

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XVII.—No. 198. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.  
Yearly Subscription, Post Free, 1s. 6d.

JUNE 1, 1886.

PRICE ONE PENNY.  
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PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Minutes of Proceedings.)

- May 6. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of GEORGEVILLE (Canada) and WALSALL, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 11. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of MANCHESTER, &c., and GRIMSBY; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 13. Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], Petition in favour of, of Lord Provost, &c., of EDINBURGH, read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of WAKEFIELD; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 21. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of ASHTON-ON-RIBBLE, STROKE-ON-TRENT, and HORNSEA; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 24. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of CHESTERFIELD; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.—In Favour.

EIGHTH REPORT, 16 April—7 May, 1886.

- Brought forward, Petitions, 359—  
Signatures 13,953
- April
  - 3502 16 CHELMSFORD, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on April 3rd, in the Institute Hall; W. W. Duffield, chairman (Mr. Beadel) ... .. 1
  - 3503 " LEEK, Inhabitants of (Mr. Crompton) ... .. 27
  - 3504 " FORRES, Provost, Magistrates, and Town-Council of (Mr. Finlay) ... .. Seal. 1
  - 3505 " WARRINGTON, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of (Sir Gilbert Greenall) ... .. Seal. 2
  - 3506 " KIRKCUDBRIGHT, Provost and Council of, in meeting assembled; David Craig, provost; David D. Lean, town clerk (Mr. Noel) ... .. 2
  - 3507 " TOWYN, Inhabitants of (Mr. Henry Robertson) ... .. 23
  - 3508 " LIVERPOOL, Inhabitants of (Mr. Royden) ... .. 42
  - 3509 " BEDFORD, Mayor and Council of (Mr. Whitbread) ... Seal. 1
  - 3510 " HIGHBURY and other places, Inhabitants of ... .. 19
  - 3511 19 DOLLAR Liberal Association Committee, Members of the, in meeting assembled; John McDiarmid, chairman (Mr. John Blair Balfour) ... .. 1
  - 3512 " ASSTY, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; Abraham Willett, chairman (Mr. Johnson-Ferguson) ... .. 1
  - 3513 " LEWISHAM, Inhabitants of (Viscount Lewisham) ... .. 20
  - 3514 " ABERYSTWITH, Inhabitants of (Mr. Rice Powell) ... .. 25
  - May
  - 3515 3 SUNDERLAND, Inhabitants of (Mr. Gourley) ... .. 27
  - 3516 " PECKHAM and other places, Inhabitants of (Mr. Spensley) ... .. 19
  - 3517 " KELSO, Electors of (Mr. Woodall) ... .. 72
  - 3518 4 DURHAM, Inhabitants of (Mr. Atherley-Jones) ... .. 51
  - 3519 " EMMA ELIZABETH PUTNEY and others (Lord Charles Beresford) ... .. 41
  - 3520 " HATCHAM Liberal Club, Members and Friends of the, in public meeting assembled; W. Gardiner, chairman (Mr. Evelyn) ... .. 1
  - 3521 " UPPINGHAM, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; F. C. Deening, chairman (Mr. Finch) ... .. 1
  - 3522 " DALKEITH District Conservative Association, Members of the, in meeting assembled; John Dobbie, vice-president, and another (Mr. William Ewart Gladstone) ... .. 2
  - 3523 " DERRY, Inhabitants of (Mr. Jacoby) ... .. 26
  - 3524 " QUORNDON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; Thos. Parkinson, chairman (Mr. Johnson-Ferguson) ... .. 1
  - 3525 " EMILY MARY OSBORN and others (Mr. Stuart) ... .. 20
  - 3526 " BURSLEM, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of (Mr. Woodall) ... .. Seal. 2
  - 3527 " CREWE, Mayor and Council of (Mr. Woodall) ... .. Seal. 2
  - 3528 5 SOUTHAMPTON, Members of the Saint Mary's Liberal Association, in meeting assembled; Henry Laver, president, and another (Admiral Sir J. Commerell) ... .. 2
  - 3529 " LONG WHATTON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; S. Godacre, chairman (Mr. Johnson-Ferguson) ... .. 1
  - 3530 " BRISTOL, Working Women of, in public meeting assembled; Eliza Smith, secretary (Mr. Picton) ... .. 1

- May
- 3531 5 WIGAN, Inhabitants of (Mr. Francis Powell) ... .. 25
  - 3532 " ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY BURGHS OF SCOTLAND, Convention of the (Mr. Craig Sellar) ... .. Seal. 1
  - 3533 " COLCHESTER Conservative Association and Working Men's Club (Mr. Trotter) ... .. 243
  - 3534 " COLCHESTER, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; Henry Laver, mayor (Mr. Trotter) ... .. 1
  - 3535 6 THOMAS FRANCIS DIXON and others (Mr. Bonsor) ... .. 26
  - 3536 " SOUTHAMPTON, Inhabitants of (Mr. Giles) ... .. 21
  - 3537 " SYDENHAM PARK, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at The Avenue; Amy Roberta Mann, president (Viscount Lewisham) ... .. 1
  - 3538 " GEORGEVILLE, Canada, Inhabitants of (Mr. Osborne Morgan) ... .. 13
  - 3539 " BALA and other places, Inhabitants of (Mr. Henry Robertson) ... .. 43
  - 3540 " MILBORNE PARK Liberal Association, Members of the ... .. 12
  - 3541 7 TOTTINGTON and BURY, in the county of Lancaster, Inhabitants of (Sir Henry James) ... .. 10
  - 3542 " EAGLESFIELD, in the county of Cumberland, Inhabitants of (Mr. Valentine) ... .. 18
  - 3543 " BROMLEY, in the county of Kent, Inhabitants of ... .. 42

Total Number of Petitions 401—Signatures 14,843

NINTH REPORT, 10—13 May, 1886.

- Brought forward, Petitions 401—  
Signatures 14,843
- May
- 5646 10 PLYMOUTH and WESTERN COUNTIES Liberal Club, Members of the (Sir Edward Bates) ... .. 19
  - 5647 " HAMSTEAD and other places, Inhabitants of (Sir H. Thurstan Holland) ... .. 19
  - 5648 " MARGATE and other places, Inhabitants of (Colonel King-Harman) ... .. 4
  - 5649 " LOCHMABEN, Provost and Council of, in meeting assembled; George Johnstone, provost; J. Blacklock, town clerk (Mr. Noel) ... .. 2
  - 5650 " BIRKDALE, Inhabitants of (Mr. Pilkington) ... .. 19
  - 5651 " ASHFORD District Conservative Club, Members of the (Mr. Pomfret) ... .. 73
  - 5652 " BRIDGEWATER, Inhabitants of (Mr. Stanley) ... .. 140
  - 5653 11 ALDWINKLE, Parishioners of (Lord Burghley) ... .. 48
  - 5654 12 NORWOOD Liberal and Radical Association, Members of the, in meeting assembled; W. E. Chofield, chairman (Mr. Bristowe) ... .. 1
  - 5655 " MANSFIELD, Inhabitants of (Mr. Fojjambe) ... .. 24
  - 5656 " BLACKHEATH, Inhabitants of (Viscount Lewisham) ... .. 14
  - 5657 " DUMFRIES, Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the royal burgh of (Mr. Noel) ... .. Seal. 1
  - 5658 " TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Inhabitants of (Mr. Norton) ... .. 36
  - 5659 13 LONDON, Women Inhabitant Householdors of (Mr. Lionel Cohen) ... .. 72
  - 5660 " WEST SAINT PANCRAS and other parts of London, Inhabitants of (Mr. Lawson) ... .. 129
  - 5661 " ROME, British Subjects now residing in (Mr. Stansfeld) ... .. 29

Total number of Petitions 417—Signatures 15,473

The Petitions marked thus (©) are signed officially.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, FROM 22ND JANUARY TO 14TH MAY, 1886.

Subject.	No. of Petitions signed Officially	Total No. of Petitions	Total No. of Signatures
Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill—For alteration [Apr. 44]	2	3	4
In Favour	124	417	15,473

The first scholar under the Montreal Scholarship at the Royal College of Music has recently been elected. Her name is Miss Ella Walker, of Montreal. Miss Ada Moylan was so exactly equal with her that the examiners were unable to decide which should receive the award. Lots were therefore drawn, when the scholarship fell to Miss Walker; whereupon Mr. Donald A. L. Smith, one of the two donors of the scholarship, generously agreed to find the money for the tuition and support of Miss Moylan for three years at the college.

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We have no change to report as to the position and prospect of the Women's Franchise Bill. It remains on the order book with several "blocks" to it, and there seems little chance of making further progress until the Irish Bill is disposed of. Our friends may, however, be assured that no chance will be missed of pressing the measure forward.

RUMOURS are rife as to the probability of a speedy dissolution of Parliament in order that the Irish problem may be submitted to the judgment of the electorate. It is also said that some Bills relating to the extension of the franchise and the registration of persons who through some unexpected cause could not be registered last autumn will be pushed through in time to enable these classes to vote. Should any such attempt be made, it may be found possible to press the claim for the enfranchisement of women in time to be considered along with the rest.

ALTHOUGH the Women's Franchise Bill has not made any further progress, other Bills closely affecting the welfare of women have been discussed in both Houses of Parliament.

Taking them in chronological order, the first that claims attention is the Married Women's (Maintenance in Case of Desertion) Bill, which was introduced by Mr. PULLEY, M.P. for Hereford, on March 24th. This Bill is designed to amend the cruel and scandalous rule of law that a woman deserted by her husband has no claim upon him for maintenance. She has merely the ordinary pauper's claim to relief from the parish. Should the guardians relieve a deserted wife, they can sue the husband for reimbursement of the sum expended, but the wife herself cannot claim support from her husband except through the expensive means of the Divorce Court.

