

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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MAY 1, 1885.

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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. Medical Work for Women in India, by Frances E. Hoggan, M.D.
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Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

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

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. By VERAX. Reprinted by permission from the *Manchester Weekly Times*. Price One Penny. May be had from the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

WHAT IS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AND WHY DO WOMEN WANT IT? By VERITAS. Price One Penny. To be had of the Secretary, 29, Parliament-street, London; 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for petitions to both Houses of Parliament, to be presented during the Session. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; or Miss BALGARNIE, 29, Parliament-street, London.

RUNCORN.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Public Hall, Runcorn, on Monday, May 11th, 1885. Miss Becker and Miss C. A. Biggs will attend as the deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and the following gentlemen are expected to be present:—Captain Hazlehurst, J.P., Robert Shaw, Esq., Rev. W. Preston, M.A., Rev. R. Edwards, Rev. E. Williams, Rev. J. D. Thomas, Rev. W. Vawse, F. A. Lake, Esq., W. Handley, Esq., H. Coleburn, Esq., &c. The Chair will be taken at 8 p.m., by Dr. MACDOUGALL. Admission free.

NANTWICH.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Nantwich, on Tuesday, May 12th. Miss Becker and Miss C. A. Biggs will attend as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Chair to be taken at eight o'clock. Admission free.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS LIBERAL CLUB. Miss Becker, lecturer to the National Reform Union, will give a Lecture in the Town Hall, Barrow, on Monday, May 4th, on the claim of women to the Parliamentary Franchise. The Chair will be taken at half-past seven, by his Worship the MAYOR (John Fell, Esq.). Admission free. A few seats will be reserved, tickets for which, One Shilling each, can be had from Mr. Page, Cavendish-street; Mr. Naylor, Duke-street; and at the Club.

WOMEN AND THE NEW FRANCHISE BILL. A Letter to an Ulster Member of Parliament, by ISABELLA M. S. TOD. Price One Penny. To be had of the Secretary, 29, Parliament-street, London, and 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION TRACTS.—Vol. 1, third edition, containing Tracts 1 to 43; also Historical Preface. Cloth, 2s. 6d., post free 3s., at the Office, 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross, S.W.; Messrs. SMITH AND SON'S Railway Bookstalls; or E. W. ALLEN, 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C.

DRESS, ECONOMIC AND TECHNIC, being a lecture delivered at the Exhibition of Women's Industries, Bristol, March 14th, 1885, by CATHERINE DREW. Price Sixpence.—J. W. Arrowsmith, Bristol.

GRANTHAM.—A Public Meeting in support of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to duly qualified women will be held in the Westgate Hall, Grantham, on Monday Evening, May 4th. Miss Balgarnie and Miss Wilkinson will attend as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Chair taken at 7:30 p.m., by the MAYOR (G. S. Hannett, Esq.). Admission free.

HORNCASTLE.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Corn Exchange, Horncastle, on Tuesday evening, May 5th. Miss Balgarnie and Miss Wilkinson will address the Meeting. Chair taken at 7:30, by JOHN PANTON, Esq.

SLEAFORD.—A Public Meeting in support of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to duly qualified women will be held in the Corn Exchange, Sleaford, on Wednesday evening, May 13th. Miss Balgarnie and Miss Wilkinson will attend as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Chair taken at 8 p.m., by the Rev. A. LANGDON, B.A. Admission free.

Just Published.

SUFFRAGE STORIES.—MRS. MABURY'S PETITION, JANE CRUMP'S POLITICS, A WOMAN'S DUTY, by the author of "Rachel's Secret," "A Sylvan Queen," etc. To be obtained at the National Society for Women's Suffrage Office, 29, Parliament-street, London, W.; or 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester. 1d. each, or 6d. dozen, post free.

UGHT WOMEN TO LEARN THE ALPHABET? By T. W. HIGGINSON. Reprinted from "Atlantic Essays." Price 3d. A. Ireland & Co., Manchester.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 29, Parliament-street, Westminster, London, S.W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

- (From the Daily Votes and Proceedings.)
Apr. 13. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of LEEDS and KINGSTOWN (2), and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
14. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at YEovil, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
16. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Meeting at SPALDING; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
17. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at EDINBURGH, Inhabitants of BATH and CLIFTON, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
20. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at BRISTOL, NEW QUAY, BROCKLEY, &c., REDRUTH, PADSTOW, and BODMIN; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
21. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of CLIFTON, CANTERBURY, and SCARBOROUGH; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
23. Franchise, Petitions for extension of the franchise to women, of Meetings at MANCHESTER, BRIGG, LONDON (3), and BRENTWOOD, Inhabitants of BRENTWOOD (2), LIVERPOOL, LEEDS (22), LONDON (2), and LOUTH, and persons signing (2); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
24. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of LONDON, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—For Extension to Women (No. 2) Bill.

FIFTH REPORT, 4 December—24 February, 1885.

Table with columns: Date, Description of Petition, and Signatures. Includes entries for Dec. 1884 and Feb. 1885.

Table with columns: Date, Description of Petition, and Signatures. Includes entries for Feb. 1885 and a summary of 116 petitions.

SIXTH REPORT, 25 February—3 March, 1885.

Table with columns: Date, Description of Petition, and Signatures. Includes entries for Feb. 1885 and a summary of 264 petitions.

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No day is as yet fixed for the second reading of Lord DENMAN'S Bill. We can, therefore, only ask our friends to continue to prepare their petitions, and to forward them to Peers for presentation to the House of Lords.

MR. WOODALL'S Bill is the second order on June 24th, and there is every probability that it may be moved, although, owing to the rules of the House, there is no certainty that a division can be taken upon the Bill.

MEETINGS have been held during April at Louth, Spalding, and Brigg, in Lincolnshire, at which Miss C. A. BIGGS and Miss BALGARNIE attended as a deputation. A drawing-room meeting has been held at the residence of Mrs. CARTER, Paddington, which was addressed by Mrs. CHANT, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, and Mr. THEODORE FRY, M.P. At Bristol a drawing-room meeting was held at the residence of Misses TANNER, in which Mrs. E. M. LYNCH and Miss MATILDA STURGE took part. Miss WILKINSON has continued her series of lectures in various places in the West of England.

In Scotland drawing-room meetings have been held at Edinburgh, at the house of Dr. and Mrs. SIBBALD, in which Miss LOUISA STEVENSON, Mrs. WELLSTOOD, and others took part, and at Portobello by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES DEAN, when addresses were given by Miss WRIGHT, Miss WIGHAM, Miss BURTON, Miss SIMPSON, and others.

In Edinburgh the Northern District Conservative Association had a discussion on women's suffrage, and a resolution in favour of the principle was adopted.

THE debate on the proposal to remove the screen which divides the ladies' gallery from the House of Commons recalls to mind former debates on the question of admitting ladies to hear the proceedings of the House. From an abstract of the history of the question, which appeared a few years ago in the Englishwoman's Review, we gather that in former times ladies came in with other strangers.

But towards the end of the eighteenth century successive speakers constantly declined to admit them to hear the debates. Matters were in this state until Mrs. FRY became desirous of being present at the debates on prison discipline, and it is said that her brother-in-law, Mr. BUXTON, first thought of placing a chair for her beside the ventilator, where she could hear and not be seen. From that time the ventilator became the ladies' gallery of the old House of Commons. A lady who visited the place before the passing of the first Reform Bill, in describing her experience, says she found herself along with eight or nine others between the ceiling and the roof of St. Stephen's, seated round a hole through which a lamp was suspended. They looked down on a sea of heads, and were compelled, along with the eloquence of the senators, to swallow a good deal of foul air.

The destruction of the Houses of Parliament by fire put a stop to this expedient, and we are not aware whether any provision was made in the temporary House of Commons for ladies to hear the debates. In 1835, Mr. GRANTLEY BERKELEY carried a resolution in favour of the admission of ladies into the strangers' gallery, but the resolution was rescinded in the same session, and after one or two more divisions the final vote, definitely excluding ladies from the strangers' gallery, was come to in June, 1837, a few days before the accession of Queen VICTORIA. That vote remains in force to this day.

In the new House of Commons, therefore, in obedience to the vote of exclusion, recourse was had to a modification of the ventilator plan. Ladies were to be allowed to hear the debates, but they were not to be admitted to the strangers' gallery, nor within the walls of the Chamber, and they were to be placed where they could not themselves be seen. But, instead of hiding the ladies in the space between the ceiling and the roof, the architects mercifully adopted the device of erecting a gallery outside the House, and of making the wall of separation transparent instead of solid. The ladies' gallery is, in fact, not within the House. This is shown by the

circumstance that when strangers are ordered to withdraw, the ladies, not being in the House, are not subject to the order, and keep their places undisturbed.

