

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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

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

LECTURES.—Miss JEANNETTE G. WILKINSON is prepared to give any of the following Lectures in connection with the question of the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women:—

Women and Politics.

The Social and Political Position of Women.

If the Vote is good for Jack, why not for Jill.

Women and Temperance Legislation.

Women and War.

Secretaries of Clubs, Political and other Associations invited to apply.—For particulars, address: The Secretary, 29, Parliament-street, London; or, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"Miss Wilkinson is an eloquent speaker."—*Western Daily Mercury* (Plymouth).

"Miss Wilkinson possesses a clear, telling style of delivery."—*Gloucester Journal*.

"An intelligent and forcible address on Women and Politics was delivered by Miss J. G. Wilkinson."—*Merthyr Express*.

"An eloquent address, characterised by much logical argument and force."—*Western Gazette* (Yeovil).

"A more lucid or logical speech it has never been our lot to listen to. The discourse was full of point from beginning to end, and abounded in apt illustration and racy humour."—*Cambrian Leader* (Swansea).

"Miss Wilkinson spoke very forcibly, and highly interested her audience."—*The Gazette* (Stearford).

"The lecture was of an admirable character, strong both in facts and logic."—*South Wales Daily News*.

"Miss Wilkinson, who is evidently no novice in the art of public oratory, set forth her reasons in so forcible yet entertaining a style, as to elicit repeated and cordial marks of approbation."—*Ilfracombe Gazette*.

"Miss Wilkinson spoke very forcibly, and highly interested her audience. Her thoughts were well guided and her address was sound and logical."—*Lincoln Gazette*.

Just Published.

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

ABERDARE HALL, CARDIFF, will be opened on Oct. 5th for the accommodation of the Lady Students attending University College. Sessional fee, £40. Application to be made to the Honorary Principal, the Hon. ISABEL BRUCE, Duffryn, Mountain Ash.

THE HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE. Illustrated with steel engravings. Edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage. Complete in three octavo volumes. Vols. I. and II. now ready. Price, cloth, two pounds.

The question of Woman Suffrage, the rights and status of Woman, has already become one of the vital political issues of the day; therefore, its relation to political, social, and religious questions should be thoroughly understood.

The *Phila. Evening Bulletin* says: "The magnitude of this history prevents us from giving even a sketch of it, but we simply and honestly say that it is a noble production, honourable to its editors and to its subject, and fairly representing the characters of the really great women, like Mrs. Stone, Lucretia Mott, Harriet Martineau, and scores of others in England and this country, who made the claim of equal rights of suffrage a part of their political and religious creeds."

The *N. Y. Observer* says: "The able editors present this work as an arsenal of facts, to which all interested in the subject may resort and find whatever is worth knowing in regard to the movement. The history of such a movement is full of interest, and while the material is at hand and easily gathered, the editors have done well to gather it into these thick volumes, and preserve it as a part of the record of this remarkable age. The portraits of women here presented make us acquainted with the features of some who have become famous."

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Daily Votes and Proceedings.)

- July 7. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of Bromley, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- „ 13. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of Bristol, &c. (13), Clifton (2), Sligo, &c., and Belfast; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- „ 16. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- „ 17. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at St. Austell, and Inhabitants of Edinburgh and Spalding; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], Petition in favour of, of Meeting at Edinburgh; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- „ 20. Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], Petitions in favour of, of Meetings in Edinburgh (2); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- „ 21. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of Long Ashton; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- „ 27. Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], Petitions in favour of, of Inhabitants of Glasgow (2); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- „ 27. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of Charlton Horethorne; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SEVENTEENTH REPORT, June 12—July 6, 1885.