Mr. PULLEY explained that the object of the Bill was to enable the justices of the peace to give the same relief to a married woman deserted by her husband as she was now at great expense obliged to seek from the Divorce

Court. At the suggestion of Mr. CHILDERS the consideration of the Bill was postponed for a week. The debate was resumed on May 6th. In the course of the proceedings Mr. W. F. LAWRENCE said there were cases in which husbands who had deserted their families were earning £200 and £300, and yet their wives could not obtain any redress except by taking one of the roundabout courses described by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL. The Bill was read a second time, and now awaits Committee on June 2nd.

THE Infants Bill was introduced by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL on April 2nd. It was explained that the Bill had last session been passed, after considerable discussion, by the House of Lords, and was now presented in the form in which it had left the Peers. Briefly stated, the object of the Bill was to remove in one particular some of the remnants of the old rule by which the wife and mother were regarded as having no individuality and power of their own in regard to the custody of children, but that this individuality and power were merged in the husband. The Bill was debated in several of its stages, and was ordered for third reading on May 5th.

On May 17th the LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord Herschell) moved the second reading of the Infants Bill in the House of Lords. After explaining the purport of the Bill, his Lordship said he would not argue on the justice of such a measure, except to say that in a matter in which many of the women of this country took the deepest interest a Parliament of men returned entirely by male electors should take care that no injustice was done to the other sex. Even if they introduced a modification of the franchise, men would still form the vast majority of the electorate, and so long as they had the power in their hands they were bound to try to look at the question as women looked at it. After some discussion the Bill was read a second time, and has since passed through other stages.

THE Bill to render legal marriage with a deceased wife's sister was introduced in the House of Lords on May 24th



by the Duke of ST. ALBANS, and supported by Lord BRAMWELL. The rejection of the measure was moved by the Duke of ARGYLL, who was supported by the Archbishop of CANTERBURY. The Bill was defeated by 149 votes to 127; majority, 22 against the Bill.

The House was crowded during the debate, which lasted three hours. In its course the exceptional nature of the Bill was commented on, but while the anomaly of bringing the wife's sister within the marriageable relation and excluding the wife's niece was dwelt on, no one noticed the equally indefensible anomaly of excluding the husband's brother. The Duke of ST. ALBANS, in introducing the Bill, admitted that it was argued with apparent weight that the Bill dealt with only one of the degrees of affinity, but, he went on to say, Lord LYNTHURST'S Act of 1835 did the same. His grace appeared to be under the impression, which we believe is widely spread, that there was passed in 1835 a Bill specially to prohibit marriages with a deceased wife's sister. The Duke of ARGYLL, in his reply, corrected this misapprehension. He explained to the House that there was not a word about wives' sisters in Lord LYNTHURST'S Act, and that all marriages of affinity, all prohibited degrees, had been on the same footing before that Act, and were on the same footing now.

THE Bill stands for second reading in the Commons, in the name of Mr. HENEAGE, on June 30th, but it is scarcely likely that it can be brought forward this session, especially after the defeat in the Lords. It is not for this journal to discuss the merits of a question on which there is so much difference of opinion among our supporters; but we have no hesitation in affirming that in so great and vital a change of the fundamental condition of the marriage law women should be consulted as well as men, and that it is grossly unjust to exclude them from representation while legislation is being proposed so closely affecting their nearest and dearest family relations.

ALTHOUGH the political enfranchisement of women is not yet an accomplished fact, one of the consequences professed to be dreaded by the opponents of the measure, namely, the active interest and participation of women in public affairs and political contests, is every day becoming more pronounced, and more recognised as a natural and inevitable development of the extension of political power among the people.

One of the most striking exemplifications of this deve-

lopment is afforded by the constitution and operations of the Primrose League. It was fitting that a society founded in commemoration of Lord BEACONSFIELD, who was, we believe, the first member of Parliament to raise his voice in the House of Commons in favour of the right of women to vote, should organise its constitution on the principle of the co-operation of men and women in furtherance of its objects.

THE progress of the League has been very remarkable. It seems to have taken root and spread over the country with a hardihood and profuseness comparable to that of the flower which it has adopted as its symbol. From the report presented at the meeting of the Grand Habitation last month, it appears that while on Primrose Day, 1885, there were enrolled 8,071 knights, 1,381 dames, and 1,914 associates, on Primrose Day, 1886, the League consisted of 32,645 knights, 23,381 dames, and 181,257 associates, making an aggregate of 237,179, which has since been increased to over 300,000.

A good deal of ridicule was heaped on the movement in its earlier stages. Its nomenclature and badges were regarded as fantastic, and possibly the prominent part assigned to women seemed to indicate to shortsighted opponents that the institution was likely to prove more ornamental than powerful. But the elections of 1885 proved that the League was a new and formidable power in political contests. Then denunciation took the place of ridicule. It was said that undue influence had been exercised, and members of Parliament have been heard to say that their desire to see women enfranchised had been rendered less ardent because of the influence exercised at recent elections by the dames of the Primrose League. Should there be any defection from the ranks of the supporters of women's suffrage in the next division in the House of Commons, it will probably be owing to this cause. But we retain enough of faith in the consistency and honour of public men to refuse to believe that any man would vote against the enfranchisement of a class whom he believed to be justly entitled to the suffrage on the ground that the persons to be enfranchised might possibly entertain political sentiments different from his own.

THE great success of the Primrose League has caused a desire on the part of many Liberals to see some such organisation established in furtherance of Liberal principles. From time to time letters appear suggesting

this or that flower to be adopted as the badge of a rival society. We would represent to all who desire the establishment of a Liberal League that the strength of the Primrose League does not mainly consist in the popularity of its floral emblem nor in its machinery. Much of its strength and vitality as an organisation may be traced to its open acceptance of the principle that women as well as men have duties to their country and responsibilities to the state, and its practical recognition of the principle by associating women and men on equal conditions in its organisation. If any society on the Liberal side is to succeed as a rival to the Primrose League that principle must be acted on, and Liberal equivalents be instituted, not only for the "knights," but for the "dames."

WE believe that in Habitations of the Primrose League knights and dames work together, and that the Ruling Councillor may be and often is a lady; while in the more public functions and great meetings ladies appear as a matter of course among the speakers. No great political society has hitherto recognised the equality of the sexes to the same extent as the Primrose League, and its unexpected development seems to show that a society which combines the social and political forces of women and men has an element of strength which is wanting to those which reject or neglect the co-operation of women.

The dames of the Primrose League are now beyond cavil or question an important factor in the calculation of the probabilities as to the issue of an election. If there are men who believe that this power is one for mischief, they may rest assured that this mischief cannot be cured by repression; that the political energies of women, aroused as they are by the great questions that are in the air on every side, will find an outlet. It is a matter not only of clear political justice, but of urgent political expediency, to secure to the energies and opinions of women legitimate expression through the constitutional method of the ballot at a time when questions involving the deepest interests of the Empire are about to be put to the arbitrement of the people of these realms.

POLITICAL action is not confined to the ladies of one side. An influential conference of women, representing Women's Liberal Associations, has recently taken place at the residence of Mrs. THEODORE FRY. Delegates from seventeen of such Associations were present, representing many thousands of members. A resolution was adopted to establish a Central Association for the purpose of estab-

lishing local Associations of Women for the diffusion of Liberal principles.

An influential Liberal Association has also been formed at South Kensington, of which Mrs. CHARLES M'LAREN is president. Mrs. WALTER MORRISON, the Hon. Mrs. F. HANBURY-TRACY, Lady CAMPBELL, and others are among the promoters, and a public meeting, under the presidency of Mrs. GARRETT-ANDERSON, M.D., has been held in connection with it, in the Town Hall, Kensington.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Chicago News* says that Senator COCKRELL, of Missouri, who submitted a minority report from the woman suffrage committee against the resolution for a sixteenth amendment, represents a constituency that will tolerate no nonsense of the woman suffrage sort. "Why," says a Missourian with whom I talked on the subject, "if the women git to chasin' after polerties, who in thunder is goin' ter dig the pertatoes and husk the corn?"

In England, on the contrary, it is precisely the class of labourers who dig the potatoes and husk the corn who are for that reason considered as having an irrefragable claim to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise, and even to go chasing after politics in the House of Commons.

To those who value the continuities of history interest attaches to incidents that link the past and present. Such persons may be interested by a glimpse into past customs furnished by the practice in the sixteenth century of a local custom that had already "been used time out of mind." According to this custom all the inhabitants of the manor of Aston and Coat, Oxfordshire, or at least one of every house, should meet at the village cross and choose "the Sixteens," that is, the men to whom the management of the affairs of the little community should be entrusted for the year. That "all inhabitants" is here used in its true sense is clear, since the document quoted (which may be found in "Archæologia," vol. xxxv.)—a confirmation of the ancient custom—is signed by "most of the substantial inhabitants," and includes the signatures of ELIZ. ALDER, MARGERY YOUNG, and ANNE STARTUPP.

Such chance lights into past practices have significance when the country may soon be brought to the consideration of broad new measures for local government, such as sweep away the relics of past times. Of all instruments to either establish, destroy, or foster customs for good or evil, law is the most potent; it is well, then, to begin early



to look both before and after, and to watch and inquire whether the new schemes which may be submitted to the Legislature tend to foster the example recently set in Imperial franchises of drawing subtle distinctions between "capable citizens" who are men and capable citizens who are women, or tend to establish and confirm good old customs—like that of Aston and Coat in the days of Queen ELIZABETH—which show our forefathers interpreting "substantial inhabitants" with its actual and literal signification. H. B.

THE absurdity of excluding women from the orderly and constitutional use of the ballot in Parliamentary elections received a fresh illustration during the past fortnight, during which the Vestry elections have taken place in London. In these elections all ratepayers, male and female, have the right to participate. The circulars sent round previous to the elections by the Ratepayers' and other Associations expressly call attention to the fact that "Lady Ratepayers are entitled to Vote," and invite their attendance. Now, so far from being conducted by the quiet process of the ballot, as in Parliamentary, Municipal, and School Board elections, a Vestry election is carried on in closely-packed meetings, by the old-fashioned method of a show of hands. It is only in the event of dissatisfaction at the declared result that a poll can be demanded for the next day. The local interests affected by Vestry elections sometimes cause them to be very hotly contested; but we have never heard this adduced as a reason that women should refrain from taking their share in them. What colour, then, can be given to their exclusion from the orderly, quiet, and perfectly safe Parliamentary elections? C. A. B.