If the sketch we have given indicates the true history of the evolution of the present ladies' gallery from the germ of the historic ventilator, it would appear that the real principle underlying the question was overlooked in the recent debate. Before proceeding to the subject of details regarding the arrangements of the ladies' gallery, the House should have been asked to reconsider the whole question of the admission of ladies as strangers, and to decide definitely whether or not they should be included among those permitted to be present in the House to hear the debates.

If the principle of exclusion is to be maintained, the screen or party wall of the ladies' gallery is a logical necessity, and its existence cannot properly be either assailed or defended on such grounds as the presumed sentiments of those who attend it.

We believe, however, that if the question were now placed before the House of Commons, they would come to a different decision from that adopted in 1837, and that they would sanction the admission of ladies to be present to hear the debates. In that case the question of providing suitable accommodation would become a matter of detail for the consideration of the proper authorities subject to the approval of the House.

THERE appears to be no insuperable difficulty in the way of arrangements for giving effect to a decision admitting the presence of ladies without either encroaching on the present strangers' gallery, or depriving ladies who are said to prefer it of the protection and privacy afforded by the screen.

One mode was suggested by Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, namely, that the central portion only of the ladies' gallery should be thrown open. Another plan would be to utilise the space now occupied by the Sergeant at Arms' gallery, and the passage giving access to the ladies' seats in that gallery. The Sergeant at Arms might be willing to accept as compensation for giving up the nomination to seats for ladies in this gallery an equal number of places in the ladies' gallery. The screen before the Sergeant at Arms' gallery could then be removed, and two rows of open benches could be placed in the space now taken up by the cumbrous and uncomfortable boxes in which ladies are at present penned. The accommodation thus provided

would be equal to one-third of the present strangers' gallery. This additional room could be reserved for ladies and for gentlemen accompanying them.

We commend these suggestions to the consideration of our friends who are desirous of improving the accommodation for ladies in the galleries of the House of Commons, and while willing to recognise the good intentions of many friends who voted for the retention of the screen, and the convenience in some respects of the existing arrangements, we desire to tender our hearty and appreciative thanks to the seventy-seven members, including tellers, who supported Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON'S resolution.

ALL who are interested in promoting the university education of women will have read with satisfaction the speech of the PRINCE of WALES in Dublin respecting the acceptance by the PRINCESS of WALES of an honorary degree from the Royal University of Ireland. Although public opinion has so far advanced that a learned lady is no longer a term of reproach, there is enough of lingering prejudice left to make it a subject of gratification that the Princess should have chosen to testify in the most practical and emphatic manner in her power in favour of the fullest development of the intellectual faculties of women.

In the address to the Prince and Princess, the Chancellor of the Royal University, the Duke of ABERCORN, took occasion to say: "All our examinations, honours, and prizes are open to women students on precisely the same conditions as to men, and we are glad to be able to report to your Royal Highness that in this academical competition women have been eminently successful. Several of our highest distinctions, including mathematical and literary scholarships and degrees in arts, with honours, have been carried off by females, and as the result of the last autumn examination the degree of Bachelor of Music was conferred on a young lady, being the first time such a distinction was obtained by a woman in the United Kingdom."

In his reply the PRINCE of WALES expressed satisfaction that in the admission of women to their degrees they had supported the view that the gentler sex were capable not only of severe competition in science, but of enjoying the benefits and also the power which a well-considered scientific education bestows. On behalf of the Princess he said that her Royal Highness wished him to state that she accepted the degree with pleasure, not only on account of the honour to herself, but because she wished to show

her approval of the action of the ladies of Ireland in accepting the advantages offered them.

It will surely not be possible to maintain for long the proposition that women who are capable of using the power which a scientific education bestows are incapable of using the power which a Parliamentary vote bestows.

It is gratifying to learn that the impetus given to the higher education of women by the university local examinations is not confined to our own shores. We learn from the *Times* that in the Cambridge local examinations the class lists contain the names of successful female students from Knoop, Moscow, and Schliesselling, Russia; Ponte Carignano, Genoa, Italy; Amoy, China; Toronto, Canada; Pernambuco, Brazil; St. Kitts, Turks' Islands; Falmouth, Jamaica; Barbados; Kingwilliamstown and Grahams-town, South Africa; Madagascar; Singapore, Straits Settlements; Ceylon; and Calcutta, Bombay, Surat, Balgawm, and Ahambad, India.

A telegram from Constantinople, which appeared in the early part of last month, states that a remarkable scene was witnessed in that city on March 30th. An immense crowd of infuriated women surrounded the Ministry of Finance, and despite the efforts of the guards to resist their entry forced their way into the building and demanded the arrears of their husbands' pay. A large body of police were summoned, but their efforts to clear the premises were unavailing, and they were at last forced to retire leaving the ladies in possession of the field. The Minister managed amid the confusion to make his escape by a back window, after having made plausible promises to the enraged women.

Englishwomen have not demonstrated in so vehement a manner as these Turkish heroines when their just claim to representation in return for their taxation was denied, but like them they have been forced to put up with plausible promises from Ministers and members instead of receiving satisfaction to their claim.

A CASE has been recently argued before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts from which it appears that the law of the United States does not recognise the validity of bequests in aid of the claim of women to civil and political rights. In 1867 a question was raised as to the validity of certain bequests in the will of FRANCIS JACKSON, which gave large sums in trust to WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON and others for use in the anti-slavery movement and for the benefit of fugitive slaves, and other

sums to WENDELL PHILLIPS, LUCY STONE, and SUSAN B. ANTHONY, "to secure the passage of laws granting women the right to vote, to hold office, to hold, manage, and devise property, and all other civil rights enjoyed by men." The bequests to the anti-slavery cause were held to be valid. But the bequest to the women's rights cause was held invalid inasmuch as the "laws do not recognise the purpose of overthrowing or changing them as a charitable use." The property mentioned in that bequest, therefore, passed into the residue of the estate, and eventually came to the testator's daughter, Mrs. EDDY. On Mrs. EDDY'S death in 1881, it was found that she had by will given to LUCY STONE and SUSAN B. ANTHONY the same fund which her father had intended to give them, with the request that the fund thus given should be used to further the women's rights cause. It was claimed by the representatives of Mrs. EDDY'S family that this bequest was void, as being in effect a trust.

The Supreme Court decided that the bequest was valid, on the ground that the request did not amount to a trust or restriction, and that the legatees were as free to use the money at their absolute discretion as they were to use any other property lawfully theirs.

IN marked contrast to the United States law is that recognised by the English Courts. More than one legacy has been received by the National Society for Women's Suffrage in England. A few years ago Mrs. OAKES bequeathed five hundred pounds to the Central Committee; last year Mrs. HOSKEN WOODWARD left two hundred pounds to the same committee; and the Manchester Committee has just received twelve pounds bequeathed by Mrs. HETHERINGTON. No dispute as to the validity of these bequests could arise in the English Courts on the ground that the "laws did not recognise the purpose of changing them as a charitable use." Some of the laws relating to women have been and yet remain so bad that the purpose of changing them is one of the most charitable uses to which money and energy could be devoted.

WE have received a copy of the rules of the Cleveland Liberal Association, adopted at a meeting of Liberals held at Guisborough on March 28th. The second rule, which prescribes the terms of membership, says: "The association shall consist of all Liberals who, being males of full age, signify their adhesion to its objects, rules, and organisation."

Although political associations have been in the past for the most part practically associations of men, we

believe the specific limitation of members of such associations to "Liberals being male persons" is both novel and exceptional. It is, of course, possible that there are no Liberals among the women of Cleveland, but if there were, and if such women desired to help in the spread of Liberal principles and the return of a Liberal representative, it is difficult to see what the men would gain by rejecting their co-operation.

In pleasing contrast to this exclusive policy we find Liberal associations in other places not only admitting women as members, but electing them to a place on their councils and giving them a vote in selecting the candidates to be supported by the party in the general election.

WE give in another column a list of Parliamentary candidates who have either voted or paired or otherwise declared themselves in favour of the Parliamentary franchise for women. The list is of course incomplete, as candidates are being chosen from day to day. The opinions of candidates who are or have been in Parliament are mostly known from their previous attitude on the question; but as regards the majority of the new men we have no information at present.

We earnestly beg our friends in every constituency to take measures for bringing the subject before the candidate while the selection is in progress, and eliciting their views upon it, and to assist us in enlarging the list of friendly candidates by forwarding to the office of this journal any authentic or public declaration of opinion which may be given by any candidate for election to the new Parliament.