June	Brought forward, Petitions	333—
	Signatures	7,770
8065 12	NEW CROSS and neighbourhood, Inhabitants of (Mr. Boord)	46
8066 „	CHELSEA, Women Inhabitant Householders of, and others (Mr. Firth)	11
8067 „	LONDON and other places, Lucy Bird and other ladies resident in (Mr. Grantham)	23
8068 „	TEMPLEOGUE, Dublin, Ladies resident in (Colonel King-Harman)	10
8069 „	MARY ANNE NICHOLSON, a female inhabitant farmer resident at Staincocks, Brigg, in the county of Lincoln (Mr. Rowland Winn)	1
8070 „	DUBLIN, Members of the Molyneux Young Men's Association	15
8071 15	EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting of Ladies held at No. 6, Crawford Road, Craigmillar Park; Helen S. Lumsden, president (Mr. Buchanan)	1
8072 „	NORWOOD and SYDENHAM, Ladies resident at (Mr. Woodall)	15
8073 „	CHELtenham, Inhabitants of (Mr. Woodall)	26
8074 „	BRISTOL and CLIFTON, Inhabitants of (Mr. Woodall)	16
8075 19	LEEDS, in the county of York, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Herbert Gladstone)	15
8076 „	YORK, There-undersigned Women Inhabitant Householders of (Mr. William Ewart Gladstone)	69
8077 23	EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at 82, Great King-street; Ruth Maclean (Mr. Buchanan)	1
8078 „	LONDON, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Torrens)	40
8079 24	SAINT AUSTELL, in the county of Cornwall, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on the 3rd day of March, 1885; Frederick Robert Ray, chairman (Mr. Borlase)	1
8080 „	LONDON, Inhabitants of South-Eastern District of (Baron Henry De Worms)	4
8081 „	„ „ „ „	16
8082 „	„ „ „ „	62
July		
8083 6	BRISTOL, Inhabitants of (Sir Philip Miles)	27
8084 „	LONG ASHTON, Inhabitants of (Sir Philip Miles)	50
8085 „	„ „ „ „	12

Total Number of Petitions 354—Signatures 8,241

SUMMARY FROM 23RD OCTOBER, 1884, TO JULY 7TH, 1885.

Subject.	No. of Petitions signed Officially or under Seal.	Total No. of Petitions.	Total No. of Signatures.
Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) (No. 2) Bill—In Favour [2, 12, 40, 74]...	114	354	8,241

QUALIFICATION OF ELECTORS.

We extract from the *Echo* the following statement of the qualification of electors in the United Kingdom. The Bill introduced by Mr. Woodall would have entitled women possessed of any of the undermentioned qualifications to be placed on the register and to vote at Parliamentary elections.

The principal qualifications, as extended by the Act of 1884, are as follow:—

COUNTY VOTES.

(Six months' possession before July 15th is necessary.)

- A.—Freeholds of 40s. annual value (rent charges excepted).
- B.—Copyholds of £5 annual value.

(12 months' possession or occupation previous to July 15th is required.)

- C.—Leaseholds (over 60 years) of £5 annual value.
- D.—Leaseholds (over 20 years) of £50 annual value.
- E.—Occupation of any dwelling-house.
- F.—Occupation of land or tenement, including offices, chambers, shops, warehouses, of £10 annual value.
- G.—Lodgers occupying apartments of the annual value of £10 unfurnished—joint occupation by two persons qualifies if the total value is £20.

Qualifications A to D.—Claim to vote in respect of ownership qualification must be sent to the overseers before July 20th. Qualifications E and F.—Occupiers are placed on the list published by the overseers on August 1st, without the necessity for claiming, but if omitted, claims should be sent in before August 20th.

Qualification G.—Lodgers must send in claims to vote before August 20th.

BOROUGH VOTES.

(Occupation for 12 months preceding July 15th is required.)

- 1.—Occupation of any dwelling house.
 - 2.—Occupation of land or tenement, including warehouse, counting house, shop, office, chambers, of £10 annual value.
 - 3.—Lodgers occupying apartments of the annual value of £10 unfurnished—joint occupation by two persons qualifies if the total value is £20.
- 1 and 2.—The names of householders and occupiers are placed on the list published by the overseers on August 1st, without the necessity for a claim, but if omitted, claims should be sent in before August 20th.
- 3.—Lodgers not already on the register must send in claims before August 20th. Lodgers who are already on the register must renew their claims each year on or before July 25th.

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE.—Occupiers in either borough or county must send in claims if they remove from one house to another in the same constituency.

THE SERVICE FRANCHISE.—Any person who separately inhabits a dwelling house in either borough or county by virtue of any office, service, or employment can claim a vote as a householder, whether he pays rates or not.

INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY OF WOMEN.

The men who argue against the extension of the suffrage to women on the ground of their moral, physical, and intellectual inferiority should feel somewhat nonplussed by the results of the June examination for matriculation at London University. For the first time a lady heads the honours list and gains the exhibition of thirty pounds a year for two years; and out of the thirty-five candidates who have either taken prizes or gained the qualifying number of marks eight are ladies. In the honours division out of 136 candidates 30 are ladies, and no less than 100 ladies out of 150 entered for examination are to be found among the 615 successful candidates. Now who will dare to say any more about the moral, physical, and intellectual inferiority of women?—*Hostings Times*.

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ON the re-assembling of Parliament after the adjournment for the elections rendered necessary by the new ministerial appointments, the Government decided to ask for the remaining Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the session for Government business. This demand was almost as a matter of course acceded to by the House, and although Mr. WOODALL entered a strong plea for the exemption of Wednesday, July 22nd, from appropriation, the plea was unavailing, and the resolution giving up the time of the House to the Government was passed without opposition. Under these circumstances Mr. WOODALL, seeing no possibility of any further action this session, moved the discharge of the order for the second reading of the Bill, and the existence of the Women's Franchise Bill, 1885, came thereby to an end.

THE appeal is therefore now removed from Parliament to the people. During the existence of a Parliament the friends of women's suffrage have to endeavour to influence the minds of members in order to obtain consideration and settlement of their claim. But during the interval between the close of the labours of the dying Parliament and the beginning of work of its successor we have the far wider duty of appealing to the electors at large, and of placing before them the claim of women who are householders and ratepayers to the same measure of representation that has just been extended to all sorts and conditions of men who are similarly qualified. This appeal is in one sense more difficult and in another sense more easy than a direct appeal to Parliament. It is more difficult because of the immensely larger number of persons who are to be informed and convinced—it is more easy because the appeal lies rather to masses of men than to individuals, and because experience has shown that wherever there has been a public meeting called to discuss the question and the simple issue has been placed before them—a man who is a householder and pays rates and taxes has a vote, why should not a woman who is a householder and pays rates and taxes have a vote?—that the

sense of fairness and justice which characterises an assembly of Englishmen leads them to assent to the claim. It therefore behoves all who are interested in the question to take care that wherever there is a meeting called with a view to discuss the political questions of the immediate future, and to determine the character of the legislation of the new Parliament, the question of women's suffrage shall be brought forward and the sense of the meeting taken upon it.

THE course now suggested is more especially desirable in all meetings called for the purpose of hearing candidates and asking them questions. No such meeting ought to pass without bringing the question under the notice of candidates, if they have not already referred to it, and no candidate ought to be able to say at the close of his electioneering campaign that no one had asked him to vote for the enfranchisement of women.

It is probable that the present month, after the close of the session, will be taken as a brief political holiday both by candidates and constituencies; but our friends may use the time in thinking and preparing for the work which will probably begin early in September. During that month many new candidates will doubtless begin to make the closer acquaintance of their prospective constituents, and this will give the desired opportunity for educating both candidates and constituencies on the great and pressing question of the enfranchisement of women, and of urging its immediate settlement.

SIR FREDERICK MILNER, in the debate on the Medical Relief Bill, said his reason for voting for the Bill was more or less a sentimental one. He could not help feeling that if a felon who had been discharged from gaol was to have the privilege of a vote, it would be very hard on a poor man to be deprived of that privilege because he had received temporary relief during sickness.

This reasoning may be sentimental, but there is certainly a good deal of force in it, and it is capable of

further extension. If the felon discharged from prison is to have the privilege of a vote—if the same boon is to be extended to the man who receives relief from the rates during sickness, it is indeed very hard on the woman for stealing whose property the felon may have been sent to gaol, and on the ratepayer who has to contribute towards the relief of the man who applies to the parish doctor, to be denied the same privilege.

