

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XI.—No. 127. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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## SUMMER LECTURES.

**DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.**—A Lecture on the claim of women to the Parliamentary Franchise in the United Kingdom and in the Isle of Man will be delivered by Miss Becker, in the Masonic Hall, Douglas, on August 4th. Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD will occupy the chair. To begin at eight o'clock. Reserved seats one shilling each.

**RAMSEY.**—A Lecture on the claim of women to the Parliamentary Franchise in the United Kingdom and in the Isle of Man will be delivered by Miss Becker in the Old Cross Hall, Ramsey, on August 5th, at eight o'clock. Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD in the chair. Reserved seats one shilling each.

**DOUGLAS.**—A Lecture will be delivered on the Franchise for women in the Masonic Hall, Douglas, on August 6th, by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd. Miss BECKER will occupy the chair. To begin at eight o'clock. Reserved seats 1s. each.—Further particulars in local announcements.

**MUMBLES, SWANSEA.**—Miss Becker will give an address on the claim of women to the Parliamentary Franchise, at the Assembly Rooms, Mumbles, on Tuesday, August 24th. The chair will be taken at 7-30 p.m. by the Rev. G. E. MANNING, M.A.

**SWANSEA.**—A Public Meeting will be held in the Guildhall Hall, Swansea, on Wednesday, Sept. 1st. The chair will be taken at eight p.m., by J. R. JENKINS, Esq., Mayor of Swansea.—Further particulars in local announcements.

**BIBLE TEXTS ON WOMAN'S PRISTINE POSITION.**—Edinburgh: JOHN MACLAREN AND SON, Princes-street.

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

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**ANNUAL REPORT** of the CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held in the Westminster Palace Hotel, London, July 15th, 1880. Price 3d. To be had of the Secretary, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

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

Now ready. Price One Penny.  
**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.

**WOMEN'S UNION JOURNAL**, published Monthly by the Women's Protective and Provident League, records the progress of the Women's Trade Union movement; and contains information, collected from reliable sources, about the wages, hours of work, and other conditions under which women are employed in various trades. The Journal also discusses all questions connected with the industrial position of women, such as the influence of Factory and Workshops' Legislation, Factory Inspection, the establishment of Co-operative Workshops, &c., &c. Its pages are open to correspondence.

Price One Penny; Subscriptions for year, including Postage, One Shilling and Sixpence.  
Communications for the Editor and orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Secretary, Women's Protective and Provident League, 36, Great Queen-street, London, W.C.

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

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1. Higher Education of Women in Ireland.
2. Schools and Scholars in Italy.
3. Some Disabilities of French Women.
4. Women and Immigration.

Record of Events:—Irish School and University Association, Oxford; Local Examinations and Somerville Hall—King's College Lectures—Head Mistresses—Presentation to Mrs. Byers—Instruction by Correspondence—North London Collegiate School—Married Women's Property—Will Case: Wilson v. Birchall—Parental Custody of Children—Marriage with Deceased Wife's Sister—Some Amenities of Married Life—Seats for Shopwomen—Protection and Provident League—Marriage in Chapels—Miscellaneous.

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

**MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.**—Persons desirous of promoting petitions to be presented next session in support of the amendment of Mr. Beresford Hope in respect to the Bill to render legal marriage with the sister of a deceased wife—"That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the law of marriage in relation to degrees of consanguinity and affinity in the various countries of Europe and the States of America"—are requested to communicate with Mrs. R. Peek, St. Clair, Hayward's Heath, Surrey; or Miss Lilius Craig, 6, Carlton-street, Edinburgh.



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### THE CALENDAR.

MOON.		Rises.	SUN.	Sets.
6th New Moon,	3h 48m morn.	4 34	.....	7 37
13th First Quar.,	0h 42m aft.	4 45	.....	7 24
20th Full Moon,	5h 18m morn.	4 56	.....	7 10
27th Last Quar.,	4h 15m aft.	5 7	.....	6 55

  

1	S	10 after Trinity. Mrs. Inchbald (dramatist) died 1821.
2	M	Municipal Franchise Amendment Act, 1869. Bank Holiday.
3	T	Queen Philippa at Calais, 1347.
4	W	
5	Th	
6	F	
7	S	
8	S	11 after Trinity.
9	M	Married Women's Property Act, 1870. [works] died 1749.
10	T	Marquis de Chastellat (translator of Sir Isaac Newton's
11	W	S. Clara, of Assisi, 1253. Medical Act (Qualifications Act),
12	Th	[known as Russell Gurney Act, 1876.
13	F	
14	S	
15	S	12 after Trinity. Irish University Act, 1870.
16	M	Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878.
17	T	Frederika Bremer born 1801.
18	W	Ladies' Educational Association dissolved 1878.
19	Th	
20	F	[Chantal (founder of Sisters of Visitation) died 1641.
21	S	Lady Mary Wortley Montague died 1762. S. Jeanne de
22	S	13 after Trinity.
23	M	
24	T	
25	W	
26	Th	[at London University, 1867.
27	F	Supplemental Charter admitting Women to Examinations
28	S	Elisabetta Straus died 1665.
29	S	14 after Trinity. Act destroying Right to dower, 1833.
30	M	
31	T	Act to alter the law as to voidable marriages passed, 1835.

### PUBLIC PETITIONS.—APPENDIX TO THE FOURTH REPORT, 2—8 JUNE, 1880.

Containing the Text of Petitions presented in favour of alteration of Borough Franchise (Ireland) Bill.

App. 30. Mr. Lyons. Sig. 1.

535. The humble petition of the Queen's Institute and College, Dublin, Sheweth,

That the exclusion of a large part of the property, intelligence, and industry of the country from participation in its government, by the exclusion of women possessing the statutory qualifications from voting in the election of members of Parliament, is injurious both to them and to the country at large.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray your honourable House to amend the Irish Borough Franchise Bill by extending the parliamentary franchise to women householders in Irish boroughs. And your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed for the above,

A. BARBARA CORLETT, Founder, Secretary.

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### PUBLIC PETITIONS.—APPENDIX TO THE EIGHTH REPORT, 23—29 JUNE, 1880.

Containing the Text of Petitions presented in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.

App. 121. Mr. Jacob Bright. Sig. 25.

5068. The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of Darlington, Sheweth,

That the franchise attached by law to the occupation or ownership of property liable to imperial and local taxation should be exercised by women in the election of members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that in any measure which may be introduced into your honourable House for the extension of the household suffrage in boroughs or counties provision may be made for the exercise of the parliamentary franchise by all duly qualified women householders in boroughs and counties.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

WALTER W. WILMOTT.  
EDWARD J. LANGTON.  
SAMUEL W. WRIGHT.  
&c., &c., &c.

App. 122. Dr. Webster. Sig. 32.

5075. The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of Aberdeen and others,

Sheweth,

That the exclusion of women otherwise legally qualified from voting in the election of members of Parliament is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass a Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

MARY SHIRRAS.  
JANE MILNE.  
MARY E. GELLIE.  
&c., &c., &c.

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AMONG other measures which have been dropped by the Government is the Irish Borough Franchise Bill. The amendment of which Mr. BLENNERHASSETT had given notice for extending the operation of the Bill to women householders in Irish boroughs will therefore not be discussed this session, but should the Bill be brought forward next year, it will not be allowed to pass without the discussion of the amendment.

