

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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genuine, always see  
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### MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The whole principle on which the Marriage Law of this land is based is involved in the acceptance or rejection of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. In all countries where the Marriage Law differs from our own in this particular it differs in others, not generally acceptable even to Marriage Law reformers, permitting marriage not only with a husband's brother, or a man and his stepdaughter, but between such near blood relations as uncle and niece. THOSE WHO DO NOT DESIRE TO SEE THESE CHANGES SHOULD DO THEIR UTMOST TO MAINTAIN THE LAW AS IT IS.

### MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION.

An Appeal from the Women of England ... 1d.  
The Woman's View of the Question ... 1d.  
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A Lady's Letter to a Friend, on behalf of those who do not wish to Marry their Brothers ... 3d.  
What Miss Lydia Becker says... 3d.  
A Sister-in-Law's Plea for Mercy ... per doz. 2d.  
A Woman's Opinion on the Wife's Sister Bill 3d.

May be had at 35, King-street, Westminster, S. W.

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

Marriage with a deceased wife's sister is permitted by every Christian State in the world, England allowing it in her Colonies.  
None of these States desires to re-impose the restriction maintained in the United Kingdom. The people would in no instance consent to such a reversal of the law.  
The House of Commons has seven times, by large majorities, passed a Bill through all its stages with the object of legalising marriages of this kind in England.  
A considerable majority of the 670 members in the present Conservative House have either voted for such a change or expressed their strong sympathy with it.  
The number of living Peers who have at any time supported the Bill much exceeds the number of those who have opposed it.  
An alteration of the law is advocated in the interests of young children, and, on high moral and philanthropic grounds, an earnest appeal is made to mothers in every section of society for their co-operation in this work.  
MARRIAGE LAW REFORM ASSOCIATION, 21, PARLIAMENT-STREET, S. W.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

## DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. If desired, petitions ready for signature will be forwarded on application to the office of this *Journal*; but it is better that friends should prepare their own petitions according to the following directions:—

Write out the form given below on a sheet of foolscap or other large paper.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes should have the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

Women householders may sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

## FORM FOR QUALIFIED WOMEN ONLY.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of

SHEWETH,

That your petitioners possess qualifications which would entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions to the House of Lords should run as follows:—

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes ought to have votes for members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure which may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and some signatures *must be on the same piece of paper as the heading*. If more room is required, more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions should be forwarded with a letter to the member who is to present it, addressed to him at the House of Commons, London, S.W., or they may be sent to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded.

## FORMS FOR USE IN THE COLONIES.

The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women in the United Kingdom would be an incentive to

similar legislation in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, and would tend to raise the position of women throughout the civilised world.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions from the Colonies should be sent for presentation to the Commons to the Right Hon. Edward Stanhope, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, House of Commons, London, S.W. Petitions for the Lords should be sent to the Right Hon. the Earl of Dunraven, House of Lords, London, S.W.

## MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

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The Executive Committee of the above Society desire respectfully to call attention to its object and operations, and to make an appeal for donations and subscriptions in view of the present critical period of the movement.

Funds are especially needed to maintain the circulation of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, which is now sent gratuitously to every member of both Houses of Parliament, to all newspapers in the three Kingdoms, and to most of the leading newspapers in the Colonies. By this means the question is kept constantly before the eyes of members of the Legislature and of the press; and all facts and arguments bearing on the progress of the movement are brought immediately within the cognizance of the depositaries of political power and of the instructors of the public mind. The *Journal* is also sent to many free public libraries, and to political clubs and associations of all parties. It is desirable greatly to increase the circulation in these quarters. Friends are asked to assist by subscribing for the *Journal* to be sent to clubs and public libraries in their district, as well as by contributing to the fund for maintaining the present circulation of the *Journal* among public bodies and officials. Funds are also needed for carrying on the general work of the Society, contributions for which are respectfully and earnestly requested.

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JUNE 1, 1888.

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We have this month the satisfaction of recording the greatest step forward which has been made in our movement since the restoration to women of their electoral rights in municipal government in 1869. The Local Government Electors Act, which received the Royal Assent on May 16th, extends to women the franchise in the election of county authorities in England and Wales, in accordance with the precedent and the conditions of the existing Municipal Corporations Acts.

Lord BALFOUR, in introducing the Bill in the House of Lords, explained that the register of electors in County districts would be made in three divisions. Division 1 would contain the names of persons entitled to vote both in Parliamentary and County elections. Division 2 the names of persons entitled to vote in Parliamentary but not in County elections. Division 3, persons entitled to vote in County but not in Parliamentary elections. This last division, Lord BALFOUR said, would contain the names of women ratepayers, and of such members of their Lordships' House as were qualified to vote in County elections.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY, in commenting on the Bill, expressed his dissatisfaction with this complicated system of registration, and his hope that ultimately the Parliamentary and County franchise would be assimilated, so that there should be only one register for all elections in each district.

THE new rule of the House of Commons, which came into operation after Whitsuntide, appears to destroy the probability that Baron DIMSDALE'S Bill can be brought forward on the day for which it is set down—on the 6th June. It had the second place on the paper; but, under the new rule, all Bills which have passed second reading take precedence of Bills waiting for second reading, and all Bills which are in Committee take precedence of Bills waiting for Committee. On the 6th of June there are already set down two Bills for Committee and one in Committee, so that the chance of any Bill which is waiting

for second reading being brought forward on that day appears to be exceedingly remote.

Under these circumstances it will be for the Parliamentary friends of the Bill to consider the best course to pursue. A meeting of the Parliamentary committee is arranged for Monday, June 4th, with a view to consider measures for pressing the further progress of the Bill during the present session.

THE impressive ceremonial which took place last month, at Vienna, in the unveiling of the MARIA THERESA monument may be regarded as not only a tribute to the memory of the great Empress-Queen herself, but as a recognition of the political capacities of woman. Many of the greatest sovereigns of Europe have been women, and it is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that none of the European monarchies which admit women to the line of succession to the crown have been overthrown in the course of the events that have, within the present century, transformed the map of Europe.

Among the greatest of sovereigns MARIA THERESA takes an honoured place, and the empire which owes so much to her courage and capacity has done well to erect this monument to her honour.