THE principle that when citizens are taxed they should also vote has been reaffirmed last month in Canada, where the province of New Brunswick took the important step in the path of reform of extending the Municipal Franchise to women householders if unmarried or widows. New Brunswick is thus the third province of the Dominion which has passed this law; Nova Scotia and Ontario have both done so in 1884. The motive assigned for the prompt action in New Brunswick was the beneficial influence exercised by women in the late Municipal elections of Toronto, the capital of Ontario. Women had voted there for the first time on January 4th, at the election of the mayor, and the temperance candidate, Mr. Howland, was elected mainly, it is said, through their

votes. So much satisfaction was expressed at this result that the council of Montreal, in the neighbour province of Quebec, immediately passed a resolution in favour of women's suffrage in municipal affairs, which will probably take effect before long. In New Brunswick the effect of this triumph was still more conclusive, as the Municipal Suffrage for Women Bill passed both Houses of the Legislature and was signed by the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR on April 2nd, becoming law immediately. Although the election took place only four days afterwards, allowing no time for organisation, the number of ladies who voted was, we are told, very large; and the New Brunswick papers vie with each other in congratulations on the spirit and expedition with which so useful a reform has been carried out. C. A. B.

THE United States Senate has lately had the women's suffrage problem presented to them in a somewhat novel form, and has solved it in favour of the principle. Three of the Territories of the Union, namely, Wyoming, Utah, and Washington, have adopted full suffrage for women, but it has not yet been adopted by any of the sovereign States. The Territories may be compared to the minors in a family, the States to the adult members.

Washington Territory is now applying for admission to the Union as a State, and a Bill to effect this purpose is before Congress. An amendment on this Bill was moved by Mr. EUSTIS, senator for Louisiana, proposing the limitation of the suffrage to male citizens, thus disfranchising the women citizens of the Territory.

We learn from the *Woman's Journal* that in moving the amendment Mr. EUSTIS said he admitted that after the first election the newly-constituted State would have the power to confer the suffrage on women, but he contended that the Congress of the United States had declared by a law which stands unrepealed and applies to every Territory, that when that Territory shall be organised it shall be organised only by male citizens. It was because he believed that true Democracy means manhood suffrage that he was opposed to woman suffrage.

The amendment was opposed among others by Mr. BUTLER (South Carolina), who said that it did not become the Congress of the United States, after having approved for three years this provision of law passed by the Territorial Legislature, at this late day, when these people are knocking at the door of the Union, to tell them that, although Congress had acquiesced in these "cranky notions," as the senator called them, for three years, now

that they were going to prepare themselves for statehood and the Union, Congress should impose fresh conditions on them. After arguing that in the case of Utah Congress would have the right to require, if it were applying for admission to the Union, that it should first extirpate polygamy, for that was a crime, he went on to say, in the case of Washington Territory, that although he was opposed to woman suffrage he did not think it was a crime, and as he would prefer to preserve as far as might be the autonomy of this organisation in its transition from a Territory to a State, he should vote against the amendment of his hon. friend from Louisiana. He was a believer in the right of the people to regulate their own affairs in their own way, subject only to the paramount authority of the Constitution of the United States, and if they had seen fit to adopt woman suffrage it was their affair and not his. He thought the bugbear held up by the senator from Kentucky of the danger of placing the ballot in the hands of the coloured women of the South was put up simply for effect. If he were the most ardent woman suffragist in the country, he should be very far from conferring the suffrage on all women; and if he had the right to confer suffrage anew on all the males of this country, he should be very far from conferring it on every man.

Mr. VOORHEES (Indiana) said he was not for female suffrage *per se*, yet it was one of the unsolved problems of the future. Circumstances might arise in the future when it would be not only policy but statesmanship to allow those who own property and are interested in good morals law, and order, to exercise the ballot. He did not think the time had arrived as yet, consequently he was holding his judgment in abeyance. But he was clear upon this subject that at this late hour in the existence of the Territory, when it is about parting from its former condition and putting on its robes as a State, they should not commence dictating to it when they knew that the very moment, within the next hour of its admission as a State, it would have supreme control over the question. The situation was simply this, Washington Territory and other Territories had made laws prescribing the right of suffrage within their boundaries, and the Congress of the United States has quietly and approvingly sanctioned all they had done. He could see no reason why at this critical hour, so far as Washington Territory was concerned, they should undo what they had done. By their tacit action they had sanctioned woman suffrage in Washington Territory. The States in the South, where they feared this ques-

tion, would have the absolute control of it, and it seemed to him that in the interests of State rights they should not seek to impair them as to Territories from passing from one condition to another. He hoped the amendment would not receive the sanction of the Senate, but that the question of the suffrage would be left, as it had been to every other State, to the State of Washington, soon to take her place on the flag of the country, to prescribe in the interest of every race, black and white, male or female, and in saying that he spoke for a higher principle than mere class or section.

The continuation of the debate has not yet reached us, but the result is known. The amendment was rejected by a decisive majority, and the new-born State of Washington will take her place in the Union with full suffrage for all her citizens, whether they be men or women.

### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS, April 1st.

##### PETITIONS.

The Marquis of Tweeddale presented a petition from the inhabitants of Penrith in favour of the extension of the franchise to qualified women.

April 8th.

The Marquis of Salisbury presented a petition from the Ardwick Conservative Club in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

May 6th.

The Earl of Kimberley presented a petition from inhabitants of Georgeville, Province of Quebec, Canada, in favour of the admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise in the United Kingdom.

Lord Norton presented a petition from Walsall in favour of women's suffrage.

May 11th.

Lord Sandhurst presented a petition from certain householders of Manchester and neighbourhood in favour of women suffrage.

May 13th.

The Earl of Yarborough presented petitions from Grimsby in favour of women's suffrage.

Lord Balfour presented a petition from the Lord Provost, magistrates, and council of Edinburgh, in favour of the Bill for extending the franchise to women. His lordship added that he could not concur in the prayer of the petition.

May 21st.

Lord Herries presented a petition from ladies in Hornsea, in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women.

May 24th.

The Earl of Derby presented a petition from Chesterfield, in favour of female suffrage.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 24th. THE MARRIED WOMEN (MAINTENANCE IN CASE OF DESERTION) BILL.

Mr. PULLEY moved the second reading of this Bill, which was to enable two justices of the peace to give the same relief to a married woman who had been deserted by her husband which she was now obliged at great expense to seek from the Divorce Court. The Bill also proposed to give such a woman the custody of the children of the marriage.

Mr. CHILDERS said that before the House assented to the second reading of this measure they ought to know what it was intended



to effect. The object of the measure was to give to any two justices of the peace the power of decreeing a separation in case of the desertion of a married woman by her husband, which was now exercised by the Divorce Court. He doubted whether the House would be prepared to hand over such an important power to any two justices of the peace without having further and fuller information on the subject. (Hear, hear.) He begged to move that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed to that day week.

Mr. PULLEY having consented to the postponement of the discussion,

The second reading of the Bill was postponed.

May 6th.

The debate on the motion that this Bill be read a second time, adjourned from the 24th of March, was resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that the main scope and object of the Bill was to give to two justices or a single stipendiary magistrate the power of pronouncing decrees of judicial separation if it was shown that a wife had been deserted by her husband. Such a Bill would be viewed differently by those who took different views as to the desirability of granting facilities to sever the matrimonial tie; and beyond that there was the question of granting the power proposed to such a tribunal. He did not say that it might not be necessary to grant to poor persons greater facilities for availing themselves of the law; but this Bill would enable the magistrates to pronounce the decree without the husband being convicted of desertion, and merely upon proof being given that he had deserted his wife. The law had already taken one very important step in the way of giving power to magistrates. Under the Matrimonial Causes Act, in case a husband was convicted of aggravated assault, if it was shown that the woman was in actual peril, the magistrates might pronounce a decree of judicial separation. But this Bill appeared to open a wide door to collusion between man and wife, who might agree to leave each other and then allege that there had been desertion; and no remedy was left to the woman in case it should hereafter be found that there had been collusion. Then it was a large power to give to a tribunal to make such an order if the husband had not been personally served with notice of the application. No doubt the remedies of a deserted wife were cumbersome, as she must either go to the poor law guardians or be supplied with necessities by some one who would bring an action against the husband, and he had hoped it might have been possible to evolve out of this Bill a reasonable proposition to meet the grievance he had stated, but he was afraid it did not afford the means of providing a remedy.

Mr. BRADLAUGH supported the Bill, and said that the objections of the Attorney-General referred to details which could very well be considered in Committee. The principle of the Bill was that of securing maintenance to married women who had been deserted by their husbands, and to secure for them the equivalent of a decree of judicial separation. It was impossible that poor women could employ solicitors, so as to avail themselves of the remedies now provided. It was easy to make this Bill say that the husband should have been convicted of desertion, and in cases of divorce substituted service of a summons was already known.

The LORD ADVOCATE said that he shared the views of the Attorney-General. It would be dangerous to give the proposed jurisdiction to even stipendiary magistrates, who were supposed to be appointed for their knowledge of the criminal law. The provision of the Bill relating to the custody of children was already met adequately by the Infants Bill.

Mr. SPICER said there was no doubt that the Bill would remedy hardships that occurred in the case of poor women; and, after all, the objections to the Bill were not so serious as they had been made to appear. Its provisions would act as a restriction against desertion; and if any wrong was done by an order for maintenance it could easily be remedied by a subsequent application to the Court.

Mr. W. F. LAWRENCE said there were cases in which husbands who had deserted their families were earning £200 and £300, and yet their wives could not obtain any redress except by taking one of the roundabout courses referred to by the Attorney-General.

