

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL

FINAL AND MEMORIAL NUMBER.

VOL. XXI.—No. 248.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

AUGUST, 1890.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

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To All Readers.

For twenty years and four months this Journal has received the impress of one hand and one mind, so that its long row of volumes form one continuous work, and now when that careful hand is laid low and the energies of that far-seeing mind are carried beyond our mortal ken, it would seem the most fitting course to close these pages where Miss Becker left them, that so the Journal shall be wholly hers, nor suffer by change to any less experienced hand or any mind less comprehensive.

This number consists of matter which was already in preparation when its Editor passed from this life, together with a Memorial Number of recollections contributed by a few who had known Miss Becker long and well in her public work.

To Subscribers to the Journal.

In consequence of the close of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, the Proprietor of the *Englishwoman's Review* has entered into an understanding with the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage that that Review shall henceforth contain a section devoted to intelligence of the Women's Suffrage movement as the organ of that Society.

The *Englishwoman's Review*, which has for upwards of twenty-five years advocated the advancement of women, has now reverted to its quarterly issue, and the next number will appear on October 15.

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[Continued from the June issue.]

WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' DECLARATION.

We, the undersigned unmarried women and widows, possessing qualifications which would entitle men to vote in elections for members of Parliament, declare that we consider our exclusion from the privilege an infraction of the principle that taxation and representation should go together, and we hereby express our desire for an alteration in the laws which shall enable such women to exercise the Parliamentary franchise if they desire to do so.

NAME.	Qualification, whether as occupier or owner of houses, land, or other property.	ADDRESS.	Parliamentary division in which the qualifying property is situated.
Miss ISABELLA BARCLAY	Occupier of house	15, Florence Terrace, Falmouth	Penryn and Falmouth
Miss ELIZABETH BURDON-SANDERSON	Owner of house	Branksome, Greenhill Road, Hampstead	Middlesex, Harrow
Miss MINNIE COBB	Occupier, leaseholder	11, The Broadway, Streatham	Wandsworth
Mrs. JULIA ANNIE DEANE	Occupier and freeholder	9, Calderwell Road, Clapham	Clapham
Mrs. DE RHEIMS	Occupier of house	2, Shrewsbury Villas, Plumstead	Woolwich
Miss E. A. D'ESTERRE HUGHES	Occupier of house	Grasmere, 40, Lee Road	Greenwich
Mrs. SARAH HUGHES	Occupier of house	4, Olive Row, Mount-street, Nottingham	Nottingham, South
Miss FOLKARD	Owner and occupier	10, St. George's Road, Brighton	Brighton
Mrs. ELIAS JONES	Occupier of house	Museum House, Neath	Swansea District
Miss JANE KEENE	Leasehold owner	6, Camden Road, Lewisham	Kent, Sevenoaks
Mrs. ELLEN LEES	Occupier of flat	No. 1 flat, 59, Cadogan Square, S.W.	Chelsea
Mrs. ANNE MURCOTT	Owner and occupier	Spa Lane, Hinckley	Leicester, Mark't Bosworth
Mrs. PENN	Occupier of house	34, Mercers Road, Holloway, N.	Islington, North
Mrs. CAROLINE L. PITTS	Occupier of house	71, Hayter Road, Brixton Hill	Lambeth, Norwood
Mrs. ADELAIDE ROSS	Occupier of house	33, Chepstow Villas, Bayswater	Kensington, North
Miss MARY SIDNEY TURNER	Owner of house	304, Clapham Road	Clapham
Miss F. M. PHILLIPS	Owner and occupier	9, Bryanston-street, W.	Marylebone, West
Miss ISABEL M. TAYLOR	Occupier of flat	12, Mandeville Place, W.	Marylebone, West
Miss E. M. BAKEWELL	Occupier of studio	Warwick Studio, South End, Hampstead	Hampstead
Miss BORCHARDT	Occupier of house	The Ferns, Finchley New Road	Hampstead
Miss ANNIE CRUMP	Occupier and owner of house	Hereford House, Hampstead	Hampstead
Mrs. HODGSKIN	Owner of houses	Kenmore House, Warwick Hse., &c., Hampstead	Middlesex, Harrow
Miss MEAD	Occupier of house	19, Daleham Gardens, Hampstead	Hampstead
Miss JANE AUGUSTA RAVEN	Occupier of house	3, South Hill Park Gardens, Hampstead	Hampstead
Miss MARIAN ELIZA PHILLIPS	Occupier of house	Grove Cottage, Froggnal	Hampstead
Miss M. L. TAGART	Leasehold householder	12, Birchington Road, Kilburn	Hampstead
Mrs. JANE AKERT	Occupier of house & freeholder	Manor Lodge, Froggnal, Hampstead	Hampstead
Mrs. FRASER	Occupier of house	44, Western Road, Lewisham	Lewisham
Mrs. C. E. TOWN	Occupier and owner of farm	12, Corona Road, Lee	Lewisham
Miss J. TOWN	Owner of farm	Downs Farm, Yalding	Kent, Tunbridge
Miss JANE TOWN	Owner of farm	Yalding, Kent	Kent, Tunbridge
Miss S. M. TOWN	Owner of farm	Yalding, Kent	Kent, Tunbridge
Miss HALL	Owner and occupier of house and Landowner	Ashford House, Ludlow	Shropshire, Ludlow
Mrs. PENSON	Occupier of house	Ashford, Carbonell	Shropshire, Ludlow
Mrs. GRICE	Occupier of house	Dinham House, Ludlow	Shropshire, Ludlow
Mrs. WALTER	Owner and occupier	Beechwood, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Mrs. SARGANT	Owner and occupier	The Oaklands, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Mrs. BAYNES	Occupier of house	Quarry Hill, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Miss A. L. KELK	Occupier of house	The Shrubbery, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Miss C. M. KELK	Occupier of house	Aireton Lodge, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Miss E. POWNALL	Occupier of house	Aireton Lodge, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Miss E. M. HARRIS	Owner and occupier	Chesterfield, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Miss A. TROLLOPE	Occupier of house	Nith Bank, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Miss ANNE E. BELT	Occupier of house	Somersfield Cottage, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
Mrs. PRYOR	Occupier of house	Eton Lodge, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate
		Hillbrow, Reigate	Surrey, Reigate