THE *Globe* is indebted to a Devonshire lady for the relation of an incident which occurred the other day in her own district, and which may most conveniently be put in dramatic form:—Enter Farm Bailiff and Tenant Farmer. *F.B.*: "So you've got the franchise!"—*T.F.*: "Oh no, we haven't—not up our way."—*F.B.*: "Why, it is all over, everywhere."—*T.F.*: "No, I assure you we've just elected a new sanitary officer, and we're very healthy."

The lady who relates the story belongs to a class which presumably on the ground of incapacity for citizenship is excluded from the privilege of voting. We believe, however, that had such as she and her compeers been admitted to that privilege, she would have known better than to regard the franchise as a thing which needed to be stamped out through the agency of a sanitary inspector.

ON July 28th Lord DENMAN again moved the second reading of his Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women. On this, as on previous occasions, the action of the noble lord was entirely spontaneous.

The circumstances under which the Bill was brought forward rendered it absolutely impossible that the measure could be seriously or practically considered by the House of Lords at that time, and in moving the previous question the Marquis of SALISBURY took a course which in no way implied opposition to the principle of the Bill. The effect of the vote was simply that without pronouncing an opinion on the merits of the Bill, the House declined to enter on the question on that occasion.

There is every reason to believe that if a Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise were passed by the House of Commons, the measure would be favourably received in the House of Lords; and this consideration should incite all friends of the cause to use their utmost diligence and energy in pressing the question at the earliest possible date on the attention of the new Parliament.

THE Annual Meeting of the Central Committee of the

National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on July 9th, at the Westminster Palace Hotel. The attendance was large and influential, and the meeting was one of the most successful that has been held on any similar occasion.

Mr. WOODALL, who occupied the chair, said that notwithstanding all the evidences they had of the progress of the cause, the women householders of the three kingdoms were still kept waiting at the portals while the five millions of householders who have the advantage of sex will be called upon shortly to exercise their political rights at the ballot box. Their case has perhaps been most painful, because it has seemed from time to time as if they were at the very point of grasping that for which they contended, but continually a turn of the kaleidoscope altered the position of affairs; and time after time, when a day had been secured, the fortunes of Parliamentary business deprived him of it. But they would turn from a moribund Parliament to the new Parliament, which more than any Parliament which had preceded it would approximate to the true theory, and would more directly realise in practice than had been hitherto done the theory of the constitution that taxation ought to imply representation.

After a few words from Mr. PULESTON, the Right Hon. J. STANSFELD spoke. He said his political life and experience had already extended over many years, but in the whole of that experience no public question whatever had made any progress comparable with the progress of what he might call the great woman question, of which their movement was the principal exponent.

Mr. JUSTIN M'CARTHY, M.P., said he thought they and their advocates would do well to be just a little more aggressive in their way of conducting the question. They must make the House of Commons feel that the cause had progressed far beyond the academic stage, and that some of them were determined to press it to the point without regard to any passing Parliamentary interest which might be claiming precedence.

Mr. COLERIDGE KENNARD, M.P., said if they did not bring their great question to the front this session, he believed they would certainly succeed next year, especially if they used all their influence for the return of candidates who were favourable to the Bill.

Miss BECKER said the standard of fitness for the suffrage had been so lowered that it was no longer possible to maintain that the women householders and ratepayers were below that standard, and meantime the standard of education among women had been steadily rising.

Professor STUART, M.P., said their immediate work was

to influence candidates for the forthcoming elections, their next work was with women. As the wrongs from which women suffered, and the misfortunes which befel this nation because of these wrongs, became generally known among women, the wish for the suffrage would grow and increase.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE said she had faith in the electorate, and did not at all believe that the extension of the franchise among male householders would in any way injure their cause.

Mr. WESTLAKE, Q.C., said he thought they ought not to omit all mention of the fact that in the political councils which had been formed in many of the new constituencies ladies had been popularly elected as representative members. He urged that whatever amendments they might be compelled to accept they should ask for no legislation which does not fully correspond to the principle that the electoral rights of women should under the same circumstances be the same as those of men.

Mr. C. B. M'LAREN, M.P., said it had been one of the greatest trials of his political life to find the Liberal party deserting this question when Mr. WOODALL pressed it to a division. He would like to see formed in the House of Commons a group of members determined to see justice done without delay on this and kindred questions. Mr. STANSFELD having taken the chair, a vote of thanks to Mr. WOODALL, moved by Miss TOD and seconded by Miss BALGARNIE, concluded the proceedings.