Mr. CHILDERS believed that the House would be reluctant to give to magistrates the power of granting judicial separation, although it would probably be willing to see an improvement of the machinery by which a wife might obtain a subsistence. The

Government would object to any provisions of the Bill except those which, in their opinion, had been shown to be, and were admitted to be, necessary; but they did not oppose the second reading.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The motion for going into Committee is down for Wednesday, June 2nd.

April 2nd.

#### INFANTS BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir Charles Russell), in moving the second reading of this Bill, explained that it had been originally introduced by his hon. friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and his learned colleague Sir Horace Davey. The Bill had been passed after considerable discussion by the House of Lords, and it was now presented to the House in the form in which it left the Peers. Stated shortly, the object of the Bill was to remove in one particular at least some of the remnants of the old rule, by which the wife and the mother were regarded as having no individuality and power of their own in regard to the custody of children, but that this individuality and power were merged in the husband. The object of the Bill, therefore, was to give the mother a natural and proper voice in the guardianship and bringing up of her children.

Mr. INCE congratulated the hon. gentleman on the great improvement shown in the treatment of this subject since it was originally brought before the House. When the idea first occurred to some one that it was desirable to legislate on the guardianship of infants, the intention seemed to be, as far as he could gather from the first measure, to put it in the hands of a committee of elderly bachelors and spinsters, who knew nothing about matrimony and if possible less about children. (Laughter.) There was to be a sort of duality of control on the part of a father and a mother, so that whenever a father corrected the child it could run to the mother, or when the correction was administered by the mother it could run to the father, with the result that the family would soon get into the nearest county court. (Laughter.) He did not think that this setting aside of the laws of nature was likely to be a success, and he was glad to see that the measure had been amended in this particular part. His hon. friend, however, seemed to be so enamoured of the dual system, that even now he could not give it up. It was extremely unfortunate that the law at present did not recognise the right of the mother; but, this being so, why did his hon. friend not make the law as he said it should be, and give to the mother who survived the father the sole right and control of the children? While he did not oppose the second reading of the Bill, he should venture in Committee to try to alter it a little more into consistency with what he believed to be the natural law affecting these important relations.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed the subsequent stages with little or no discussion.

May 3rd.

#### INFANTS BILL.

On the consideration of this Bill, as amended,

Mr. INCE moved an amendment by which the mother of a child should be the sole guardian on the death of the father, without regard to the appointment of a joint guardian by the father.

Mr. GREGORY opposed the amendment.

Mr. BRUCE said that this amendment had been put and negatived before, receiving very little support. The scheme of the Bill as settled in that House in 1884 was that on the death of the father the mother should be guardian, but that the father should have power to appoint a person to act with her after his death as joint guardian. Cases might occur—and frequently did occur—in which a father died leaving a wife surviving from whom he had not been divorced, but whom nevertheless he knew to be an unfit person to have the custody of the children; and it would be a great hardship if he was not to be able to secure better protection for his children by appointing some one to act conjointly with her. He knew nothing which would more embitter the last moments of a father than to feel that he was unable to do this. This amendment was really against the interest of the mother, because it was more important for her to have the right of appointing a guardian to act conjointly with the husband after her death, subject to ratification by the court, than to be the sole guardian if she survived her husband. They could not therefore accept this amendment.

The amendment was negatived and the Bill was ordered to be set

down for a third reading, which was subsequently passed, and the Bill sent up to the House of Lords.

HOUSE OF LORDS, May 17th.

#### INFANTS BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord Herschell), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said that a measure having for its object the amendment of the law relating to the guardianship of infants passed the House of Commons early in the session of 1884, and came up to their lordships' House towards the close of that session. On the suggestion of Lord Cairns, whose loss he deplored very much, and who, he believed, would have been a supporter of the measure, it was considered too late to deal with it that session, and on that ground the Bill was not proceeded with. In the autumn session of that year the Bill was again introduced by his noble friend on his right, received a second reading, and was referred to a Select Committee. On that Select Committee were his noble and learned friend (Lord Selborne), Lord Cairns, his noble friend on his right, and other noble lords. In the result the measure came back in a considerably modified form, and met in the House with other modifications. The Bill passed their lordships' House, and was sent down to the House of Commons, where it received a second reading, but it was not read a third time owing to the prorogation. That Bill was, with one substantial exception, precisely the same as the Bill now before their lordships. He would not argue on the justice of such a measure, except to say that, in a matter in which many of the women of this country took the deepest interest, a Parliament of men returned entirely by male electors should take care that no injustice was done to the other sex. Even if they introduced a modification of the franchise, men would still form the vast majority of the electorate, and so long as they had the power in their hands they were bound to try to look at the question as women looked at it. The petitions which had been presented, and which were not the work of any organization, but had come spontaneously from different parts of the country, showed that there was a deep and real feeling in favour of the Bill, and the letters he had received confirmed that view. The provisions of the Bill might be summed up chiefly as three. It was proposed that where the husband had not appointed a guardian to his children, the wife became the guardian, and even where the husband had appointed a guardian that the wife became guardian jointly with the person so appointed. The Bill retained to the full the superior right of the father while living, but when the father was dead it was not considered just that the rights which he possessed while living could or ought to be handed over by will to another, so as to make the mother a stranger to the children. It was considered only right that the mother, to whose care the children owed so much in earlier years, should have a voice in the guardianship. The Bill then provided for another case. If the mother by will had chosen to appoint a provisional guardian on her death, if it could be shown to the Court that the father was not fit to be the sole guardian of the children, the guardian so appointed by the mother might be allowed to act jointly with the father. That would not deprive a father who was fit to be the sole guardian of his right. There were many cases in which, though extreme unfitness could not be shown, yet it would be possible to show that the father was not fit to remain sole guardian of his children. Then there was a provision to enable the Court, upon the application of the mother, to permit access to the children, and to give instructions as to their custody. The Court was to have regard to the welfare of the infants, to the conduct of the parents, and to the wishes of the mother as well as the father, and such instructions might be varied or discharged from time to time as the Court might think fit. The only new provision was to the effect that in any case where a decree of judicial separation or divorce had been pronounced, the Court might declare the parent whose conduct had been the cause unfit to have the custody of the children, and in such a case the parent so deprived would not be entitled on the death of the other to the care or custody of the children. He begged to move the second reading of the Bill.

Lord BRAMWELL said that no provision was made in the Bill for costs of proceedings, though, as they all knew, there were such things as vexatious applications. As the law now stood, if the wife sued for divorce or separation, her husband was liable for the costs of her application. He could not understand whether that

would be so in a case under this Bill. If it would not, he thought it would be desirable that it should be expressed that the husband should not be liable for the costs. Such a provision would prevent vexatious applications against the husband.

Lord ASHBURNE was glad to be able to support the second reading of the Bill, as he thought that in its present shape it was very much improved. He thought, however, that it would require to be closely and carefully examined in another stage. He referred chiefly to clause 2, which was almost the principal clause in the Bill and which seemed to be an absolute statement that no matter what her condition or her conduct the wife was to be the guardian of the children.

Lord HALSBURY urged that there should be proper safeguards in the Bill to ensure the fitness of the guardian appointed by the mother.

After a few remarks from Lord Beauchamp, The LORD CHANCELLOR said he thought the point raised by his noble and learned friend near him (Lord Ashbourne) was really met by the provision in clause 6, by which the Court might not only remove a testamentary guardian but any guardian under this Bill, wherever it would be deemed to be to the welfare of the infant. As to the suggestion of his noble and learned friend on his right, he could only say that he would carefully consider the matter.

The Bill was then read a second time.

May 24th.

Their lordships went into Committee on the Infants Bill.

On Clause 3,

Lord HALSBURY moved an amendment providing that the Court might, after the death of the mother and on it being shown that the father was for any reason unfitted to be the sole guardian of the children, "make such order in respect of the guardianship as to the Court shall seem right."

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that the clause in its present form had received the approval of a majority of their lordships' House, and he was unwilling to disturb the arrangement that had been arrived at, especially as it might be urged on the third reading, as it was on the second reading, that the clause, if amended as proposed, would interfere too much with the rights of the father.

Lord FITZGERALD said that it was a matter of compromise. The Bill stood now as it was altered by their lordships, and if the amendment of his noble and learned friend was carried in a substantial form it would endanger the Bill.

The LORD CHANCELLOR suggested that the words proposed to be omitted should be retained, but that these words should be added, "and make such order in respect of the guardianship as to the Court shall seem right."

This suggestion was accepted, and the clause as amended was ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 (powers of guardian) was agreed to.

On Clause 5 (Court may make orders as to custody),

Lord ASHBURNE said under this clause as it stood it would be quite competent when the father and mother were living together for the mother having different views from her husband as to how the children should be brought up to ask the opinion of the Court whether she or her husband was right. That was a very dangerous power to give the wife, and might lead to litigation, confusion, and unhappiness in families. It was a great change to make in English domestic life. He was about to move an amendment which was recommended by the great experience of Lord Cairns, and which Lord Cairns moved in the Select Committee. The noble and learned lord then moved an amendment which would give the wife power to apply to the Court when the husband and wife were not living together.

The Earl of SELBORNE said that the amendment now proposed when moved in the Select Committee by Lord Cairns was not assented to, and he did not think Lord Cairns was dissatisfied with the result. No one would attribute greater weight to Lord Cairns's opinion than he should do, but the reasons against the proposition were irresistible to the minds of those who voted against it, and to his mind were irresistible still. It should be remembered that in framing this clause they had not only to consider the case of persons in a superior class of life, but also the case of those who for want of means were compelled to live together. In many cases among the poorer classes the wife would be justified in making such an application, and by adopting the amendment they would, he believed, in point of fact be doing an injustice.



Lord BRAMWELL considered that the clause was a direct invitation to litigation between husband and wife. There was no qualification whatever in it. He thought it would at least be a good thing that the application in the first instance should be made *ex parte*, so that the tribunal applied to should be able to form an opinion as to whether the case was one that should be inquired into.