THE annual meeting of the Central Committee took place at the Westminster Palace Hotel. Mr. COURTNEY, M.P., presided, and in the course of his opening address he said he believed that when the Liberal party engaged itself in the attempt to give the franchise to agricultural labourers, that party would find it difficult to resist a similar demand on the part of educated women householders; and he also thought that those Conservatives who had hitherto opposed all motions for reconsidering our representative machinery would recognise the necessity for change, and would support the introduction of women's suffrage into any measure extending electoral franchise. With these views we must address ourselves to the work in future, and whenever the Government bring forward their great scheme, if they do not anticipate us by putting women's suffrage into it, we shall insist on their putting it in. We had already in this session made our opinions known and our demands in some measure heard. The Government put forward in the House of Commons a Bill for extending the franchise to Irish boroughs, and one of our best friends and most energetic supporters, Mr. BLENNERHASSETT, at once gave notice to extend the operation of the Bill, so as to include women householders. Another friend of the cause, Sir EDWARD WATKIN, took the stronger course of insisting that this question should be considered before the Bill was adopted even in principle. Referring to the introduction of the Hares and Rabbits Bill and the Employers Liability Bill, Mr. COURTNEY said that anyone who had tested the balance of parties at an election in a borough knew that it is working men and railway servants that work upon the feelings of candidates; and tenant farmers were also powerful in turning an election. But

if a Bill for the protection of the property of married women is introduced little attention is paid to it, and it is put into the background simply for the reason that there are no women who can take up their own cause. He looked to the next year of Parliament as likely to be fraught with very important events, and assured the meeting that the friends of the movement in Parliament would press forward the claims of women on every legitimate occasion.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Rev. J. MACDONALD, Mr. HODGSON PRATT, Miss MÜLLER, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, Miss DOWNING, and Miss BECKER. The report was adopted, and proposals for future work discussed.

ANOTHER item in the list of failures to obtain the consideration of the House of Commons to the proposal to amend the law relating to the property of married women was furnished on July 13th, when Mr. HINDE PALMER'S Bill was down for Committee. The House was counted out at an early hour, before the question could be reached. This was fatal to the further progress of this Bill this session, and it remains to be seen whether the House of Commons will be more disposed next year to pay attention to the concerns of the unrepresented half of the people.

WE learn from the *Isle of Man Times* that there has been a movement recently set on foot to secure electoral reform in the Isle of Man on the basis of the English constitutional law. Our readers will hardly need to be reminded that Home Rule exists in the island, which is governed by its local Parliament, the House of Keys, and is in no way subject to the jurisdiction of the Legislature of the United Kingdom. Among other reforms it is proposed to establish the representation on the basis of household suffrage throughout the island, and the opportunity will not be neglected of endeavouring to secure the suffrage for all householders without distinction of sex. This should be the more feasible because the Legislature of the island, although sovereign, can hardly be called



Imperial, and it may be said to bear some analogy to the municipal governments of England, where women have full and undisputed right of suffrage.

In another column we give some statistics of population and electoral power in the several districts of the island, from which it will be seen that the total population of Man in 1871 was 53,763, and it is anticipated that at the census next year the number will have increased to about 60,000. As this number is scarcely equal to that of a moderate sized municipal borough in the north of England, it would seem that Manxwomen might, without danger to the stability of existing institutions, be admitted within the pale of constitutional government, and we respectfully commend the justice of this claim to the consideration of those responsible for the preparation and introduction of a Reform Bill in the House of Keys.

LADIES who are disposed to give serious attention to the best manner in which they can employ their energies for public objects may perhaps derive some useful guidance from the advice of Sir J. D. ASTLEY, ex-M.P. for North Lincolnshire.

We learn from the *Yorkshire Post* that at a banquet given at Brocklesby Park to celebrate the coming of age of the Earl of YARBOROUGH, whose estates during some years of his minority had been ably managed by his mother, a magnificent and costly piece of plate was presented to Lady YARBOROUGH by those who had been in the habit of following the Earl of YARBOROUGH's foxhounds, as a token of appreciation of the manner in which she had hunted the Brocklesby country since the death of the late earl, and in testimony of their admiration of her many noble qualities. Lady YARBOROUGH, in acknowledging the gift, said that it had been a very pleasant task to have hunted the country for the last five years, and took occasion to acknowledge the help she had derived from others in the kennels, stables, and hunting fields, so that she might perform her duties well as Mistress of the Hounds.

Sir JOHN ASTLEY, in proposing the health of Lady YARBOROUGH, said "it would be impossible to give her ladyship too many thanks for the way in which she had kept up hunting in that part of the country during the last five years. He believed no such patronage of a noble sport on the part of a lady could be pointed to in the annals of fox-hunting."

Sir JOHN then, according to the *Yorkshire Post*, "took the opportunity to give a little advice to ladies of a

political turn of mind, and to enter his objection against their entering in political contests." Alluding to the recent contest for North Lincolnshire, in which he was at the bottom of the poll, he said that "a great deal, of course, depended on the way the House of Brocklesby went, but he could tell them that the great influence which might have been exerted by that house was not exerted upon him (Sir JOHN). Had it been, he did not know what would have occurred. He should certainly have been much lower down the poll than he really was. Lady YARBOROUGH on that occasion exercised very sound judgment, and set an example which should be followed by ladies all over the world; that was to say, she did not meddle in politics. She did not back up the individual that kicked him (Sir JOHN) out. (Laughter.)"

Henceforward, Ladies, you know your duty. You who have the care of great estates, let not your minds be troubled with thoughts about the education of agricultural children, the operation of the Game Laws, the Hares and Rabbits Bill, or any other laws affecting the welfare of your tenants and neighbours. Give your time and thought to fox-hunting, and you shall have honour, but in the name of all that is womanly do not meddle in politics!

WE cannot help wondering whether the admiration of Sir JOHN ASTLEY for Lady YARBOROUGH because she did not meddle in politics was due to the circumstance that she did not exert her influence in favour of his opponent, and whether he would have been equally grateful for her abstention if he had supposed that that influence would have been exerted in his favour, and might have had the result of placing him at the top instead of the bottom of the poll. If so, he is more considerate than many of his fellow-candidates who have voted against the enfranchisement of women, for in many instances during the general election application was made to women landowners to contribute to the election expenses of county members. If women are supposed not to have intelligence enough to be able to give a vote for either of the rival parties, how can they have sense enough to enable them to give their money to promote the election of the right candidate? Your money, but not your vote! is the call addressed to women, not only by election associations, but by tax-gatherers and authorities of all sorts who make and administer the law. The reply of ladies to the agents of candidates who denied the right of women to concern themselves with politics, and yet who asked them for

money to use in elections, was, in more than one instance reported to us—If you will not have my vote, you shall not have my money.

THE impunity which the recent decision in the case of *REG v. ROADLEY* has secured to men who commit outrages on little girls is not slow to be exercised. It had been generally believed that the persons of children up to the age of thirteen years had been protected by an Act passed two or three years ago, extending the age of absolute protection from twelve to thirteen years, and magistrates appear to have hitherto acted in this belief. But the protection which it was imagined had been given, and which there is no doubt that the Legislature intended to give to little girls, has been suddenly swept away by the decision in the Court for the consideration of Crown Cases Reserved. In the case of *REG v. ROADLEY* the decision of the Chairman of the Leicestershire Quarter Sessions, which decided that the consent of a child of seven years of age could not be pleaded in defence to a charge of assault, was overruled, and a man who had been convicted of such an assault was ordered to be discharged from punishment.

The result of this rule is simply that no punishment at all can now be inflicted on men who take care to choose victims too young to understand wickedness. We learn from the *Cheshire County News* of July 2, that on June 26, JOHN SULLIVAN, at the Stockport Police Court, was charged with assaulting ELIZABETH ANN MOORES, six years of age. Mr. BROWN, solicitor, who appeared on behalf of the prisoner, after referring to the prisoner's good character, pointed to the fact that, in an indecent assault, there might be consent on the part of the child. The case was adjourned, and on the following Monday came up again, with the result stated in the following paragraph, extracted from the same issue of the *Cheshire County News and Stockport Chronicle*.

THE ASSAULT ON A CHILD.—John Sullivan, charged with indecent assault, was again brought up on Monday.—Mr. Brown produced a case, the Queen against Roadley, which showed that consent might be given by a child of tender years. He said prisoner must on that account be discharged, although the act might be a very immoral and foolish one.—The Mayor said the Bench were agreed on the consent. There was no doubt that she gave consent. After reprimanding the prisoner he said he would be discharged, though it was a miscarriage of justice.

