

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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THE Parliamentary supporters of the Franchise for Women have lost no time in bringing the question before the House of Commons. On Friday, February 10, the first day on which the House assembled for actual business, notice was given of motion for leave to introduce the Women's Disabilities Bill; and on Monday, February 13, the Bill was ordered to be brought in by Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, Mr. EASTWICK, and Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR. It was then read a first time and the second reading fixed for the third of May. It now behoves the friends of the measure to employ the interval in the most strenuous efforts to strengthen the hands of its promoters in Parliament by an energetic pressure from without.

We live under a *régime* of government by popular clamour. It is not sufficient to convince Parliament that a particular measure is equitable, that it is needed for the protection of the interests of any portion of the community, or that is in accordance with principles already accepted and embodied in existing legislation. It is further required that persons asking to be relieved from an injurious disability shall get up a noisy agitation and make themselves dangerous or troublesome to the Government, before their claims can receive consideration. Like the friend in the parable, the Government will not rise and grant our demands because they are just, yet because of our importunity it will rise, and give us all that we need.

Hard as this condition presses on any class of persons who consider themselves aggrieved by restrictions on liberty, and whose demand for redress is encountered, not by arguments addressed to the merits of the case, but by the simple allegation that the Government recognises neither the desire nor demand for the measure, it is doubly hard in the case of women, who are debarred by the very disability the removal of which they seek, from the constitutional mode of expressing their desires which is freely open to all classes of men.

Even those who are personally interested in the matter

—the women householders—though they would like to have the vote, do not like to contend for it. One lady who was asked to join in the movement, said that she thought it a right so clear that men ought to grant it without any agitation. Many women have refused to sign petitions because they felt it an indignity to be compelled humbly to petition for something to which they conceived themselves to be justly entitled, and which should be given as a matter of right. One would think that the chivalry of which men boast should make them quick to recognise this feeling, and anxious to relieve women from the odious and onerous necessity of clamouring for justice, by exhibiting a readiness to concede at once any claim that can be shown to be reasonable. But as this is unhappily not the case, there is no help but in pressing our cause on the Government with as much vigour and persistency as we can command.

We are the subjects of despotic government, and we are asking for free government. Parliament makes laws for women; we ask that it shall be responsible to women for the laws it makes. Our difficulty is that we have to appeal not to an impartial umpire, but to the very despotism from which we desire to be freed. Over and over again have we heard men allege as a reason for refusing our demand for the franchise, their own opinion that it would not be good for women, to have votes. It never seems to occur to such men that this is no answer to a woman who asks for a vote as a matter of justice. As well might a debtor refuse to discharge his obligations on the ground that in his judgment the money would not be good for his creditor, as well might a master refuse freedom to a slave because in his opinion liberty would be injurious to a negro, as men refuse free government to women on the ground that in their judgment it would be "a calamity and a curse to them."

Let men try to put themselves in the place of the women who make this demand. Let them imagine a state of affairs wherein a nation was governed by a council

chamber and ministers, responsible, not to an electorate composed out of the persons governed, but to an Imperial master with sufficient power at his command to enforce his decrees without the possibility of appeal. Let us imagine that the Legislative Chamber made laws which the people felt to be unjust and oppressive, and where the interests of the ruler and the ruled came into collision, the laws were made entirely subservient to the interests of the powerful. Suppose that the subjects petitioned the Emperor that the Legislative Assembly might be held responsible to them as well as to him, and the reply were to be that he considered it best for their interest to remain excluded from all control over the Government, and that the acknowledgment of their right to a voice in determining their own destiny would be a calamity and a curse to them. Would men like the situation, even though they were convinced that the despot was actuated by purely benevolent intentions towards them? Surely not—yet this is the situation in which women are placed when asking for political freedom at the hands of men.

Men say that their own government of women is a benevolent one, and that a benevolent despotism is the best government for women. We deny both these propositions. We affirm that a great multitude of women in this country are suffering under cruel oppression; that the law affords them neither protection nor redress; and that in almost every case in which there is a distinction between the legal rights of a man and a woman, the law favours the man at the expense of the woman. We believe that the legal relation between the sexes will never be placed on a just basis, nor the interests of the feminine half of the nation adequately cared for, until Parliament is responsible both to women and to men for the decisions arrived at respecting them.

#### MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

We desire to call attention to the Bill to render legal Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, which was read a second time in the House of Commons on February 15th, and stands committed for March 8th. We give the text of the Bill in another column, and an abstract of the debate on the second reading in our Parliamentary intelligence. We hold that a more unsatisfactory Bill was never presented to the Legislature, and we earnestly hope that in its present shape it may not pass into law.

The Bill as it stands is totally devoid of principle; it introduces a thorough and vital change into family rela-

tions, and it does so in a most mischievous and one-sided manner. We believe that a great majority of those outside who look with favour on the measure, do not understand its real nature, and for their instruction we have reproduced the text of the Bill.

It proposes to allow a man to marry two sisters in succession, but does not allow a woman to marry two brothers in succession. It thus introduces, as the *Saturday Review* justly observes,—a new and glaring inequality between the sexes in the matter of marriage. We happen to know of several cases in which persons have contracted nominal marriages within the prohibited degrees of affinity. We know of two cases in which a woman married two brothers in succession, of one in which a woman married uncle and nephew in succession, of three in which a man married two sisters in succession, and of one in which a man married aunt and niece in succession. We maintain, either that all these persons were guilty of moral wrong in their illegal marriages, or that none of them were.

If it is right to pass a law to relieve one set from the consequences which they have voluntarily incurred, it is right to relieve all. The Bill is retrospective in its operation, yet it does not propose to do this. It arbitrarily selects one relation, and that not the most remote degree of affinity, in which both past and future marriages are to be rendered legal, and it does not touch the rest. It ought, therefore, to be opposed by all who desire to see legislation based on defined and logical principles, whether such persons hold that marriages of affinity ought, as a rule, to be permitted or prohibited. At present the marriage law is based on the intelligible principle that relationship by marriage equally with relationship by blood is a bar to matrimony within certain degrees. That principle is either sound, in which case it ought to be maintained, or unsound, in which case it ought to be abrogated.

To leave the principle in force, and then to pass an Act creating special exemption from its operation, is to cause utter confusion as to right and wrong in the minds of the people, and to bring law itself into disrepute. The Commons' attempt at a Marriage Law Amendment Bill is just such another miserable botch as the Lords' version of the Married Women's Property Bill. Women have suffered enough already through such patchwork legislation.

We hold that the House of Commons is not morally competent to pass a measure which introduces so serious an innovation into family life, without taking into con-

#### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, February 13.

##### ELECTORAL DISABILITIES OF WOMEN.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT obtained leave to bring in a Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

The Bill, which is the same as that introduced last year, bears the names of Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. E. B. Eastwick, and Dr. Lyon Playfair. It was read a first time, and the second reading fixed for the 3rd of May.