Lord ASHBORNE said he felt the force of the remarks of the noble and learned earl opposite, and that he would carefully consider all that had been said before the next stage of the Bill.

The amendment was then by leave withdrawn.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then moved to insert after clause 5 the following words, "and in every case (the Court) may make such order affecting the costs of the mother and the liability of the father for the costs of the mother as it may think just." He pointed out that in some cases it might be unfair and undesirable to saddle the husband with the costs.

The amendment was agreed to, and the clause was ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Lord DENMAN moved a clause which was negatived.

The remaining clauses of the Bill having been agreed to, the Bill passed through Committee, and the House resumed.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

### BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Birmingham Society for Women's Suffrage was held on May 19th, at the society's rooms, 10, Broad-street Corner. The Rev. Dr. CROSSKEY (president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Mrs. Ashford, Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. W. A. Smith, Mrs. A. C. Osler, Mrs. Swinnerton Heap, Mrs. W. H. Ryland, the Misses Haycraft, Taylor, and Sturge, and the Rev. A. O'Neill.

Mrs. OSLER read the annual report, which stated that early in the year the friends of women's suffrage seemed for a time almost justified in cherishing the hope that the present report might prove the final one needful, and that the long labours of the society might be nearing their end. No definite expectations could, however, now be entertained, as any day might bring about a change in the Government of the country or even a dissolution of Parliament. When the new Parliament of 1886 opened under the leadership of Lord Salisbury Mr. Woodall brought in his Bill, and on the 18th February it stood as third order, and on the following morning passed its second reading without a division. Several notices of amendment had been given to the Bill, and it was not expected that its course through Committee would be a smooth one, but it was in the excellent hands of Mr. Leonard Courtney, and were it not for the critical state in which the Irish question was keeping English politics their friends might well indulge in sanguine anticipations. The canvass for signatures from women householders in Birmingham commenced last year had been completed, and on March 2nd Mr. G. Dixon, M.P., presented in the House of Commons a petition in favour of women's franchise from 4,707 Birmingham women householders. Allusion was made in the report to the active part taken in aid of both political parties at the last general election by women. The Conservatives were greatly indebted to the Dames of the Primrose League, while the Women's Liberal Associations throughout the country rendered valuable service to their friends, and in places where no separate organizations existed women workers joined the general Liberal Association in considerable numbers. Ten women had recently been elected by the various ward committees in Birmingham as representatives of the "Two Thousand." It was thus obvious that women were taking, and would continue to take, an increased share in the active work of politics, and their enfranchisement would diminish what had been sometimes called the "back stairs influence."

Miss TAYLOR read the statement of accounts, which showed that the income for the year amounted to £71. 6s. 5d., and that the expenditure had been £76. 0s. 3d., leaving a deficiency of £4. 13s. 10d.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the reports, remarked that although at the present moment it was impossible to obtain the attention of the public to any subject beyond the all-engrossing question of Ireland, it would be a very great mistake for the advocates

of any reform to put aside their organizations or diminish their efforts, because he believed that when once the question of Ireland was settled their brightest hopes might be realised. All the reforms for which they had been pressing so many years would have a larger share both of public attention and a better chance of passing through Parliament. Things grew so slowly that it seemed sometime as if hope needed cultivating and cherishing, yet he could perceive several things which seemed to him to show great advance with respect to the cause they had met to support. He was pleased to observe the largely increasing amount of interest taken by women in political questions. The Primrose League itself was certainly a sign of the attention given to politics, and one was bound to conclude that the ladies who connected themselves with such a league would at any rate exercise a certain amount of influence on the question, and did not regard it as utterly unintelligible. He believed in the suffrage being granted to women because it would give many nobler elements to political life. (Hear, hear.) The sooner they got rid of the idea that politics were simply matters that concerned men the better it would be, and the granting of woman's suffrage would go a great way to help forward civilization and purity, and everything that would cultivate and uplift the great mass of the people, and influence every department, alike in the State and the home. (Applause.)

Miss STURGE seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. A. O'NEILL, in moving a resolution thanking the officers of the society for their services during the past year, said he hoped that at the next election women would have their rights and just claims admitted by being allowed a voice in the affairs of the country.

Miss HAYCRAFT seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The officers were then elected for the ensuing year, and a vote of thanks having been accorded to the Chairman for his services, the proceedings terminated.

## LECTURES.

### BEDFORDSHIRE. AMPTHILL.

On March 2nd, a good audience attended in the British Schoolroom to hear an address from Miss Wilkinson on "Women and Politics," Captain Broughton in the chair. A resolution for extending the suffrage to duly qualified women was passed with one dissentient.

### CLAPHAM.

On February 24th, in the Clubroom, Clapham, near Bedford, Miss Wilkinson gave an address on "If the Vote is good for Jack, why not for Jill?" The Rev. Canon Haddock in the chair. There was a crowded attendance, and the address was listened to with great attention. Harold Howard, Esq., moved "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women." The resolution was passed unanimously.

### ELSTOW.

On March 1st Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Schoolroom, Elstow, Mrs. Bousfield, of Bedford, in the chair. The address was listened to with great attention throughout. A resolution moved by the lecturer and seconded by Mrs. Ransom was passed unanimously.

### WOOTTON.

Miss Wilkinson gave an address in the Schoolroom, Wootton, on February 26th, Mrs. Ransom (Mayoress of Bedford) in the chair. At the conclusion of her address Miss Wilkinson moved—"That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by the passing of a measure extending the suffrage to duly qualified women."

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE. CHATTERIS.

In the Corn Hall, Chatteris, Cambridge, on April 7th, an address was given on "Women and Politics," Mr. J. Gawtre in the chair. Both the political parties were well represented in the hall. At the conclusion of Miss Wilkinson's address Mr. Smith moved—"That the Bill now before Parliament for enfranchising women should become law during the present session of Parliament." This was passed with one dissentient.

### EVERSDEN.

At the Congregational Chapel, Eversden, Cambs., on April 19th, Miss Wilkinson gave an address on women's suffrage, the Rev. J. Brownhill in the chair.

### FORDHAM.

On April 29th, Miss Wilkinson gave an address on "Women and Politics," in the Congregational Chapel, Fordham, Cambs. The Rev. S. Harker presided, and in introducing the lecturer made a very telling and witty speech. A vote of thanks to the lecturer closed the proceedings.

### ISLEHAM.

On April 22nd, a lecture was delivered in the General Baptist Chapel by Miss Wilkinson, of the Women's Suffrage Society. There was a large and attentive audience, which appeared much impressed by the eloquence of the speaker, to whom a unanimous vote of thanks was awarded at the close.

### SOHAM.

In the Town Hall, Soham, Cambridge, on March 25th, the Rev. W. Young presiding, Miss J. G. Wilkinson, of London, gave a lecture on "Women and Politics." A resolution asking "that the Bill now before Parliament for conferring the franchise on women should become law this session" was passed unanimously.

### LEICESTERSHIRE. ANSTEY.

On April 12th, in the Board Schoolroom, Anstey, Leicester, Miss J. G. Wilkinson gave an address on "If the Vote is good for Jack, why not for Jill?" In the absence of the president of the Liberal association through business, Mr. Willett presided. In opening the proceedings the chairman said that Anstey had the character of being very Liberal in politics. He hoped they would show they were liberal on this question. The resolution for giving the franchise to women was passed unanimously.

### ENDERBY.

On April 13th Miss Wilkinson gave an address on "Women and Politics" in the New Co-operative Hall, Enderby, Leicester. The Rev. J. H. Dickenson took the chair. Mr. Marson, the president of the Liberal association, under whose auspices the lecture was given, said, in moving the first resolution, "that he had been halting between two opinions. He had an idea that women were better at home than meddling with politics; but then, on the other hand, he was puzzled by the fact that women had to pay rates and taxes the same as men; they also had the right of voting in local matters, and he had no argument to defend the system that took the money from the women, yet denied them the right of saying how that money should be spent." The resolution, asking that the Bill now before Parliament should become law this session, was passed unanimously.

### EARL SHILTON.

On April 16th, in the Congregational Schoolroom, Earl Shilton, Leicester, the Rev. J. Shallcross presiding, Miss Wilkinson gave an address on "If the Vote is good for Jack, why not for Jill?" At the conclusion of her address the following resolution was moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by the passing of a measure for extending the franchise to duly qualified women." This was carried unanimously.

### HINCKLEY.

On March 16th a lecture was given in the Town Hall, Hinckley, by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, of London, subject "Women and Politics." Mr. T. Kiddle, president of the Hinckley and District Liberal Association, presided. At the conclusion of the lecture a resolution in support of the Women's Suffrage Bill was passed unanimously. A vote of thanks to Miss Wilkinson for her lecture, and to the chairman, terminated a most interesting meeting.

### LONG WHALTON.

On the 14th of April, in the Congregational Chapel, Long Whalton, Leicester, Miss Wilkinson lectured on "Women and Politics." Mr. Goodacre, of Sheepshed, presided. Mr. J. Kidger moved, and Mr. Hughes seconded, a resolution asking that the Bill now before the House of Commons should become law during the present session.

### OADBY.

In the Village Hall, Oadby, Leicester, on March 31st, an address was given by Miss J. G. Wilkinson on the extension of the suffrage to women. The resolution, asking that the Bill should become law

this session, was seconded by one of the ladies present, many of whom expressed warm sympathy with the object of the meeting.

### QUORNDON.

The inhabitants of Quorndon, Leicester, assembled in the Liberal Club room on the 15th of April to hear an address by Miss Wilkinson, of London, on "Women and Politics." Mr. Parkinson, the President of the Liberal Association, presided. Mr. W. Wright moved, and Mr. A. Wright seconded, a resolution asking that the Women's Suffrage Bill should become law during the present session of Parliament.

### WIGSTON.

On March 29th, in the Working Men's Club and Institute, Wigston, Leicestershire, a lecture on "Women and War" was given by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, of London. A resolution in favour of passing the Women's Franchise Bill this session of Parliament was passed unanimously. The usual votes of thanks closed the proceedings. Mr. J. Abbott presided.