WE give in another column the text of the Act passed in August, 1833, which deprived wives of their previously inalienable right to dower out of their husbands' estates—a right which was some compensation for the law which gave all their personal property to their husbands. By

this Act for the "amendment" (?) of the law relating to dower, wives are placed absolutely in the power and at the mercy of their husbands for maintenance during widowhood. A man may have lived with his wife for years on an ample income—may have accustomed her to the comforts and appliances of wealth, and may leave her at his death absolutely penniless—while the wealth which she has been accustomed to regard as hers is given to another. Such cases are not unfrequent, and, when they occur, men readily acknowledge their injustice; but no serious attempt is ever made to amend the law, or to restore to wives the rights to dower, which were confiscated in 1833.

AN interesting decision in a poor-law case came lately before the First Division of the Court of Session in Edinburgh. A man named WILLIAM SCOTT had the misfortune to become insane, and had been placed in an asylum, and his wife thereupon applied to the parish for relief. She was twenty-seven years of age, and had no children; was not of robust health, but was perfectly able to maintain herself by light work. By the Poor-law Act of 1845, the Scottish pauper may claim relief unless he or she come under the denomination of an "able-bodied person out of employment," and the term "able-bodied person" has been defined legally to signify "one labouring under no disability, physical or mental, to work." Now Mrs. SCOTT, although thoroughly competent in the eye of the law to maintain herself, was pronounced by the Sheriff to have a fair claim to be treated to the privileges of a pauper, because her husband, being insane, had sunk to the condition of one. A married woman is by law and in the eyes of the world one person with her husband, and it seemed reasonable, in the opinion of the learned Sheriff, to rule that, the husband having become a pauper-lunatic, his healthy young wife should share the conditions of his fallen state.

The right of the Sheriff to inflict an able-bodied young woman upon the ratepayers, to be maintained by them in idleness, was set aside by the final judgment of the LORD PRESIDENT. But the story supplies another and a notable instance of the propriety of extending civic rights to women. It was urged in court, in behalf of the Sheriff who had pronounced Mrs. SCOTT to be a *bond fide* pauper, that the only case in which the legal unity of man and wife should not be recognised is where the wife holds a separate estate out of which she can provide for her own maintenance. The LORD PRESIDENT, in giving contrary judgment, pointed out, with reference to this



argument, that the woman whose case they were judging did in point of fact possess a very important capital in the form of health and strength to work and to provide for herself. And he was so far right. It should not be the effect of any law, poor-law or other, to teach men, or women either, to ignore this "capital" which women hold. But, at the same time, if women are to be called upon by the law of the land to use their physical and mental gifts as *capital* to be worked by themselves, independently, for their own and the public good, it is surely high time that the law should help them to do so by raising their political and social status, and by recognising them as citizens and breadwinners equally with men.

E. R. M.

MISS THACKERAY speaks in one of her novels of a character which was made up of "all sorts of little bits collected from one and another ancestor, of materials warring against each other." Such a character would be liable to apparent inconsistencies and eccentricities, which a study of its genealogical antecedents would show to be the outcome of different lines of heritage united but not harmonised in this descendant.

To such a character might the electoral system of Great Britain be likened. Englishmen are wont to rejoice in that system, as the genuine offspring of the British race; not a child adopted from foreign parentage, but trained and nurtured amongst British ideas and British needs; a child inheriting by unbroken lineal descent the ancient spirit of individual freedom which distinguished its Teutonic ancestry even in days before they landed on these shores.

But the descent has not been absolutely pure, an element has intermingled which is at war with that ancient spirit. Feudalism, which regards sovereignty as the headship of a long line of dependants, each looking to the one next above him, has coincided ill with the Teutonic theory which regards sovereignty as the outcome of the mutual interdependence of every citizen.

These are two distinct conceptions of the order of society, and the attempt to amalgamate them in any degree must produce inconsistency. The Teutonic idea declares that "freedom is a noble thing," and inculcates the possession of that freedom as the right and bounden aim of every citizen. "Reverence your betters" is the doctrine of feudalism, and accordingly it teaches submission to the powers that be, not co-operation with them.

Now the Saxon strain predominates in our history, and has so asserted its mastery time after time, that we are apt

to believe all inconsistent elements have been stamped out. Not quite so yet, however. The town moves faster than the country: the dweller on the heath remains heathen long after the dweller in the city has accepted the nobler creed. And so, politically, the dweller in the borough gains a widened franchise sooner than the rustic. The man whose work lies in the great world, where he is stirring amongst the multitude of men to plant a firm footing, be it in the race after power or knowledge, or wealth or fame, moves on faster than the woman who lives her life chiefly in the lives of others dependent on her, whether owing to the tenderness of their youth or the infirmity of their age.

Over these two, the untaught labourer and the home-centred woman, the feudalistic theory has prevailed longest. But the time has come when the greater ease of communication, whether by personal journeying or by written or printed missive, and the greater uniformity of education has brought even rustic labourers and domestic women to assert the inconsistency of this remnant of feudal ways with the principle which lies at the foundation of the character of the British electoral system—the freedom from which no British subject should feel an outcast.

H. B.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

LONDON.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

On July 15th the annual general meeting of the above committee took place in the Westminster Palace Hotel. Mr. LEONARD H. COURTNEY, M.P., occupied the chair, and among those present were Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. M'Laren, Miss Jane E. Cobden, Miss Becker, Miss Williams, Miss Downing, Miss Flora Stevenson, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Peter Taylor, Mrs. Lynch, Miss E. E. Rees, Miss Robertson, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, M.P., Mrs. Thomasson, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Borchardt, Rev. W. A. and Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. J. H. Levy, Dr. Drysdale, and others.

Mr. LEONARD COURTNEY, M.P., said: Ladies and gentlemen,—When we met last we looked forward to the happening of a great event which would have considerable influence, as we hoped, upon the progress of our question. That event has since happened; we have had a general election throughout the United Kingdom which has produced most extraordinary, and, I think I may say, in a measure, altogether unforeseen results. Here, in this society, we are neither Liberals nor Conservatives; we are not followers of Mr. Gladstone or Lord Beaconsfield; and, therefore, if I refer to what has been done, I refer to-day in the spirit with which a natural philosopher might refer to the happening of a big tide, or the setting into action of a volcano which had long lain dormant. (Laughter.) You know very well that the Liberal party in the last House of Commons, with not more than two or three exceptions, pledged itself to the adoption of certain resolutions moved by Mr. Trevelyan, which in effect amounted to a declaration on the part of the Liberal party that it was necessary to recast