Wednesday, February 15.

##### MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS having presented a number of petitions, moved the second reading of this Bill.

Sir H. SELWYN-IBBETSON moved the rejection of the measure. On the Speaker putting the question that the Bill be now read a second time,

Mr. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN said that, considering that the House had over and over again given its assent to the Bill, and that it had only been rejected by the other House by a very narrow majority, he thought that it would be wrong to refuse the Bill a second reading. It had also been urged, as an argument against the passing of the Bill, that those affected by it amounted to a very small number, but he considered that if but one subject was aggrieved, he had a right to the respectful consideration of the House. (Hear, hear.) He did not think the number was so small; on the contrary, he thought the law, as it at present stood, inflicted a wrong on a very large number of her Majesty's subjects. (Hear, hear.) It was a hardship on a man who married his deceased wife's sister in one country, to find on his return to his own land that his marriage was illegal. He knew many persons whose position in life was beyond the suspicion of immorality who had contracted these alliances, and who were now longing for a change in the law. It had been asserted that the women of England were opposed to this measure, but he did not agree with that assertion. A great many of the fairer sex were inclined to take the same view of the matter as that held by the clergy of the Church of England, but he did not believe that the majority of the women of England were opposed to the measure. He had had some conversation with ladies on this subject, and had not found them adverse to it. (Hear.) Again it was alleged that if a change in the law did take place, the wife would become suspicious of her sister. That he considered to be a libel on the women of England. (Hear, hear.) He believed that a woman, in whatever position in life she was, who would be jealous of her sister, would be equally jealous of her, if her husband could, on her decease, marry her sister or not. He knew of several cases in which the wife on her deathbed had asked her sister to marry her husband, and supply her place as a mother to his children. Neither was it at all unnatural that such wishes should be expressed. He felt that nothing more could be said in favour of the Bill than was contained in the comprehensive speech on this subject, last session, by the right hon. member for Birmingham, in which the whole subject was dealt with in a truly liberal spirit. True, it was no light matter to alter the laws of marriage, but this measure had been pressed on the Legislature again and again, and if the Bill was passed it would prove a great boon to the people of this country. It was a question of civil and religious liberty, and he saw no reason why that liberty should be infringed on this point. The first Parliament elected by household suffrage had passed the Bill by such a large majority that he thought it would be wise on the part of its opponents to yield on this occasion. (Hear, hear.)

sideration the wishes of women, whose interests are so deeply involved. Even those who maintain that woman's sphere is exclusively at home, will surely allow that on a question which enters so directly into home relations her voice has a right to be heard and her influence allowed. An indirect acknowledgement of this claim is to be found in some of the speeches made in support of the Bill. Mr. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN said that it had been asserted that the women of England were opposed to the measure, and he combated that objection, not, as might have been expected from one who would deny them representation, by the allegation that their opposition was nothing to the purpose, but by denying the truth of the assertion. He said that he did not believe that the majority of women were opposed to the measure. He had had some conversation with ladies on this subject, and he had not found them adverse to it.

Now we protest against this irregular and haphazard method of judging of the opinions of women. If the House has any intention of being guided by the sentiments of women in matters of legislation, it is bound to provide means for the expression of those sentiments in a regular and constitutional manner.

The process of carefully eliminating from the electoral body all persons otherwise qualified who belong to the sex whose opinions are especially desired, seems to us singularly ill adapted for the purpose of forming a just estimate of those views. Opinions expressed in conversation by such ladies as happen to be personally acquainted with members of Parliament, cannot be taken as representing those of the majority of the sex. They are not trustworthy substitutes for the influences that would be brought to bear on legislation by women of all ranks and conditions of life were the ban of exclusion removed, and those opinions are not given as a vote would be given, under a sense of responsibility.

If the Legislature really desires to ascertain the sentiments of women on questions of marriages of affinity and kindred subjects of legislation, the only certain method of accomplishing its aim is to remove their electoral disabilities.

DEATH OF MR. SIDEBOTTOM, M.P.—We regret to record the death of Mr. James Sidebottom, M.P. for Stalybridge, which took place on February 14th. The deceased gentleman was the first member for the borough, which was enfranchised by the Reform Act of 1867; he was returned to parliament at the general election of 1868. He was a Conservative in politics. He voted for the second reading of the Women's Disabilities Bill.

Mr. MONK, although an opponent of the measure, doubted whether the hon. member for North Essex had taken a wise course in moving his amendment. Many hon. members thought that this was a measure which, if passed into law, would sap the foundations of society. ("Hear, hear," and "Oh!") He, however, could not shut his eyes to the fact that the measure was demanded out of doors. (Hear.) He had, on many occasions, strongly opposed the Bill, and his opinion on its merits remained unchanged; but he thought the time had come when it should be no longer opposed in the House of Commons. If the question was to be fought out at all, it should be fought in another place. He would, however, appeal to her Majesty's Government to bring in a Bill defining the degree of affinity. (Hear, hear.) The present measure was an exceptional one, and as such should not encumber the statute books. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAMPBELL believed the people of Scotland would be willing to accept this Bill.

Mr. O. EWING thought to give a silent vote on this question, but he could not remain silent when he heard the hon. gentleman who had just spoken say that the people of Scotland were in favour of the Bill. The hon. gentleman was wrong in all his facts.

Colonel SYKES also said that the feeling of the people of Scotland was against the Bill.

Mr. S. MORLEY supported the Bill.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS said that since he introduced this Bill in 1869 it met with the most persistent opposition, and after it had been affirmed time after time in that House, he confessed he was astonished at the way in which it had been met on that occasion by the hon. baronet, the member for Essex. Without producing any argument whatever, he moved that the Bill be read that day six months. There was no parliamentary precedent for such opposition as was now offered to this Bill. All objections had been met and refuted, and even in the House of Lords the adverse majorities had been diminishing. The Act of 1835 was a fraud upon that House; it was passed without anyone's perceiving what would be its effect. After urging the desirability of there being uniformity in the law, he referred to the fact that the reason why the Bill was defeated in the House of Lords was in consequence of the opposition of four bishops, who did not oppose it on religious, but on social, grounds.

Mr. HINDE PALMER and the Hon. G. DENMAN supported the Bill.

The House then divided:  
 For the second reading ..... 125  
 Against it ..... 84

Majority for the second reading ..... 41

The announcement of the numbers was received with cheers from both sides of the House.