THE death of EARL CAIRNS is a grievous loss, not only to the House of Lords and the political party of which he was so distinguished an ornament, but to the cause of the enfranchisement of women. Lord CAIRNS has always been a steady supporter of the principle. In 1869, when the Municipal Franchise Bill was before the House of Lords, and an attempt was made to reverse the decision of the House of Commons extending the franchise to women, Lord CAIRNS spoke in support of the women's vote, and the hostile amendment, finding no seconder, fell to the ground.

Lord CAIRNS took much interest in the Parliamentary franchise for women. He was one of the principal supporters on whom the friends relied in looking forward to a debate in the House of Lords, as he had promised to give his active support to the measure, and his untimely death is a deplorable calamity for the cause.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Monday, April 13th.

PETITIONS.

Their lordships met for the first time after the Easter recess. Lord Waverley presented a petition from lady residents in Leeds in favour of women's electoral franchise. Viscount Enfield presented a petition from Wakefield in favour of the Custody of Infants Bill.

The Earl of Lathom presented petitions from Dalkey and Kings-town in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

April 14th.

Petitions were presented by the Marquis of Salisbury for inhabitants of Yeovil and C. H. Graham and others, in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

April 16th.

Lord Carrington presented a petition from Spalding in favour of female suffrage.

April 17th.

The Earl of Harrowby presented petitions from Clifton and Dorsetshire in favour of female suffrage.

The Earl of Rosebery presented a petition from a drawing-room meeting in Edinburgh in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

April 20th.

Petitions in favour of women's suffrage were presented by the Earl of Ducie, from Stoke Bishop and Bristol; by Lord Robartes, from Bodmin, Redruth, Newquay, and Padstow; by the Earl of Lathom, from ladies of Southport; by Lord Watson, from residents in the parish of Campsie; and by Lord Brabourne, from New-cross-road, Highgate, and other places.

April 21st.

The Archbishop of Canterbury presented petitions from householders of Clifton, Bristol, East Kent and Canterbury Conservative Club, and inhabitants of Scarborough, in favour of women's suffrage.

April 23rd.

By the Marquis of Salisbury, from public meetings at Brigg and Louth, for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women.

The Earl of Carnarvon presented petitions from inhabitants of Leeds and teachers of schools in the same town, from inhabitants of Manchester in public meeting assembled in the Free Trade Hall on Tuesday, February 17, 1885, from Brentwood (3), from a drawing-room meeting at 68, Sloane-street, from a meeting at St. James's Hall, London, and six other petitions, in favour of a measure for the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

By the Duke of Westminster, from Liverpool, in favour of the franchise for women.

April 27th.

Lord Napier of Magdala presented petitions from ladies and gentlemen residing in London in favour of the extension of Parliamentary suffrage to duly qualified women.

April 21st.

INFANTS BILL.

On the order to go into Committee on this Bill, Lord FITZGERALD said that notice had been given of an amendment by the noble earl opposite (Earl Beauchamp) which went to the root of the Bill; and if the amendment were carried he should consider it his duty to abandon the Bill. The principle of the amendment ought really to have been discussed on the second reading of the Bill. The object of the Bill, which had its origin in the other House, was to amend the common law which gave the father of a family absolute control over his children to the exclusion of the mother. Under the law great cruelties had been practised and great hardships suffered. The Bill declared that in certain circumstances the mother should be guardian or joint guardian. The amendment swept away the whole principle of the measure, and if it were carried he should abandon the Bill.

Earl BEAUCHAMP said that the Bill entirely overlooked the interest of the children, which was sacrificed to the sentiment on behalf of

the mother. Nothing could be more injurious to the welfare of the children than a divided guardianship, and the law of England had not been unwise in throwing upon the father the entire responsibility of bringing up the children. The mother had not equal rights in the matter with the father. There was no reference in the Bill to the case of the mother re-marrying. It was important to remember that as the father was the head of the family the mother, on a second marriage, became part of her second husband's family. Then there was no provision for divorced persons, and a divorced woman whose children had been placed by the Court under the protection of the husband would still, under the Bill, be entitled on the father's death to the guardianship of the children. If their lordships passed this Bill, they would be introducing a principle which involved the utmost confusion in our families. The Bill would introduce discord between husband and wife, it would place women in a position of equality with men, which by nature they did not possess, and it would open out sources of the gravest disaster in order to meet some exceptional cases which certainly had not been laid before their lordships. All cases of litigation were cases of difficulty and doubt. What their lordships had to consider was how our existing law affected our English homes in our every-day life. In his opinion that law was for the benefit of the children. He did not deny that there were exceptions to the general rule, but for the sake of exceptions which were limited in number and for which the proposed remedy was exceedingly doubtful, they had no right to upset the principles regulating the relations of a father towards his children. Perhaps he might be told that a Select Committee had carefully considered the Bill, but really this question was one not so much for the consideration of lawyers as for the consideration of fathers of families. The Select Committee did not pay so much respect to the interests, the position, and the duties of fathers of families as they did to the somewhat exaggerated and hysterical view of the case which had been made out for mothers as against fathers. He thought he had now shown that the Bill itself was full of dangerous matter. He quite admitted, however, that there was one point in which the law might be amended with safety. As the law at present stood, the mother did not become guardian of the children if the father made no appointment at all. He thought there could be no doubt that when the guardian nominated by the father was dead or if the father waived his paternal rights it was right and proper that the mother should become the guardian of the children. This was one reason why he had hesitated to move the rejection of the Bill, but he thought he had shown that the measure would introduce novel and dangerous principles into our legislation, and therefore he intended to move, in Committee, the amendments of which he had given notice.

The LORD CHANCELLOR remarked that if the noble earl's speech were of any value at all it did not stop short of the total rejection of the Bill. He had listened to that speech with deep regret because it showed that his noble friend had not a just appreciation of the legitimate claims and rights of the mothers of this country, and of the scandalous state of the law, which at present entirely ignored them. (Hear.) He had hardly expected to be so soon reminded of the enormous and irreparable loss which the House had sustained in the death of Lord Cairns. The noble earl had spoken of the Select Committee as if it had been composed of men who approached this question with the feelings of lawyers only, but he was sure that Lord Cairns and the other members of the Committee took broad and generous views of the rights of fathers and of children. He would now make a few observations on the criticisms of his noble friend. In the first place there was not in the Bill a single word which interfered with the rights of a father. He denied that a father after he was dead was capable of discharging the duties of guardian of his child, and he also denied that any person whom the father might put in his place could succeed to the father's position and to his natural rights, however earnestly he might desire to discharge the duties intrusted to him. The objection of a divided authority had been raised, but surely such an objection would have no validity, because the Bill introduced no change in that respect. As things were now more guardians than one might be appointed by the father, and the authority might be divided between them. In the event of a disagreement between the guardians, the Bill provided that the Court might be appealed to and would make such order as might appear to promote the welfare of the children. In his

opinion the welfare of the children was intimately bound up with their relations to their parents, and the law, at all events, had enough of humanity in it to treat the mother as a child's guardian. And what was the title it gave her? The language of the law was "guardian by nature and nurture." He thought it would be a very unfortunate day for their lordships' House on which such a Bill as this were rejected on such grounds as had been urged against it. (Hear, hear.)

Lord ORANMORE and BROWNE expressed his fear that the Bill would give rise to a large amount of litigation which, as their lordships knew, meant ruin to the purse and continued hostility between the parties. The Bill would, in fact, bring about a totally new state of society. The domestic habits and relations in this country were as good as in any other part of the world. The *onus probandi* of the evil which this Bill was intended to remedy lay with those who were responsible for the Bill, and the noble and learned lord had not cited any cases which called for interference.

Lord INCHQUIN objected strongly to that clause of the Bill which empowered a mother to appoint a testamentary guardian to act jointly with the father. If a father should object to being associated with a guardian of that kind he would be compelled to prove before the Court of Chancery his fitness to have the sole charge of his own children.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH thought it would be a great mistake to refer questions of such extreme delicacy as those connected with the custody of children to county court judges. He therefore could not support the measure.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill.

On Clause 2, Earl BEAUCHAMP moved at the end of line 1 to add "unless the father should by deed or will otherwise appoint." He thought they should be acting much more wisely by retaining the right which the father now possessed. He believed the system on the whole was conducive to the peace of families. In cases of this kind they usually heard a great deal about the law of other countries. According to the law of the United States the father had the right of appointing a guardian to his children. That was an argument which ought not to be disregarded. He entreated their lordships not through the consideration of exceptional cases to upset a well-ordered system of English law which had existed for upwards of 200 years.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that the exact point involved in the amendment was that though there might have been a divorce through the husband's fault, and though the children might be in the wife's care during their father's lifetime on account of his misconduct, he might by will appoint a guardian who was to supersede the mother.

After a short conversation, the Committee divided—
For the amendment 5
Against 40
Majority —35

Clause 2 as amended was agreed to. On clause 3 there was a long conversation on the second subsection, to which Lord INCHQUIN objected, but the clause was ultimately agreed to without a division.