our electoral machinery and bring under the operation of the franchise a great class now excluded in the rural districts, and to redistribute the allocation of seats so as to secure by that means also a different representation of the people in Parliament. Now the Parliament which has been elected having resulted in a considerable majority for the Liberals, it may be taken as a practical fact that we may look forward to some fulfilment of this programme, although, indeed, it does not follow that it will be successful if attempted. I have seen to-day a new illustration of the extraordinary changes which sometimes happen under representative governments. As you perhaps know, a general election took place in the colony of Victoria about the same time that the general election occurred here. The result was that a Ministry came into power supported by a majority, relatively as great as that of Mr. Gladstone. This Ministry brought in a Reform Bill, but the Bill was rejected. A new general election was resolved upon, and the Ministry has, I learn to-day, been defeated. Within four months of the first election the constituencies have turned round and given a small majority to the other side, so that we must not be certain that what we wish to be done will be done. There are indeed already great expressions of disappointment as to the action of the present House of Commons as it is, but we should look upon these things apart from our own special predilections. We are here to-day for the purpose of advocating the suffrage of women, and as the poll taken of the constituencies returned a majority to the House of Commons pledged to recast our electoral machinery, we look upon this as an opportunity for pushing our motions forward. We believe that when the Liberal party engages itself in the attempt to give the franchise to the agricultural labourers, that party will find it difficult to resist a similar demand on the part of the educated women householders; and I also think that those Conservatives who, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, which I would not question, have hitherto opposed all motions for reconsidering our representative machinery, will recognise the necessity for change, and having in view our common object of making due provision for the better government of the country, will support the introduction of women's suffrage into any measure extending electoral franchise. With these views we must address ourselves to the work in the future, and whenever the Government bring forward their great scheme, if they do not anticipate us by putting women's suffrage into it, we shall insist upon their putting it in. (Cheers.) We have already in this session made our opinions known and our demands in some measure heard. The Government put forward in the House of Commons a Bill for extending the franchise in the Irish boroughs—it is now, practically speaking, dropped—but when it was introduced one of our best friends in the House of Commons, and one of the most energetic supporters of this cause—Mr. Blennerhassett—(cheers)—at once gave notice to extend the operation of the Bill so as to embrace women householders in Irish boroughs. Another friend of this society—Sir Edward Watkin—took the stronger course of insisting that this question should be considered before the Bill was adopted even in principle. (Cheers.) We rejoice to see these tokens of activity, and look forward to the same activity in the coming session of this new House of Commons. And now to give attention to other things. You know we had a great demonstration in Manchester, and another, not perhaps equal in its numbers but still of extraordinary power and force, in St. James's Hall, and I look upon them as likely to prove of extreme use to our cause as an answer to that question which has been so often raised:—"Do women desire the franchise?" They are refutations of the allegation so often advanced, and

so insufficiently advanced, that women do not desire the franchise. Whenever the question is brought forward in the House of Commons, some member is sure to get up and say that after inquiry among the females of his family and acquaintance he was satisfied that they did not desire to have a vote. That evidence has always appeared to me extremely unsatisfactory. I know it has been said of a people with whom we have a great deal to do who are distinguished by their extreme want of accuracy, that nothing is so difficult as to obtain a trustworthy answer from them. If you ask one of them, he never thinks of answering you as an enquirer after facts, but considers what you would like to be told, and tells you that. Something of the same excessive amiability has, perhaps, prompted the feminine repudiation of a desire for the suffrage reported by members of Parliament; but henceforth when it is denied that women desire the suffrage, that statement cannot be put beside the demonstrated fact of those great meetings in Manchester and in London. There is another characteristic of these meetings which I think ought to be dwelt upon, and that is that they were not meetings simply of the rich and well-to-do, and those in easy circumstances and in comfortable modes of life. At Manchester they were almost wholly of working women, and unless we can connect our movement with the interests and fortunes of working women, we throw away a great part of the arguments we might use for pressing our claims and opinions upon the Legislature. No gospel is worth anything which is not preached to the poor—(cheers)—and no movement for the franchise is worth anything in the House of Commons which does not touch the hearts and deal with the fortunes of the multitude of mankind. One of the great arguments in favour of women's suffrage is that it deals very directly and very materially with the fortunes and conditions of the working women of the world. The Legislature does not appear to my mind to consider how many hundreds of thousands of women are forced to earn a living for themselves. It has a very fancy ideal of every woman being dependent upon some man, and repaying his support by affection. They hide the fact that there are thousands of women who can look to no man for support, and who are bound to support themselves. The battle of life is made harder for those women by the mere fact that in our legislation we have gone upon the theory of dependence and support, and have only regarded women as annexes of men, while neglecting the fact of her need of self-maintenance; so that in education, or as professional or working women, and, finally, in that great act of marriage, which is the usual end of so many women, we have never as legislators looked upon women as independent human beings, having destinies of their own to work out, but only in connection with ourselves, as married women. I believe that these demonstrations of working women which we have had in Manchester and London are likely to have a great effect upon the legislation of the House of Commons; but until we get women really put upon the electoral roll that effect will always be imperfect. Look what has been done in this new House of Commons with which so many hopes are associated. The Ministry have brought in several Bills, and some of them which have been pushed forward with the greatest energy are Bills connected with Ireland. Irish members compel them to do so. They have also introduced Bills in respect to the claims of workmen upon employers. Everybody who has tested the balance of political parties in a borough knows that it is the working men and railway servants who work upon the feelings of the candidates. This session we have also had a Bill brought in—The Hares and Rabbits Bill—which shows how powerful tenant farmers are in turning an election; but if a Bill for the



protection of the property of married women, whether in England or Scotland, is introduced, you find but little attention is paid to it, and it is put into the background simply for the reason there are no women who can take up their own cause. In conclusion, Mr. Courtney said he looked forward to the next session of Parliament as likely to be fraught with very important events, and assured the meeting that the friends of the movement in Parliament would press forward the claims of women upon every legitimate occasion. (Cheers.)

Miss THORBURY having read the annual report, Miss COBDEN made a statement as to the financial position of the society, from which it appeared that the income, including a balance in hand of £24 from last year, was £1,406, and the expenditure £1,264, leaving a balance in hand on June 30 of £142. There were no outstanding liabilities.

The Rev. W. A. MACDONALD moved the first resolution: "That this meeting adopts the report and financial statement of the Central Committee, and directs that they be circulated." He said that the report just read had the advantage of being perfectly clear. The most hopeful view of the whole statement was the wonderful progress the movement had made amongst women themselves. There had been a time when those who advocated this cause of women's suffrage were looked upon at the best as amiable enthusiasts, while some were disposed to regard the leaders of the movement as troublesome agitators, and as people who had not enough domestic work to occupy them, and therefore engaged themselves in disturbing the peace and comfort of more settled men and women. (Laughter.) This movement had now, however, passed the stage of ridicule, and they heard no more of absurd statements of this kind; and it had got over the stage when men could say that the interest taken in this subject was not sufficient generally to authorise the House of Commons in taking up the question. If the meetings which had been held in Manchester and at St. James's Hall had been meetings of working men advocating some cause in which they were largely interested, a great sensation would have been produced throughout the country, and an amount of attention obtained which would have insured the hearing and consideration of the claims put forward.

Miss DOWNING, in seconding the resolution, said she thought the report showed that valuable work had been done during the past year. They had there a record of over 40 public meetings and lectures; and besides those there had been many drawing-room meetings, which were largely attended by a class of persons who did not usually care to attend public political meetings at night. She alluded to those ladies who were friends of members of Parliament, and who had possibly told them that they "did not want the suffrage." Nevertheless, those ladies would attend "At Homes," or "Kettledrums," or "Afternoon Teas," where the question of the suffrage was discussed; and she was certain that, if those ladies were not entirely converted, at least they refrained from open enmity, after they heard the case for women's suffrage plainly stated. But their duty was not to be satisfied with the past, but to see what could be done in the future. How could those who were anxious to further the movement help it? Well, these drawing-room meetings were most valuable, and she (Miss Downing) would urge on every lady present to hold a drawing-room meeting, and urge her friends to do likewise. She believed that the great demonstrations of women in Manchester and in London had raised the position of their question to a far higher ground, and if friends of the movement would give help, it would, in her opinion, be extremely valuable to hold similar demonstrations in the chief towns of the kingdom, especially those places where women were largely employed, as

in Birmingham, Nottingham, and similar places. If petitions went up from large meetings of women, it would be impossible for members of Parliament to ignore them, particularly if they came from women who, competing in the labour market with men, felt that the vote would be a protection to them in that labour. It was possible during the time that must elapse before the County Franchise Bill was introduced, there would be meetings of agricultural labourers and others in support of that Bill, and friends might help on their cause by attending such meetings and endeavouring to get an amendment in favour of extending the franchise to women carried. They might also help by bringing the question before any Conservative or Liberal Associations they happened to belong to. To further this work they wanted all the forces at their command. Some could give work, some could give money, all could give sympathy; and all were needed to carry on the work they had undertaken to a successful conclusion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. HODGSON PRATT then proposed the second resolution, to the effect "That the Executive Committee for the ensuing year consist of the following persons and of delegates, the same being members of local committees appointed by local associations to represent them." He said he supposed public opinion could only be formed as it had been formed upon all the other great questions which had been carried in past years by "Iteration, iteration, iteration"—(laughter and cheers)—and what it was necessary to do at these meetings was to say the same thing over again until certain ideas and arguments percolated into the dull mind of the public at large.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE seconded the resolution.