Signatures previously reported, 798; signatures reported up to date, 843.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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THE annual meeting of the Central Committee took place on July 15th, in the Westminster Town Hall, the Earl of CAMPERDOWN presiding, and was addressed by Viscount WOLMER, Lady KNIGHTLEY, Colonel COTTON, M.P., Mr. LAFONE, M.P., Miss TOD, and Mrs. FAWCETT. A sad interest attaches to the report of the meeting, which is given in this number, inasmuch as it was the subject of almost the latest letter written by Miss BECKER—one written the day before her death, when as yet there was no apprehension of danger, to the friend who now edits these pages, requesting that the speeches of the Chairman, Lord WOLMER, and others should be given as fully as possible.

THE past summer is unprecedented in the annals of education. Women have stood in the highest places of the mathematical and the classical, and in the first divisions of the historical and the natural science tripos at Cambridge. They have headed the list of the M.A. degrees in the London University. In the United States, Miss H. REED has taken a most difficult prize in classics at Harvard. In Paris, Madlle. BILCESCO has won the degree of doctor of laws, the first woman to take this degree in France.

The unqualified satisfaction with which the friends of women's education throughout the country have heard of Miss FAWCETT'S success has been enhanced by the thought that those principles of equality between men and women, which the late Professor FAWCETT and Mrs. FAWCETT have been preeminent in advocating, should receive this emphatic proof from their daughter. The value of her success is emphasized by the fact that Miss FAWCETT does not stand alone—a solitary peak, so to say—but rather the highest amongst a range of peaks, thus testifying to the general rise over the area of women's education.*

THAT the successes which have of late attended women students are fraught with hope for a higher general level of respect for the average woman, as well as of honoured

careers for the brilliant examples, was further exemplified at the distribution of prizes at University College, London.

The prizes were distributed by Mr. LEONARD COURTNEY, who remarked that that day was one of honour for women "not only in the fields of competition of which they had heard at Cambridge and elsewhere, but within those walls that morning they had seen prize after prize taken by young women in fields of thought, in subjects of speculation, in developments of faculty, which not long ago they would have been thought most unfit for." Mr. COURTNEY went on to say that this added a new feeling to the terror of the Scotch boy who did not know about being born again "he might be aiblins lassie."

Even more significant of the opportunities that have now been brought within the reach of women is the record given by the Chairman of the Manchester School Board of Miss MARGARET LEA, who had begun her education in one of the Manchester Board Schools, had won her way by scholarships first to the High School, then to Girton, and had just come out in the mathematical tripos as 27th wrangler.

THE Bill by which the Territory of Wyoming was admitted as a State was signed by the President of the United States on July 10th, and women's suffrage is now an accomplished fact in one State of the great Republic.

We heartily congratulate our American sisters, and while rejoicing with them we rejoice also that this memorial number should contain the record of an advance of such significance secured by our Transatlantic fellow-workers, and that the news of their success had arrived before Miss BECKER had passed from amongst us.

WE specially desire to call the attention of all readers to the announcements on the outer page regarding the closing of the *Journal*, and the opening of a Women's Suffrage section in the *Englishwoman's Review*.

* This and the following note were prepared by Miss Becker's request.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The annual general meeting of the Central Committee was held on Tuesday afternoon, July 15th, in the Westminster Town Hall. The Earl of CAMBERDOWN presided. On the platform were Viscount Wolmer, M.P., Colonel Cotton, M.P., Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Knightley, the Lady Frances Balfour, Mr. Lafone, M.P., Miss Tod, Mrs. T. W. Russell, Miss Courtenay, Miss Cons, Miss Emily Davies, Miss F. Davenport Hill, and Miss Blackburn (secretary). Amongst those present were Mrs. Cotton, Lady Grey Egerton, Mrs. Beddoe, Miss Phillott, Mrs. and Miss Bigg, Mrs. Calverley Bewicke, Miss Sharman Crawford, Miss Lucy Wilson, Mrs. S. Spring Rice, Miss H. Robson, Mr. Blackburn, Miss Colthurst, Miss Butcher, Major and Mrs. Humphray, Mrs. Chinn, Mrs. Magnussen, Miss Maude Biggs, Miss Kate Biggs, Miss Andrews, Hon. Mrs. Pereira, Mrs. Thorne, Miss Frances Lord, Miss Abney Walker, the Misses Duer, Mrs. Shanks, Misses Rowland, Miss Babb, Miss Margaret Gwyn, Miss Mears, Miss Prendergast, Miss Heather-Bigg, Mrs. Hodgson Pratt, Miss Mordan, Hon. Mrs. Colborne, Miss Eliza Sturge, Miss Reid, Miss Reeves, Miss Lucy Johnson, Mrs. Leighton, Mrs. Rowe Bennett, Mrs. Sterling, Miss Stone, &c., &c., &c.

Several letters regretting absence had been received from members of Parliament, whose presence had been expected. Sir John Puleston, being prevented from attending, wrote: "I must therefore ask you to be so good as to express my disappointment; it is not necessary for me to say that I am always ready to do anything in my power to further the cause we have at heart. I trust next session we may by concerted action be able to give a majority of the House of Commons the opportunity of voting for a measure of justice to the women of the country, who, being 'duly qualified,' logically and constitutionally entitled to the suffrage."

Sir W. Guyer Hunter wrote: "I trust my absence will not be construed into a want of sympathy with the women's suffrage question. If on some future occasion it be thought I can be of any assistance, you may command me."

Sir Stafford Northcote, Baron Dimsdale, Capt. Edwards Heathcote, Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald were prevented by Parliamentary duties from being present. Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. McLaren also regretted absence. A telegram was received from Mr. Lewis Fry. Lady Trelawny wrote prevented by illness from coming to London; also Mrs. Wm. Grey and Miss Shirreff.