The memorial represents the Empress surrounded by all the leading men of her time. The figure is majestic, imposing, and at the same time so beautiful as to be an admirable likeness of the Empress, who was one of the greatest beauties of her day. She sits on a throne; her hair is uncovered, and adorned only by a diadem; the neck and part of the bust are bare; her right arm is stretched out as if shielding her people; on her left arm rests the sceptre, the symbol of her imperial dignity; while the left hand clasps the roll representing the Pragmatic Sanction whence was derived her title to the throne.

The Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH, in honour of his illustrious ancestor, had ordered the whole of the Imperial House to attend. He further desired the presence of the

representatives of all the statesmen, generals, artists, and men of science who appear among the groups on the monument. In presence of this illustrious assemblage, on Sunday, May 13th, the signal was given for the unveiling of the monument. The Emperor and the whole Court uncovered, the Imperial bodyguard fired twelve volleys, a battery placed behind the monument fired a salute of one hundred guns, the church bells rang out a peal, Cardinal GANGLBAUER intoned the *Te Deum*, and the bands played the Austrian National Hymn. Thus ended the ceremonial of unveiling a monument which is not merely the best ornament which Vienna possesses, but one of the greatest works of monumental art in any country. And all this in honour of a woman.

THERE were present at the ceremonial sixty-five members of the Imperial family, the descendants of the Empress-Queen. The series ended with the daughter and only child of the Crown Prince, a girl of four years of age. This Princess stands in the direct line of succession to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and it is possible that, at some distant day, she may be called upon to preside over the destinies of the empire. In view of this possibility it is not without significance, both to the Princess herself and to the lands which may hereafter submit to her sway, that this monument to her illustrious ancestor should have been set up to remind the people what a woman sovereign can do for her country, and to hold up before the Princess a high ideal for her own aspirations.

ALMOST simultaneously with the ceremonial at Vienna in memory of MARIA THERESA, representatives of the fleets of all the European powers assembled at Barcelona to do honour to one of her descendants, the Queen Regent of Spain. Queen CHRISTINA appears to have inherited from her illustrious ancestor those high qualities of statesmanship which have enabled her to render to her adopted country services which no other ruler in recent times has been able to effect, by establishing the government on stable and popular lines, and by wise and prudent counsels pacifying internal dissensions and securing the friendly sympathy of foreign powers.

THERE is one relation by affinity who stands in an exceptional position with reference to the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, and that is the divorced wife's sister. We have always understood that the legal effect of a decree of divorce was the same as if the marriage had been

dissolved by death. Therefore, unless some provision to the contrary be inserted in the Bill now before the House of Commons, it would seem that marriage with a divorced wife's sister would be made legal. The effect of this would appear to be that the existing gross inequality of the English law of divorce as between husband and wife would be most cruelly intensified. At present, while the husband can divorce his wife for unfaithfulness alone, the wife must prove cruelty or desertion in addition before she can obtain the same relief. But in case the husband is guilty with a woman whom he could not legally marry if his wife were dead, the wife is entitled to a divorce without also needing to allege desertion or cruelty. If the wife's sister is to be henceforward a woman whom the husband would be free to marry after his wife's death, the wife's sister would be taken out of the category of these exceptional cases, and the wife would be deprived of her present right to a divorce from a husband who had been guilty with her sister. This is a matter which should receive careful attention in Committee of the House of Commons on the Bill.

### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS, *May 14th.* THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ENGLAND AND WALES) ELECTORS BILL.

LORD BALFOUR, in moving the second reading of the Local Government (England and Wales) Electors Bill, said in the course of his speech that the object of the Bill was to extend municipal franchise to counties, and it provided that in future the occupation of land to the extent of £10 a year should be a sufficient qualification. The register would be made up in the same manner as the municipal register now was. The register of occupiers was made up with three divisions; the first contained those qualified for the Parliamentary and municipal purposes; the second list was composed of those who were entitled to exercise the Parliamentary franchise only; and the third division consisted of those qualified for municipal and not Parliamentary purposes. The third division of the register would have placed upon it all the female occupiers duly qualified to vote, and any member of their lordships' House qualified to vote for the county councils.

THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY regarded the Local Government Bill generally as being based on a sound principle—namely, that of establishing county councils, which were to be elected directly by the inhabitants of the county. He should have been glad, however, to have the same franchise for the election of members of Parliament as for the election of the members of the county boards, but he fully recognised the fact that there were difficulties which could not be at once overcome. Still, he could not help entertaining the hope that it might be found possible in the future to assimilate the franchises and to simplify these very complicated registers. There was the objection to the proposed franchise that it left untouched another local franchise by which the boards of guardians were elected. For his own part, he could not conceive that it would be possible long to maintain these two franchises side by side with each other.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR wished to correct a misapprehension which might arise from a remark of his noble friend who moved the second reading. Peers were not prevented from taking part in elections by a resolution of the House of Commons, but by the common law of the land.

The Bill was read a second time and has since become law.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

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

##### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Birmingham Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on May 10th in the small theatre of the Birmingham and Midland Institute. The MAYOR (Councillor Pollock) presided; and among those present were Aldermen Cook and Downing, Councillors R. F. Martineau and Osler, Mr. H. Hawkes, Rev. Canon Bowlby, Mr. F. Impey, Mrs. A. C. Osler, Mrs. Ashford, Miss Taylor, Mrs. C. E. Mathews, Mrs. Barrow, Mrs. F. Impey, Mrs. G. S. Mathews, Mrs. Howard Smith, Mrs. Saxelby, Mrs. S. Heap, Mrs. A. Southall, Mrs. A. Harold, Mrs. T. S. Bartleet, Mrs. A. Dixon, Mrs. Timmins, Mrs. W. B. Smith, Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Windle, Mrs. Stanton, Miss G. Southall, Miss Julia Smith, Miss Youngerman, &c. A letter of apology was read from the president of the branch, the Rev. Dr. Crosskey.