The remaining clauses were agreed to, and the Bill, with a few verbal amendments, passed through Committee.

April 24th.

On the report of amendments to the Infants Bill, The Earl of LIMERICK complained of the provision enabling a wife to appoint guardians to take charge of her children conjointly with the husband in the event of her death.

In the course of the conversation which followed, Lord Watson and the Lord Chancellor reminded their Lordships that the provision in question would only apply in cases where the husband was not a fit person to have the custody of his children.

The Marquis of SALISBURY objected that there were no traces in the Bill of the limitations referred to, and that though it was true the matter might be referred to a County Court judge, he did not repose such absolute confidence in the decisions of such functionaries as to lead him on the strength of them to consent to the ousting of a widower from the care of his children at the behest of, it might be, a wicked or a misguided woman.

Earl GRANVILLE replied that if the noble Marquis were right the

power exercised at the present moment by the Court of Chancery with regard to the care of children was altogether unjustifiable. He pointed out that there would be an appeal from the County Court judge to a higher court.

Ultimately, on a division, the section objected to was carried by 42 to 28.

Earl BEAUCHAMP moved an amendment to restrict the power of a wife to apply to the court for an order in regard to custody of children to cases in which husband and wife were living apart under a deed of separation or decree of court.

Lord FITZGERALD opposed the amendment, and after some discussion it was rejected by 30 to 28.

The report of amendments was then agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Monday, March 30th.

THE LADIES' GALLERY.

On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply being read,

Mr. S. BUXTON rose to call attention to the condition of the ladies' gallery, and to move "That in the opinion of this House it is advisable to substitute for the present grating (or some portion of it) a railing so constructed as not largely to exclude sound, light, and air; and generally that the accommodation of the gallery should be improved." The hon. member remarked that the ladies' gallery was so constructed that, while the atmosphere was bad for all its occupants, even those who obtained the best places found it difficult either to see or hear. The farce, he continued, was gone through every day of balloting for forty seats in that gallery, although practically there were only fifteen or sixteen seats from which ladies could really see and hear. Moreover, on any occasion when there was a great demand for seats the ladies had to come before the door was open, and had to stand outside, physical strength being a great means of obtaining a good seat in the gallery. Even those who formed the front row could see little more than one-half of the House, and those in the back row could not see as much as one-half. With very slight alteration the gallery might be made more convenient for seeing and hearing, and available for a larger number of ladies. He thought this was a matter which should be decided primarily by the ladies themselves, and the question arose how they were really to ascertain the desire of the majority of the ladies who frequented the gallery. He believed himself that a large majority of them were in favour of considerable reforms in the present state of things. He would suggest that a practical experiment should be made in the matter by making an alteration in the central portion of the gallery, so that it might be left to the ladies themselves to say whether they preferred the improvement. Another matter which might with advantage be considered was the present system of balloting. In conclusion, he begged to move the resolution which stood in his name.

Mr. PULESTON, in seconding the motion, observed that nothing connected with the House excited so much astonishment in the mind of a new member as the condition of the ladies' gallery. There was no reason whatever why some change should not be made in it. The present Postmaster-General had unquestionably made many great improvements, but the grating still remained. It was said as one great reason for allowing the grating to remain that the ladies themselves, as a general rule, were against its removal. That opinion was confined, he thought, to those who were the more constant frequenters of the gallery, and who knew how to secure the few front seats, which were really the only ones which were of any use. He considered that if the grating were partially removed it would not really interfere with the privacy of the ladies' gallery.

Mr. HERBERT GLADSTONE said that there was no proof that the majority of the ladies desired a change. (Hear, hear.) He had consulted many members of the longest standing in the House, and with hardly an exception they were opposed to a change, and until there was a general wish for an alteration he did not think it would be desirable to make any change. (Cheers.)

Mr. A. BARTLETT suggested that a part of one of the side galleries should be cut off for the accommodation of the ladies.

Sir P. O'BRIEN protested against the adoption of the suggestion of the member for Eye.

Mr. GIBSON said it was an extraordinary illustration of the way in which English business was conducted that in a time of great

crisis the House of Commons should devote two hours to the discussion of this question. The matter came before the House in July, 1869, when Mr. Layard was the First Commissioner of Works, and Mr. Layard read a letter from a lady, who said that ladies did not wish to have the grille removed, because it enabled them to sit, speak, and dress as they liked, and also to leave the gallery when a bore was speaking, which they could not do if the bore was a friend, or perhaps the member who had introduced them into the gallery. It was added that the grille was an advantage to members, who could not stretch themselves and sleep if they were aware that they could be seen by the ladies. It was impossible to add anything to the reasoning of that letter.

Sir R. PEEL rose to protest against the suggestion that the subject was of little importance compared with the succeeding motions on the paper, which related to alleged miscarriages of justice and to the proposed transfer of Heligoland to Germany. Ladies took great interest in Parliamentary discussions; they were almost universally Conservatives—"No, no"—and the accommodation for them in that House was wholly inadequate and inferior to that provided in the other House. As to the letter read by Mr. Layard, he was present at the time, and the general impression was that it was not written by a lady, but that it was concocted for the occasion. It was ridiculous to suppose that the ladies were satisfied, and the questions to come afterwards were insignificant compared with the due accommodation of ladies in that deliberative assembly.

Mr. SHAW-LEFEVRE said that, although the question might have occupied sufficient time, it was his duty to add that it was raised last year on the estimates. He then stated that his own opinion was rather favourable to some change, but he did not think that any should be made, except with the general assent of the House. He then undertook to make inquiries among members of the House, and also, as far as he could, of ladies who frequented the gallery; and, so far as he could ascertain, the feeling of the majority both of members and of ladies was adverse to the proposed change. It was represented to him that the removal of the grille would destroy the freedom that ladies now enjoyed. No doubt there were some who would like a change; but unless there were a general concurrence of opinion in its favour it would be unwise to make it.

Mr. GUEST had never heard of a lady who was in favour of the present arrangement. He thought it would be a great convenience to the ladies who frequented the gallery if the authorities would remove the grating.

The House divided; the numbers were—

For Mr. Buxton's motion	75
Against	121
Majority	—46

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

LOUTH.

A crowded meeting in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women was held in the Town Hall, Louth, on April 15th. The Worshipful the Mayor (W. L. Mason, Esq.) presided, being supported by Mrs. McCormick, Miss Balgarnie, Miss Biggs, the Ex-Mayor (Councillor Simpson), Alderman Fowler, Councillors Burton, Crow, Longbottom, and Godsmark, Jos. Bennett, Esq., and the Revs. E. H. Jackson and W. L. Roberts.

The Mayor, who was heartily received on rising, said he was assured that the movement was not a political one, a good many of the foremost men in the Conservative party being in favour of it. Personally he had for a great many years thought that unmarried ladies who helped to pay the rates should have votes in Parliamentary as well as municipal and local elections. Therefore when he was asked to take the chair he readily assented. The movement was supported by gentlemen upon the platform occupying various positions and holding different political views in the town, which showed that the meeting had not been called for any party purpose, but simply for the purpose of giving the tender sex those privileges to which they had a just claim, and which he had no doubt the gentlemen in that room wished to confer upon them. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt it would soon be the law of the land. He would first of all call upon Miss Biggs to explain to the meeting what was the object of the movement.

Miss Biggs having addressed the meeting,

Ald. FOWLER, who proposed the first resolution, said after the eloquent speech of Miss Biggs in favour of extending the suffrage to duly qualified women, it would be unnecessary for him to say much in recommending the resolution which had been placed in his hands to the meeting. But he might say he could never see any reason in refusing the franchise to ladies who employed labour, whilst those whom they employed were enfranchised. He moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting women who possess the qualifications for the Parliamentary suffrage should no longer be denied the right to vote."

Mr. LONGBOTTOM seconded.

The resolution was supported by Miss BALGARNIE, and on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

The Rev. E. H. JACKSON then moved the following resolution: "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament based on the foregoing resolution be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that a memorial be sent to the Right Honourable James Lowther, member of Parliament for the North Division of Lincolnshire, requesting him to support the Bill entitled 'A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women,' and signed by the chairman." He said this was not a party question, and this was not a party meeting. (Hear, hear.) He had lived in Louth something like eight years, and he had never before seen such a comfortable mixture of Liberals and Conservatives as they had in that room. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion he said he did not believe that any man would dare to propose that any further extension should be made in favour of the British working man until right and justice had been done to every British woman. (Applause.)

Councillor BURTON seconded the proposition, and said having done his little best to obtain the franchise for the labourer and the coachman, he should be thoroughly ashamed of himself if he did not help to give their lady employers a vote. (Hear, hear.) The question must before long be settled.