Miss Blackburn then read the report for the past year and the statement of accounts, which showed expenditure of £390, a balance of £1. 16s., and outstanding liabilities of £23.

The CHAIRMAN said the object of their association was to promote the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who were possessed of property and who were in an independent position. He did not think it was very necessary (indeed he might go so far as to say that it would be excessively tiresome and very undesirable) to attempt to argue in favour of that movement at any length. He would only call their attention to one single objection, which, as he thought, was a very considerable objection in the opinion of many people, to voting for the Bill they desired to have passed, and that was the opinion which many people undoubtedly held, namely, that they voted in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, they would have committed themselves to a principle whereby, and would be bound, and be considered bound, to go on and vote for a number of other measures, including the admission of women to Parliament. That, he thought, was an objection which was present—and, of course he was speaking amongst friends—should make every means in their power to dissipate, for it did not at all follow that because people voted for the admission of a particular set of persons to the franchise on the grounds of justice, they were therefore bound to vote for a number of other measures involving other motives and considerations. The difficulty in relation to questions connected with the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women was, he thought, this: it was rather difficult to say where the principle ended and where sentiment and expediency began to enter into the appeal. There were a great many questions which were decided upon principle, and principle alone. For instance, could anyone doubt that, as a matter of principle, it was perfectly right that women should have their property assured to them just in the same way as men had their property assured to them. Of course, as they knew, that question had been decided; and, he might say,

exactly in the same way with reference to the Parliamentary franchise, Parliament had resolved that, for the future, what was to confer the right to the Parliamentary vote was the possession of a house or something approximating to a house. (Hear, hear.) Well, what reason was there—what good reason could there be—why, if this principle were admitted, the house should lose its vote simply because the occupying owner happened not to belong to the male sex? Hence he regarded this question as one entirely of principle, and one to be decided purely upon those grounds. But when they went further and talked of women becoming county councillors and even members of Parliament, then, he thought, they came to a different set of arguments and considerations, and those who had voted for the enfranchisement of women possessing the same property qualifications as men, might consistently fall off and vote in the other way. He thought it should be their endeavour to make this thoroughly well understood, for undoubtedly there were many persons who were deterred from voting in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women simply because they thought it introduced that old argument, the thin end of the wedge, the principle of evolution, and other things of that sort. These people were timid and, taking all the possibilities into consideration, they thought it was much better on the whole either not to vote at all, or perhaps to go so far as to record their vote against the present Bill of that society. As he heard their report read one thing struck him very strongly. They had plenty of good friends in the House of Commons—a very large number—but they, unfortunately, appeared to be very unlucky. It seemed to him that they had a great deal to learn, for instance, from the Irish members in the mysteries of conducting the ballot—(laughter)—for, he observed, whenever there was an Irish member who had some private Bill which he wished to bring forward, he (the chairman) did not know how he managed it, but somehow his measure appeared either in the first or second place on the ballot, whereas the Women's Franchise Bill had generally a very low place and subsequently, just at the moment when they thought it was coming on, either a governmental crisis occurred or some other of those thousand and one peculiar Parliamentary manoeuvres which, at the present time, appeared to occupy the largest part of the time of the House of Commons. And the result was that each year they were placed in the position which it appeared they occupied in the present year, namely, that their Bill was not brought forward at all. He only hoped that they might have better luck on the next occasion when it was proposed to re-introduce the Bill. (Hear, hear.) Speaking as a member of the other House he could not help thinking that if the Bill found its way to the House of Lords it would stand a very considerable chance of success. (Applause.) He, of course, might only express his own individual opinion, and he was speaking entirely from such experience as he had of the ways and customs of the House. He dared say that if, at that moment, he was to go and speak on this question privately to members of the House of Lords he should find a very large number—at all events, very likely the majority—who would speak in a sense not favourable to the passing of such a Bill, but he had always observed in the House of Lords that, when a case was submitted to them and advocated upon grounds of justice, they were always ready to listen to argument. And he found on many occasions when a decision was obtained that decision was given in a sense which was not the same as, from speaking to individual members beforehand, he might have expected it to be. Personally he could not help thinking that, if the Bill in which the society was interested, came before the House of Lords it would have an extremely good chance of being carried. The last meeting of that kind at which he was present he was interested and, he was bound to say, also somewhat amused at hearing Lord Hartington explaining to the gathering in the course of his speech—and, he thought, it occupied the larger part of it—the reasons why he had consistently voted against the objects of the meeting, and why those same reasons would, in all probability, oblige him to do so for some time to come. (Laughter.) He (the chairman) did not think there was any particular advantage gained from self-examination of that sort. It had happened to him on different occasions to pass through the House of Lords several measures which were connected with, and had been promoted by, that and kindred associations; and he was bound to say that he never took up any single one of those measures with anything approaching enthusiasm. The measures were presented to him and he read them, and the reason he submitted them to the House of