The MAYOR said the main object of the society was to secure for women who now were permitted to vote at municipal elections the privilege of exercising the Parliamentary franchise. It would be very difficult indeed to assign any logical reason why a lady should not vote for a Parliamentary candidate, and unless it was intended to rescind the right now held by women to vote at municipal elections, it was very illogical to withhold from them the constitutional right of voting for a member of Parliament. There was a majority in the House of Commons in favour of the movement, and yet the question seemed to drag. He understood that was the eighteenth annual meeting, and it said a great deal for the persistency and patience of the ladies who were helping forward the movement. The opposition to the object the society had at heart was to a great extent sentimental, and his opposition to it was purely on sentimental grounds. He had asked himself why he, contrary to his sense of logic, could not cordially agree with those who were fighting for the realisation of the object of the society. It was not because he believed that woman was less intellectually endowed than man; it was not because he wished woman's sphere of action to be confined to the cares of her household; it was not because he thought her unable to consider municipal or political questions with lucidity and foresight; but because he believed that woman's interests were safest in the hands of man (laughter), and because his veneration for woman impelled him to desire that she should be kept out of political strife, that she should not be an instrument in the hands of political parties to gain their ends, that she should be spared the bitterness of the contentious spirit which had invaded their political life, and that her general activity, her kindly nature, and mental powers should be reserved to those spheres of action in the end and aim of which all classes and all parties concurred.

Mrs. A. C. OSLER (hon. sec.) read the report, which stated that the opportunity only was wanting for the immediate and final success of the work of the society. The cause of women's political emancipation had made great progress during the past few years. The recognition of women's political rights and duties had been more widespread and complete than could have been dreamed of ten years ago. At that time it was confined to the more advanced wing of the party of progress; but to-day it was common to every party and section of a party. It was undeniably to the organisers of the Primrose League that they largely owed that general recognition and the healthy stimulus which had resulted in the great increase of Women's Liberal Associations all over the country. The Birmingham Liberal Association's annual meeting this year had placed twenty-three women on the general council (the "Two Thousand") and four on the executive (the "Four Hundred"), an honourable recognition which was of real value to the cause of women's suffrage. All that could have but one issue. That women would be satisfied to give their time, talents, labour, and thought to political work, and yet remain legally political nonentities, was neither to be expected nor desired. To suppose that men of any party could be so lost to all sense of justice and honour as to accept the labour of women in public life, whilst denying them its privileges, was to offer an insult to English manliness. The present condition of things was anomalous to absurdity. In Birmingham, at the present time, women sat on the divisional councils, which declared the policy of the Parliamentary constituencies and selected their candidates, for whom when they were chosen no woman might vote. The committee, however, were hopeful that

such a state of things would not exist much longer, and that women would soon be able to vote at Parliamentary as well as municipal elections.

Miss TAYLOR read the financial statement, which was of a satisfactory character, and then said that women wanted the franchise because it would enable them the better to fulfil their duties to the community. It would help them to do more for the general well-being of the people at large—to fight more strongly against those laws they considered unjust, and to support with greater success those laws which were right and just. (Applause.)

Mr. HAWKES proposed the adoption of the report, observing that women had been allowed to vote at municipal elections for many years, and under the new Local Government Bill they would vote for members of the county councils. Therefore it was absurdly anomalous that they should not be permitted to vote for members of Parliament. A great amount of electioneering was done by ladies of the Liberal associations and the Primrose League, and it was nonsensical to say that they were unfit to exercise the Parliamentary franchise. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. ASHFORD seconded the resolution, which was carried. On the motion of the Rev. Canon BOWLBY, seconded by Mrs. F. IMPEY, a vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. Dr. Crosskey (president), Mrs. A. C. Osler (hon. sec.), and Miss Taylor (hon. treasurer), and they were re-elected.

The committee were appointed, on the proposition of Councillor MARTINEAU, seconded by Alderman Cook, and the meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding.

### DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

#### PORTLAND PLACE.

A meeting, convened to discuss the question of women's suffrage, was held at Mrs. Müller's drawing-room, at 86, Portland Place, on May 4th. The chair was taken by Miss MÜLLER, and she introduced Mrs. Fawcett, who delivered an address.

Baron DIMSDALE, M.P., followed, and traced the Parliamentary history of the question for the past twenty-one years, pointing out that the late Lords Beaconsfield and Iddesleigh were both in favour of it. He alluded to John Stuart Mill's Reform Bill of 1867, and pointed out the vast advance that had been made since then in the direction of giving power to women. He, in common with all the other speakers, disclaimed all political party bias for the movement, and he welcomed the existence of the Women's Liberal League, equally with that of the Primrose League, as evidence that women were beginning to take an active interest in State matters. Mrs. Stanton Blatch then addressed the assemblage.

Mr. WOODALL, M.P., said the question was merely one of time, that Mr. Ritchie's new Bill fully recognised the principle aimed at, that women worked on the School Board and in the administration of the Poor Law, and he confidently hoped for the success of the Bill, which would be introduced shortly after the Whitsuntide recess.

Mrs. TUBBS, of the Hastings School Board, argued that it was high time that the claims of women should be recognised. She took no interest in politics because she did not have a vote. True, she received tracts from Home Rule Associations and from the Primrose League urging her to advocate their diverse principles, and she had been asked by politicians to use her influence with workmen to vote one way or the other; but she would take no interest nor move in politics until she had a vote, for if she was qualified to advise she was qualified to vote.

A letter of apology for being unable to attend was read from Mrs. Duncan McLaren, and a vote of thanks to Miss Müller for presiding was passed on the motion of Mr. Costelloe, barrister-at-law. The evening was intended to give form to the idea that short political discussions of this kind might be possibly made pleasant substitutes for the usual musical form of social entertainment, and at the same time the hostess and her friends disclaimed all idea of associating their movement with any shade of any political party.

#### BATH.

A meeting of ladies, subscribers to the Society, and others interested in women's suffrage, was held at Russell House, Bath, on May 5th, the Countess of Portsmouth presiding. It was resolved to send a memorial from Bath, to the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., also to promote petitions in favour of the Women's Franchise Bill.

## IRELAND.

## NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The annual meeting of the North of Ireland Branch of the Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Lombard Hall, Belfast, on May 4th, the MAYORESS (Lady Haslett) presiding. There were also present Miss Tod, Mrs. Byers, Mrs. H. Thompson, Mrs. Riddell, Mrs. and Miss Black, Mrs. Money Penny, Mrs. J. Greenhill, Miss Killen, Mrs. Downer, Mrs. T. Thompson, Miss S. B. Thompson, Miss Woods, Miss May, Miss M'Tear, Miss Mulligan, &c.