### NORFOLK. CARBROOK.

Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Congregational Chapel, Carbrook, on Thursday, March 4th, on "Women and Politics," Mr. J. Alexander in the chair. The usual resolution was passed unanimously, Mrs. Ford, the wife of a labourer, spontaneously seconding it.

### MARTHAM.

Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Baptist Chapel, Martham, on March 23rd, the Rev. E. Stovell in the chair. There was a good audience, and the lecture was received with attention. The usual resolution was passed without dissent.

### THETFORD.

Miss Wilkinson gave an address in the Town Hall, Thetford, on "Women and Politics," under the auspices of the Liberal Association, on Monday, March 22nd. Mr. S. Oldman, jun., in the chair. Mr. S. Oldman moved and Mr. Millington seconded a resolution to extend the franchise to duly qualified women. This was passed unanimously. The usual votes of thanks closed the proceedings.

### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. DESBOROUGH.

On March 12th Miss Wilkinson lectured, under the auspices of the Liberal Association, in the Town Hall, Desborough. There was a good attendance. The Rev. J. Joicey took the chair. The lecture was well received, and the resolutions submitted were passed unanimously.

### KILSBY.

Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Congregational Schoolroom, Kilsby, on March 11th. At the close of her address, Miss Wilkinson moved, and the Rev. J. Edwards seconded, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act should be supplemented by the passing of a measure extending the suffrage to duly qualified women." This was passed unanimously. The usual votes of thanks closed the proceedings.

### WALTON.

Miss Wilkinson lectured on "Women and Temperance Legislation," in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Walton, Norfolk, on March 5th, Mrs. Rudram in the chair. The lecture was listened to very attentively, and at the close a resolution to extend the suffrage to women was passed unanimously.

### RUTLAND. UPPINGHAM.

In connection with the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, a lecture was delivered by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, in the Oddfellows' Hall, on April 20th. The Rev. T. C. Deeming occupied the chair, and briefly introduced the lecturer. At the conclusion of her address Miss Wilkinson moved a resolution in favour of the Bill now in Parliament for the enfranchisement of women becoming law this session. This was seconded by Mr. A. E. Peach, and unanimously carried.

## DEBATING SOCIETIES.

### MONTGOMERYSHIRE. WESLEYAN MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

At a meeting of this society held on April 22nd, a paper on "Women's Suffrage" was read by Miss Tillie Evans, of Clifton



House School. The Rev. R. H. Mole presided. Mr. A. L. Jones, in a forcible speech in favour of women's suffrage, moved that this meeting is of opinion that the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to duly qualified woman, and, whilst it recognises the complex difficulties which the Government have to face in their attempt to settle the Irish question, is also of opinion that the Bill which passed its second reading in the House of Commons on Thursday, February 18th, should become law during the present session. Mr. F. E. Hamer seconded the motion, which was supported by other speakers, and on being put to the vote was carried unanimously. The meeting then closed.

#### SCARBOROUGH.

The subject under discussion at the Scarborough Debating Society on April 19th was "Woman's Suffrage." The chair was taken by Mr. Russell, and Mr. Maude opened the subject in favour of woman's rights. Messrs. Taylor, Lupton, Smith (Leeds), Atwood (Grimsby), and Larkin, defended the rights of women in most vigorous terms, while Messrs. Merryweather, Bradley, Winn, and others thought it premature, and expressed opinions that woman shone the brightest, and was best fitted for training young minds at home, and played no less a part in the nation's welfare in that sphere than the opposite sex did in sending men to Parliament. The voting was largely in favour of women's suffrage.

#### POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

##### HATCHAM LIBERAL CLUB.

On May 2nd, Mrs. Ashton Dilke gave an address on Women and Work, to a crowded meeting of the members of the Hatcham Liberal Club; Mr. W. Gardner in the chair. A resolution in favour of the Woman Suffrage Bill was moved and seconded, and an interesting debate followed, in the course of which Mrs. Symes effectively pleaded the political claims of her sex, and Messrs. Haggis, Shelly, and Wheatley spoke. The resolution was carried with two dissentients only. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Dilke, which was cordially rendered, closed the proceedings.

##### MEETING OF CONSERVATIVES AT WHITLEY.

Mr. E. Garnet Man in addressing a meeting of Conservative delegates at Whitley, on the afternoon of April 27th, Lord Feversham presiding, remarked that common sense and common justice demanded that women who pay direct taxes to the State should be admitted into the rights of citizenship and have a vote allowed them. That it was absurd to allow a vote to the coachman who drives the lady who pays him and yet not allow her also to have a vote. His remarks were heard with enthusiasm.

In the evening at a meeting of 1200 in the West Cliffe Theatre, Mr. Becket, M.P., for Whitley, and Mr. Man again addressed the audiences, and remarked on the power that women wielded and their rights to the franchise in reference to the Primrose League.

At Ditchingham and Bungay in Norfolk, on April 28th and 29th, at Primrose League meetings, Mr. Man referred to the same subject. His remarks were applauded, and at all the meetings addressed by him no dissentient voices were raised against the motion.

#### SCOTLAND.

The funeral of Mr. Duncan McLaren, late member for Edinburgh, took place on May 1st, in St. Cuthbert's churchyard. There was a funeral sermon in St. Giles' Cathedral. The funeral was a public one, attended by the Lord Provost and the city magnates, and a large circle of private friends. Among the wreaths with which the coffin was covered was one from the Edinburgh Women Suffrage Society. A resolution was passed by the committee expressing their high appreciation of the character of the deceased gentleman, and of the value of his long services in the cause of the enfranchisement of women. Resolutions of a similar character were adopted by the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, and by the Central Committee in London.

Since our last issue, petitions in favour of the Women's Franchise Bill have been adopted by the Councils of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and Lochmaben, by the Dollar Liberal Association, the Dalkeith District Conservative Association, the Edinburgh Southern District Conservative Association.

#### THE PIT-BROW WOMEN AGITATION.

##### THE MINES REGULATION BILL.

###### WOMEN ON THE PIT-BROW: DEPUTATION TO MR. CHILDERS.

Mr. Childers on May 14th received a deputation from the Mining Association of Great Britain in reference to the Mines Regulation Bill to be introduced to Parliament by the Government. The Home Secretary was accompanied by Mr. Broadhurst. The deputation was headed by Mr. C. M. Palmer, M.P., Mr. Handel Cossam, M.P., Mr. W. Tomlinson, M.P., and Colonel Blundell, M.P., and consisted of representatives from Northumberland and Durham, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, the Midland counties, North Staffordshire, South Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Somersetshire, and North Wales. The object of the deputation was to show that some of the suggested alterations in the Mines Regulation Act of 1872 were not likely to advance the object of increased safety in certain mines, and to controvert certain statements made by a deputation of miners who waited upon the Home Secretary some time ago. Mr. Tomlinson, M.P., introduced the deputation. After the discussion on other subjects,

Mr. A. HEWLETT (Wigan) said the miners' deputation had told the Home Secretary that it was desired by the miners that women should no longer be employed about mines. A great number of women were employed only at the pit surface in Lancashire, Cheshire, and North and South Wales, and he could say from an experience extending over thirty years, and from having employed something like a thousand persons, that it was neither the wish of the families themselves nor of the great bulk of the colliers in those districts that the women should be prohibited from working. The work was healthy and by no means laborious, and the women received from 10s. 6d. to 11s. per week, which formed no inconsiderable part of the earnings of the families in these bad times.

In the course of some conversation it was stated that in other districts there was no desire on the part of the colliers for the women to follow such employment.

##### PUBLIC MEETING AT ST. HELENS.

On May 4th a large and enthusiastic public meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of considering the intended interference by act of Parliament with the employment of women on pit banks, and the desirability of adopting a petition to Parliament in favour of securing the continuance of such employment. There was a good number of pit girls present, who manifested the greatest enthusiasm and interest in the proceedings. The Mayor (Alderman M'Bryde) presided, and was supported on the platform by the Revs. Canon Carr, LL.D., Harry Mitchell, M.A. (vicar of Pemberton), J. C. Pigot, A. A. Nunn, W. Flaherty, W. Edmundson, J. T. Canner (Church of England); W. C. Taylor (Baptist); R. J. Ward (Congregational); Frs. Dignam and Mordaunt, Mr. A. Sinclair, J.P.; Councillors J. C. Gamble, J.P., J. Forster, and F. J. Brown; Mr. R. Belsler, Major Ogle, Mr. Pownall, city missionary; Mr. William Battersby and Mr. Wm. Wogan (miners); Mr. T. Glover (miners' agent), and others.

The Mayor, who was received with great applause, said he had convened that meeting in pursuance of a very numerous signed requisition for the purpose of considering the threatened interference by act of Parliament with the employment of women on pit brows. The subject had engaged the attention of the people residing in all the districts where those women had found employment for a long time past, and from what he could gather the idea seemed to be that the proposed prohibition of the employment would be an unwarrantable and unnecessary interference with their rights to earn an honest living. (Cheers.) He was pleased to have a gentleman on the platform who was deeply interested in the movement, and who would give them some valuable information on the subject.