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

Miss MULLER then moved the third resolution: "That this meeting offers its cordial thanks to Mr. Courtney and the other members, who have given their support to the removal of the electoral disabilities of women, and pledges itself to renewed exertion to secure that, in any measure introduced into Parliament for the extension of the parliamentary suffrage, provision may be made for the exercise of the franchise by all duly qualified women in boroughs and counties." She said that one reason in favour of female suffrage was that by making this extension women would take a more direct and practical interest in the serious affairs of the nation, and by this means add a large and material element of happiness by giving them an interest in those questions which were the most engrossing topics in the minds of men.

Miss BECKER seconded the resolution.

Mr. COURTNEY, in acknowledgment, said he was much obliged for the cordial vote of thanks which the meeting had been good enough to pass, and further remarked that the treasurer, who had an eye to business, had desired him to remind those present that the expenses of the great demonstration were not covered by the special contributions. The funds of the society were also very low, and he therefore called upon the meeting to testify its zeal by endeavouring to put them in a better condition.

The meeting was then brought to a conclusion.

#### HYDE.

On June 29th a public meeting, largely attended, was held in the Market Place, Hyde. Mr. F. Broadsmith occupied the chair, and was supported by Messrs. Johnson, Rowcroft, and Dunn. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd delivered an address, which was received with applause, after which a petition, praying that, in any measure introduced in the House of Commons for the extension of household suffrage in boroughs and counties, pro-

vision may be made for the exercise of the parliamentary franchise by women householders, was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Rowcroft, and after a few remarks by Mr. Chatterton was carried unanimously.

#### GLOUCESTER.

Miss Craigen has been holding a series of meetings for workmen in the docks and their wives on the Quay, Gloucester; a broad place on the river. On July 19th, there was a large meeting, and after an address by Miss Craigen a petition was adopted for household suffrage without distinction of sex or place of residence.

On July 20th Mr. William Ready occupied the chair. There was a good attendance, and the petition was unanimously passed.

On July 21st another meeting was held in the same place. Mr. Ready again in the chair. The following resolution was moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women householders is a just and practical measure, and also highly necessary in view of the existing state of the laws relating to women; and that it is the opinion of this meeting that the candidates at the election likely to take place here should be questioned on the subject by the working men voters of the district." A working man opposed the resolution, but could hardly get a hearing. The resolution was unanimously carried.

On July 22nd another meeting was held on the Quay—a working man in the chair. The attendance was very large indeed. Miss Craigen spoke for two hours. A large number of women were present.

#### DEPTFORD.

On June 16th a meeting of women only was held in the Naval and Military Temperance Hall, Copperas Lane, Deptford. There were about 200 present. Miss Craigen gave an address on the laws affecting working women. A debate followed in which many women took part. A petition for the suffrage was passed unanimously.

#### ILFRACOMBE.

On July 21st a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Ilfracombe, Mr. W. E. Cox in the chair. Addresses in support of the claim of women to the parliamentary franchise were given by Miss Emily Sturge, Miss Blackburn, and others. There was a good attendance, and the proceedings created considerable interest.

#### DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

##### LONDON.

At the invitation of Mrs. Lucas an influential gathering assembled on July 7th at 7, Charlotte-street, Bedford Square, London, to facilitate the movement for securing women's suffrage. Mrs. Duncan M'Laren presided, and amongst those present were Mrs. Hilton, Mrs. W. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, M.P., and Mrs. Thomasson, Mrs. Parker (Dundee), Miss Isabella Tod (Belfast), Mrs. Wells, Miss Downing, Mr. T. A. Dickson (Dungannon), Mr. James Dickson, M.P., Miss Dickson, the Rev. Mr. Docksey, the Rev. Mr. Barton, Mrs. Servanté, Mr. W. Findlater, M.P., Dr. Drysdale, Miss Caroline Biggs, the Misses Cobden, &c. Miss Downing moved the first resolution, as follows: "That the exclusion of women, possessing the statutory qualifications, from voting in the election of members of Parliament, by leaving so large a part of the intelligence, property, and industry of the country unrepresented, is injurious both to those excluded and to the community at large."—Mr. Thomasson, M.P., seconded the motion, heartily endorsing the sentiments which it expressed, and contending that women ought no

longer to be excluded from the parliamentary franchise.—Miss Tod supported the resolution, replying to many of the arguments which from time to time had been advanced against this measure, pointing out that in this matter women were really fighting the battle of representative government, maintaining the right of the whole intelligence of the nation to exercise the privilege of self-government, and arguing that the granting of women's suffrage would add to the welfare, happiness, and safety of the land.—Mr. Thos. A. Dickson also spoke in favour of Miss Downing's proposition. Many questions came before Parliament in which women had a great and vital interest, and he could see no reason why women should be excluded from a voice in the consideration of subjects which so deeply affected them.—Miss Caroline Biggs moved the second resolution, that a petition to the House of Commons in favour of removing the electoral disabilities of women be adopted, and signed by Mrs. M'Laren on behalf of the meeting. This was seconded by Mrs. Parker, and adopted with the same spirit of unanimity which had characterised the passing of the first resolution. A cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. M'Laren, moved by Mr. Findlater, M.P., and to Mrs. Lucas brought the proceedings to a close.

#### GLOUCESTER PLACE.

A meeting was held by invitation of Mrs. Leon, at her residence, 79, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, on June 4th. There was a large assemblage. Miss Becker presided. A resolution declaring that women ratepayers were entitled to the parliamentary franchise, and that the exercise of the franchise would in no way unfit women for other duties or interfere with the happiness and comfort of domestic life, was moved by Miss Helen Taylor, seconded by Miss C. A. Biggs, and supported by Mr. C. M'Laren, M.P. Mr. A. Brown and Mr. Forsyth spoke in opposition to the resolution, and were answered by Miss Tod, Miss Downing, and Miss Babb. The resolution was carried by a large majority. Mr. Lewis Emanuel moved and Miss Blackburn seconded the adoption of a petition, and the meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

#### SHAFTESBURY PARK.

On June 15th, Miss Craigen spoke at a drawing-room meeting at the residence of Mr. Willes, Shaftesbury Park, the Rev. J. Hall in the chair. The petition was unanimously passed.

#### FRITHVILLE GARDENS.

A drawing-room meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Smith, 65, Frithville Gardens, on June 30th. Miss C. A. Biggs presided. After an address from Miss Downing, several ladies asked questions, and a petition to Parliament was unanimously adopted.

#### BOND STREET.

On July the 12th, a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen was held at 18, Old Bond-street, W., by the kind permission of Misses Lupton and Scott, who lent the use of their rooms for the occasion. The chair was taken by Mr. Robert Crawford, who, in an able and eloquent speech, supported the claim of women householders to the franchise.—A resolution in favour of the suffrage was moved by Miss H. Taylor, and supported by the Rev. Mr. Macdonald; and the adoption of a petition to Parliament was moved by Mrs. Ashton Dilke, and seconded by Miss Downing. After a vote of thanks to the Misses Lupton and Scott, and also to Mr. Crawford for presiding, the meeting separated.

#### GOWER STREET.

A large drawing-room meeting was held at the residence of Miss Harrison, 80, Gower-street, on July 14th, to discuss the claim of women householders to the parliamentary franchise.