**A BILL TO REMOVE THE ELECTORAL DISABILITIES OF WOMEN.**

Be it enacted by the Queen'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, as follows:

1. That in all Acts relating to the qualification and registration of voters or persons entitled or claiming to be registered and to vote in the election of Members of Parliament, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender, the same shall be held to include females for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to be registered as voters, and to vote in such election, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

**A BILL TO RENDER LEGAL MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.**

Whereas it is expedient to amend the law as to marriage with a deceased wife's sister:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen'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, as follows:

1. No marriage between a man and his deceased wife's sister heretofore celebrated or contracted at any place whatsoever within the realm or without, or which shall hereafter be celebrated or contracted in England or Ireland in the office of any registrar under the provisions of the Acts relating to marriages in England and Ireland or be contracted in Scotland or elsewhere, shall be deemed to have been or shall be void or voidable by reason only of the affinity of the parties thereto, or by reason of any statute or of any canonical or other objection or impediment founded only on such affinity to the validity of any such marriage or to the celebration thereof, or to the validity of any licence or certificate under which the same may have been celebrated; and the registers of all such marriages in England or Ireland, or authenticated copies thereof, and such evidence as would be proof of any other marriage in Scotland or elsewhere, shall be received in all courts of law or equity, and for all purposes, as evidence of such marriages respectively.

2. Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall render valid any marriage with the sister of a deceased wife where either of the parties has afterwards, during the life of the other and before the passing of this Act, lawfully intermarried with any other person.

3. Provided also, that this Act, so far as it relates to any marriage with the sister of a deceased wife, celebrated or contracted before the passing of this Act, shall not invalidate or affect any right to any dignity or title of honour, or any estate, right, title, or interest, legal or equitable, in or to any lands, hereditaments, chattels, or effects vested in any person before the passing of this Act, nor any contingent estate or interest, legal or equitable, in any lands, hereditaments, chattels real, chattels, or effects created by or derived from any settlement, grant, conveyance to uses, release, appointment, or other instrument bona fide executed before the passing of this Act, or by or from any devise or will which shall have become operative by the death of the deviser or testator before the passing of this Act.

**BATH GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—THE NEW SCHEME.**

At a meeting of the Bath Charity Trustees, for the purpose of considering the new scheme of the Endowed Schools' Commissioners for the management of King Edward the Sixth's Grammar School, the clause providing for the election of women when the numbers of the co-optative governors should have been reduced below eight, was expunged. The whole of the clause giving power to the Chairman of Quarter Sessions and Town Council to appoint women members of the board, if they thought such appointment would tend to the better government of the trust, was expunged.

This appears to us not so much a disfranchisement of women as a disfranchisement of the Chairman of Quarter Sessions and the Town Council of Bath. They are refused the power of making an appointment which, in their judgment, would tend to the better government of the trust, if the person whom they deem best qualified for the office happens to be a woman.

**MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.**

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

My dear Miss Becker,—I wish all your readers and women in general to be made aware that any written agreement between a woman and her intended husband, as to property, her control over which she does not wish to forfeit by marriage, will require, to make it properly legal, not only, as prescribed by section 11 of the Married Women's Property Act of last session, the consent of the intended husband *by writing under his hand*, but also the further confirmation of a sixpenny agreement stamp, without which it will be invalid. I have the high authority of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for saying that "J. G. M.," whose letter appeared in your last number, is mistaken in supposing that an *ad valorem* stamp duty is required in the case of all such written agreements. If the agreement take the form of an ordinary marriage settlement it is thus liable, but not otherwise.

It is important, however, that women should know that the sixpenny stamp is necessary. I have already heard of many cases in which such agreements have been made without one. A friend writes—"A maid-servant of ours married a few weeks ago, and had the furniture, which was bought with her money, put into a list of her own property, with her husband's signature. Now for want of a sixpenny stamp it will not be legal. The Act should have mentioned the stamp."

I quite agree with my friend, and I think, moreover, that since the House of Lords refused to allow a woman to retain possession of her own property without the written permission of her intended husband, their lordships should have taken care to specify, in a schedule to their measure, some simple form adequate to the purpose of such an agreement.

This, however, is a minor blemish in a measure which seems carefully designed to give to women as little security, and to impose upon them as great liabilities, as could be made consistent with an appearance of giving relief.

I shall be greatly obliged to any of our friends who will kindly forward to me any details of cases of difficulty arising under the Acts, or any legal decisions thereupon, which may come under their notice. I beg also to remind them that you, as treasurer, will at all times be glad to receive subscriptions to the funds of the Married Women's Property Committee.—I am, dear Miss Becker, most truly yours,

ELIZABETH C. WOLSTENHOLME, *Hon. Sec.*  
 Moody Hall, Congleton,  
 February 20th, 1871.

**MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY.

Miss Travers .....	£0 2 6
Miss S. A. Pung .....	0 5 0
Mrs. Stephenson .....	1 0 0
Mrs. L. Read .....	1 0 0
A Lady from Scotland .....	1 0 0
	£3 7 6

LYDIA E. BECKER, TREASURER.

28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

The Bishop of London has admitted Miss C. Hart to the office of a deaconess in the Church of England, and has appointed her visitor in the district parish of St. Gabriel, Pimlico. The ceremony took place at Fulham Palace.

**DECISIONS UNDER THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT, 1870.**

In a case (*Peapell v. Jones*) which was before the Lambeth County Court on the 24th January, the question was raised whether the plaintiff could maintain an action for work done and goods supplied by his wife, a dressmaker. The judge referred to the Married Women's Property Act, 1870, and, on finding that the claim arose previously to the passing of that Act, gave judgment independently of it. The learned judge, however, went on to remark that as very numerous cases of this kind came before him which the Act affected, he might as well take this opportunity of making an observation or two on the subject. It appeared by the 11th section that, in the words of the Act, "a married woman may maintain an action in her own name for the recovery of any wages," &c.; the "may" of course, implying option. But by the 1st section all such wages, &c., shall be "taken to be property held and settled to her separate use," "and her receipt alone shall be a good discharge for such wages," &c. These words seemed completely to take away the implied option in section 11, because the person whose "receipt alone" constitutes a discharge must be the person to bring an action. Hence, it followed that in all cases where women carried on business as dressmakers, confectioners, small-ware dealers, or followed the occupation of nurse, charwoman, midwife, &c., all of which are generally carried on "separately" from the husbands, the women must sue in their own names. They were invested with the right of separate action, but incurred no separate liability, as there was no provision for suing a woman if wages or other property were due to her.—*Solicitors' Journal*.