Lords was because, after reading them, he could not see any reason why they should not be passed and because it appeared to him that, in justice, they ought to be passed. (Applause.) He was bound to add also that the House took exactly the same view, and that in no single case had even any argument taken place upon them in the House. Whatever might be its sins of omission or commission, the House of Lords, at all events, when it was persuaded, did not waste any time by argument or by speech. (Applause.) Up to the present time the measures in which that society was interested had never encountered any opposition in the upper House. He should support the Women's Franchise Bill when it reached the House of Lords simply because it was a measure which appeared to him to be based upon justice. (Applause.) How much further he might go he could not say, for the single excellent reason that he had never thought upon the matter. It was quite sufficient for him to take things as they arose, and all he could say was that, up to the present time, he had found himself able to support all the measures relating to women and emanating from that and similar societies without inflicting the slightest strain upon his political conscience. (Hear, hear.) For their sake he hoped he might be able to persevere in that course, but the future only would show. Before he sat down he should, he said, like to say a word upon the general case. He had always been very much struck by the very large measure of success which motions put forward on behalf of women had obtained, and naturally one asked what were the causes which had brought success in so large a proportion of the cases. Well, the first reason had been that women appeared to have a very remarkable power of knowing what they wanted—(laughter)—and the next was that they also had an equally remarkable power of being able to state what they required. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He remembered one instance of this in particular which came under his own observation some years ago when he was sitting upon the Medical Acts Commission, among the members of which were many men of professional and scientific eminence, with very strong views of their own—views which were by no means identical. A point, and a most awkward point as he believed, would be that part of the medical question which related to the admission of women. Well, that part of the question was passed without any difficulty whatsoever. Indeed, it was the only part, so far as he recollected, which was embodied in the report without any discussion, and simply in the words of the persons who spoke on behalf of the women. He was deputed to call upon Mrs. Garrett Anderson, and tell her exactly what the Commission wished to know, and request her to be so good as to state what she desired and was determined to have. He undertook to present the case of the women, as she stated it, to the Commission, and he asked leave to call upon her again in the event of the Commission desiring to hear her in support of her case. A day or two afterwards she sent him a written statement, and he went to the Commission with it with, he was bound to say, some trepidation. He read the paper to the Commission and, although during two or more years they had thought and struggled over a variety of other questions, the moment Mrs. Garrett Anderson's statement was read he was able to inform her that it would be quite unnecessary for her to appear, and that her paper would be embodied as part of the report. And he believed that very considerable practical result had followed from the adoption of her words. He mentioned this to show what enormous advantage there was in thoroughly making up their minds as to what they were determined to have and stating it very clearly. He had only one further word to say and that was that nothing had struck him more, both in the case he had mentioned and in other cases, than the great moderation with which the demand of women had, up to the present time, been expressed. He was quite certain that that moderate attitude had conducted very largely to the success which until now they had attained; and he felt perfectly confident that if they continued to consider what it was possible to hope to achieve and the limits beyond which it was not right or advisable to propose to go, they would advance their cause more than in any other way, whether in or out of Parliament. He apologised for having occupied their time so long, and called upon Lord Wolmer to move the first resolution.

Lord WOLMER, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report and financial statement and that they be printed for circulation, said he imagined that their resolutions at a meeting like that did not differ from resolutions in general, and that the speeches of their movers were not supposed to have anything to do with the resolutions.

All that would be required from him on that occasion would, he thought, be a few words dealing with the general subject. He confessed it seemed to him that the subject was one which was not open to very complex or detailed argument; it seemed to him to have arrived at a condition of simplicity he might say. They had adopted as the basis of their political machinery in England the maxim that a share in the government ought to be given to as large a portion of the population as possible. That being so, it appeared to him that the onus of proof rested upon those who would debar from a share of the government of the country rather more than half of that population. (Applause.) Of the arguments which their opponents addressed to them in refutation of their views, he would briefly allude to two or three only. The first—and that which seemed to him to be the strongest argument—was that if all the men were arrayed on one side in political questions and all the women on the other, that the former would not stand being outvoted by the latter. He was perfectly prepared to agree that they would not stand it. But he asked what reasonable supposition was there that that condition of things would ever arise. (Applause.) Were men so united amongst themselves at the present moment as to make it probable that they would be all on one side and the women on the other, or why was there any reason to suppose that the women would not have equal divisions of opinion to those always manifested amongst the men? No doubt it might happen occasionally that a large male minority was turned just into a majority by the joint votes of the women. But under the secrecy enjoyed through the ballot he could not conceive any really serious difficulty arising in these circumstances. If they passed from that possible difficulty—which he could not conceive as at all likely to be a real one—what were the arguments advanced? It was said the women did not understand politics, and that great numbers of those whom it was proposed to enfranchise would really give their votes without any adequate notion of the subjects upon which they were voting. He was prepared to admit that when members of Parliament addressed their constituents they all spoke as if they were addressing a sort of abstract ideal elector—(laughter)—a man whose mind was wholly estranged from any consideration of self-interest, a man whose only study day and night was to master the political problem of the day. (Laughter.) That was the tone they all adopted when they addressed their constituents. How far that ideal was removed from the truth was best evidenced by the fact that any political party, wishing to win a seat, would always prefer a good-natured local fool to a perfect genius if he were an outsider. (Laughter.) And it was really no good endeavouring to keep up any longer the pretence that every elector was well instructed in politics. He certainly was not, and he (Lord Wolmer) saw no reason to suppose that the average woman who would enjoy the franchise would be in any way less acquainted with the political questions of the day than the present average elector. (Applause.) Then again they were told "women are so sentimental." (Laughter.) Now, he confessed, that particular argument did trouble him until they reached the present Irish controversy. What had they seen in that controversy? What had been the attitude of both parties without distinction towards the electors they had addressed? There was a very grave constitutional question to be argued upon constitutional lines—a question which was really and truly one of reason. What was the line of argument addressed to the electors by both Home Rulers and Unionists. One tried to draw the tears of their audience by allusions to evictions, and the other by allusions to outrages, both of these deplorable series of events being absolutely foreign to the question. Every family might be evicted in Ireland and yet Home Rule be an evil. Outrages might be universal and yet Home Rule be a good thing. The worst of it was that the sentiment here appealed to was a fictitious and bogus sentiment and not a true one. The men who got up sentiment on both sides in reference to these appeals were absolutely, in their own affairs, free from sentiment. He considered true sentiment to be a state of mind which would show itself in matters vitally concerning the person in question. The sentiment of the people whom members of Parliament addressed was confined to everybody's business except their own. (Laughter.) Let them take, for instance, a strike. Was anything further removed from all parties in a strike than questions of sentiment? The only idea of those who struck was to coerce, if they could, those against whom they were striking, and to coerce those amongst their own comrades who had not joined them, to do so. That was the natural state of mind