Mr. Macdonell occupied the chair. After an able speech, in which the Chairman placed the claim of women to the suffrage on purely constitutional grounds, Miss Becker moved the first resolution. It was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Macdonald, and carried unanimously. The Rev. Stuart D. Headlam, Miss Taylor, Miss Müller, and Miss Downing took part in the discussion. Votes of thanks to Miss Harrison and Mr. Macdonell concluded the proceedings.

## SCOTLAND.

On July 10th a numerous-attended meeting was held at the residence of Miss Burton, Liberton Bank, Edinburgh. Miss Burton occupied the chair and addressed a few remarks upon the reasonableness of the agitation to enfranchise women householders. Miss Kirkland, in submitting the resolution, delivered a clear and convincing address in behalf of the movement, and took occasion to expose the much less liberal manner in which working women of various classes are remunerated by their employers, even when their labour is equal in quality and in quantity to that of men. Miss Simpson seconded the resolution. Mr. ex-Bailie Lewis warmly advocated the claim of women to the parliamentary franchise, and expressed his regret that the civic franchise, while it had been conceded to women householders in England, was still withheld from the same class in Scotland. Several other speakers supported the resolution, which was unanimously carried, and a vote of thanks to Miss Burton terminated the proceedings.

## DEBATING SOCIETIES.

## READING SCHOOL.

We learn from the *Reading School Magazine* of June that at the Reading School Debating Society, Mr. Reilly in the chair, Mr. Searle moved, "That the time has come when household suffrage in parliamentary elections ought to be freed from all restrictions of sex." Mr. M'Ilquham seconded the resolution. An amendment in opposition was moved by Allport, seconded by Neligan. At an adjourned meeting the debate was resumed, when the amendment was supported by Skurray, and Mr. Richards. Mr. Searle and M'Ilquham replied, and on the division there appeared for the motion 17 against 7; majority 10 in favour of the franchise for women householders.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

Madam,—May I draw your attention to an extract of speech recently delivered at Acton, by Lord George Hamilton, M.P.:—"May I be permitted to explain a vote which I have always given, and which, probably, in this session I shall again give. A motion is annually made by certain members of the House of Commons to the effect that we should depose ladies from the pedestal upon which they stand, and place them on a footing of equality with ourselves, by giving them votes for parliamentary elections. (Hear, hear.) I frankly admit I am opposed to that motion, although I am quite certain it would bring a great accession of strength to the Conservative party. But I value our women too much to wish to drag them into the heat and turmoil of a contested election, and I am quite sure that any lady who is thoroughly mistress of her household—in which I include her husband—(laughter)—will never be wanting in giving him proper and adequate directions as to how he is to vote. (Laughter.) I object altogether to the attempts which are made to establish women as a separate class." The patronising, half-bantering tone in which the claims of women are alluded to is, to say the least, offensive. As to his

objection respecting what he calls the establishment of women as a separate class, why that is the very thing to which we object. Does not the exclusion of women from the franchise make and keep them a separate class? With regard to valuing women too much, &c., &c., that is the kind of clap-trap often used. We want bread, we are given a sugar-plum; and surely the speaker could not have given intelligent attention to this question, or he would have known that the suffrage was not asked for mistresses of households who have husbands, whom, probably, they may influence, but for those women who are compelled by circumstances to fight the battle of life for themselves, and, in many cases, for helpless ones who have claims upon them; and this has often to be done under restrictions and disadvantages, in consequence of women having no voice politically. S. C.

July 15th, 1880.

## ELECTORAL FACTS IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

The official census of the Isle of Man, taken in 1871, showed a population of 53,763, of which 25,597 were males, and 28,176 were females. In the course of ten years the gross amount of this population must have increased, especially in the towns, so that we should not be surprised if, next year, the census returns showed a population of from 58,000 to 60,000. For electoral purposes the Island is divided into ten districts, viz. the six sheadings and the four towns, each sheading, as our local readers know, returning three members; Douglas, three; and each of the other towns one each. Now, the proportion of the electorate to the population at large in each district is as follows, the electoral lists having been revised in July, 1879:—Glenfaba Sheading, with a population, in 1871, of 5,771—397 electors, or a little over one-fifteenth; Michael Sheading, population 3,096—electors 346, or a little over one-ninth; Ayre Sheading, population 4,257—electors 499, or a little over one-ninth; Garff Sheading, population 5,174—electors 297, or not quite one-eighteenth; Middle Sheading, population 4,463—electors 367, or a little over one-thirteenth; Rushen Sheading, population 7,481—electors 444, or a little over one-seventeenth; Douglas, population 13,846—electors 1,400, or a little over one-tenth; Ramsey, population 3,861—electors 328, or not quite one-twelfth; Peel, population 3,496—electors 113, being the astounding proportion of less than one-thirtieth; Castletown, population 2,318—electors 139, or a little over one-seventeenth. Now we ask any reflecting and reasonable person, whether Manx or English, who scans these statistics, if the state of the electoral lists which the figures quoted disclose is not a highly discreditable one, considering the advances that have been made in every direction across the water during the last twelve or thirteen years. Out of a population of close on 60,000 there are but 4,330 town and country electors who have vested in them the right of returning the 24 Keys who tax us, and pass the laws affecting the life, liberty, and property of every member of the community. It is unnecessary, we opine, to enlarge more fully on this topic. The figures speak volumes for themselves. We could have given the electorate and population of every parish in each sheading, but that we do not wish to crowd too many figures into a single article. We shall, however, publish in a tabulated form, so as to be convenient for reference, the results of our investigations into these most interesting statistics, and shall add others, not yet obtained, which will be of value in guiding our reformers in and out of the Legislature to a reduction of the franchise upon a safe and rational basis.—*Isle of Man Times*.

## LAW REPORT.

## THE RIGHT OF A WIFE TO HER STOCK-IN-TRADE.

SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE, MAY 1, 1880.

(Before Mr. Justice Fry.)

DAVIS V. ARTINGSTALL.

This was an action by a married woman (suing under the Married Women's Property Act, 1870) to recover the value of certain furniture, stock-in-trade, and effects which had been taken by her husband and intrusted for sale to Messrs. Artingstall, auctioneers, of Manchester. The plaintiff was married to her present husband, Frank Davis, a compositor by trade, in the year 1872. For some time previous to 1879, Mr. and Mrs. Davis were living at a beerhouse in Deansgate, Manchester, called the Queen's Arms, where the business of the beerhouse was carried on by the husband. In addition to this, a trade described as that of "general dealer in boots and shoes, drapery, haberdashery, furniture, and similar goods" was carried on by the wife. This business was at first carried on in the upper part of the premises. Latterly the house next door had been taken in, and a shop opened there. Shortly before the 6th of May, 1879, Frank Davis left his home, and on that day he caused all the goods in the shop and premises, except a bed and a few articles, to be removed. They were ultimately taken to a warehouse in Queen-street for the purpose of being sold by Messrs. Artingstall, who had not been able to receive the goods on their own premises. The goods were advertised for sale, and the plaintiff's solicitor gave notice to the auctioneers that she claimed them as her separate property. On the 20th of May they were put up for sale, and some of them sold (realising about £130). The remainder of the goods got back into the possession of the husband. The main questions in the action were whether, as a matter of fact, the business had been carried on by the wife as her separate business, or whether she had acted as the agent of the husband, and what, as a matter of law, was the position of the auctioneers. The action was originally brought against the auctioneers only, but at their instance Frank Davis, the husband, was made a co-defendant.

Mr. Cookson, Q.C., and Mr. M'Laren appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. North, Q.C., and Mr. Simmonds for Messrs. Artingstall; Mr. Watson for Frank Davis.