The CHAIRMAN explained that Mr. Smyth, High Steward of the borough, was detained at Lincoln assizes, or he would have been present that evening. He had written to say that he fully agreed with the extension of the franchise to ladies. (Cheers.)

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. On the motion of Miss BIGGS, seconded by Miss BALGARNIE, a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks was given to the Mayor for presiding, and after his worship acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated.

SPALDING.

A meeting in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women was held in the Corn Exchange, Spalding, on Tuesday, April 14th. The room was crowded with an audience which evinced its appreciation and sympathy with this engrossing subject in a manner calculated to encourage the workers in their great undertaking—the purpose for which the meeting was held. The chair was occupied by E. MORRIS, Esq., M.D., and on the platform were Miss Biggs, Miss Balgarnie, Mrs. Dawson, Messrs. J. Donington, H. Watkinson, J. Wilson, Henry Everingham, Rev. S. Blakeley, Rev. J. T. Stead, and Mrs. McCormick.

The CHAIRMAN rose amidst loud applause and introduced Miss Biggs as a lady who would address the meeting. He deeply sympathised with the ladies in what he might term the struggle for their just rights, and would put himself to great inconvenience to serve the interests of the cause for which they were working. In his idea any one who pays an imperial tax should not be deprived of the right to a vote. (Hear, hear.) He alluded at some length to the ladies' interest in the affairs of the world, and argued that so long as they were compelled to share the responsibilities and the taxation they ought to have a voice in the nation's rule. (Applause.)

Miss C. A. BIGGS then gave an address, after which

Mr. JAS. DONINGTON moved the first resolution as follows:—"That in the opinion of this meeting women who possess the qualification for the Parliamentary suffrage should no longer be denied the right to vote."

Rev. J. C. JONES, in seconding the resolution, declared that the women of England were as deeply interested in good legislation as men. Nevertheless, he should like to be master in his own household and should not agree for his wife to have a vote. (Laughter.) He had heard it said that women could not fight, but he was quite sure they could in Lincolnshire, whatever they did elsewhere. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the question then before them he

(Mr. Jones) felt quite ashamed of his own sex that the subject had been tabooed year after year, and that the ladies should be compelled to go about the country and argue their rights as they were doing. It seemed to him that they had a just right to vote, and he had pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Applause.)

Miss BALGARNIE (member of the Scarborough School Board) supported the resolution, which was then put and carried amidst applause, two persons only dissenting.

Mr. WATKINSON proposed, the Rev. S. BLAKELEY seconded, and it was unanimously agreed—"That petitions to both Houses of Parliament based on the foregoing resolution be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and a memorial to John C. Lawrance, Esq., and the Hon. M. E. G. Finch-Hatton, members for the Southern Division of Lincolnshire, requesting them to support a Bill entitled 'A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women,' be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him. Mr. Blakeley mentioned that both the hon. members for South Lincolnshire had already voted for this Bill, and he had no doubt they would do so again.

On the motion of Miss BIGGS, seconded by Mrs. DAWSON, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Morris for presiding; and after a similar expression of indebtedness to the ladies of the deputation, submitted by Mr. J. WILSON, and seconded by the Rev. J. T. STEAD, the same being duly acknowledged, the meeting separated.

REPLY OF HON. M. FINCH-HATTON.

The following letter in reply to the memorial has been received from the Hon. M. Finch-Hatton, M.P. :—

"5, Robertson Terrace, Hastings,

"April 20th, 1885.

"Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial, signed by yourself, on behalf of the public meeting held at Spalding on the 14th instant. Though I am not in the abstract in favour of women taking any active part in politics, I think that the present extension of the franchise to all who are supposed to be 'capable citizens' makes it impossible logically to exclude any longer on the ground of sex a vast number of persons, admitted to be otherwise within that category, and eligible now by law to several important public appointments.

"On these grounds I voted for a similar proposal to the one you advocated last year, and shall be prepared to vote again, though, after the attitude taken up by Mr. Gladstone on the subject, I suppose Her Majesty's advisers will oppose any such suggestion.—Yours faithfully,

"M. FINCH-HATTON."

BRIGG.

On April 16th an influential meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, Brigg, in support of the franchise for women. ED. PEACOCK, Esq., F.S.A., of Bottesford Manor, presided, and the spacious hall was crowded, Liberals and Conservatives, Church-people and Dissenters, being equally well represented, and the ladies of the upper as well as the middle and working-classes being present in strong force.

The CHAIRMAN, who was greeted with loud applause, in a few introductory remarks said he had for many years taken great interest in this question, not from any party motives, for he could not say whether the women if they got the vote would be supporters of the Grand Old Man, or of their present member, Mr. Lowther. He advocated it as a great social reform, and not from any paltry consideration of Liberals or Conservatives. Except in a few cases, women had been deprived of all civil rights. At the present time there was a law which compelled women who were farmers to stand as parish officers, and it seemed a great hardship that women should be made to fulfil the duties of men, and that it should be said that they were entirely unfit to be trusted with the privileges. It did seem a hardship that women should have to go and bargain for slag and the rest of it, and not be allowed to have a voice in electing members of Parliament. As for women being intellectually inferior to men, he looked upon that as a fallacy; for both morally, intellectually, and politically, he considered that women were quite equal to the male voters. A foreigner, if asked who was the greatest of past sovereigns of this country, would answer Queen Elizabeth; and if asked which was the greatest living sovereign, would no doubt reply Queen Victoria. They had women novelists and women scientists of remarkable ability. Now that the franchise

had been extended to male householders throughout the country, no matter how disreputable the man was, he thought they could no longer withhold the same right from women. (Applause.)

Miss C. A. BRIGGS, of London, next addressed the meeting on "Taxation as it affects women, and the right of women to vote for members of Parliament." She concluded by moving the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act, recently become law, should be supplemented by the passing of a measure during the present session of Parliament for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women."

The motion was seconded by Mr. T. SMITH, and supported by Dr. LOCKER and by Miss BALGARNIE, in an able speech.

The resolution was carried with but two or three dissentients in an audience of over 600.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. G. JACKSON and seconded by Mr. T. VARLOW, was carried unanimously: "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman, on behalf of this meeting, and forwarded by him." A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

LECTURES.

LISKEARD.

In connection with the Liskeard Liberal Association, Miss Wilkinson lectured at Liskeard on March 4th, Mr. Ainge presiding. The meeting, at the close of the lecture, unanimously adopted a resolution in favour of extending the franchise to women, on the motion of Mr. Dingle, jun.

NEWQUAY.

Mr. W. H. Northey presided at a lecture by Miss Wilkinson in the Board School Room, Newquay, on March 19th. The room was well filled, and the resolution carried *nem. con.*

YEOVIL.

On March 30th Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Town Hall, Yeovil. The Mayor (Mr. E. Helliard) presided; Mr. Bradford (ex-Mayor) was also on the platform. Previous to introducing the lecturer, the Chairman read a letter from Major Harbin, who had been announced to be present, regretting that business in London prevented his attendance, and expressing himself in favour of extending the franchise to women who pay taxes. He did not think the Constitutional party would suffer by their names being added to the register. After the lecture Mr. Bradford moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by a measure extending the suffrage to those women who fulfil the qualifications required from men, and adopts petitions to both Houses in favour of such extension." This was seconded by Mr. Pittard. Mr. C. Tite and the Mayor both expressed themselves in favour of the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

GLOUCESTER.

Under the auspices of the Junior Liberal Association of Gloucester Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Baptist Schoolroom, Brunswick-street, on March 31st. Dr. F. Bond, vice-president of the association, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Captain Frowde, Messrs. W. H. Phillips, J. E. Turner, S. Bland, C. Jones, F. J. Green, H. T. Simpson, M. Bowden, H. Whily, J. G. Scorgie, J. Matson, &c. The Chairman, in opening the meeting, expressed his regret that Major Price, president of the association, had been prevented by illness from occupying the chair. He had written to the secretary expressing his regret that he was unable to be present and support the lecturer, only the peremptory orders of his doctor preventing him. Mr. D. C. Jones moved a resolution at the close of the lecture similar to that at Yeovil. This was seconded by Mr. H. T. Simpson, and, after a little discussion, carried by a large majority. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman closed the proceedings.

ILFRACOMBE.

On April 13th a lecture was given by Miss Wilkinson, on "The Social and Political Position of Women," under the auspices of the

Ilfracombe Conservative Association, W. Huxtable presiding, supported on the platform by the Rev. J. Morris, Dr. King, and Messrs. J. Pelter, G. Barnett, E. G. Withycombe, Mr. Cole, Mrs. MacRobert. When Miss Wilkinson had concluded her address, Mr. Pelter moved a resolution in favour of extending the franchise to women, which was seconded by Mr. Barnett and unanimously carried. Rev. J. Morris then moved and Mrs. MacRobert seconded a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was also carried unanimously, followed by one to the chairman.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

STOKE BISHOP (BRISTOL).