Lady HASLETT said: It gives me much pleasure to preside over this meeting, and to assist in any way I can the object which your association has been established to promote. It appears only fair and reasonable that where women are registered occupiers of premises, and contribute for those to the taxation of the country, that the privilege of the franchise should follow. Whatever may be said of vexed questions in politics, there can be little doubt that women will take a deep interest in the many social questions, and I believe they will exercise a healthy influence on the representation of our country. You are to be addressed to-day by those who have given much attention to the subject, and I trust this meeting may be productive of much good. I now call upon the secretary to read the annual report. (Applause.)

Miss TOD then read the annual report, and submitted the financial statement. The report stated: Notwithstanding the loss of opportunity to bring the claim of women to the Parliamentary franchise before the House, the session did not pass fruitlessly for our cause. Early in the session Sir James Corry introduced a Bill dealing with the municipal franchise in Irish boroughs, which from various circumstances was eventually altered to one applying to Belfast only. Steps were immediately taken by your committee with a view to the introduction of a clause which would secure the municipal vote to women ratepayers, according to the principle which has obtained in England for a number of years. Much friendly help was received from members of both Houses of Parliament during the somewhat slow progress of the measure; and our cordial thanks are due to Sir James Corry and Lord Erne for sustaining our cause in the midst of discussions and alterations affecting other clauses of the Bill, until it became law. At the Belfast municipal elections of November, 1887, women voted for the first time, and in considerable numbers. A Women Ratepayers' Association has been formed to watch over both the interests and the duties which are involved in the possession of this new local power. It would have given your committee greater pleasure if they had been able to announce the extension of this franchise to women ratepayers in all Irish boroughs, and its restoration to those in small boroughs who were so unexpectedly deprived of it by a decision in the Queen's Bench a few years ago. But, as they had it not in their power to do anything further, they can at least congratulate you that this success will necessarily secure the rights of those ratepayers upon any future occasion of dealing with the boroughs, as it will be quite impossible to ignore the example which has been set.

The financial statement showed that there was a balance of £6. 10s. 2d. due to the treasurer.

Mrs. HENRY THOMPSON, in moving the adoption of the report, together with the financial statement, said she wondered what more could be added to what had already been spoken in reply to objections, frivolous and otherwise, which had been advanced against the cause. Women's suffrage sought to qualify woman to be the friend and companion of man, and the more perfectly this companionship was realised in every path of life, public and private, the more complete became our national character. She knew it had been called a "fad" and many other inappropriate titles. She had learned a lesson on the value of the vote when she called upon a gentleman, a candidate to represent the borough in the House of Commons. There were women who have not been behind them, but who have sometimes heavy responsibilities in the way of children to bring up, or a business out of which they must make a living, and pay all the taxes men have to pay. Surely even-handed justice should be meted out to them. If they fulfilled the duties had they not a right to the privileges? No one now ventured to say that it was not true that women should have a vote in Parliamentary

elections. It was admitted all round that they had a right to the suffrage, and were only disqualified by sex. She begged to move the adoption of the report and statement of accounts. (Applause.)

Mrs. RIDDEL seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Mrs. BYERS then moved the following resolution: "That the following be the committee for the ensuing year: Mrs. Black, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Byers, Mrs. Calder, Miss Sharman Crawford, Rev. Dr. Glasgow, Mrs. Forster Green, Miss Gregg, Miss Hardy, Lady Hay, Miss Hay, Mr. W. Johnston, M.P., and Mrs. Johnston, Miss Kirkpatrick, Rev. Mr. Lynd, Mrs. Lindsay, Miss M'Glade, Rev. Mr. Morell, Miss Mulligan, Mrs. A. C. Murphy, Mrs. Neill, Rev. J. M. Rodgers, Miss Tod, hon. secretary; Mrs. H. Thompson, Mrs. T. Thompson, Mr. R. Young." She had watched that agitation for a great many years; and that, is, if any demand that in itself is so reasonable, and that she had always heard advocated with so much clear and calm reasoning power by women, may be termed an agitation. A woman who has to make her way in the heavy competition that now exists has to be very careful not to wound the prejudices of her patrons. This may be a confession of weakness, but for all that it is true. She thought they should be very grateful to women like Miss Tod, who, having no personal interest in the vote themselves, are willing to bear all the odium and obloquy that still unfortunately attend those who proclaim that taxation in the case of women householders should have representation in Parliament as well as that of men. (Hear, hear.) She (Mrs. Byers) must say, however, she never attended a meeting like that, and she had gone to many of them, and never heard a woman pleading for the vote without a sense of shame—not, however, shame for the women who make the demand, but shame for the men in power who withhold it. (Hear, hear.) She felt ashamed that women should, by that treatment, be made to feel that they were of a different class, when everyone knew they were as patriotic as most men, and at least as competent to undertake an ordinary share in the duties of citizens as the illiterate, ignorant man who, happening to have his name on the rate-book, can now exercise the privilege of influencing the decisions of the nation on many important questions which affect women much more than men. She knew they had made a step in the right direction by the conferring on them of the municipal vote during the past year. They were grateful to the members of Parliament who agitated that they might have that privilege. She ventured to say the new voters in Belfast manifested such intelligence at the polling booths as would satisfy those most opposed to the reform that it was no dangerous power to place in the hands of women householders in Belfast. She belonged to a Church that had always allowed the class for whom they claim the Parliamentary vote to exercise that privilege in Church affairs. Next week, in their own congregation, they were about to elect an addition to the eldership. Who among its members would say that she should not use that privilege, but express her views in some way through her son or some other man, who were communicants and seat-holders? In such matters women who think for themselves will prefer to speak for themselves and to exercise the right they have of selecting men worthy to guide the Church. Just so in the lower and less important things of the world; they wanted householders to feel their responsibility to God, and to have the power of expressing what they personally felt, no matter what amount of confidence they placed in the views of the men around them. There were many questions in which women were interested, and on those questions, as well as on that of temperance, she would like as a ratepayer to be able to have a voice in the selection of proper representatives and righteous lawmakers. (Applause.)

Miss M'GLADE, in an excellent speech, seconded the resolution.

Miss TOD supported the resolution, which was adopted.

Mrs. THOMAS THOMPSON moved a vote of thanks to Lady Haslett for her kindness in presiding, and for the admirable manner in which she had discharged the duties of the chair.

The resolution having been seconded by Miss THOMPSON, it was put to the meeting by Miss TOD, and passed by acclamation.

Lady HASLETT acknowledged the vote, and the proceedings concluded.