of the British elector, and the sentiment which he evolved for the benefit of other people was entirely hypocritical. He (Lord Wolmer) believed that the sentiment which women would show would be much more natural. There might be bogus sentiment even with them, but, he believed, on the whole, the sentiment which they might evince in political questions would be much more genuine than that which was now drawn by politicians from every electorate; and he believed there would be much less evil in a genuine sentiment than in a purely hypocritical one. (Applause.) Again they were told that women did not understand business. Now it had been his fortune, on more than one occasion, to be on a committee largely composed of ladies. He avowed that he had not always risen from the proceedings of those committees with the sense that they had done all they might have done, and if nobody were to read the papers or enter the House of Commons that might be a very forcible argument, but anybody who had surveyed, either in print or flesh and blood, what was called "the concentrated wisdom of the nation"—(laughter)—could not possibly come to any other opinion except that the business capacity of the British nation was at a very low ebb. (Applause.) Hence, he thought, that men could not possibly cry out against women in that capacity. To his mind it was wholly impossible for any number of ladies to do anything in the way of evil to the business capacity of the House of Commons. There was a point in connection with the House of Commons where, he thought, the influence of women electors might be of very great value. He could not conceive any such electors reading the proceedings of the House of Commons from their own refined point of view, and with that natural feeling of courtesy which was stronger, perhaps, in the woman than the man, without being ashamed of the present state of things; and any influence which could be brought to bear upon the House of Commons to make it once again more a school of good manners would be of the greatest national advantage. (Applause.) He had endeavoured to deal briefly with some objections urged against their proposals, and now, before sitting down, he would attack the enemy in what he believed to be his vulnerable point. How could this country, or the House of Commons or Parliament, dare to deal with great questions affecting the every-day life, affecting the family life, of the women of this country, without giving them a voice in the direction of those affairs? (Applause.) There were many minor cases in point, but there was one case which he first saw alluded to, in this connection, by the late Professor Fawcett. It struck him (Lord Wolmer) very deeply at the time, and it had always remained in his mind since as a great argument in favour of women's suffrage. Professor Fawcett said, if he (Lord Wolmer) recollected rightly, "How can Parliament deal with the question of Church and State in England or Scotland without consulting the women?" (Applause.) It was perfectly possible for people to hold, with equal conscientiousness, diverse views on this great question, but he contended it was absolutely impossible for anybody to maintain that the women of England or of Scotland were not at least as much interested in the settlement of the question as men were. (Hear, hear.) Any settlement of this question, carried, perhaps, by a small majority of men, with nine-tenths of the women on the other side—he purposely put the case strongly—unable to vote, would be one of the greatest cases of injustice ever perpetrated under democratic government. (Applause.) With these few words he had to move the first resolution.

Lady KNIGHTLEY, in seconding the resolution, said that a year ago, when she had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of that society, she had most sincerely hoped that by now they would have been a good deal further on the way towards the attainment of their wishes than they found themselves. Undoubtedly the difficulties to be overcome were very great. They had to steer through the vague rocky channel of the House of Commons, a measure which was not taken up as a party question by either of the great parties in the State, and though that might have its advantages, she was afraid it had also great disadvantages. They all knew what human nature, what political nature in the House of Commons was, and she thought that a question which presented an opportunity of inflicting a blow upon the opposite party would always command a good deal more support and assistance than a question which claimed its supporters in both the great parties of the State. However, they might derive some consolation, perhaps, from the old truth that it was darkest before dawn. They had now arrived at darkness, and she sincerely trusted that the dawn might

not be far distant. It must come soon, and those who had this question at heart must strain every nerve now. Everything that could possibly be done must be done to bring the question to decision in the present Parliament, for she was quite sure there were many reasons which would make it far more difficult in the future. In order to bring about this very desirable result, one or two practical suggestions were made the other day at a conference she had the pleasure of attending at the house of Colonel Cotton which, it struck her, might be of considerable value. Stress was laid upon the great advantage of combination. There did not seem to be sufficient work in that direction. They had scattered supporters and friends in various—in most—parts of the country, but she did not think they had been sufficiently brought together; and, to use the old simile, they were not like the old faggot of sticks bound and united together for the purpose they had in view. She knew that their secretaries and the central committee had requested lady supporters of the movement in different parts of the country to bring pressure to bear upon the members of Parliament who represented, not them, but the male population, in the divisions in which they resided. Still, it occurred to her that it might be rather more to the purpose if, instead of directly approaching the members, each of the ladies would try to influence the few men around them so that those men might be induced to influence the members in the direction they (the ladies) desired. (Hear.) Knowing what human nature was, she was afraid that so long as women had not got votes, their wishes would not weigh with members as would those of men who had votes, especially in the case of a closely contested election. She was far from saying that it should be a *sine qua non* that a candidate should pledge himself to support women's suffrage or he should not be supported at all. There was an extremely important question no doubt, but he should not make it the turning point of an election. Lord Camperdown paid them the compliment of saying that women generally knew what they wanted. That was perfectly true when they wanted it at all, but the great misfortune with them was that there were a great many women who did not want the suffrage. Those present did want it, but there was a large number of the classes who did not in the least wish for it and others were even actively opposed to their getting it. If all the friends present and others throughout the country would seek to enlist other women on their side, and to remove the misapprehensions and mistaken ideas that prevailed on the question among women of all classes, and particularly women of the upper classes rather than others who had more difficulties to contend with and felt, perhaps, that the possession of the franchise would be an advantage to them if this were done, she thought their cause would be thereby greatly advanced. (Applause.) It was always a difficult matter to induce people to look at things from another point of view when they were prejudiced on a subject, and she could not help thinking that discussion would be a very great advantage in this way. She would urge them to do all they possibly could to form and inform female opinion in this matter. They needed a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether. She believed that if they put their shoulders to the wheel, and made the attainment of the franchise really an object to set before them, they might yet have the pleasure of seeing the measure they had so much at heart pass through the House of Commons and reach that House where Lord Camperdown had assured them—(the Chairman: Not assured),—well, where he had given them a fair hope of its meeting with a favourable reception. (Applause.)

At this stage of the proceedings, Lord Camperdown being obliged to leave in order to attend the House of Lords, he was succeeded in the chair by Miss DAVENPORT HILL.