Mrs. Lucy Vickery, residing at 51, New Cross Road, was summoned at the instance of the parish authorities of St. Giles's, Camberwell, to show cause why an order should not be made on her for the support of her husband, James Vickery, who was chargeable to the parish. Mr. Rolfe, the relieving officer, said he had applied to the defendant for her to support her husband, and she declined. He mentioned to her that, as he had been informed, she had an income of £270 a year from settled property, and she made no reply. She said she could not live with her husband. On the part of the defendant it was stated that an offer of 6s. per week had been made, but refused on the part of the husband. Mr. Ellison referred to the 31st and 32nd Victoria (Poor Law Act), and said he could only make an order in relief of the parish, and he could not say that 6s. was insufficient as between the parish and the defendant. It was stated on the part of the husband that he was entitled to be supported out of his wife's property, under the recent Married Women's Property Act, and he could apply for a restitution of conjugal rights. Mr. Ellison, in making an order for 6s. a week, said he was not saying it was a proper sum; it was only as far as the parish was concerned that he should make the order.—*Times*, January 27.

The following reply has been addressed by Mr. Herbert N. Mozley to a question regarding life insurance and the Married Women's Property Act, 1870:—

"I understand the lady's question to be this: A woman before marriage insures her life, and then marries without a settlement. Of course, independently of the Act of 1870, the insurance, as other personal property, would belong to her husband. There is nothing in the Act that I can see which would at all alter this rule. As for clause 11, that does not give a married woman any property at all, but merely declares what remedies she is to have as to property declared by the Act to be her separate property. The more the Act is examined, the more utterly absurd and intricate does it appear.

## SCHOOL BOARDS.

## BATH.

The polling for the election of the Bath School Board took place on Tuesday, January 31st, and resulted in the return of the two ladies. There were eighteen candidates for eleven seats. The gentleman who stood highest on the poll obtained 5,226 votes, the last of the eleven had 2,612, and the lowest of the unsuccessful aspirants polled 810. Miss Shum was fourth on the list with 3,678, and Miss Ashworth eighth with 2,803 votes. The contest was quiet and void of excitement, and business went on uninterrupted. A general and praiseworthy interest was taken in the election by citizens of all classes. In various parts of the city ladies were observed canvassing for their sister candidates. Nearly one-fourth of the municipal electors of Bath are women.

## HUDDERSFIELD.

A requisition emanating from the Working Men's Committee, numerous signed by working people and others of both sexes, has been presented to Mrs. Marian Huth, inviting her to become a candidate for the School Board. Mrs. Huth accepted the invitation, and she sits on the Board as one of the two working men's candidates who have secured seats. There was no contested election. Thirteen members compose the Board, and there were originally seventeen candidates, but a compromise was effected, by which the number was reduced to thirteen, who were elected without opposition. This is the first instance of a lady obtaining a seat on a School Board without a contest. We hope that the example will be followed elsewhere, and that whenever the election of a School Board is arranged by a compromise of various interests, the claims of women to a share in the educational councils will not be passed over.

## OXFORD.

The election of nine members of the Oxford School Board took place on Wednesday, February 1st. The city was called on to contribute six, the University three. For the six seats there were nine candidates. Of these the three gentlemen nominated by the clerical party headed the poll by large majorities: they obtained over 5000 votes each. Next to them, being fourth on the list, came the lady candidate, Miss Eleanor E. Smith. She scored 3477 votes. The remaining two successful candidates were returned as friends of unsectarian education; they polled respectively 1956 and 1680 votes. Miss Smith came forward on independent principles, but, says the *Oxford Chronicle*, it is understood that her opinions have a close affinity to those of the undenominational candidates, and that as a rule she will be ranged on the side of those who desire to see Mr. Forster's Act carried out in a fair and honest spirit.

## EXETER.

Miss Temple, sister of the Bishop of Exeter, is a candidate for the School Board of St. Thomas district, adjoining Exeter.

## MANCHESTER.

The Manchester School Board met on January 30, at the Town Hall, King-street. Mr. Herbert Birley in the chair.

## THE SCALE OF SCHOOL FEES.

The minutes bore, among many matters of detail, the following recommendations as to the allowance which the Board should give in respect of school fees—viz., that for boys in a boys' school under a master, the allowance should be 4d. per week, and in a mixed school under a master, or in a mixed school under a mistress, 3d. per week; that for girls in all cases the allowance should be 3d. per week; and for infants in

all cases 2d. per week. It was also stipulated that no extra charges should be made for books, and that no home lessons should be required from children paid for by the Board. The adoption of the sub-committee's recommendations was moved by the CHAIRMAN.

Miss BECKER said she took exception to the scale of fees which had been adopted as the minimum by the committee, and, in order that the question might be fully discussed, she moved that the Board should reserve further consideration of it. She was most anxious that in all the schools there should be perfect equality between the girls and the boys, and she thought as much money should be spent on girls as on boys. She had been told that schoolmistresses did not receive so much salary as schoolmasters, but she thought that the offer of a lower salary implied the expectation of a lower standard of attainments.

Mr. DALE seconded the motion.

Mr. Alderman LAMB said they would not give 4d. in a school where at present only 3d. was paid; that would be a premium to the teacher to get as many children as possible.

Miss BECKER: That is what I thought the Board wanted to do.

Mr. LAMB: Yes; but not by giving extra payments.

Some discussion followed, which resulted in Miss Becker altering her motion so as to express approval of the report except in so far as "at present it fixes a lower scale of fees in the case of girls than for boys."

The amendment was opposed by the Chairman, Dr. Watts, and Dr. McKerrow, and on a division it was lost, the only members of the Board voting in its favour being Miss Becker, Mr. Dale, Mr. Alderman Rumney, and Mr. Birch.

Mr. HAWORTH proposed:—"That the rates for girls be the same as those paid for boys, but in no case shall the amount paid by this Board exceed the amount paid in the same schools by parents."

Mr. BIRCH seconded this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN said the scale of fees charged in many schools was as various as the circumstances of the parents. They must bear in mind that they had practical difficulties of that kind to deal with.

The amendment was lost, and the report as submitted by the sub-committee was passed.

## LONDON.

At a meeting of the London School Board on February 9th, Mr. HEPWORTH DIXON moved "That means shall be provided for physical training and drill in every public elementary school established under the School Board."

In the course of the debate Miss GARRETT said that she could state from her own observation that boys and girls of the poorest classes in London were not badly off as regards physical training. If they were to begin with those children who wanted such training most, they would begin with young ladies. Poor girls had enough, and poor boys a great deal of physical training.

Mr. LUCRAFT moved as an amendment the omission of the word "drill." On a division the amendment was lost, and the original resolution, with the addition of the words "It is highly desirable"—was put and carried.

From this it appears that all the girls in elementary schools in London are likely to undergo this useful and healthful physical exercise, which is frequently introduced with manifest advantage in young ladies' schools. The participation of girls in the exercise of drill should be looked upon as a proof that the design of the School Board is to promote physical discipline rather than the military spirit.