Mr. Justice Fry said the Married Women's Property Act in terms only protected the wages and earnings of a married woman as her separate estate, but it had been decided that the protection extended to the stock-in-trade and property used in a separate business. The Act in terms protected the fruit. The decision of the common law branch of the Court held that the tree which bore that fruit was also protected; he had, therefore, to determine as a matter of fact whether the business in question was that of the wife or of the husband. His Lordship considered that the evidence showed, among other details, that billheads and trade cards printed by the husband himself bore the name of Mrs. Davis; persons had trusted the wife who would not trust the husband, and that the husband had nothing to do with the business, except on one occasion to sell a few yards of trimming to oblige a customer; he, therefore, held the business belonged to the wife, and the stock-in-trade was protected. With regard to the position of the auctioneers he held, upon the authority of an old case in Blackstone's reports, that when goods were intrusted to them for sale even upon the premises of the vendor, they were given possession with an interest, and Messrs. Artingstall were therefore liable for the value, not only of the goods sold, but for those which Frank Davis took away. The plaintiff was entitled to the fair value of the goods, and not what they fetched at the auction. There must, therefore, be an inquiry. The plaintiff would have the costs up to

and including the trial; but his Lordship had been impressed with the fact that sometimes questions of value were brought before a Judge, which could better have been tried on the spot before a jury and a double trial, one in Court and one in Chambers, perhaps brought in detail afterwards before the Judge, and great expense to the parties incurred. He should, therefore, reserve the costs of the inquiry.

## THE ACT DEPRIVING WIVES OF DOWER.

The following is the text of the Act 3 and 4 William IV., c. 105, which destroyed the heretofore existing right of wives to dower set in their husband's estates:—

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Words and Expressions herein-after mentioned, which in their ordinary Signification have a more confined or a different Meaning, shall in this Act, except where the Nature of the Provision or the Context of the Act shall exclude such Construction, be interpreted as follows; that is to say, the Word "Land" shall extend to Manors, Advowsons, Messuages, and all other Hereditaments, whether Corporeal or Incorporeal (except such as are not liable to Dower), and to any Share thereof; and every Word importing the Singular Number only shall extend and be applied to several Persons or Things as well as one Person or Thing.

II. And be it further enacted, That when a Husband shall die beneficially entitled to any Land for an Interest which shall not entitle his Widow to Dower out of the same at Law, and such Interest, whether wholly equitable, or partly legal and partly equitable, shall be an Estate of Inheritance in possession, or equal to an Estate of Inheritance in possession, (other than an Estate in Jointenancy,) then his widow shall be entitled in Equity to Dower out of the same Land.

III. And be it further enacted, That when a Husband shall have been entitled to a Right of Entry or Action in any Land, and his Widow would be entitled to Dower out of the same if he had recovered Possession thereof, she shall be entitled to Dower out of the same although her Husband shall not have recovered Possession thereof; provided that such Dower be sued for or obtained within the Period during which such Right of Entry or Action might be enforced.

IV. And be it further enacted, That no Widow shall be entitled to Dower out of any Land which shall have been absolutely disposed of by her Husband in his Lifetime or by his Will.

V. And be it further enacted, That all partial Estates and Interests, and all Charges created by any Disposition or Will of a Husband, and all Debts, Incumbrances, Contracts, and Engagements to which his Land shall be subject or liable, shall be valid and effectual as against the Right of his Widow to Dower.

VI. And be it further enacted, That a Widow shall not be entitled to Dower out of any Land of her Husband when in the Deed by which such Land was conveyed to him, or by any Deed executed by him, it shall be declared that his Widow shall not be entitled to Dower out of such Land.

VII. And be it further enacted, That a Widow shall not be entitled to Dower out of any land of which her Husband shall die wholly or partially intestate when by the Will of her Husband, duly executed for the Devise of Freehold Estates, he shall declare his Intention that she shall not be entitled to Dower out of such Land or out of any of his Land.



VIII. And be it further enacted, That the right of a Widow to Dower shall be subject to any Conditions, Restrictions, or Directions which shall be declared by the Will of her Husband, duly executed as aforesaid.

IX. And be it further enacted, That where a Husband shall devise any Land out of which his Widow would be entitled to Dower if the same were not so devised, or any Estate or Interest therein, to or for the Benefit of his Widow, such Widow shall not be entitled to Dower out of or in any Land of her said Husband, unless a contrary Intention shall be declared by his Will.

X. And be it further enacted, That no Gift or Bequest made by any Husband to or for the Benefit of his Widow of or out of his Personal Estate, or of or out of any of his Land not liable to Dower, shall defeat or prejudice her Right to Dower, unless a contrary Intention shall be declared by his Will.

XI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall prevent any Court of Equity from enforcing any Covenant or Agreement entered into by or on the Part of any Husband not to bar the Right of his Widow to Dower out of his lands or any of them.

XII. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with any Rule of Equity, or of any Ecclesiastical Court, by which Legacies bequeathed to Widows in satisfaction of Dower are entitled to Priority over other Legacies.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That no Widow shall hereafter be entitled to Dower ad ostium ecclesie, or Dower ex assensu patris.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall not extend to the Dower of any Widow who shall have been or shall be married on or before the First Day of *January*, One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and shall not give to any Will, Deed, Contract, Engagement, or Charge executed, entered into, or created before the said First Day of *January*, One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, the Effect of defeating or prejudicing any Right to Dower.

#### WIVES' RIGHTS TO DOWER BY SCOTCH LAW.

The report of a Committee of the Faculty of Advocates on the Bill to amend the laws relating to the property of married women in Scotland contains the following notes on the difference between the law of England and Scotland in regard to the property and rights of wives:—

"According to the law of Scotland the husband is tied up, as regards both his personal and heritable estate, in a way that a husband is not by the law of England. By the latter law a husband is the master of his own estate, entitled to will it away as he pleases, while at the same time he has, what a husband has by the law of Scotland, a right to all the personal property of his wife. But, on the other hand, the restrictions upon a husband and father by the law of Scotland are as follows:—

"1. A widow is entitled as of right to one-third of her husband's personal estate if there be children of the marriage; and to one-half if there be no children. This right, called *jus relicte*, the husband cannot bar, by any deed of his.

"2. The children are entitled to one-third of the personal estate if there be a widow, and to one-half if there be no widow. This right, called *legitim*, the husband cannot bar, by any deed of his.

"3. The widow is entitled as of right to one-third of the rents of the heritable estate of her husband under the name of *terce*. This right he cannot bar, by any deed of his.

"Thus the whole personal estate over which a husband by

the law of Scotland can test, or make a will, is one-third thereof.

"All this is very different according to the law of England. According to that law, a husband and father can dispose of his personal estate as he thinks fit; and as regards his heritable estate the husband is entitled, at his pleasure, to bar her right of dower (equivalent to *terce*), according to the enactment in 3 and 4 Will. IV., cap. 105, sec. 4, as follows: 'And be it further enacted that no widow shall be entitled to dower out of any land, which shall have been absolutely disposed of by her husband in his lifetime, or by his will.' Farther, when a wife dies intestate, the husband succeeds, by English law, to her whole personal estate."

#### THE MARRIAGE ACT OF 1835.

The following is the full text of the Act 5 and 6 William IV., c. 54, which established the law relating to marriages of consanguinity and affinity. It will be seen that the Act has no special reference to marriage with a deceased wife's sister, but concerns equally all the prohibited degrees of relationship:—

WHEREAS Marriages between Persons within the prohibited Degrees are voidable only by Sentence of the Ecclesiastical Court pronounced during the Lifetime of both the Parties thereto, and it is unreasonable that the State and Condition of the Children of Marriages between Persons within the prohibited Degrees of Affinity should remain unsettled during so long a Period, and it is fitting that all Marriages which may hereafter be celebrated between Persons within the prohibited Degrees of Consanguinity or Affinity should be *ipso facto* void, and not merely voidable: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled and by the Authority of the same, That all Marriages which shall have been celebrated before the passing of this Act between Persons being within the prohibited Degrees of Affinity shall not hereafter be annulled for that Cause by any Sentence of the Ecclesiastical Court, unless pronounced in a Suit which shall be depending at the Time of the passing of this Act: Provided that nothing hereinbefore enacted shall affect Marriages between Persons being within the prohibited Degrees of Consanguinity.