The resolution having been unanimously adopted,

Miss TOD (Belfast) moved the second resolution, which was as follows: "That in the opinion of this meeting the principle of women's suffrage as now established by common and statute law for unmarried women and widows in local elections, should be extended to Parliamentary elections, this meeting therefore respectfully requests its Parliamentary friends to take steps for the introduction of a Bill to that effect at the earliest period of the next session and pledges itself to support such action by every means in its power." She remarked that this resolution, which she had pleasure in moving, was almost identical in character and almost the same in phraseology as those resolutions with which they were acquainted in the earlier stages of that movement. Veterans in the

cause, those who had worked for more than twenty years to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women, might, she said, be excused if they regretted that their labours had not borne the particular fruit they expected them to have borne long since. But, at the same time, she did not think it was the old workers who felt so sad about the delay as some of the younger ones, because the former had seen, as the result of their efforts, the whole state of the community altered in regard to the civil status and improved position of women. She referred to the part which women were now permitted to take in the constitution and proceedings of local bodies. Admitted to the municipal franchise, when county councils were established the right of women to vote in their election was unquestioned. Members of Parliament and candidates at Parliamentary elections were calling upon women to help them, and it was not in the nature of things that they could much longer deny to those women the status of citizens. (Applause.)

Mr. LAFONE, M.P., who seconded the resolution, spoke from his own experience of the business capacity of the widows with whom in his own trade he came into contact, and he went on to counsel the friends of the women's suffrage meeting not to extend their demands beyond the enfranchisement of unmarried women and widows who possessed the same qualifications as male voters. If they went beyond this he feared they were most likely to alienate much support.

Colonel COTTON, M.P., in supporting the resolution, expressed regret that many members of Parliament who had been mentioned on the card of invitation, and who had promised to attend, had not found time to turn up. It was unnecessary, he said, for him to dilate upon the advantages of women's suffrage. They were all agreed upon that subject. He observed that they laboured under a lack of funds, and remarked that it would be a great pity to have to narrow their work in consequence. He felt that their work was not so much needed in London as in the country, where they should have a larger number of organisations, who ought to contribute towards the expenses of the Central Committee. It should be their aim to make their ideas more known among the poorer classes of women whom the granting of a vote would most affect. (Applause.) In his own neighbourhood in the North West of England, he found that those women did not care for women's suffrage, because they had never been indoctrinated with any love of or care for it, or with any idea that they were going to have it. Those were ideas that should be brought home to them. In order to influence members of Parliament they must first influence the existing electorate. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. FAWCETT complained that as treasurer of the society she had nothing to "treasure" or £22 less than nothing. They were regarded as the moderate party in reference to their views, but, in regard to contributing towards the funds, she expressed the hope that they would moderate their moderation. (Laughter and applause.)

The resolution was then adopted *nem. con.*

Lady GREY EGERTON moved and Miss EMILY DAVIES seconded the election of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year, consisting of the following persons, with power to add to their number, and of delegates of associated societies: Professor Adamson, Miss Gertrude Andrews, Mrs. Ashford, Miss Becker, Miss Helen Blackburn, Miss Jessie Boucherett, Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Colonel Cotton, M.P., Miss Courtenay, the Right Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Miss F. Davenport-Hill, Miss Emily Davies, Captain Edwards-Heathcote, M.P., Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Louisa Lady Goldsmid, Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Haslam, Miss Mordan, Clara Lady Rayleigh, T. W. Russell, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Stephen Spring-Rice, Mrs. Sterling, and Miss Tod.

The resolution having been unanimously adopted, thanks to Lord Camperdown and Miss Davenport-Hill for presiding terminated the proceedings.

CONFERENCE.

A conference took place on July 1st, at the house of Col. Cotton, M.P., and Mrs. Cotton, 18, Wilton Crescent, to consider methods of developing the work of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

Amongst those present were Louisa Lady Anstruther, Prof. Adamson, Miss Andrews, The Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Benson, Miss Babb, Dowager Countess of Buchan, Mrs. Rowe Bennett, Mrs.

and Miss Bigg, Mrs. Culme Seymour, Baron Dimsdale, M.P., Miss Emily Davies, Miss Drew, Hon. Mrs. Douglas Jones, Hon. Lady Grey Egerton, Miss Garrett, Dowager Lady Waldie-Griffith, Mrs. Gledhowe, Louisa Lady Goldsmid, Mrs. Arthur Hood, Mrs. C. H. Hodgson, Miss F. Davenport-Hill, Miss M. H. Hart, Lady Knightley, Miss M'Kerlie, Hon. Horace Plunkett, Hon. Mrs. Pereira, Miss Phillott, Miss Reeves, Mrs. and Miss Sterling, General Still, Miss Shirreff, Mrs. S. Spring Rice, Miss Tod, Miss Toynbee, &c., &c., &c.

A letter was read from Miss Becker from Aix les Bains, regretting absence, and adding "I earnestly hope that the result will be to strengthen the position of our committee and to extend the force of the movement in favour of the enfranchisement of women in Parliamentary elections on the same terms as in local elections." Letters regretting absence had also been received from Mr. Addison, M.P., Mr. Agg-Gardner, M.P., Mr. Aird, M.P., Capt. Edwards Heathcote, M.P., Col. Eyre, M.P., Mr. M'Lagan, M.P., Mr. M'Laren, M.P., the Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., Lord Wolmer, M.P., Mrs. Ashford, Mrs. Atlay, Mrs. Leonard Courtney, Hon. Mrs. Colborne, Miss Clough, Miss Amelia B. Edwards, and several others.

Col. Cotton occupied the chair. Short addresses were given by Baron Dimsdale and Miss Tod. A discussion then followed on modes of work, in which General Still, Prof. Adamson, Lady Knightley, Miss Emily Davies, and others took part.

The following reports were crowded out in the last issue:—

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was held, by invitation of Miss E. M. Bakewell, at the Warwick Studio, Hampstead, on the 31st May. The studio, which was tastefully decorated, was filled by a large audience of ladies and gentlemen. The chair was taken by Mr. J. S. Fletcher (L.C.C.). Miss Mordan moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting believes it to be a question of national importance that the Parliamentary franchise should be no longer denied to women who fulfil the required qualifications, and pledges itself to support the movement by all means in its power." This was seconded by Mrs. Fawcett, and supported by Sir Richard Temple, Bt., M.P., who pointed out the difficulties experienced at the present time by private members in securing time for the discussion of the subject in Parliament. Mr. F. E. Garrett also supported the motion which was carried unanimously, as also a vote of thanks to Miss Bakewell, moved by Miss Blackburn.