ADDRESS BY MRS. MAGNUSSON ON WOMEN IN ICELAND.

Mrs. Magnusson, who has been visiting Bristol for the purpose of exhibiting the work of Icelandic women at the Exhibition of Women's Industries, very kindly yielded to the request that she would give some account of the position of women in Iceland at a drawing-room meeting held at the residence of Mrs. Bruce, Heatherdale, Stoke Bishop, on April 15th.

The interest of Mrs. Magnusson's account was enhanced by the fact that her visit to Bristol was prompted by her desire to make the work of Icelandic women known in this country, and to help to provide means for furthering their own education to the workers of the beautiful knitting and gold and silver embroideries which she has shown at the exhibition.

The Rev. J. P. ALLEN, having been voted to the chair, briefly introduced Mrs. MAGNUSSON, who wore the handsome full dress costume of an Icelandic lady, and gave a most interesting account of life in her own country, where women have already enjoyed the consideration held to be due to a "free person." Traditionally the married woman has been acknowledged to be the principal authority within her house, from whence, however, she had no right to remove or part with anything without the husband's consent. She was in ancient times the free dispenser of her own personal property, in so far that her husband could not lawfully touch it and convert it to his own use without her permission; nor could she without his consent part with any of it, for by law the husband was the wife's guardian. Practically, this relation between man and wife, as regards their joint estate or property, stands unchanged to this day. A woman can institute a case on her own behalf in the courts of law, on her own responsibility if she prefers not to consult her guardian, but she cannot plead in court. By a law recently passed (in 1882) all women who pay borough rates are entitled to vote in all municipal matters that fall under the decision of the vote of the community, and this was passed simply as a piece of justice without any woman having raised her voice to demand it. So far the women in Iceland scarcely realise the advantages of the franchise to which they are entitled, owing in a great measure to the severe struggle against poverty; the trade monopoly of the Danish Government, imposed in 1600 and only removed in 1854, had reduced the country to a condition of poverty from which it is only slowly recovering. There are not wanting signs, however, that the women will progress side by side with the men in the improvements which they are struggling for both in their government and education. Mrs. Magnusson emphasised the desire for more means of higher education; it being the great object of her life to provide an institution in Iceland for the higher education of girls. Numerous questions were asked by the audience, all receiving clear and interesting replies, in the course of which Mrs. Magnusson said that they had always clung to and preserved their ancient laws, that by these laws, when a husband dies half his property goes to his wife, and half to his children; that brothers and sisters inherit equally, both personal and landed property; that the mother is always the guardian of her children; any other idea would be repudiated with indignation.

Before the meeting dispersed, Mr. E. S. ROBINSON moved a resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary vote should be no longer denied to women who possess the qualifications for the franchise; and that this meeting adopts petitions to both Houses of Parliament."

This was ably seconded by Mr. SPENCER, and unanimously carried.

The meeting then closed with hearty thanks to Mrs. Magnusson.

COTHAM, BRISTOL.

A drawing-room meeting was held on April 16th, at the residence of Mr. and the Misses Tanner, Hillside, Cotham, when a paper was read by Mrs. Lynch, of Beckenham, on "Women's Suffrage, in relation to the guardianship of children." The paper was remarkably clear and impressive, and deeply interested the audience, who filled the room to overflowing. Mr. Hargrave moved a resolution, "That the right to the vote should no longer be denied to women possessing the qualification for the franchise, and adopting petitions to both Houses of Parliament." This was seconded by Miss Blackburn, and unanimously carried. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Lynch for her paper was moved by Miss Matilda Sturge, and unanimously adopted.

PADDINGTON.

At an "At home" given by Mrs. Carter, at 8, Powis Square, W., on the evening of March 24th, when addresses on "The Duties of Women as Citizens and Voters" were given, there was a large assembly, among whom were Viscountess Harberton, Mrs. Arthur Collins, Mrs. Henry Lee, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, Miss Florence Balgarnie, Mr. Fry, M.P., Mr. Frederick Pennington, M.P., the Hon. H. Pomeroy, Mr. Bragley Hodgetts, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Mr. Walford, Dr. Samuel Knns, Mr. H. Harrison, Dr. Heinemann, and Mr. Maguire and daughters.

Mrs. CHANT moved the first resolution, "That as the functions of government tend increasingly to control the details of private as well as public life, thereby influencing education, industry, morality, and sobriety, it becomes the duty of women as Christians and citizens to exercise those votes which they already possess (municipal, parochial, &c.), and to claim the extension of the franchise in order to maintain a due influence on social and political action." (Applause.)

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE seconded this resolution, which was carried with two dissentients.

A resolution in support of Mr. Woodall's Bill was moved by Miss BALGARNIE.

Mr. T. FRY, M.P., seconded the resolution, and pointed out that while very few single women among the working classes possessed local votes there were large numbers of widows who had them, and these people, he thought, wanted a great deal of teaching in political questions of the day. He believed most widows would vote as their husbands did in their lifetime—(laughter and hisses)—and single women, if they had the vote, would use it as they had been taught. He thought there was no fear of women voting all one way.

After further discussion the resolution was put to the vote and passed with three dissentients. The discussion ended with votes of thanks to the lady speakers, and to the hostess for occupying the chair. There were over a hundred persons present.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK DISTRICT.

On April 21st, in Bridge End Congregational schoolroom, a united social gathering of members and friends of the various mutual improvement societies in the district of Brighouse and Rastrick was held, and was largely attended, over 300 persons being present. The following societies were represented:—Bridge End, Park Church, St. Paul's Wesleyan, Bethel Chapel, Lane Head Primitives, Waring Green Congregational, Crowtrees Lane Free Church, Clifton Free Church, Hove Edge Free Church, Ebenezer (Bailiffe Bridge) and Hipperholme, and Lightcliffe. The Rev. A. GALBRAITH (president of the Bridge End Society) occupied the chair.

In the course of the proceedings, a discussion took place on "Ought women to possess the Parliamentary franchise?" Mr. J. ASHWORTH proposed the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting no system of representation is complete which does not recognise the right of women to exercise the franchise upon the same basis as the men; and also that it is unjust for them to be taxed for the benefit of the community, when they have no voice in disposing of the country's revenues." In doing so Mr. Ashworth said that it was the most important subject which could be brought forward at the present time, just when two millions of new voters were being placed on the register—thanks to Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet. (Applause.)

Mr. TURNER moved as an amendment: "That in the opinion of

this meeting the agitation in favour of women's suffrage has neither reason nor truth as its foundation; and, believing that the accomplishment of its object will prove destructive to the peace of the country and disastrous to the unity of the human race, would respectfully call upon all lovers of their country to discountenance as far as possible that most dangerous agitation."

Messrs. F. HIRST, T. E. WHITELEY, and T. WHITELEY spoke in favour of the resolution, whilst the amendment found earnest supporters in Messrs. GEO. HAIGH, G. A. THOMPSON, and J. GEORGE-SON. Messrs. ASHWORTH and TURNER replied, and on the vote being taken it was found that 115 had voted for the amendment, and 116 for the resolution, which the chairman declared carried.

The result was received with much cheering and counter-cheering.—Abridged from the *Brighouse and Rastrick Gazette*.

SHANKLIN.

A discussion on the question of the extension of the franchise to females was held on April 15th in the Lecture Hall of the Shanklin Literary Institute. Mr. J. M. Brown presided, and the debate was opened by Mr. E. Lush, who read a paper in favour of the extension of the franchise to female heads of households. Mr. D. Rogers, Mr. W. Warder, Mr. Deeks, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. C. Nobbs took part in the discussion. On the vote being taken all but one were in favour of the proposer's proposal, "That the right of voting at national elections should be conferred upon women householders who are otherwise duly qualified."—Abridged from the *Illustrated Isle of Wight Guardian*.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

NATIONAL REFORM UNION.

The annual meetings of the National Reform Union were held at Manchester, on April 1st. In the afternoon the vice-presidents and members of the general council met in the Memorial Hall. In the report, which was read by the secretary, Mr. A. Symonds, is the following passage relating to the franchise for women:—"In regard to the question of women's suffrage, a resolution in favour of which was carried at the conference in January, 1884, by a large majority, your committee felt that they could not support Mr. Woodall's amendment in the face of Mr. Gladstone's declaration that its inclusion would endanger the passing of the Franchise Bill. Now, however, that this danger is removed, and seeing that the members and delegates from the branches of the union have repeatedly declared themselves in favour of the enfranchisement of women, your committee consider that support should be rendered to the resolution of which Mr. Woodall has given notice."