## TRINITY COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

On March 21st a debate on women's franchise was opened, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Dawson. The debate was adjourned, and resumed on April 18th, and after an animated discussion the motion was carried in the affirmative by about two to one.

## SCOTLAND.

## PETITIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILS.

The Councils of the following burghs have petitioned in favour of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill:—Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, Arbroath, Linlithgow, Helensburgh, Wick, Torres, Port Glasgow, Paisley, Galashiels, total, 11. Also the convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs by a unanimous vote.

## POLITICAL SOCIETIES.

## MIDLAND UNION OF CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

## CONFERENCE AT DERBY: LADIES' AUXILIARY COUNCIL.

The quarterly conference in connection with this association was held on May 28th, at Derby. The proceedings commenced with a meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary Council, which was held in the Lecture Hall of the Mechanics' Institute. Lady GEORGE HAMILTON presided, and there were also present Lady King Hall, Loughborough; Lady Sawyer, Edgbaston, Birmingham; Lady Wilmot, Chaddesden; and many others.

Lady GEORGE HAMILTON, in her opening address, said there would be some interesting discussion presently on topics which came home to them all, so that she need scarcely trouble them with more than a few words of congratulation on the admirable services rendered by their association to the good cause, and on the brilliant career of usefulness which opened out before it. (Applause.)

Mrs. L. ASHWORTH HALLETT, of Bath, delivered an address upon the "Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill," as a reasonable and necessary development of the Constitution. After sketching the history of the Bill, she said it had been frequently shown that the English Constitution had gradually grown from the hereditary to the elective system, and it was the gradual nature of its growth, combining due Conservatism with due progress, that had formed its distinctive mark. In France, the hereditary system of Government was suddenly overthrown, in one Revolution; but in our own island the change had been very gradual, and both principles were still in action. The point, however, she would urge under the hereditary system was that the position of women was relatively higher than under the elective or democratic system. Under the former position women acted as sheriffs, and they held manors and kingdoms, and as ladies of the manor they held courts and executed justice, and from time to time they read of them remunerating members of Parliament. As Queens, they made or rejected laws, and condemned or pardoned offenders. What applied to Queens applied also to ladies of less degree. So much of the influences of the hereditary or aristocratic principle of the Constitution, with its ancient chivalry and faith—the age of knights and dames—show whence the Primrose League drew its symbols and methods. But the rapid extension of the democratic system had been followed by a distinct, but she believed temporary, lowering of the political position of women. She sometimes thought that the position of women under the aristocratic and democratic systems was typical by the position accorded to them in the hereditary and elective or democratic Houses of Parliament respectively. In the hereditary House they were openly seated in full dress around the House, and appeared to form a part of it. In the elective House, however, they were shoved away out of sight, behind a grating without even light or air. Even that bad principle showed some progress, for in an earlier democratic House, as related by Lord Beaconsfield in his novel "Endymion," women were perched on the ventilator. The air they breathed was poisonous, and darkness reigned supreme. (Laughter.) But though the elective principle was at present less favourable to women than the hereditary, all analogy showed that this was only an incident in the progress of the Constitution. Sir Henry Maine, in his "Ancient Law," pointed out how in the emancipation of the Roman citizen under the civil law—the change from status to contract as he called it—the men were the first to get hold of civil freedom and the women followed after. And there was not wanting evidence that women were now making up for lost time in this country. A great step forward had been taken in this direction by the Government this session. The right of women to take part in the government of the counties had not been questioned by any member of Parliament.

This power comprised that of taxation, of administration, and, as far as by-laws were concerned, powers of legislation. By all analogy this must lead to the attainment of Imperial and Parliamentary representation. And as an argument of necessity she would add that by the continued introduction of new classes of voters under the elective principle, whilst women are kept out, the position of women was not only relatively worse, but the balance of the Constitution itself was continually distorted. The introduction of women under this elective system was thus not only fair to women themselves, but necessary to restore the balance that existed under the hereditary system. The objection that had been raised to this Bill seemed altogether too trifling for reference, and it was difficult to believe any person was left to assert that women had no direct interest in the work of Parliament. Women's enfranchisement would ensure more attention to their social needs. But the higher questions of politics demanded equally the votes of women. One of their leading politicians, who should be nameless, because he would probably now wish to retreat from an untenable position—(laughter)—once said that the opposition to women's suffrage was "based on the principle that a man is a man, and a woman is a woman, and it begins and ends there." She (Mrs. Hallett) said that their claim for the suffrage was based on that same principle. Because they were women and not men they would contribute something which would be of value to the State. No doubt there would always be found wild and revolutionary women—as Mrs. Poyser would say—to match the wild and revolutionary men. (Laughter.) But that women as a class were on the side of law and order, of religion and morality, and would support strong measures to check anarchy and socialism was acknowledged on every side. When the history of Parliamentary Reform came to be written, if it were truly written, it would record that no class of the community had made greater sacrifices, had worked harder or more conscientiously, or against greater difficulties than had the women of England to obtain this measure of enfranchisement. She earnestly trusted that the Conference would see fit to express in some form of resolution an opinion in support of this Bill, an opinion which would not only have weight in the country, but with the Government, which has so generously, justly, and freely extended the local franchise this session to women throughout the counties. (Cheers.)

Lady KING HALL expressed the thanks of the council to Mrs. Hallett for her admirable address.

Lady SAWYER moved "That the Executive be requested to consider the advisability of petitioning Parliament in favour of the Bill, and report to a future meeting."

Lady WILMOT asked whether women could take any active part in Parliamentary contests.

Lady SAWYER replied in the affirmative, and said that they could distribute literature, canvass where necessary, teach the ignorant where requisite, visit from house to house, and bring voters up to the poll. (Cheers.)

It was then unanimously agreed that the secretary issue a circular to each member of the Ladies' Auxiliary Council asking for an expression of opinion on the subject, and that the same be tabulated and presented at the next quarterly conference.

Sir JAMES SAWYER pointed out that if the Local Government Bill should become law the franchise of women in that Bill was absolutely certain, notwithstanding whatever else might be done. As Lady Sawyer had pointed out, the ratepaying members of her sex in the boroughs at present enjoyed the municipal franchise, and there could be no doubt whatever that in the Local Government Bill they would have the same sort of franchise; and he had been informed that any expression of opinion on that point would be an expression of opinion on a point that was already conceded. (Lord George Hamilton: Hear, hear.) They wanted to make a great point out of that because it was hardly consistent that women should enjoy one kind of franchise—the municipal—without another. (Hear, hear.)