LONDON.

On May 22nd, a meeting was held by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Busk, in connection with the Central National Society, at 11, Sussex Place, Regent's Park. Mr. Woodall, M.P., in the chair. Mrs. Stanton Blatch gave an account of Wyoming.

A meeting, mainly composed of ladies, was held on June 2nd, at the house of Mrs. Leese, 12, Queen's Gate Gardens. Lady Sandhurst presided, and an address was given by an American lady—Mrs. Pearsall Smith—who drew a contrast between the condition of the women of to-day and their condition when she was young. When, she said, a high school was opened in 1826, in Boston, capable of admitting 400 girls, so great was the outcry against the evil effects of educating women that the mayor ordered it to be closed. She could remember when geography was excluded from girls' schools as a study likely to lead to a desire for wandering and a discontent with home surroundings. A resolution in favour of granting the vote to women was then passed, after which Miss Colenso moved a vote of thanks to Lady Sandhurst and Mrs. Leese.

On June 23rd, a drawing-room meeting took place, by permission of Mrs. Eve, at No. 37, Gordon Square, W.C., Lady Sandhurst presiding. A resolution in favour of extending the franchise to women was moved by Mrs. Stanton Blatch, supported by Mr. Percy Bunting and Miss Balfour.

MORE WOMEN POOR-LAW GUARDIANS.

A correspondent writes that Miss Avery was elected for Barnstaple, the first lady elected in that town. Miss Mary Burton should have been included amongst the ladies elected in St. Cuthbert's parish, Edinburgh, Miss Burton having been re-elected without opposition.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JULY, 1890.

Sir Edward Watkin, Bt., M.P. (donation)	£25 0 0	Mrs. Blott	£0 5 0
Lady Grey Egerton	3 0 0	Mrs. Heggate	0 5 0
Mr. Wm. Mather, M.P.	2 2 0	Miss G. Dullely	0 5 0
Miss Dacre	1 1 0	Miss R. Whitelegge	0 5 0
Mr. Sant	1 1 0	Miss Woodhead	0 5 0
Rt. Hon. Earl Ravensworth	1 0 0	Mr. H. Woodhead	0 5 0
Colonel Cotton, M.P.	1 0 0	Mrs. S. E. Johnson (Derby)	0 2 6
Mrs. Bingham	1 0 0	Miss Lamplough	0 2 6
Mrs. Sharman	1 0 0	Mrs. Hollins	0 2 6
Mrs. Brooklebank	0 10 6	Miss E. B. Prideaux	0 2 6
Mrs. Theo. Moilliet	0 10 0	Miss G. M. Prideaux	0 2 6
Mr. A. Nicholson	0 10 0	Miss Nicholson	0 2 6
Miss Joyce	0 5 0	Mrs. Willans	0 1 6
Mr. John Barrow	0 5 0		
			£40 11 0

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

CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED JULY TO AUGUST 15TH, 1890.

Mrs. Frank Morrison	£200 0 0	Mrs. Henry Richardson	£1 0 0
Mr. and Mrs. Thomasson	200 0 0	Mrs. Plattman	0 2 6
Mrs. Bateson	2 2 0	Miss A. Littleboy	0 2 6
Mrs. Susan Glover	2 2 0	Mrs. Cross	0 2 6
The Rev. S. A. Steinthal	1 1 0	Mrs. Turner	0 2 0
Mr. D. F. Schloss	1 1 0	Mrs. Seller	0 2 0
Mr. T. H. Wells	1 0 0	Mrs. Chapman	0 2 0
The Rt. Hon. L. Courtney, M.P.	1 0 0	Mrs. Wagstaffe	0 2 0
Miss Meade King	1 0 0	Mrs. Malthouse	0 2 0
Mr. Ernest Malleon	0 13 0	Miss Rous	0 2 0
Mr. T. Fisher Unwin	0 10 6	Miss Pearson	0 2 0
Lady Plowden	0 10 0	Mrs. Tinker	0 2 0
Crewe W. Liberal Association	0 10 0	Miss Turner	0 1 0
Mrs. Lough	0 10 0	Mrs. Lutin	0 1 0
Miss Petrie	0 10 0	Mrs. Clark	0 1 0
Miss Liepmann	0 10 0	Mrs. Hick	0 1 0
Notts. Women's Suffrage Society	0 10 0	Miss Knight	0 1 0
Mrs. H. P. Cobbe	0 10 0	Mrs. Ingleby	0 1 0
Mrs. Bryant, D.Sc.	0 10 0	Mrs. Lythe	0 1 0
Dr. W. J. Collins	0 10 0	Miss Bayes	0 1 0
Mrs. Partridge	0 8 6	Miss O'Brien	0 1 0
Miss Palmer	0 6 6	Mrs. Shouksmith	0 1 0
Mad. De Stieger	0 5 0	Mrs. Russell	0 1 0
Mr. Thos. Carpenter	0 5 0	Mrs. Groves	0 1 0
Miss Rachel Hopgood	0 5 0	Mrs. Lymes	0 1 0
Mrs. E. Morgan	0 5 0	Miss Adamson	0 1 0
Mrs. Carter	0 5 0	Mrs. Pierson	0 1 0
Miss Joseph	0 5 0	Miss Pamphrey	0 1 0
Mrs. Charles	0 5 0	Mrs. D. Wilson	0 1 0
Mrs. George Jackson	0 5 0	Mrs. M'Dermitt	0 1 0
Miss M. Davison	0 5 0	Miss Cross	0 1 0
Miss Boyle	0 5 0	Miss Muff	0 1 0
Miss Clark	0 5 0	Mrs. Carns	0 0 6
Miss Harrison	0 5 0	Mrs. Cross	0 0 6
Miss Vincent	0 5 0	Mrs. Dodds	0 0 6
Mrs. Pennack	0 2 6	Mrs. Lanes	0 0 6
Mrs. Walker (Doncaster)	0 2 6	Mrs. Ankers	0 0 6
Mrs. Ryder	0 2 6	Mrs. Sayer	0 0 6
Mrs. Harker	0 2 6	Mrs. Todd	0 0 6
Mrs. C. Greenwood	0 2 6	Mrs. Davison	0 0 6
Mrs. Stocker	0 2 6	Mrs. Clark	0 0 6
Miss Burrow	0 2 6	Mrs. Arnett	0 0 6
Mrs. Lechtie	0 2 6	Mrs. Leadley	0 0 6
Miss Emily Carey	0 2 6	Mrs. Varley	0 0 6
Mrs. Whitaker	0 2 6	Mrs. Holliday	0 0 6
Mrs. Warner	0 2 6	Mrs. J. Clark	0 0 6
Mrs. Septimus Buss	0 2 6	Mrs. Edwards	0 0 6
Miss S. A. Turle	0 2 6	Mrs. Ridsdale	0 0 6
Miss Pickford	0 2 6	Mrs. Stephenson	0 0 6
Miss M'Callum	0 2 6	Mrs. Calvert	0 0 6
Mrs. Reed	0 2 6		
Mrs. Clifford	0 2 6		
Miss G. Stewart	0 2 6		
Mrs. Fryduth Williams	0 2 0		
			£425 0 0