II. And be it further enacted, That all Marriages which shall hereafter be celebrated between Persons within the prohibited Degrees of Consanguinity or Affinity shall be absolutely null and void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to extend to that Part of the United Kingdom called *Scotland*.

IV. And be it enacted, That this Act may be altered or repealed by any Act or Acts to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

#### MARRIAGE WITHIN THE PROHIBITED DEGREES.

We learn from an article in the current number of the *Westminster Review* that, "before the year 1533, the twenty-fifth year of the reign of Henry VIII., there existed no statute prohibiting marriages on the ground of the consanguinity or affinity in the parties. The matter was then regulated by the Canon Law of the Church of Rome, as part of the common law of the

realm; and the validity of marriages in this respect was cognizable exclusively by the Ecclesiastical Courts, subject to the control of the court of King's Bench." "In the year 1533, an Act was passed, settling the succession to the crown, dissolving the marriage of the king with his brother's widow, establishing his marriage with Anne Bullen, and fixing for the first time by statute the degrees of consanguinity and affinity within which marriage should, for the future, be unlawful. This statute was afterwards repealed, and several others were passed and repealed. Finally, by the 32nd Henry VIII., cap. 50, it was provided that no reservation or prohibition—God's law except—shall trouble or impeach any marriage without the Levitical degrees. On the accession of Elizabeth, a table of degrees was published, declaring unlawful, among others, marriage with a brother's widow or deceased wife's sister." "For about three hundred years, the law of marriage in England was regulated by this statute of Henry VIII. and the table of degrees and the canons. But during this long period a man was practically permitted to marry whom he would. A marriage within the prohibited degrees could only be set aside during the lifetime of both the parties, by process in the ecclesiastical courts; and the cases were rare indeed in which any such suits were instituted."

The writer in the *Westminster Review*, to whom we are indebted for the above information, says:—"The moral sense of the community was not shocked, nor the peace of families disturbed, by reason of uncanonical unions having been entered into. Thousands of such marriages must, during that period, have been contracted, while instances in which they have been dissolved by the tribunals scarcely amounted to scores."

We are not informed of the data on which the writer assumes that thousands of such marriages must have been contracted, and it would seem on the face of it rather improbable that any great number of marriages could have been contracted which were liable to be set aside during the lifetime of either party. Such a state of uncertainty as to the validity of marriage must have been extremely inconvenient to say the least of it, and the only wonder is that it was allowed to continue so long.

After the sentence last quoted the writer proceeds: "So matters continued until our own times, when a case arose which occasioned the passing of a new Act on the subject. A nobleman of high rank and vast estates was the offspring of a marriage with the sister of a deceased wife, and the late Lord Lyndhurst brought in a Bill to limit to two years the time within which such unions could be impeached. After a very slight discussion in the House of Lords, the Bill was passed in a form entirely different from that in which it had been introduced, and while all such marriages as had been heretofore contracted were validated, and the issue legitimized, they were for the future not to be voidable as before, but *absolutely null and void*. The author of the measure in vain remonstrated against this alteration." "Thus transformed, the Bill came down to the Commons, who refused to accept the prohibitory clause in committee, but on the report it was reluctantly accepted, yet only on a distinct assurance that it should be repealed the following session, a pledge which to this hour remains unredeemed, in spite of constant and resolute efforts on the part of the House to remedy the injustice."

It would be interesting to know by whom an assurance that a clause which the House of Commons were asked to enact should be repealed the following session could be given so as to morally bind the Legislature. It seems to us that all that could reasonably be promised was that a Bill should be introduced to repeal the clause that was objected to, and if the prohibition had been generally felt to be unreasonable

this might have been done without delay. Yet seven years seem to have elapsed before anything was done. We learn from the narrative in the *Westminster Review* that, "in 1842, Lord Francis Egerton brought in a Bill for that purpose (*i.e.*, to redeem the pledge that the prohibition clause should be repealed), and was defeated by 123 to 100."

We are not informed whether Lord Francis Egerton proposed to repeal the whole of the prohibition clause, sec. 2 of the Act 5 and 6 William IV., given above, or whether he merely meant to repeal the prohibition, in one particular case, that of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and to leave the rest in force; but there is no doubt that the promoters of the present Bill distinctly restrict its operation to one of the prohibited degrees, and that not the most distant one, and therefore their Bill, whatever may be its merits in other respects, is certainly not an attempt to redeem the "pledge" to repeal the prohibition clause of the Marriage Act of 1835.

The pages of this journal are not intended for controversy as to whether the existing law regulating marriages is the best that could be devised, and we can take no part in the discussion of the merits of any particular Bill to alter the law. But the subject is one on which women have been specially invited to express their opinions, and we feel that information which can aid them in forming their opinions may properly be diffused through the medium of our columns. The writer in the *Westminster Review* says:—"The women were once against it, but are brought round." If this is the case, let them petition in favour of reform, but let them not petition in ignorance either of the actual state of the law, or the actual nature of the measure proposed. Great numbers of women are opposed to the removal of the prohibition and marriages of affinity—let these petition too. Nothing can be a more healthy symptom of political life among women than the appearance of numerous petitions on social questions of deep interest to the community, when matters dealing with such questions are before the Legislature.

#### REVIEW.

*Matrimonial Bonds.* By "FLORIAN." London: John & Robert Maxwell.

"*Matrimonial Bonds*" is a book about which it is difficult to write critically. Its object is to show that the English law of divorce, as at present existing, is wrong, unjust, and immoral; and to plead that there shall be equal laws for women and men in regard to matrimonial offences. Looked at in this light, "*Matrimonial Bonds*" may be called a persuasive argument. The innocent wife of a guilty husband is denied the relief which the law would afford to the husband of a guilty wife. The story is interesting and well written, but to our mind the purpose of the narrative would have been more effectively shown had the author gifted the heroine with more strength of character. Her calamitous circumstances and equivocal position make her life a tragedy through no fault of hers, but the climax of her fate appears to us to be due as much to the weakness of her nature in yielding to her infatuation for a man whom she cannot marry, and who does not love her, as to the unequal laws of divorce. Yet it is a narrative which is perfectly possible in every particular; it is, moreover, told with a clear simplicity of style and diction which it is refreshing to read, and which has ten times the effect, upon a thoughtful mind, of highly-coloured narratives or sensational writing; and it is to thoughtful minds that the writer appeals.



PETITIONS. WOMEN'S DISABILITIES—For Removal. EIGHTH REPORT, 23—29 June, 1880. June Brought forward, Petitions 76—Signatures 2,092

June \*5101 24 WAPPING, London, drawing-room meeting, Rectory (Mr. Ritchie) 47

July \*7598 3 W. BINNS and others (Mr. Thomasson) 33

July \*3189 15 GATESHEAD ON TYNE (Mr. Dilke) 53

SUMMARY OF PETITIONS PRESENTED UP TO JULY 16th, 1880. No. of Petitions signed Officially or under Seal. Total No. of Petitions. Total No. of Signatures.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS, JULY, 1880.

"Mitrailleuse" ... Miss Todd (Chester) ... Rev. C. H. Cholmeley ... Mrs. Hetherington ...

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

LUTON COMMITTEE. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mr. Wm. Austin ... Mrs. Bigg ... Miss Bigg ... Mr. Gilder ...

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM JUNE 20 TO JULY 20.

Miss J. Boucherett (Guarantee Fund) 25 0 0 Mrs. Glover ... Miss Williams (Guarantee Fund) ...

DEMONSTRATION FUND. (St. James's Hall.—Third List.)

Mrs. Bonus ... Miss F. Davenport Hill ... Miss Beale ...





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