SCOTLAND.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

EDINBURGH.

A large and influential drawing-room meeting was held on April 17th, at the house of Dr. Sibbald, St. Margaret's Road.—Mrs. Sibbald presiding. An excellent paper was read by Mrs. Waddie on "Some of the aspects of the women's suffrage question." Reasons were given why women desired the electoral franchise, and the facts of their position which justify their claim. Miss Louisa Stevenson, in an effective speech, moved the adoption of a resolution in favour of conferring the Parliamentary franchise on women who possess the qualifications which entitle them to vote in municipal and school board elections; and further, that a petition, signed by the president on behalf of the meeting, should be forwarded to both Houses of Parliament, founded on the resolution. The motion was ably seconded by Mr. James Pringle, and carried unanimously. Mrs. Wellstood, Rev. R. Henderson, and others took part in the proceedings; and on the motion of the Rev. P. M. Muir, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Sibbald for making arrangements for the meeting, and for presiding over it.

PORTOBELLO.

A drawing-room meeting was held on the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Deans, on April 22nd, at their residence, Mount Charles, Portobello, on the question of women's suffrage. Provost Christian occupied the chair, and addresses were given by Miss Wright, Miss

Burton, Mr. Deans, Miss Wigham, Miss Simpson, and others. A resolution was passed unanimously in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women, and petitions to this effect were forwarded to both Houses of Parliament from the meeting.

NORTHERN DISTRICT CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

On April 13th the sixth annual meeting of the Edinburgh Northern District Conservative Association was held in M'Laren's Academy, Hamilton Place. There was a good attendance, including a number of ladies. Mr. JAMES CRICHTON occupied the chair, and amongst others present were Mr. Alexander Blair, advocate; Mr. C. N. Johnston, advocate; Mr. James Bruce, W.S.; Mr. Robert Johnston, joint secretary; Mr. David Black, treasurer; Mr. John Black, Mr. W. Fraser, Mr. W. M'Mechan, Mr. F. Grant, Mr. A. Stoddart, Mr. W. Smyth, Mr. L. Crawford, Mr. W. Aitken, Mr. R. Prescott, Mr. John Le Conte, Mr. W. F. W. Black, &c.

After the adoption of the report and other business the association proceeded to consider

THE FRANCHISE FOR UNMARRIED WOMEN.

Mr. BRUCE, W.S., submitted the following resolution for the consideration of the meeting: "That this association is of opinion that all unmarried women holding sufficient qualifications either as proprietors or occupants should be placed on the roll of voters for Parliamentary elections; and accordingly memorialises the leaders of the Conservative party in both Houses of Parliament to take such steps as they may deem proper for securing to such women at the earliest possible date the right to vote at Parliamentary elections." (Applause.) In support of this resolution he said he was aware that the question of female franchise was not one on which their party was as yet entirely at unison, and what he wished to obtain was, if not a unanimous decision, at least a decision by a large majority, that this association pronounces in favour of female franchise. This matter was not a new one in their party in Edinburgh, for when the Council of the General Association for the city considered the question some months ago with reference to the position of affairs in regard to the Franchise Bill before Parliament, they came to the conclusion that in any extension of the suffrage that extension should apply to women, and they passed a resolution to that effect, which was posted throughout the city. This, however, so far as he was aware, was the first public meeting of the party in Edinburgh at which the subject had been definitely brought forward. Mr. Bruce proceeded to give an able exposition of the arguments in support of the resolution.

Mr. BLAIR, advocate, seconded the motion. He could not see the reason why a lady should be allowed to vote for the Lord Provost when he wished to represent Newington Ward, and yet should not be allowed to vote for him when he came forward to represent that district in Parliament. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. N. JOHNSON, advocate, moved the previous question. He said he did so on two grounds. This was a political association formed for political purposes—namely, the furtherance of the principles and prosecution of the programme of the Conservative party. No doubt a great many Conservatives supported the proposal to enfranchise women, but it was not a part of the programme of the Conservative party. He objected to the members being committed to a subject which was not necessarily involved in the ends for which the association was formed. It would, he thought, be as just for the association to pronounce on the question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister or the opening of museums on Sunday. He opposed the motion further and more strongly because he was entirely opposed on principle to the proposal to enfranchise women.

Mr. JAMES HAMILTON seconded the amendment.

Mr. J. H. STEVENSON suggested that the motion should be altered to the effect that all unmarried women holding sufficient qualifications should be eligible to be placed on the roll of voters on application, but he did not press the question.

On a division, 9 voted for the amendment and 13 for Mr. Bruce's motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

CONVENTION OF ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY BURGHS.

The SENIOR COMMISSIONER for EDINBURGH (Baillie Turnbull) moved:—

"That the Convention agrees to petition Parliament in favour of Mr. Woodall's Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women."

PROVOST CLARK (Paisley) seconded.

The ASSESSOR for QUEENSFERRY (Mr. Miller) moved, and the ASSESSOR for CROMARTY (Mr. Grigor) seconded, the previous question.

On a division, the motion was rejected by 20 votes to 15.—*Scotsman*, April 3rd.

LADIES ELECTED ON SCHOOL BOARDS.

PLACE.	NAME.	REMARKS.
Edinburgh (15)	Miss Burton	1st time, 2nd on poll
"	Miss Flora Stevenson	Had greatest number of voters
"	Miss Rainy	2nd time
Glasgow (15)	Miss Grace Paterson	1st time
"	Miss Margt. Jerment Barlas	1st time
Rothsay (7)	Miss Macdonnell	2nd on poll
Dunfermline (9)	Miss Hannah Steel	2nd on poll
Glengarry	Mrs. Ellice, of Glengarry	Headed poll
Selkirk (7)	Mrs. Geo. Anderson	Headed poll
"	Mrs. John Turnbull	2nd on poll
Lady Kirk	Lady Marjoribanks, of Lady Kirk	No contest
St. Cuthbert's and Dean	Mrs. Nichol	No contest
Wishaw	Mrs. John Sweeney, Roman Catholic	No contest
Lintrathen (5)	Dowager Countess Airlie	Head of poll. Chairman
Glenue	Miss Dalziel	
Portobello	Mrs. Robertson	

The figures indicate the number of members on the Board.

LADIES ELECTED ON PAROCHIAL BOARDS.

PLACE.	NAME.	REMARKS.
Edinburgh: City Parish	Miss Phoebe Blyth	2nd time
"	Miss K. J. Robertson	2nd time
"	Mrs. Bow	1st time
St. Cuthbert's	Miss Louisa Stevenson	3rd time
"	Mrs. Jane Millar	3rd time
"	Miss Mary Burton	2nd time
"	Miss Ellen Dougall	2nd time
"	Mrs. Foster	2nd time
"	Mrs. Brown	2nd time

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.

DEBATE AT THE SATURDAY CLUB.

At the Saturday Club in the Rotundo, on April 4th, the subject of debate was—"Whether the extension of the franchise to women would be for the good of the State." Mr. Andrew J. C. Byrne presided. The debate was opened by Mr. Murray, who spoke against the franchise for women, and the negative was also seconded by Mr. Griffin, who said women could be very useful without having the right to vote. They had in Dublin Miss L'Estrange, who took such an active part in the establishment of the workmen's club, and they had Lady Brabazon, who took such an interest in artisans' dwellings. The affirmative was supported by Mr. Amos Varian, Mr. Bradley; Mr. Macneill, who mentioned Lady Morgan and Lady Wilde for the purpose of showing the capacity possessed by women to take a distinguished position in the literary world; Mr. Wigham; Mr. Bennett, who said there were over twenty thousand lady farmers in Ireland, with from 20 acres to 5,000 acres of land who employed men to work for them—many of them had stewards, and it was an anomaly that the steward with ten or fifteen acres should have the franchise, while a lady of large property should have no voice in the affairs of the nation; Mr. O'Toole, Mr. Poole, and Mr. O'Neill.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

CONFERRING A DEGREE ON THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

On April 10th, the Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Royal University of Ireland, at Earlsfoot Terrace, Dublin. Their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor, their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant, K.G., and the Countess Spencer, and attended by the ladies and gentlemen of their respective suites, arrived at ten minutes past four o'clock, and at the entrance to the University were received by his Grace the Duke of Abercorn as Chancellor, Lord Emlay, Vice-Chancellor, attended by the secretaries,