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, M.P., said he thought the decision the council had come to at this meeting was a wise one, because there was no doubt that there was a certain amount of difference of opinion as to how far the franchise should be extended to women. Certain doubts, he must say, existed in his own mind, and although he had listened with pleasure to, and had almost been persuaded by, the eloquence with which the claims of women had been argued, he was still undecided on certain points; and he thought that the

advice which had been given by Sir James Sawyer was wise. The question had been asked how far ladies could be useful in Parliamentary elections. Only in one election, and that was in the days of his bachelorhood, had he been without the influence of ladies. Ever since then his majority had increased, and he could not doubt but that fact was due largely to the support and assistance he had received from ladies, who were to a great extent put in motion by his wife. (Applause.) How far ladies should take an active part in Parliamentary matters must be left to individual discretion. There were some questions on which it was the duty of every woman to express her opinion, and to express it fully and publicly; but there were others, perhaps, with respect to which she might feel it wise and necessary to keep her opinion in the background. But there could be no question as to the salutary influence a woman might exert in politics, an elevating and softening political influence. (Applause.)

Lady SAWYER moved, and Lady WILMOT seconded, a vote of thanks to Mrs. Hallett for her able and instructive paper, which was carried unanimously, as was also a similar compliment to Lady Geo. Hamilton, on the motion of Sir JAMES SAWYER, and seconded by Ald. BEMROSE.

The conference then adjourned.

#### BARNSTAPLE.

##### CONFERENCE OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY: WOMEN AND THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

A great conference of the Conservative party of North Devon was held during May at Barnstaple. In the course of the proceedings the question of the extension of the franchise to women was introduced by Mr. E. T. Fulford, on behalf of the Exeter Working Men's Conservative Union, and after a very interesting discussion the conference resolved: "That, in the opinion of the conference, the time has arrived when the privilege of voting for members of Parliament should be extended to women ratepayers," the carrying of the resolution by an overwhelming majority being followed by three hearty cheers for "the ladies."

#### BRIDGWATER CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Bridgwater Conservative Association and Bridge Committee, a petition was ordered to be signed by the president on behalf of the association in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill, and same has been sent to the local member, Mr. E. J. Stanley, for presentation.

#### WOMEN'S LIBERAL FEDERATION.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Women's Liberal Federation was held on May 4th in the Conference Room of the National Liberal Club. A large number of delegates attended. An important question was raised after the formal business of the meeting had been disposed of, viz., Whether men should be allowed to join the Federation? A full discussion on this point ensued, and eventually a resolution was passed to the effect that this should be allowed. Another question was raised for discussion as to making it part of the programme of the Federation to insist on women's suffrage. Several of the ladies present spoke strongly in favour of it, but it was clear that an overwhelming majority was distinctly opposed to introducing this subject as a plank in the platform on which the Federation is built. On going to the vote a decisive rejection of the proposal was the result. There already exists an association whose sole object is to obtain the enfranchisement of women, and it was generally thought that it was undesirable for the Women's Liberal Federation to trench upon the work of that association, or, indeed, to go outside of the accepted programme of the Liberal party.

#### CARDIFF LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The Executive Committee of the above Association has forwarded to the borough member, Sir E. J. Reed, a petition in favour of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill.

#### DARLINGTON WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

On April 21st, a petition was signed by members of the Committee of the Darlington Women's Liberal Association in favour of extending the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill so as to legalise marriage between a woman and her deceased husband's brother, and "thus preserve the equality of relationship which now exists, and which justice and the interests of women demand."

#### BIRMINGHAM WOMEN LIBERAL UNIONISTS.

A meeting of women took place recently, at the offices of the National Radical Union, Corporation-street, Birmingham, at the invitation of the South Birmingham Women's Liberal Unionist Association. Mrs. Ashford presided over a large attendance. Mrs. Ashford, in the course of her opening address, said it always shocked her very much to hear a man or woman say, "I never take any interest in politics." Having dealt with the cause of the division in the Liberal party, the speaker went on to point out that the present was the time for Liberal Unionists to hoist their flag, and show under what colours they were sailing. There was just as much need for women to band together under such a flag as for the men to form themselves into an association, and there were two ways in which women could assist the cause—viz., by voting and by working at the time of elections. It might be urged against the first of those methods that so few women possessed the voting qualification, but to that she answered that they soon would see that power extended. It had been shown that the ladies of the Conservative party could make themselves very useful, and there was no reason why the ladies of the Liberal Unionist party should not do the same.—It was subsequently unanimously resolved that a Women's Liberal Unionist Association should be formed in each of the Parliamentary divisions of Birmingham.

#### EVENING PARTY AT THE WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

On May 11th an evening party was held at the Westminster Town Hall, under the auspices of the following ladies:—The Countess of Portsmouth, the Viscountess Harberton, Clara Lady Rayleigh, Lady Maude Parry, Louisa Lady Goldsmid, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Mrs. Arthur Arnold, Mrs. Ashford, Miss Becker, Mrs. Beddoe, Mrs. Bewicke, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss J. Boucherett, Mrs. Cotton, Miss Courtenay, Miss Davenport-Hill, Mrs. Edwards-Heathcote, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. William Grey, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Mrs. Charles Holland, Mrs. John Holland, Mrs. Courtenay Scott, Miss Tod.

The company assembled at nine o'clock, and the proceedings were varied by an excellent programme of music contributed by Miss Helen Meason, Miss Florence Emerson, Signor Mhanes, Signor Denza, Mr. Claude Trevor, and Mrs. Bewicke.