## OXFORD SCHOOL BOARD.—MEETING OF MISS SMITH'S SUPPORTERS.

On January 30th, a public meeting was convened in the Corn Exchange; and it having been announced that "the office of women on the School Board and the fitness of Miss Eleanor E. Smith to be elected to that office" would be advocated by a number of influential gentlemen, there was a crowded attendance. When Miss Smith entered with her brother, Professor H. J. S. Smith, there was a good deal of applause.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Alderman Sadler) said he never felt more pleasure in presiding at any meeting than at this, which was not in furtherance of party politics, but to promote objects that were dear to every father and mother. If the Education Act was carried out in its proper spirit, it would produce results which would be the pride and glory of the land. In order that it should be properly worked in Oxford, it was deemed desirable that a lady should be elected on the School Board—a lady whose election would redound to her own credit and to the advantage of those whom it would be her pleasure and privilege to serve. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHN M. DAVENPORT rose, and said he had the honour to propose for adoption by the meeting the following resolution:—"That it is desirable that the interests of female education should be represented by a woman on the Oxford School Board." He (Mr. Davenport) did not ask the meeting, and he was not there himself to join in the sentiments of certain visionary persons who would fain add ladies to the roll of medical doctors, or of his own profession, or of those who stand in the market, or linger on the exchange—(hear, hear)—but he was there that night to ask of them to affirm as a principle that there should be mingled with the Oxford Education Board one lady to render service and perform functions on behalf of the poorer children of her sex, which, by the laws of God and nature, properly belonged to ladies, and he asserted that their qualifications for these duties were as superior to those of any man, as the meridian sun to the oblivious midnight. It might appear presumptuous in him to say so, but he marvelled that anyone could be found to gainsay or contradict this axiom. If, however, he must plead for it, he would ask who was there in this hall, or within the ambit of their acquaintance beyond its walls,—be that ambit ever so large,—who did not remember and cherish the holy influences of a mother's teaching; a mother's initiation in the rudiments of language, of general knowledge, and, above all, of that knowledge which maketh wise unto salvation? (Cheers.) And, to take not a parallel, but an *a fortiori* reason in favour of ladies—he would remind them that in our own generation we had lived for more than 30 years—and very long might they continue to live under the benignant sway of a female sovereign. (Cheers.) Then, carry back their minds for 300 years to the long reign of Elizabeth (the last of the Tudor dynasty), who during more than 40 years (herself being learned), encouraged learning in, and promoted the intellectual culture of her subjects. Next pass down the stream of time to that of Queen Anne, whose reign, though only for twelve years, was memorable for some of the greatest heroes, statesmen, scholars, and geniuses who ever adorned the annals of England. And lastly, Queen Caroline, the wife of George the Second, was certainly one of the most remarkable women who have ever lived in England. She, in fact, governed, and governed well, the nation with the assistance of Walpole. He hoped the meeting would pardon him for these illustrations, but he thought that, as he was vindicating the sex, he had a right to call in aid the virtues, the examples, and the conduct of the highest ladies in the land. (Cheers.) The resolution he had proposed was an abstract proposition. But he assumed that if it was their pleasure to ratify it, those who had the

conduct of the meeting would supplement it by suggesting to them the individual lady who should be the object of their choice. If he was correct in his conjecture, a woman would be commended to them who was a model of a Christian lady; endowed, too, with sound scholastic attainments, untiring industry, great judgment, and great discretion, and with all the graces of Faith, Hope, and Charity. (Cheers.) He asked of them to give her their votes ungrudgingly, and so to vote as that she might be the *pinnacle*, with her five honourable colleagues grouped at the *base* of the educational pedestal. (Loud cheers.)

Dr. ACLAND seconded the motion, which, he observed, concerned one of the most important subjects that could be submitted to a deliberative assembly. People were accustomed to think that in public affairs women should have no place; but he was of a directly contrary opinion. He considered that in those things that concerned a virtuous womanhood women were our best teachers, and a recognition of this fact was essential if we wished England to remain a prosperous and united country. Many years ago it was contended for in this city by one who in his venerable age retained remarkable vigour and power. He pointed out that only on one principle could education be satisfactorily carried out—it should be for all and all alike. He obtained a course of scientific lectures to be delivered at the Town Hall, open to all persons of either sex. He laid down two propositions which were now generally accepted—that education must be large, wide, and complete, and must include all. (Hear, hear.) A sad fact was described in the couplet,

"For men must work and women must weep,  
For there's little to earn and there's many to keep."

The speaker dwelt upon the special sphere of woman's exertions—her illuminating, peace-giving, and sanctifying influence—the pure domestic influence by which she had purified the world in all time, by which, through a pure and wise education, she must elevate all civilised countries. He must pass by as nonsense the idea of women taking the place of men in the work of the world. There was at least one thing cheering and delightful in the present movement in Oxford—that the importance of woman's influence was recognised. Whatever might be the result of the election he had seen enough within the last fortnight to convince him that the people of Oxford in their heart desired that a woman should be returned at the head of the poll to look after the education of their daughters. (Applause.) We all desired that English boys should be sterling Englishmen, and that our girls should be hearty, pure, refined English women. They believed that in the nature of things a School Board could not be complete without a suitably-accomplished woman to assist in the management of the schools. (Hear, hear.) The question of improved education for all classes and both sexes was fundamental as regarded the future. With all our anxieties as to taxation, and with all our difficulties, foreign, colonial, and domestic, there was but one way in which we could hope to prosper, in which we could secure success for the people; and that was by fitting all according to their nature and character to be good citizens—good and true-hearted men; tender, wise, and domestic women, each to discharge the functions for which, according to their nature, they were peculiarly fitted. Such an education, by the joint help of men and women on the Education Boards, they might hope to see established in this and other places. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. RICHARDSON, in supporting the motion, expressed his approval of Miss Smith's hearty, thorough English address, and his gratification that education was to be extended to all—girls as well as boys; for that meant less toil and more pay, shorter hours and pleasanter duties, better clothing and more