Mrs. FRANK MORRISON, TREASURER, Central Committee Office, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

Mrs. Beddoe	£1 1 0	Mrs. Clayton	£0 2 6
Rev. T. E. Brown	1 1 0	Mrs. L. Cordes	0 2 6
Miss Bragg	1 0 0		
Miss E. Crawford	0 10 0		
Mrs. Ward	0 5 0		
			£4 2 0

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

CENTRAL COMMITTEE, NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM JUNE 25TH TO AUGUST 8TH, 1890.

The Misses Davenport-Hill	£10 0 0	Mrs. Tubbs	£1 0 0
Miss E. H. Ford	8 0 0	Miss Twining	1 0 0
The Earl of Camperdown	5 0 0	Miss Bailey	0 10 0
Miss I. O. Ford	5 0 0	Miss Bell	0 10 0
Louisa, Lady Goldsmid	5 0 0	Mrs. Bridges	0 10 0
Friends, per Miss Lucy Johnson	5 0 0	The Hon. Mrs. Colborne	0 10 0
Mrs. Murray Smith	5 0 0	Misses Duer	0 10 0
Mrs. C. H. Hodgson	3 3 0	Mrs. Richardson Kuhlmann	0 10 0
Col. Cotton, M.P.	3 0 0	Miss Lloyd	0 10 0
Dr. Mary Marshall	1 1 0	Miss Kate Biggs	0 5 0
Mrs. Adams	1 0 0	Mrs. Hallwright	0 5 0
Mrs. Lewis Blacker	1 0 0	Miss O'Connor	0 5 0
Mr. H. S. Brandreth	1 0 0	Mrs. Lewis Paine	0 5 0
Rt. Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P.	1 0 0	Miss Ethel Norris	0 5 0
Mrs. Harrison	1 0 0	Mrs. Brander	0 3 0
Mr. Augustus Mordan	1 0 0	Mrs. Cheeseman	0 2 6
Miss Ruth	1 0 0	Miss d'Esterre Hughes	0 2 6
Mrs. Sterling	1 0 0	Mrs. de Rheims	0 2 6
Miss Frances Sterling	1 0 0	Miss M. E. Phillips	0 2 6
Misses Tacey (don.)	1 0 0	Miss J. F. Town-Smith	0 2 6
Miss Tacey	1 0 0	Various small sums	0 14 6
Miss Alice Tacey	1 0 0		
Miss Anne Tacey	1 0 0		
			£71 6 6

Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, TREASURER, Central Committee Office, 10, Great College-street, Westminster.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

Though for the past 25 years identified with public movements, and a leading member of the Manchester School Board from its beginning, Miss Becker had been previously esteemed among a wide circle of friends for the exemplary manner in which she had discharged the duties of private and domestic life as the eldest daughter of Mr. H. L. Becker, a gentleman of German descent, who was settled in business in Manchester. When in later life she emerged from retirement, initiated discussions of "women's rights" at the British Association, and distinguished herself as a platform speaker, her success was surprising only to those who had no previous acquaintance with her.—*Times*.

Before Miss Becker's time women, though not quite unknown as public speakers, were very rarely heard; and when moved to undertake her crusade in favour of women's rights, Miss Becker was quite aware that she would have to contend with the prejudices of generations and the ridicule of the ignorant and the heedless. But she allowed neither sarcasm nor indignation to turn her from her purpose.—*Manchester Guardian*.

A notable person has passed away by the death of Miss Lydia Becker. She was a woman of strong force of character, and combined with a cultured mind indomitable energy in the pursuit of any object she took in hand. To her unwearied zeal as secretary of the Women's Suffrage Society, and to the ceaseless activity of her pen as editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, the growing interest in the movement is largely due.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

It is difficult to estimate how much she will be missed from committees and platforms with her keen vision, sweet voice, and ready wit. This, at least, she has attained—the lifting of the question of women's rights into the region of serious controversy, clear out of the flippant atmosphere of gibes and sneers, which are now out of date even with shallow Saturday Reviewers.—*Nottingham Daily Express*.

When Miss Becker first appeared in public and announced her mission in favour of women's rights, public opinion was strongly against her, and the courageous woman had almost alone to withstand the fierce prejudices of her age. But she was not to be turned from her purpose, and she lived long enough to see the old ideas concerning women and their duties largely superseded by ideas of greater tolerance and freedom.—*Birmingham Daily Gazette*.

With voice and pen she strove incessantly all through the unsympathetic days when the claim of women to equality of education and of political justice was oftener met with ridicule than with the semblance of argument. . . . She had great capacity for public affairs, great enthusiasm, great devotion to her chosen ideal, and her name has to be remembered among those who have worked for progress and were not unrewarded.—*Scottish Leader*.