Among those present were Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., Miss S. Andrews, Miss Albert, Miss Abbott, Miss F. C. Armstrong, Misses Biggs, Mr. J. J. H. Bailey, Miss Becker, Mrs. Beddoe, Mrs. Bewicke, Miss A. E. Bell, Miss Lucy Bird, Mrs. S. W. Browne, Miss Browne, Mrs. T. Backhouse, Mr. and Miss Babb, Miss Borchardt, Miss S. Borchardt, Miss Helen Blackburn, Misses Blackburn, Miss Bateson, Mrs. Brodhurst, Mrs. Fleming Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Bruce, Miss Bear, Miss Blake, Mr. R. Christison, The Deputy-Speaker and Mrs. Courtney, Captain Edward Cotton, M.P., and Mrs. Cotton, Colonel Colville, Miss Courtenay, Mrs. Courtenay Scott, Mrs. Cooper Oakley, Miss Cooper, Miss Connah, Mr. Carter, Miss Cash, Mr. and Mrs. B. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. V. I. Chamberlain, Miss Davenport-Hill, Miss F. Davenport-Hill, Miss Drew, Mr. F. J. Dryhurst, Mr. C. K. Desai, Signor Denza, Miss Eardley-Wilmot, Miss Eccles, Miss Florence Emerson, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Garrett, Miss Elsie Garrett, Miss Gonino, Miss Grove, Miss Mary Gurney, Miss Amy Gurney, Dr. Gabriel, Mrs. J. E. Goodall, Dr. C. Honoria Graham, Viscountess Harberton and Miss Pomeroy, Miss Hart, Mrs. John Holland, Mr. T. G. P. and Mrs. Hallett, Miss Hageman, Mrs. Hodgson, Mrs. Charles Holland, Miss Mabel Holland, Mrs. Heath, Miss Hitchcock, Miss Hamley, Misses Harrison, Miss Handson, Mr. and Mrs. Innes, Miss Jones, Miss Evan Jones, Mr. and Miss Johnson, Miss Kilgour, Misses Lord, Miss Lees, Mrs. Leon, Mr. H. Levy, Miss Leach, Mrs. Leighton, Miss Sheila Leighton, Miss Helen Meason, Miss C. Meason, Signor Mhanes, Miss Morrison, Dr. Julia Mitchell, Dr. K. Mitchell, Mrs. Marshall, M.D., Mrs. Palmer Morewood, Miss Moore, Signor Tito Pagliardini, Miss Poole, Miss Partridge, Mrs. Park, Clara Lady Rayleigh, Miss Ransom, Mrs. Edward Russell, Mr. W. Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. Rushbrook, M.D., The Hon. Mrs. F. Spring-Rice, Miss M. C. Sturge, Miss M. Stacpoole, Mrs. Splatt, Mrs. E. M. Sieveking, Mr. H. Tod, Mr. Bland Trevor, Miss Trevor, Miss Tuck, Miss Annie Townsend, Mrs. Frederick Wills, Miss Violet Walsh, Miss Wilkinson, Miss Beatrice Wallich, Mrs. Mylne, Mrs. Clarke, Misses Bidder, Mrs. Hankey, Miss Stone, Mrs. Splatt, Mrs. O'Connor, Mr. and

Mrs. Wellesley, Miss Hamilton, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. E. Garrett, Miss Leith, Mrs. H. M. Jones, Miss Grove, Miss Morrison, Mr. Mitchell, and many others.

(FROM A COUNTRY CORRESPONDENT.)

Let anyone who connects town halls with cold grey stones and general dreariness dismiss any such association from their ideas of this particular town hall. A broad oak staircase, thick carpeting, abundance of green foliage plants, and stained-glass windows, contributed to give a pleasant, home-like setting to the scene. The company thronged in tolerably early, and only thronged out as the stated hour approached for retiring—midnight. Amongst the earlier arrivals were many of the ladies under whose auspices the reception was held, Miss Becker, Mrs. Fawcett, Viscountess Harberton, Mrs. Beddoe, Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Bewicke, Miss Caroline Biggs, Mrs. Charles Holland, Miss Courtenay, and others. Amongst the latest were those M.P.s who found time to look in from their labours on the cheerful scene.

The music was a manifest enjoyment to the guests, but the zest of the evening was, as it should be, in the meeting together of so many working in a common cause. There were many there who have been in the movement since the first days when women's suffrage was a novel notion, and there were young men and women there who have grown up to hear "women's suffrage" as a familiar household word all their lives. One lady, hitherto a sympathetic onlooker only, assured a friend that she had never enjoyed a party so much. Another, just returned from a sojourn at the other side of the world, found here again with pleasure the faces of old friends, and watched the rising workers with interest. Another visitor, lately landed from Australia, who is sure that once the suffrage granted here, it would speedily follow in the Australian colonies, was amazed and delighted at such a gathering of intelligent and beautiful faces.

Whether the comments on costume came most from the old or the young it were hard to say, but the consensus of opinion clearly was that this was a well-dressed party. Nice rooms, good music, pretty dresses, interesting company, all these attractions combined to tempt one to wish that the ladies who received us on May 11th will give their co-workers and sympathisers more opportunities for such pleasant rendezvous, for which no better wish could be expressed than that the aid to the funds may be as great as the enjoyment of the guests.

#### SKETCHES FROM THE PAST. No. 5.

##### BRIGID OF KILDARE, SAINT AND ABBESS (450 TO 525).

Out of the mists of miracle there looms before us, thirteen centuries ago in Ireland, the figure of a mighty woman—Brigid (or Bridgett) of Kildare. A woman who, without any doubt, impressed her personality on her time and country, but whose character and actions can only be outlined by the uncertain light of the traditions of miracle and legend which both conceal and reveal her life.

In whatever way the stories strike us, that a globe of fire hovered over the place where Brigid was born; or that the frightened mother came home from the fields one day to find her cottage all ablaze, and to the baby lay laughing with rosy cheeks unscathed amidst the flames; or that a pillar of light shone over the head of the maiden when she took her vows;—believe we these things or believe we them not, they mark one unmistakable truth—they point to a life of no common order.

Through the halo of these and the many other legends which surround her, Brigid appears a type of all that is best in the character of Irishwomen. We see her first as a bright, assiduous child, sharing all she has with the poor; then as an earnest girl, striving to fulfil her filial duties under difficult and complex conditions; finally, as the self-sacrificing, devout woman, who felt that throughout all her life in all things she had the help of an angel of God while she spent her life for others, teaching and healing their quarrels as well as their diseases.

That her father was of noble birth all the accounts agree. The

earlier narratives relate that her mother was a bond-woman, a second Hagar. May it not be that the difficulties brought to her earlier years by the unequal conditions of her parents aided to develop in Brigid that universal sympathy for all living creatures which she seems to have possessed—she not only fed the starving dog, but the wild boar from the woods, rushing down on the swine she was watching, at a word from her became tame. The wild fowl at her call came hovering round, and let her fondle them.