money in the pocket, better homes and more furniture in them, an increase of trade and less poor rates, more books to be read at home, and less beer to be drunk at the public-house. (Applause.) The speaker then enlarged upon the advantages of having Miss Smith upon the School Board. For example, he contrasted the style between her visits to parents who neglected to send their children to school and that of the gruff policeman; and spoke of her genial influence on the children as well as the parents. There were a great many girls and female teachers in the schools with which the Board would have to deal, and the help and special knowledge of such a lady as Miss Smith would be invaluable. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. ROLLESTON moved "That Miss Eleanor Elizabeth Smith is a fit and proper person to serve on the Oxford School Board." There were, he said, many boards, such as a board of magistrates or of doctors, upon which he thought a lady might not so well serve; for he was not an uncompromising advocate of "woman's rights." But he thought she would be in place on a School Board. (Hear, hear.) Law was not very entertaining reading, and he did not exactly agree with Mr. Forster that a "plain man" could understand the Bill which was now the law of the land; but Mr. Holdsworth's book rendered it a little clearer. Though he could not say he agreed with it altogether, it was not as Sir John Burgoyne described Sebastopol, "The more you look at it the less you like it." The Education Act did not pull down, destroy, or upset anything that we held to be good. The School Board had to see that those in need of education should have their rights. It had large powers of holding its hand, for the Act was eminently permissive; and while he hoped the Board would not do too little, he hoped it would not do too much. The electors had the choice of who should be on that Board, so that if the management turned out to be not what they wished, it would be chiefly their own faults. As to the street Arabs, if the Board could not find schools that would take them in, it must build; and it would be a good and wholesome thing to establish competition. If these children were not kept at school, hereafter they would compel us to maintain them in gaols, and to keep up an army of policemen to look after them. (Hear, hear.) The School Board would have to appoint teachers; and Miss Smith knew a great deal about teachers and teaching. The School Board had the power of keeping the Bible out of a rate-aided school; it could also compel it to be read without note or comment, or it could set the teacher to expound it. But it had not the power to permit the teacher to have lying on the table the distinctive formulary of any one particular sect of Christians. (Applause.) In enlarging upon Miss Smith's acquaintance with the classes with which the Board would have to do, Dr. Rolleston made the quotation that "a healthy mother and healthy children lie at the root of all national greatness whatever." Hence a knowledge of all that concerns health in the household should constitute an essential part of every woman's education. He should like to see women officers of health; for prevention was as much better than cure as women were better than men. Miss Smith was acquainted with the sanitary and educational wants of the poor as well as of the rich, in every department of their many-sided life. (Hear, hear.) Vanity was not, as was generally supposed, a feminine fault. There was nothing that distinguished the good works of women from men so much as that they did not do them for the sake of applause. Many were not aware of Miss Smith's labours among the poor. After the battle of Fontenay, an English soldier, speaking of the defeat of his army, said there were plenty of men like him, but what they wanted was a Marshal Saxe. So he (Dr. Rolleston)

might say that there were plenty of men like him ready to be candidates for the School Board; but what they wanted was a Miss Smith. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

Mr. J. ROUND seconded the motion, promising to do all he could in support of Miss Smith's candidature.

The motion was supported by Professor WESTWOOD, and carried amidst applause.

The Rev. S. J. HULME moved a resolution pledging the meeting to do all in its power to secure Miss Smith's return. He spoke in her commendation, and exhibited—remarking that deeds were better than words—as an example, his voting paper with "six votes" opposite Miss Smith's name.

Mr. J. FOSTER ably seconded the motion.

Mr. WILSON supported it, quoting the opinion of a newspaper writer, "that nowhere could a sensible woman be better placed than on a School Board." No School Board could be really complete in every sense which did not include a lady member.

This motion having been carried unanimously, Professor SMITH returned thanks on behalf of his sister, and proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, who during the last thirty years he knew to have been a most intelligent citizen and a great reformer, and to have been foremost in every good work. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DAVENPORT seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks, and the meeting separated.—*Oxford Chronicle*.

[The following communication has been received from a correspondent, a member of the Society of Friends:]

#### WOMAN: HER PROVINCE AND MISSION CONSIDERED.

"Tis thine whate'er is pleasant, good, or fair;  
All nature is thy province, life thy care."—DRYDEN.

From the period of her fall, and throughout the Mosiac dispensation, although we read that there were prophetesses, one of whom is said to have "judged in Israel," yet the social condition of the female appears to have remained in a state of subserviency, if not of degradation. It may also be said, that throughout the countries of the East the same condition still prevails, and even at the present day it is deemed very rare for an Eastern lady to be able to write, or to exhibit signs of cultivation.

Under the Christian dispensation a favourable change was introduced; the female character was exalted, and more prominence and favour conferred upon her. The Church has been represented by the display of a woman clothed with the sun, and having the moon under her feet. And the Church has also been compared to a woman as the espoused of Christ. A woman, Anna, was the first to announce the advent of the Redeemer, and it was Mary Magdalene who discovered and made known his resurrection. The woman of Samaria was favoured with the most memorable conversation that our Saviour ever had upon earth, namely, that upon "living water," and in expounding to her, also, the way of "true worship." Many other occasions might be noticed in which He showed favour to devout women.

The apostle Philip had four daughters who prophesied in the congregation. Priscilla had her office in the church to "expound the way of God more perfectly."

Paul acknowledged Priscilla as his "fellow-labourer," "to whom," said he, "and to Aquila, her husband, 'my helpers in Christ Jesus,' all the churches give thanks."

Again, they are favourably noticed by Paul in his epistles to Timothy and to the Corinthians. Others he also mentions in his salutations as "labourers in the Lord."

Can the foregoing examples indicate any other than the highest authority, to countenance and encourage the instrumentality of women in promoting the welfare of the Church, whether by preaching or in prayer under the inspiration of the spirit of Christ?

Let us now proceed to refer to the conduct and proceedings of the followers of Christ. Those who have presumed to hold the claim of "historical succession to the apostles," the Roman Catholic Church, have not only excluded the ministrations of women in their churches, but they have insisted upon the celibacy of their priesthood.

The Episcopalian body also have excluded female ministry, and whilst they have given countenance to marriage, they have imposed a very humiliating condition of subserviency upon the woman, namely, that she shall "love, honour, and obey" her husband.

The proceedings of the Society of Friends have, however, been exceptional; they have declined to follow the above examples, and have insisted that women were not incapable of undertaking the ordinary duties and obligations which pertain to humanity.

In the engagement of marriage they admit of no special or distinctive conditions. As husband and wife, they make solemn promise before a public assembly that they will be loving and faithful to each other until death shall separate them.

In their eligibility to undertake the ministry of the gospel, male and female are deemed to stand alike, and both equally qualified, under divine authority, to promote the kingdom of Christ upon earth; and there are thousands upon thousands now living who can testify to the salutary effects of female teaching, and to the persuasive eloquence of their preaching.

There is also another and most important province of action in the society which devolves alike upon the female as well as the male portion of the body, but in this case the proceedings are separately conducted.

Those who may be acquainted with the principles and religious profession of this society, are aware that those who are members hold a vigilant oversight to sustain the moral and religious deportment of all, and with a view to consistency, they have formed and adopted a code of ethics, so comprehensive in its character, as to resemble an amplification of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount.

The administration of a discipline, so rigid and searching, necessarily involves a great extent of watchful care and the exercise of a large amount of charitable and Christian feeling, especially in dealing with cases of delinquency.

In the conducting of this adopted mission of the society, the men and the women friends each of them undertake and conduct their own departments separately, and the females have ever been found fully competent to the charge of that portion of the disciplinary action which has devolved upon themselves. The men and women who comprise a meeting or district, each are called upon to report separately and periodically of the state of the society, and these reports passing through the discriminating ordeal of other meetings, eventually reach the central body or yearly meeting in London.