At Southport a meeting, in support of the franchise for women, was held at the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League, under the presidency of the Ruling Counsellor, Mr. THOMAS DALE, J.P. Addresses were delivered by Mrs. DALE and Mrs. MACMILLEN, and the resolutions were supported by Dr. CORNWELL and Mr. W. ROBSON. The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and copies forwarded to the Marquis of SALISBURY, the Right Hon. Sir RICHARD CROSS, M.P., and Colonel IRELAND BLACKBURN, M.P.

In Edinburgh drawing room meetings have been held at the residences of Miss MACLEAN and Mrs. DUNCAN SMITH respectively. Addresses were delivered by Miss KIRKLAND, Miss WIGHAM, Mrs. WELLSTOOD, Dr. AGNES M'LAREN, Miss BURTON, Miss FLORA STEVENSON, Dr. ELIZABETH BEILBY, from India, and others. At a political meeting at Galashiels an address on women's suffrage was given by the Rev. Mr. HENDERSON.

At a meeting of the Council of the Edinburgh Conservative Association in July, a resolution was carried by

twenty-five votes to three approving of Mr. WOODALL'S Bill.

IN the beginning of July, when it appeared that Mr. WOODALL'S Bill might be brought forward on the 22nd, the subject was brought to the notice of the Councils of the Municipal Boroughs in England and Wales, in order that they might consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament in support of a measure which concerned the interest of so considerable a portion of their constituents. The notice was necessarily short, and would in a large number of cases arrive too late for the subject to be considered before the day the Bill was expected to come on. Notwithstanding this, the petition was adopted by the Councils of Nottingham, Sunderland, Scarborough, Hull, Neath, Chipping Norton, Luton, Crewe, Kidderminster, and Southport.

Petitions from Councils have naturally great weight with the Legislature, as they are held to represent the public opinion of their districts. Women who will be asked next November for their votes in the annual election of town councillors would do well to remember this, and to urge the candidates who may seek their suffrages in municipal elections to support petitions in the several councils in favour of the kindred but larger measure of justice—the right of women to representation in Parliamentary elections.

COLSTON Hall, Bristol, on the evening of July 27th, was crowded from end to end, and the lesser hall overflowing also with women, to petition for the protection of girls. Such a sight the great hall presented once before, when, on November 4th, 1880, it was similarly crowded with women come to petition for the franchise. There is a link between these meetings, held—the one to petition for political power, the other to petition against the evil effects which follow a lack of that power. Not in this town nor in that, in all parts the public mind has been startled into seeing that protection must be obtained, and the defenceless defended. Yet how helpless the defenders when the women who strive with such devotion against the great evil themselves lack defence, and the greatest weapon of the law is withheld from them.

The first and last advice for women who would help other women is—get the vote for yourselves. Get the vote if you would help others: get the vote if you would hold in your hand the instrument which gives power. Political liberty is the only safeguard that endures, that

outlives the fleeting agitation of an hour, the uncertain duration of a law. H. B.

WE observe with great satisfaction that the question of women's suffrage has been brought forward in South Australia. In June, Dr. STIRLING gave notice in the House of Assembly that he would, on July 8th, introduce a Bill for extending the franchise to women. The thanks of the friends of the cause in the mother country are due to Dr. STIRLING for his effort to effect the enfranchisement of women in the colony, and the fortunes of the measure will be watched with the greatest sympathy and interest on this side the globe.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Monday, July 13th.

PETITIONS.

The Earl of Iddesleigh presented petitions from Bristol (10), W. Hargreave, and others, Bristol, Stoke Bishop, Hebron Chapel, Bedminster, and Clifton (3), in favour of women's suffrage.

The Earl of Kintore presented petitions from inhabitants of Dublin, Boyle, Sligo, and Belfast, in favour of granting the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women.

July 16th.

The Earl of Rosebery presented a petition from inhabitants of Hyde in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

July 17th.

Lord Carrington presented a petition from women of Spalding in favour of extending the franchise to women who are ratepayers.