Whether a temporary and opportune blindness really came to her aid in the matter or not does not alter the fact that she overcame the plans her father had made for the marriage of his beautiful and attractive daughter, and early devoted herself to a religious life.

The great apostle of his age and country, St. Patrick, received her as his daughter, and became to her as a father. What the great council of bishops was which sought her opinion is not apparently very clear, nor the occasion of the visit paid by seven bishops to the saint at Kildare, but these references to her opinion show that her judgment was valued, and that she inspired confidence in the best minds of her time.

Her birthplace was at Fochart, in County Louth, but her childhood and youth were passed partly in the west, partly in the south. When her fame grew the inhabitants of Leinster besought her to return to them, and she, seeing in their wishes a divine call, fixed her place of abode under an oak which she much loved—the thenceforth famous Kildare (Church of the Oak), where in after years a holy fire was kept perpetually burning on her shrine. There, during her life, both a monastery and nunnery grew up under her rule, with one church in common. At Kildare she was buried, and thence about 1185 her remains were translated to the tomb of Saint Patrick and Saint Columba, that the remains of Ireland's three greatest saints might rest side by side. There are churches to her honour in many lands, and many places have sought to be connected with her. She is said to have dwelt for a time in the Isle of Man. Abernethy in Scotland, Glastonbury in England have claimed to be her place of burial, the fame of lesser Brides being absorbed in the light of this greatest Bride, Brigid, or Bridgett,

Who rode on the waves of the world,  
As the sea-bird rides upon the billow.

Strong in affection, ready in pity, clear in judgment, bright in spirit,—long may Brigid be the type of the daughters of Erin.

H. B.

#### MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE IN ICELAND.

A correspondent writes: "The other day a lady in Reykjavik voted in the municipal election of that town. Reykjavik, though the capital of Iceland, is quite a small town, and there are only ten or twelve women who possess the qualification necessary for voting. This is the first time any woman has used the right there, but farther away in the country, where there is greater political intelligence and interest, many women have for years given their votes."

#### REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

Mrs. Colby has complete files of the eight double numbers of the *Daily Woman's Tribune*, containing stenographic reports of the proceedings of the International Council, which she will post to any address for forty cents, equal to about 1s. 8d. English money. Address Mrs. Clara B. Colby, Beatrice, Neb., U.S.A. Post office orders, payable in the United States, can be obtained at any money order office in the United Kingdom.

*The Englishwoman's Review* for May 15th contains an interesting report of the proceedings. It may be had at the office, 22, Berners-street, London, W. Price sixpence.

THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON. IMPRESSIONS OF ONE WHO WAS THERE.

The great International Council of Women at Washington is over, and the seventy-three delegates, official guests, and numbers of sympathisers are scattering to their different States and countries.

Some of the representative women, with Mrs. Cady-Stanton and Miss Susan B. Anthony at their head, were permitted to plead in the House of Representatives before a committee of senators on behalf of woman's suffrage.

THE PEREK SHIRAH.

The Hebrews, says the St. James' Gazette, believed, in common with most people of old, that the birds had a language; but they held that the ordinary song or utterance of them, and indeed of all creatures, was a hymn or a song of praise to God.

The Hen praiseth God, Saying, "Thou hast given me As much intelligence As unto the Cock; Therefore do I praise thee Unto the end which fleeth For ever and ever!"

TEXT OF THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL.

[51 VICT.] Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).

A BILL TO

Extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women.

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Representation of the People (Extension to Women) Act, 1888.

2. For all purposes of and incidental to the voting for members to serve in Parliament women shall have the same rights as men, and all enactments relating to or concerned in such elections shall be construed accordingly.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

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

SIXTH REPORT, 14 March, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Petition number and description. Includes entry for Hyde Women's Liberal Association.

Total number of Petitions 22—Signatures 398

SEVENTH REPORT, 23 March—10 April, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Petition number and description. Includes entries for Banbury and Brixton Road.

Total number of Petitions 28—Signatures 415

EIGHTH REPORT, 12—17 April, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Petition number and description. Includes entries for Liverpool and Delwich High School.

Total number of Petitions 32—Signatures 448

NINTH REPORT, 19—24 April, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Petition number and description. Includes entries for Bisley, Kircaldy, and Abergbrothock.

Table with 2 columns: Petition number and description. Includes entries for Carmarthen and Edinburgh.

Total number of Petitions 38—Signatures 519

The Petitions marked thus (\*) are similar to that from Eastbourne [APP. 1]. The Petitions marked thus (©) are signed officially.

Obituary.

MR. CHARLES STURGE.—We regret to record the death, at an advanced age, of this veteran reformer and philanthropist. In conjunction with his distinguished brother, Mr. Joseph Sturge, Mr. Charles Sturge occupied for a long period one of the most prominent positions in social and commercial spheres in Birmingham, and being a large-hearted, generous man, whose hand and purse were always ready to assist the afflicted, there was scarcely any philanthropic movement in which he did not take an active part.

PROFESSOR LEONE LEVI.—Dr. Leone Levi, whose death we regret to announce, was in every sense a remarkable man, and among those natives of foreign countries who have made England their home, no one more cordially adopted her institutions or laboured more heartily to promote her greatness.

MR. F. W. CHESSEON.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. Frederick William Chesson, the secretary of the Aborigines' Protection Society. He took up the subject in which his society was interested with indefatigable zeal, unrivalled knowledge, and the most eager desire for justice for the oppressed.

MRS. GOTCH.—We regret to record the death of Mrs. Gotch, of Kettering, well known in connection with the social and political movements in that town.

DR. CLEMENS LOZIER.—The Philadelphia correspondent of the Times reports that Dr. Clemens Lozier, of the New York

Medical College and Hospital for Women, died last month of angina pectoris. She was the pioneer of the movement in America for the medical education of women.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MAY, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Name and amount. Includes names like Mrs. Benson Ford, Mr. Philip Minshall, etc.

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

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MAY, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Name and amount. Includes names like Mrs. Thomasson, Mrs. Bryant, Dr. Sc., etc.

HARRIET MORRISON, TREASURER, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM APRIL 25TH TO MAY 23RD, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Name and amount. Includes names like Mr. Herbert Thomas, Miss Crosland, etc.

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

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- 1. Women's International Council at Washington. 2. Industries of Women, from Report of Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops. 3. A Town Council of Women. 4. Women in the Methodist Church.

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