The conducting of the women's meetings, and especially of their yearly meetings, may deserve notice, as well as the wisdom and prudence of their proceedings. The yearly meeting, when assembled, may comprise as many as a thousand female members from every part of the kingdom.

Their first proceeding is to elect one of themselves to become the presiding authority and recording clerk of their delibera-

tions. The representatives of the various localities are called upon to submit their reports of the state of subordinate meetings. A large amount of epistolary correspondence is assigned to committees, and the meeting is often engaged upon questions of difficulty, some of which may occupy many hours of attention.

The line of discussion will often appear to wave from side to side, until at length the question is seen to be conclusively determined by the preponderating assent of those present. A minute of record is then proposed by the clerk, and eventually adopted. The sittings of these meetings often extend to about ten days.

It is the practice of the Society of Friends not to have a question determined by a show of hands, and thus to avoid the declaration of a majority at the risk of giving offence to the minority.

#### THE LATE MR. COBDEN ON WOMAN'S INFLUENCE IN PROMOTING PEACE.

The following letter was addressed by the late Mr. Cobden to a lady. In explanation of the first sentence, it is necessary to state that the "Olive Leaf Circle" consisted of ladies who were in the habit of meeting periodically to devise plans for promoting the cause of international peace:—

"Midhurst, 10th Nov., 1853.

"My dear Mrs. B.,—My wife tells me that you are to hold a meeting of the "Olive Leaf Circle" at your house, and that she ought to be represented there by letter from me, to be read to your friends. If I had thought that anything I could say would have afforded you the slightest encouragement to persevere in your noble effort, I would have written to you long ago, and now I fear that these few words will not reach you till after the meeting of to-morrow. All that I desire to impress on you is the realm of your own labours. Do not underrate the importance of the fact that a few ladies meet to devise plans for promoting the cause of peace. They could not meet to forward an object which had not humanity, mercy, and justice on its side.

"Perhaps you are sometimes asked, or the practical question obtrudes itself upon your own thoughts,—"what can a few ladies do to put the world right in a case of such enormous magnitude, and when the evil is as old as the world itself?" I will give you an answer to this troublesome question. As a busy and practical politician, I beg to assure all such impertinent inquirers that nothing is so calculated to nerve our arms, and impart confidence to us in the struggle of public life, as to know that the active sympathy of the ladies is on our side. Therefore, even as a question of moral power, you may be assured that you are contributing to the triumph of the cause of peace. But this, my dear friend, is a very unworthy test of the propriety of your efforts; for even if you fail altogether to accomplish the good end you have in view, still God will no less smile benignantly upon the attempt. The blessing which is promised to peacemakers is not contingent upon the success of their labours—a truthful, earnest and persevering pursuit of that heavenly object is all that is expected from us; and this can be fulfilled as easily—nay, I venture to say, more so—by the most sensitive and delicate woman, as by the most robust and rugged of men. Persevere, then, in your good work. Scatter your olive leaves like seed abroad, and do not doubt that they will produce fruit after their kind. Some of them may perchance fall on barren soil, but others, like the mustard seed of the parable, will grow into a stately tree, in whose branches the birds of the air, ay, even the birds of prey which now haunt the battle field, will delight to find shelter. Pray present my kind regards to your amiable circle, and believe me, my dear Mrs. B., faithfully yours,

R. COBDEN."

## PUBLIC MEETINGS, &amp;c.

## LEICESTER.

On February 14, at the Temperance Hall, the Rev. A. F. MACDONALD, M.A., delivered a lecture on Women's Education and Women's Suffrage. There was a good attendance, and a very eager discussion after the lecture.

## THE POTTERIES.

Miss CRAIGEN spoke in support of Women's Suffrage at a meeting at Burslem, on February 8th; and at Kildgrove, on February 13. In both places the signature of the petitions by the chairman was voted unanimously, every hand being held up for it, and not one against it.

## GUILDFORD.

A meeting was held in the Eastern Hall, Guildford, on January 27, the chair was occupied by W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Dr. W. C. BENNETT and Mr. W. B. HOWARD attended as a deputation from the London Society for Women's Suffrage, and spoke at some length on the justice of the claim for the extension of the franchise to women.

## WINDSOR.

A discussion on Women's Suffrage was held on the 9th February, at the Reform Association and Working Men's Institution. There was a fair attendance of members, and the proceedings were animated. Mr. H. TURNER opened the discussion with a long and able speech, and a resolution was passed nearly unanimously that the admission of women householders to voting was desirable.

## SCOTLAND.

Miss TAYLOUR, of Belmont, Stranraer, has addressed public meetings, on the question of Women's Suffrage, at the following places:—At Dumbarton, February 8, Provost PAUL in the chair; at Greenock, February 9, Provost MORTON in the chair; and at Rothesay, February 17, ex-Provost MACKREDDY in the chair. At each of these meetings votes of thanks were enthusiastically accorded to Miss TAYLOUR, and petitions in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill unanimously adopted.

## CORNWALL.

At the instance of the London Society, Mrs. RONNIGER, well-known for her talented readings, gave lectures on Women's Suffrage in many towns in Cornwall. Her first lecture was in Helston, on February 7th, at the Guildhall, Mr. N. F. TRENGOUSE took the chair; the hall was crowded. On the 8th, Mrs. RONNIGER addressed an equally crowded meeting at Bodmin, the Rev. W. ROBERTS being in the chair. At Launceston, on the 10th, she met with equal success. At Falmouth, on the 15th, in the Town Hall, which was crowded, Mr. JACOB OLIER, J.P., took the chair, and a resolution pledging the meeting to support the views of our society. At all these meetings petitions to parliament were numerous signed. At Liskeard, on the 16th, Mrs. RONNIGER also gave a well-attended lecture.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE.

A committee has been formed in Monmouthshire for the purpose of obtaining suffrage for women householders. The committee consists of the following ladies and gentlemen, with power to add to their number:—

Lord AMBERLEY.	Mrs. OAKLEY.
Mrs. HAMILTON.	Miss PROSSER.
Miss JONES.	Miss WILLIAMS.
Miss E. JONES.	

Secretary: Lady AMBERLEY, Ravenscroft, Chepstow.

Petitions for the Women's Disabilities Bill are being extensively signed in Monmouthshire.

## KING'S LYNN.

The following form a committee in King's Lynn in connection with the London centre of the National Society for Women's Suffrage:—

Mr. B. T. BIRCH.	Mrs. E. M. BRUCE.
Mrs. L. BIRCH.	Mr. GRUNDY.
Mr. E. J. BRUCE.	Mrs. M. GRUNDY.

Secretary: Miss S. A. PUNG, North Wootton.