Dr. Meredith and Dr. Dunne. The Prince and Princess of Wales were conducted to their robing rooms, which were splendidly fitted up for the occasion. The Princess's dressing-room was decorated with a dado of celeste blue, splendid Indian carpets to correspond covered the floor, and a handsome suite of oak furniture adorned the apartment. Miss Isabella Mulvany, B.A., and Miss Charlotte Taylor, B.A. and Bachelor of Music, robed as graduates of the University, assisted in robing the Princess of Wales as a Doctor of Music. Whilst the ceremony of investiture was being proceeded with, Dr. Joseph Smith, who presided at the organ, performed Flotow's overture to Stradella, Mendelssohn's Prelude and Fugue in G, and a triumphal march composed in honour of the admission of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to the degree of Doctor of Music. At twenty-five minutes to four the stewards entered the hall, preceding the Chancellor (the Duke of Abercorn), who led the Princess of Wales, attired in the white silk gown of a doctor of music, bearing in her hand the black silk cap with its gold tassel and binding. Following came the Prince in the pink silk gown of a doctor of laws, Countess Spencer, Prince Albert Victor, and Earl Spencer, Lord Emlay, and others. The secretaries, lady graduates, and Royal and Viceregal households brought up the rear. The entrance of the Princess of Wales into the Hall with the Ducal Chancellor was greeted with loud applause and by the waving of handkerchiefs. Her Royal Highness, whose robes as a Doctor of Music became her admirably, looked charmingly attractive, and graciously bowed her acknowledgments. The novel position and costume of the Princess seemed to amuse her Royal Highness greatly, and the curious glances thrown by the members of the Court sitting immediately in front of the orchestra at her new habiliments drew further from the Princess many smiles and laughing observations to Lord Spencer, who sat next her.

When all had taken their seats in the hall, a formal announcement was made by Dr. Meredith that the Senate had resolved to confer the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* upon his Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales, and also the degree of Doctor of Music *honoris causa* upon her Royal Highness Alexandra Princess of Wales, and that their Royal Highnesses had been graciously pleased to intimate that they would accept those degrees.

After the Prince of Wales had received the diploma, Dr. Meredith called out the name of her Royal Highness Alexandra, Princess of Wales.

The Princess rose, and the CHANCELLOR, addressing her, said: May it please your Royal Highness, by virtue of my authority as Chancellor of this University I admit your Royal Highness to the Degree of Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*. (Loud applause, during which the diploma was handed to the Princess.)

In his speech to the University authorities in reply, the Prince of Wales said: "By the admission of women to your degrees you have supported the view that the gentler sex are capable, not only of severe competition in science, but of enjoying the benefits and using the power which a well-considered scientific education bestows. It gratified me to learn that you were willing to confer upon the Princess of Wales the degree of Doctor of Music, and her Royal Highness wishes me to state, on her behalf, that she accepted that offer with pleasure, not only because she felt it was an honour to herself, but because she wished to show her approval of the action of the ladies of Ireland in accepting the facilities and advantages which you have offered them. In her Royal Highness's name and my own I thank you for the honour you have done us, and for the kindness with which you have received us to-day."

REVIEW.

MEN, WOMEN, AND PROGRESS. By the late Emma Hosken Woodward, author of "Married for Money," &c. (London: Dulan and Co., 37, Soho Square).

There were many, besides her personal friends, who on hearing last summer the news of Mrs. Hosken Woodward's sudden death, felt deep regret that the fair sweet face would be no longer seen among the circle of the London workers for women's suffrage; the clear and sympathetic writings no longer meet their eyes. And this regret will be deepened on perusal of the present volume, which has been edited by her husband, and which was the result of the careful research and steady labour of the last two or three years of her life. Deeply interested in everything which concerned the advancement

of women, Mrs. Woodward had devoted much time to studying the question in all the books accessible, whether in the British Museum or by private sources, and this book was the result of her work. We do not mean to say that it only is a compilation of other authorities, but that it is brimful of quotation, anecdote, references of all kinds to the laws, customs, or prejudices which have all tended to depress the position of women, as well as to the steps already taken to raise that level. Mrs. Woodward did not confine herself to the discussion of any special branch of the "woman question," which are all treated in turn; education, employment, social duties, legal disabilities, each receive their due meed of attention; but the key-note of the whole is justice and fair play. Her claim is the free development of natural laws without arbitrary interference by the laws of man; the growth of intelligence, of humanity, and of charity, on the divine principle of giving to others the same liberty and the same advantages as each claims for himself.

The book is carried on by a series of conversations among a party of friends of widely differing views. This, although not a new form, affords scope for the free enunciation of principles of each kind, for question and answer, doubts, hesitation, and difficulties. The philosophic views and the weightiest arguments are generally contributed by Professor Wray, in whom every reader will fancy they see touches of Mill or Newman. Major Knagge represents the principal opposition, and retains his prejudices to the last; while Sir Henry, after starting innumerable difficulties and doubts, and fighting an ever-losing fight, yields "rescue or no rescue." Perhaps the best sketched character is that of Mr. Silvertown, who, without having thought deeply upon the subject, is so convinced that fair play must be the best policy, and that every human being has an absolute right to justice, that the hesitation which the others feel at according equal freedom to women as to men, never occurs to him. It must be right because it is fair, and being fair, he is confident that difficulties will smooth themselves away.

Two of the best argued chapters are those which treat of women's suffrage. The plea that woman's influence is already so great that she does not need a vote to increase it is, of course, brought forward by the opponents, and is answered thus by the professor.

"Where a woman rules by an appeal to the reason, not to the emotions, her influence is of the same quality exactly as that possessed by an able man, and is equally good; but the result of her influence in public affairs having been mostly indirect and irresponsible is that it has been considered quite legitimate for her to work upon a man's feelings, inducing him to act oftentimes against his convictions, and seeing that the noblest of their sex would scorn to avail themselves of such influence as this, power has more often than not fallen into the hands of those least worthy to exercise it. Let women once recognise their responsibility in public affairs, let them exercise the suffrage, let them feel that they have public duties, and soon, I am convinced, the whole tone of the nation will be raised by the sense of responsibility, the widened political views of those who more often than not rule its rulers.

"Give women a chance," he says in another place, "before you declare them unfit for the same liberties that men enjoy, it is only in the working that a thing can be fairly tested. Why repudiate a strength yet untested? Why refuse the help of good heads, capable hands, tender hearts in dealing with our social complications, in the perpetual struggle against sin and suffering? You say there is no hurry, but to delay justice is to commit a wrong."

It is not, however, by individual passages that the value of this book is to be tested; it must be judged as a whole. It is one that you may take up again and again with the certainty of finding some valuable fact or new way of putting an argument. It might perhaps have added to its value as a book of reference, if notes had been appended giving the authorities for the various anecdotes and quotations, for it is a storehouse of facts. Such as it is, however, we should be glad to see it in every library, strongly recommending it to the attention not only of our rank and file of voters, including the more intelligent of the two millions, who being only just added to the electorate need to study public questions of national importance before giving away their votes into the hands of party caucuses; but also to the notice of our legislators who believe that protection and benevolence can supply to women the place of justice, and who are not of Mr. Bright's opinion when someone was waxing eloquent on the subject of philanthropy, that "one just law is worth a million of soup-kitchens."

LIST OF FRIENDLY PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the managers of the Press Association for a list of Parliamentary candidates for the new constituencies. From this list we extract the following names of candidates who have declared themselves in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. Candidates who have voted or paired for the measure in the present or former Parliaments are distinguished by an *.

CONSTITUENCIES.

Table listing candidates for various constituencies across England, Wales, and Scotland. Columns include constituency names and candidate names with their political affiliations.

Table listing candidates for constituencies in Wales and Scotland, including Glamorganshire, Caithness-shire, and various Scottish regions.

Table listing candidates for constituencies in Haddingtonshire, Inverness-shire, and other Scottish regions.

OPINIONS OF CANDIDATES.

MR. HALLEY STEWART AT SPALDING. At a meeting held at Spalding on March 30th, in support of Mr. Halley Stewart, Liberal candidate for the Spalding division of Lincolnshire, Mr. GOOCH said he would like to know whether Mr. Stewart would support women's suffrage.

WOMEN ON POLITICAL COUNCILS.

The following letter has appeared in the Birmingham Daily Post:— "Sir,—It may interest some of your readers to hear that another striking anomaly has been added to the many already existing through the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary franchise.

WOMEN POOR-LAW GUARDIANS, APRIL, 1885.

Table listing women poor-law guardians and their election dates for various locations in London, Hackney, and other areas.

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage in April 1885.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Central Committee from March 28th to April 1885.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Bristol and West of England Society from March 22nd to April 22nd 1885.

Obituary.

EARL CAIRNS.—We deeply regret to record the death of Earl Cairns, which took place at Bournemouth on April 2nd. The Right Hon. Hugh M'Callmont Cairns was a native of Belfast. He was returned for that town in 1852, and continued to represent it in the Conservative interest until February, 1867, when he was created a peer.

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