The Rev. H. MITCHELL, who received a very cordial greeting, said to attack the pit-brow women was only the first instalment of a crusade against all field work, &c., for women, which would mean no more potato getting for women, no harvest work for women, no more hop picking for women, and perhaps it would end in having no more milk maids. In the collieries in the Pemberton district they had now at work 133 single women who were maintaining themselves comfortably by working on pit brows. God grant that they might never need the permanent channel of unofficial help, for that

inevitably meant pauperism. (Hear, hear.) If the proportion between the unmarried and the married pit-brow women in the whole of Lancashire was the same as in Pemberton, it would be, in round numbers, 300 married women and 1,300 unmarried ones. Were they to be reduced to the miserable condition of the unemployed, or were they to be forced to compete with those already half-starved girls of Manchester with their 6s. a week? He wished them to consider that those pit-brow women were held in high esteem and honour, that their labour was not only their only support but also that of hundreds of helpless fathers and mothers, &c., and also that their labour was the healthiest manual labour within their reach. Then it followed that if the British Parliament should take away the right of those women to earn an honest living it would commit an act of tyranny which would disgrace the nation. (Cheers.) He knew that 99 out of every 100 Lancashire men found it hard to believe that any sane man could contemplate the carrying out of such a gross injustice. After tracing the rising of the movement against the women, he said he waited for someone to start one in their favour until he could wait no longer, and he called the meeting at Pemberton, and the result was like a train of fired gunpowder. Similarly successful meetings had been held wherever large numbers of the women were employed, and in consequence of which there had been a great change of public opinion. Mr. Seton-Karr, M.P., was only one amongst scores of others who had changed their minds on obtaining a full insight into the question. (Cheers.) But, though Mr. Childers might not insert the clause, it was certain that it would be brought up as an amendment, probably in the form of a ten years' limitation, and it was against such an interference that that meeting would protest. They ought to make the women's case quite secure by proving to the members of Parliament that any interference with the rights of those women would be vigorously opposed. The plain question was—Had men any more right to interfere with the honest and respectable labour of women than women had to interfere with the labour of men? He thought they would all say no to that question. Let the work die out of itself by all means, as it would do so, if the women could find easier and better work to do, but it was simply a crime for the men to call in the iron hand of law to force the women out of their employment. (Applause.) Referring to the action of the Trades Congress, he asked—Has it come to this, that the nation which cast off the tyranny of kings is now to obey meekly the dictation of the Trades Unions? If it came to a fight between the Trades Unions and the women and their friends, in the long run the Trades Unions would suffer most. In conclusion he urged all present to stand up for fair play and common justice. (Loud cheers.)

Councillor J. FORSTER moved the following resolution:—"That the Mayor be requested to prepare and sign on behalf of this meeting a petition to Parliament against the passing of any measure for the prohibition of the employment of women on coal pit brows, and to forward such petition to the member of Parliament for this borough, for presentation." He said it would be an injustice to prevent women from working on pit brows. The question had sprung upon them very suddenly, from an unknown source. It was impossible to draw the line at coal pit brow girls. In St. Helens they were concerned with most of the occupations mentioned by Mr. Mitchell, and also the employment of women in glass-works, and if they were prevented from working, 500 women would be thrown upon the streets of St. Helens to get a living as best they could. He, however, thought that the petition would have such an effect that Mr. Childers would not allow such an amendment to be carried. (Cheers.)

The Rev. A. A. NUNN heartily seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. W. BATTERSBY.

Mr. WILLIAM WOGAN (miner) said he was glad to know that Lancashire men objected to the women being pushed out of their employment.

Mr. THOMAS GLOVER (miners' agent) thought that if those who objected to the employment of women could stand on that platform and see the healthy faces of the girls present they would readily withdraw their objection. (Cheers.) It had been said that miners' agents were against their employment, but he would tell them that he was not, and he was the leader of the miners of the St. Helens district. (Cheers.) When the question was put down upon the miners' programme, it did not receive his sanction or support. He never heard of the question at any of the national conferences before it was brought forward at the conference held at Birming-

ham, at which he was present, but did not stay to the conclusion. After all the delegates from Lancashire had left the conference, the question was shuffled through without any debate. He had worked on the pit brow as a check-weighman for four years and a half, during which time he never saw a demoralising act. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried amid the greatest enthusiasm, not a single hand being held up against it.

Votes of thanks were adopted to the Rev. H. Mitchell, and to the Mayor for presiding, and the meeting terminated.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE DAYS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

The following document, given in "Archæologia," vol. xxxv., gives an account of the customs of local government in the manor of Aston and Coat, Oxfordshire:—

A CUSTOMARY OR NOTE of such Customes as hath bin used time out of mind in Aston and Coat, in ye parish of Bampton, in ye County of Oxon; and is att this time vsed and kept as appeareth by ye Sixteens, who hath hervnto, with ye consent of ye Inhabitants of ye sayd Aston and Coat, sett their Hands and Seales the Sixt day of September in ye 35th yeare of Queen Elizabeth anno domini 1593.

1. The Custome is that vpon our Lady Day Eve every yeare all the Inhabitants of Aston and Coat shall meet att Aston Crosse about three of ye clock in ye afternoone, or one of every House, to vnderstand who shall serue for ye Sixteens for that yeare coming and to chuse other officers for ye same yeare.

2. The sayd Sixteens being knowen, ye Hundred Tennants of ye same Sixteens doe divide themselues some distance from ye Lords Tennants of ye sayd Sixteens. And ye Hundred Tennants doe chuse one grasse Steward and one water Hayward, and ye Lords Tennants doe chuse two grasse Stewards and one water Hayward.

3. After ye said officers are chosen and knowen, the sayd inhabitants do referr themselves to such orders and Paines for breaking ye sayd orders as shall be sett downe by ye sayd Sixteens, or ye maior part of them, for that yeare, as well for ye hayneing (i.e., obtaining) of ye comons as for ye breaking of ye comons, or for any other orders which they conceaue beneficiall for ye said Inhabitants of Aston and Coat.

4. The sayd Sixteens hath not any authority to make any orders, or to set any ameracements touching ye comons, except there be and doe meet att ye Crosse nine of ye sayd Sixteens att ye time and those nine may pinn ye rest of ye Sixteens.

The Custome is yt no teame shall be in ye Inn Mead after sunset to fetch away any hay or grasse vpon paine of two shillings every teame soe offending.

5. The Custome is that if any of ye Inhabitants of Aston and Coat aforesayd doe fayle to appeare vpon our Lady Eve, or some-one of every House for him, the parties making default to forfeit and pay foure pence.

6. If there be any fault found by any of ye Inhabitants aforesayd contrary to ye order made by ye Sixteens, or nine of them, the same Inhabitants, or those that finde ye fault may cause the Stewards, or one of ye sayd Stewards, to warn ye Sixteens to ye Crosse, to see some redresse; and if ye sayd Sixteens upon ye same warning, doe not come at ye time apoynted, every one making default to forfeit and pay foure pence. And 'tis also lawfull for ye Stewards and ye body of ye Towne to pinn ye Sixteens to pay foure pence for every fault trespassed and approved as aforesayd.

7. The ordinary dayes for ye Sixteens to meet without warning are, on ye Tuesday in Easter week, ye Wednesday in ye Rogation week or Crosse week, the Wednesday in ye Whitson week and upon Lamas Eue; and every fayleing to forfeit foure pence.

8. The custome is that ye Cheife Lord of Bampton Hundred shall haue every yeare a draught with a lawfull Net in ye common water of Aston and Coat, and noe more; and if he draw his Net up, he is not by ye Custome to put in his Net again for that yeare.

9. Cricket Ham is yearly to pay for coming over Beareheads Bridge sixpence; the Gally Acres in Bosingay Mead, twelve pence. And every person that hath meadow and noe feeding must rid their Hay by Lamas Eue att noone, or otherwayes they cannot after ye same time carry away their Hay, but is to be eaten by the Cattle of



ye Inhabitants of Aston and Coat aforesayd. And att ye laying out of Bosingay Mead ye occupiers of ye Gally Acres are to bring with them into ye Mead to ye Layers-out, euery one of them, one gallon of Ale and a cast of Bread.

10. The Sixteens are to sett and remoue their stones in ye Mead of Aston and Coat as often as need shall require.

11. After our Lady Eue that ye whole Towne haue mett together, and that they haue referd all matters unto ye new Sixteens hands for that yeare, they are not to meddle any further for that yeare than this: that if they finde any fault with ye new Sixteens that they doe not their office, then they are to tell them of such faults as they finde; and if ye said Sixteens doe not mend those faults, then ye said Inhabitants and Stewards may pound them as aboue-sayd: that is to pay foure-pence for euery fault.

12. The custome is and hath bin that ye said Sixteens shall and may distraine for any forfeitures made if any shall refuse to pay upon demand.

This auncient Custome haue bin confirm'd in ye 35 yeare of Queen Elizabeth, 1593, by most of ye substantial Inhabitants of Aston and Coat, videl.

- ROGER MEDHOR, Gent. The Marke of JOH. NEWMAN.
The Marke of RICH. STACY. The Marke of RICH. FFRYME.
The Marke of ELIZ. ALDER. The Marke of ROB. COXITER.
The Marke of JOH. HUMPHRIS. The Marke of WILL. HANKES.
The Marke of MARGERY YOUNG. The Marke of ANNE STARTVPP.
The Marke of JOH. BRICKLAND. The Marke of WILL. FISHER.
The Marke of WILL. YOUNG. The Marke of JOHN PRYOR.
The Marke of THO. WALTER. The Marke of ROB. CLARK.
The Marke of WILL. WAYLE. The Marke of JOHN CLINCH.

—Copied from "Archæologia," vol. xxxv., p. 472, published by the Society of Antiquaries of London (1853).

MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The province of New Brunswick in the Dominion of Canada has followed the example of Ontario and Nova Scotia of extending the municipal franchise to women. On April 2nd, 1886, the Bill, having passed both Houses of the Legislature, was signed by the Lieutenant Governor, and became law. Unmarried women and widows in that province are now entitled to vote on the same terms as men, in the civil elections of the year. The election day was April 6th.

The St. John Globe says: "The spirit and expedition with which both the Common Council and the Legislature have acceded this right is as graceful to us as the privilege itself. And that we have aldermen and legislators so far in advance of other supposedly more enlightened communities, is a matter of pride to us. For years the Massachusetts Legislature has thrown out a similar Bill, notwithstanding its repeated presentation. And New Brunswick has the honour to-day of teaching a lesson of justice and right to that august body."

CORRESPONDENCE.