A CASE WHERE WOMEN PROVED MORE COURAGEOUS THAN MEN IN DEMANDING PEACE FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT.—Lord Clarendon, in his "History of the Rebellion," relates the following incident of the civil war. The common council of the city of London had adopted a petition against peace, whereupon the House of Commons rejected the proposition of the Lords. This raised a new contest in the city, and what Lord Clarendon calls the "wise and sober part of it would gladly have discovered how averse they were from the late act of the common council. But the late execution of Tomkins and Chaloner, and the advantage which was presently taken against any man who was moderately inclined, frightened all men from appearing in person to desire those things upon which their hearts were most set. In the end, the women expressed greater courage than the men, and having a precedent of a rabble of that sex appearing in the beginning of these distractions with a petition to the House of Commons, to foment the divisions with acceptance and approbation, a great multitude of the wives of substantial citizens came to the House of Commons with a petition for peace. Thereupon a troop of horse under the command of one Harvey were sent for, who behaved themselves with such inhumanity that they charged among the silly women as an enemy worthy of their courage, and killed and wounded many of them, and easily dispersed the rest. When they were by this means secured from further vexation of this kind, special notice was taken of those members who seemed most desirous of peace, that some advantage might be taken against them."—Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion," vol. iv., p. 188.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 1871.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

Mr. Thomas Dale.....	£1 1 0
Mrs. E. C. Bell.....	1 18 6
Miss A. S. Shore.....	1 3 6
Mrs. Spencer.....	0 1 0
Mr. Micholls.....	0 10 0
Mrs. Hume-Rothery.....	0 2 6
"A Friend".....	0 2 6
Mrs. W. A. O'Connor.....	0 5 0
Miss Travers.....	0 2 6
Mr. Henry B. Samuelson, M.P.....	5 0 0
Mrs. Meeke.....	0 5 0
Mr. G. B. Longstaff.....	0 10 0
Mr. Dolby.....	1 0 0
Mrs. S. W. Brown.....	0 10 0
Miss Porter.....	0 5 0
Mr. C. Sellers.....	0 2 6
Dr. W. B. Hodgson.....	2 0 0
Miss Ellen Bibby.....	1 1 0
Mrs. Bleackley.....	0 2 6
Miss S. M. Lewis.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Stephenson (for Bazaar).....	0 10 0
Mrs. Peck (for Bazaar).....	0 2 6
Mr. A. C. Whyte.....	0 5 0
A Lady in Scotland.....	1 0 0
Mr. Bramley.....	0 1 0
Mrs. Bramley.....	0 1 0
Miss Alice Bradlaugh.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Brine.....	0 2 6
Mr. Wilberforce Bryant.....	1 1 0
Miss Theodosia Marshall.....	0 10 0
Mr. Stephen Marshall.....	0 10 0

£20 15 6

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

## PETITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Women's Disabilities Bill is now before the House of Commons, and the second reading is fixed for May 3. During the interval it is of the utmost consequence to strengthen the hands of our Parliamentary friends by a formidable array of numerous signed petitions. We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. The following is the form recommended:—

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

*The humble Petition of the undersigned*

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 the Bill entitled "A Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Write out the above form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper, obtaining as many signatures as you can to follow. After the written heading is signed extra sheets of paper may be attached to hold more names. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

Make up the petition as a book-post packet, write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the member who is to present it, at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free.

Write, and send along with the petition, a note (post-paid) asking the member to present it, and to support its prayer. Any member may be asked to present a petition, but it is desirable to select one in whose constituency the petitioners reside. Members of Parliament deem it their duty to present any petition from their constituency, whether they agree with its object or not: and as a rule they are very willing to take charge of any that may be entrusted to their care.

N.B.—The printed forms issued by the Society are used only for collecting signatures. Printed petitions are not received by Parliament, consequently, in using these forms, the printed part must be cut off, and the names attached to a written and signed copy of the petition.

Written headings and printed forms for the collection of additional signatures will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

## BAZAAR AND EXHIBITION IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

It is proposed to hold a Bazaar and Exhibition for the above purpose at Manchester in October, 1871. The expenses of the agitation for the Women's Disabilities Bill during the coming session will be necessarily great, and whether it pass into law or not, a large expenditure of funds by the Society will be requisite. To meet this demand the Executive Committee have decided on holding a Bazaar, and earnestly request the aid of their friends in all parts of the country and all parts of the world to render the undertaking successful. The following ladies and gentlemen have already promised to become patrons:—Sir Thomas Bazley, Bart., M.P.; Lady Bazley; Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P.; Mrs. Jacob Bright; Alfred Illingworth, Esq., M.P.; The Hon. Mrs. Thomas Liddell; E. Miall, Esq., M.P.; Peter Rylands, Esq., M.P.; Mrs. Rylands, and others whose names will appear in future announcements.

Contributions of the following nature will be gratefully received:—Articles of plain and fancy work of all descriptions, for sale. Photographs, paintings, engravings, and other works of art, on loan or for sale. Curiosities, antiquities, and articles of vertu, on loan or for sale. Ornaments and articles of jewellery, for sale. Banners and decorations of all sorts, on loan. Ornamental plants, on loan. Perishable articles, such as game, fruit, flowers, and refreshments, for sale. Volunteer services in musical performances, and other entertainments. Laces, needlework, fans, and other products of women's artistic and industrial skill, on loan for exhibition, &c., &c., &c.

The following ladies have kindly consented to receive contributions:—Miss Ashworth, Claverton Lodge, Bath; Mrs. Carroll, 13, Kensington Gate, W.; Miss Ramsay, 40, Royal York Crescent, Clifton, Bristol; Mrs. Slatter, Battle, Sussex; Mrs. Leech, Fair View, Pemberton, Wigan; Mrs. Feast, Sandwell House, West Bromwich; Mrs. Ashford, Speedwell Road, Birmingham; Miss E. M. Sturge, 17, Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham; Miss Swaine, 1, the Crescent, York; Miss Rigby, Monk Coniston, Ambleside; Miss Helen Taunton, The Marfords, Bromborough, Cheshire; Mrs. Mc.Kinnell, Oak Place, Maxwelltown, Dumfries. Ladies willing to assist in this way are respectfully requested to notify such willingness to the Secretary. Articles not of a perishable nature may be at once forwarded to Miss Becker, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

## LONDON NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in St. James's Hall, London, on Saturday, March 25th; Sir ROBERT ANSTRUTHER, Bart., M.P., will take the chair. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, M.P., Mr. FAWCETT, M.P., Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR, M.P., Lord HOUGHTON, Mr. EASTWICK, M.P., Mr. MORLEY, and other gentlemen.

Admission free. Reserved seats, 2s. 6d.; and balcony, 1s. Tickets to be obtained at St. James's Hall.

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