH TO NOV. 25TH, 1889.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Bristol and West of England Society from Oct 26th to Nov 25th, 1889. Includes names like Mrs. Brine (Teignmouth), A Friend, per Mrs. Beddoe, Miss H. M. Sturge, etc.

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

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