TRIBUTE FROM LORD SALISBURY TO THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL ACTION.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—It has often been raised as an objection to the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women that their action in practical politics would not be prudent. It was, therefore, with great pleasure I read in Lord Salisbury's speech, in moving the adoption of the report of the Grand Habitation of the Primrose League at the meeting held in Her Majesty's Theatre, the following remarks: "Its (the Primrose League) hand and power were felt everywhere. It provided volunteer agents, volunteer officers, and volunteer assistants; yet the agency was not of any kind to which the strictest and purest politician could object. (Applause.) On the contrary, I confess, notwithstanding some apprehensions I had entertained, no objection has been in any way raised against the perfect prudence and perfect legality of the Primrose League throughout the country—(cheers)—and it is fair to say, as the report has called your attention to the very large share which the feminine element

contributed to this organisation, it is evident that that element of additional strength, not only did not detract from, but added to the prudence and respect for the law which the Primrose League has always displayed." This tribute ought to dispel the fears of some of the opponents of women's suffrage.—Yours very truly,

ALAN GREENWELL.

8, Alma Road, Clifton, Bristol, May 20.

AN EDUCATIONAL PALACE.

Holloway College, Egham, which is to be opened by Her Majesty the Queen in the course of the present month, truly deserves the above designation. Placed on an elevated situation commanding an extensive view over Windsor Forest, and standing amid ninety acres of its own grounds, the building is in every way worthy of its situation and of the purpose to which it is to be devoted, namely, the provision of a liberal education for women.

The design owes its inception to the suggestion of the wife of the founder. Mr. Thomas Holloway, having amassed a large fortune and being childless, desired to devote his wealth to the founding of some institution which should be a benefit to society. Mrs. Holloway urged that, instead of partitioning his gifts among hospitals or other existing institutions, he should found a college on the education of women. At that time there was no thought of Girton or Newnham—the idea of a women's college was new. Mr. Holloway listened to the counsel of his wife. He determined that his college should be a tribute of devotion to her, and that it should be the most perfect building that could be devised for its purpose. With this end in view he caused his architect to visit and report on many collegiate buildings in this and other countries in order to choose the best plans. The operations were to be conducted on the principle that the very best of everything was to be procured, and nothing that money could buy was to be spared in the arrangements. The fund devoted to the building and endowment of the college will, it is believed, amount to the sum of seven hundred thousand pounds. This incomparably munificent gift was not, like so many so-called "munificent bequests," kept by the owner for himself until he could no longer use it, and then bestowed. The estate was vested during the lifetime of the donor in trustees.

The architect, Mr. Crossland, has produced a magnificent building. The college is something in the form of the letter H with the ends closed in by cross buildings. The sides form long corridors with students' rooms on each side; there are three stories in each corridor. The cross buildings contain the chapel, picture gallery, dining hall, museum, library, recreation rooms, &c. The pictures were purchased at celebrated art sales during the past few years, and include many masterpieces by the best modern artists. The college is designed to accommodate about 250 students. The fees will be about £100 a year for each student.

It is a sad reflection that neither Mr. nor Mrs. Holloway lived to see the consummation of their project. Mrs. Holloway died about six years ago, and her husband then determined that the college should be his monument to her memory. Perhaps in the whole world there is but one building erected by a man as a commemoration of his wife that can rival it in costliness and perfection. In the great Indian empire, which owns the sway of the Sovereign who will this month inaugurate the Holloway College, there is at Agra the world-renowned Taj, the tomb of the beautiful Nourmahal, on which the wealth and riches of an Indian king were expended to produce the most marvellous and costly monument that the power of man could execute. Each stone, each portion of the building, is enriched with devices and thought expressed in the most precious stones. But the monument that is raised to the memory of the Englishwoman will be graven with impressions not in carved and jewelled stone, but in cultured minds and souls. The generations of girls and women who will owe to Holloway College the training that will help them to be true and noble women, and the mothers of noble men, will, as they succeed one another, build up in the future of the nation a house not made with hands—a monument not carved in stone and marble—but impressed on minds and hearts; a fame eternal and imperishable as the souls that will be helped forward in the work of life by the gifts they will have owed to the beneficence which has created this magnificent foundation.

WEST COUNTRY LEAGUE OF THE UNREPRESENTED.

The following circular has been issued by the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage:

THE WEST COUNTRY LEAGUE OF THE UNREPRESENTED.

Madam,—You may know that for twenty years the National Society for Women's Suffrage has laboured to procure the Parliamentary vote for those women who, as heads of households, have a legitimate claim to direct representation, and that it directed special effort to have them included in the Reform Act of 1884.

The anomaly of their exclusion was keenly felt during the general election in November last, when so large a number of voters was added to the electorate,—in many cases men who were only entitled to become voters by virtue of the rates paid by the still unenfranchised women householders.

The present Parliament, by passing the second reading of the Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women without a division, has shown itself prepared to concede their claims; but the pressure of the many questions now demanding attention from the legislature calls for some emphatic expression of desire from women themselves, to aid the friends of the movement in the House of Commons in pressing on the Bill to its final stage.

Whatever the political party which commends itself to their individual sympathies, women of every rank, class, and denomination can unite on the broad basis of a claim like this, involving important moral and social issues. We therefore ask if you will join a League of the Unrepresented for the West of England, with the view to create a compacted body of opinion amongst women, to the strengthening of the supporters of the question in Parliament.

Every member of the league must be a woman over 21. The condition of membership will be to sign the accompanying declaration, whereby the signer undertakes to use her influence to promote the object of the league. On receipt of the signed declaration a card of membership will be sent to the signer, who will be kept informed from time to time of the progress of the movement. Each declaration should be accompanied by not less than 1s. to meet the expenses of organising the league. Subscribers of 5s. or upwards will be entitled to receive the Women's Suffrage Journal monthly, for one year.

Trusting you will unite in this effort to express the convictions of so many women and to carry forward an important measure of justice.—We remain, yours faithfully,

LILLIAS ASHWORTH HALLETT, } Hon. Secs.
EMILY STURGE, }
HELEN BLACKBURN, Secretary.

FORM OF DECLARATION.

I, the undersigned, being of full age, desire to express my entire concurrence in the effort to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women, who as heads of households fulfil the constitutional conditions of citizenship; and by adding my name to the League of the Unrepresented, to record my determination to bring this question before the attention of electors, or if opportunity offers before candidates and members of Parliament.

Signature ..... \* Here state if householder or landowner; holding University or educational degree or certificate; or following trade or profession.
\*Qualification .....
Postal Address.....
Date.....

N.B.—This declaration when signed to be returned to the Secretary of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage, 20, Park-street, Bristol, from whom copies for circulation can be obtained.

No signature will be used for publication unless specially authorised.

A CHILD HEROINE.

During the recent terrific cyclone in Minnesota, a little girl was nursing a baby in a garden, when she observed the storm approaching. Making all haste, she rushed with the infant to the house, but ere the shelter was reached a splinter transfixed her body. The horrified mother had just time to hide with the children in the cellar. The child said, "Mother, I am dying, but I saved the baby."

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MAY, 1886.

Table listing names and amounts for subscriptions and donations, including Miss H. Rigbye, Messrs. A. Ireland & Co., Miss Bertha Mason, Mrs. Long, Mr. John Every, Rt. Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., Mrs. Roby, Mrs. Kenderline, Miss Stacey, Mrs. Dawson (London), Mrs. J. C. Hollins, Mr. F. C. Dawson, Mrs. Smith (Kettering), Mrs. D. Vero (Batley), Mrs. J. Brooke (Batley), Miss Smith (special fund), Mrs. Dowson, Mrs. Whittaker, Mrs. Orlando Oldham, Miss Wilnot, Mrs. J. C. Hibbert, Mrs. A. Sidway, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Curfew, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Brooke, Mrs. Pointon, Mrs. T. Barlow, Mrs. Maloney, Mrs. J. K. Smith, Mrs. J. Swain, Miss M'Arthur, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Derbyshire, Mr. Edward Bannister, J.P., Mrs. John Winttingham, Mr. Hy. Smethurst, J.P., sen., Mr. Henry Smethurst, Mr. Mundahl, Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Geo. Alward, Mr. Wm. Jackson, Mr. Jas. Thorpe, Mr. J. Russell, Mr. Harrison Mudd, Mr. Plaitow, Mr. Wm. Mudd, Messrs. Moss and Sons, Mrs. Grange, Mr. Wm. Stevenson, Mr. D. Pick, Mr. James Alward, Mr. C. Gulyer.

THOMAS DALE, TREASURER, 23, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Table listing names and amounts for subscriptions from April 28th to May 28th, 1886, including Mrs. Paulton, Mrs. Hensleigh Wedgwood, The Rev. C. L. Norman, Mr. J. Staines Babb, Mrs. Glover, Mr. Woodward, Miss Mabel Holland, Mr. Wm. Shenn, Mrs. Henry Taylor, Dr. Roberts, Miss Jane Ellis, Miss Foxley, Miss Nevham, Mr. Trice Martin, Miss Agnes Johnson, Mrs. Lough, Mrs. Clarke Keen, Miss Clark, Miss Rees, Miss Crossman, Miss Augusta Reid.

SPECIAL FUND FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Table listing names and amounts for special fund for public meetings, including Donations already acknow., lodged, Mr. George Courtlaud, Mr. C. T. Hicks, Mrs. Rudd.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

Table listing names and amounts for subscriptions from April 22nd to May 25th, 1886, including Mr. Bullivant (Victoria, Australia), Mr. Herbert Thomas, Miss Schaw Protheroe, Mr. John Cory (Cardiff), Lady Bowring, Miss Agnes Tanner, Mr. R. Cory (Cardiff), Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Belben (Wimborne), Mrs. Colman, Mrs. Graveley, Miss F. Leonard, Mrs. F. J. Thompson, Mrs. A. Thompson, Mrs. W. Thompson, Mrs. Perry, Miss Thompson.

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Printed by A. IRELAND & Co., Manchester, for the Proprietors, and Published by Messrs. Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London, and Mr. JOHN HEYWOOD, Manchester.—June 1, 1886.—Entered at Stationers' Hall,