Lord Robartes presented a petition from St. Austell, Cornwall, in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

The Earl of Rosebery presented petitions from inhabitants of Edinburgh and a drawing-room meeting at 25, Great King-street, Edinburgh, in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women.

July 27th.

The Earl of Rosebery presented petitions from Charlton Horthorne and Milborne Port, in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who pay rates and taxes.

The Earl of Iddesleigh presented a petition from Mr. A. Young and ladies at Glasgow, in favour of woman suffrage.

July 28th.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL.

Lord DENMAN moved the second reading of this Bill, and contended that the measure extending the franchise to the counties was imperfect unless accompanied by a measure enfranchising women. There were instances in which the grandmother and the mother of the present tenant of a farm had managed that farm as well as he was doing, and it seemed an anomaly that they should not have a vote and that he should. It was certainly most unjust that a widow should be ejected from a farm because she could not vote, and as landlords did deprive widows of the holdings that had been carried on by their late husbands for the sake of obtaining tenants who could vote, the legislation proposed by the Bill was necessary to put an end to a cruel injustice. Certainly women who carried on farms or works ought to be placed on an equality with the labourers they employed. No doubt it was late in the session to introduce a Bill of this character, but still it would be better to pass it before the general election, and he therefore hoped their lordships would be favourable to the second reading.

The Marquis of SALISBURY said he thought a noble earl opposite, who favoured the principle of the Bill, had indicated the course he should adopt with regard to this measure.

The Earl of ROSEBERY said that as he thought this was an improper way of bringing forward the question he stated that he would leave the House rather than take part in a division upon it.

The Marquis of SALISBURY said it would be unfortunate that such a course should be taken, and he therefore moved the previous question.

The LORD CHANCELLOR put the question "That the question be now put," and it was negatived, and the Bill was therefore put off.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Tuesday, July 7th. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir M. Hicks-Beach) rose to move the following resolution:—"That the Committee of Supply have precedence this day of all other business; and that for the remainder of the session, including this day, orders of the day have precedence of notices of motions on Tuesdays, Government orders having priority; that Government orders have priority on Wednesdays; and that the Standing Order of the 27th of November, 1882, relating to notices on going into Committee of Supply on Monday and Thursday, be extended to Tuesday and Wednesday."

In the course of the debate which followed,

Mr. WOODALL said: As I have the misfortune to represent one of the interests which it is proposed to-night to confiscate, I cannot forbear from entering my protest against the arrangement by which it is proposed to sacrifice the rights of private members, especially in respect to the Wednesday sittings. I had the good fortune to secure Wednesday week for taking the opinion of the House upon a question which is no longer a party one, but which is a question upon which I have received support from both sides of the House—the question of women's suffrage. Upon that subject I have been particularly unfortunate in the course of the present Parliament, and I should like to make an appeal to the noble lord the present Postmaster-General (Lord J. Manners)—who has so consistently given his assistance and support to the measure which I have introduced for removing the disabilities of women householders—to assist me in obtaining an opportunity for the discussion of this important proposal. I cannot but hope that the opportunity which I had secured will yet be left undisturbed in the arrangements of the new Government. I understand the proposal to be that when the Government choose to put down their measures for days which have hitherto been appropriated for the motions of private members, they will have precedence; but they do not pledge themselves, as I understand, in any way. I therefore make an appeal to them that Wednesday week may still be left free, so that the House may have an opportunity of declaring itself on the question of women's suffrage. I do so because the right hon. gentleman the leader of the party on this side of the House has expressed his earnest desire that the House may be left to arrive at a vote upon this question unbiassed by any party consideration. I would appeal to hon. and right hon. gentlemen opposite because, on a former occasion, they rendered most important service under what, at the time, was a suggestion of something like partizanship. We cannot forget that, although there has recently been a large and important extension of the suffrage, political disability still attaches to those who are otherwise abundantly qualified, merely on the ground of their sex, and I do hope that this Parliament will not close its labours without an opportunity being afforded for expressing itself upon this important question. I admit the full force of what has been said by the right hon. gentleman the leader of the House, that it is his desire to limit the questions brought before the House to questions of a non-contentious character, and I cannot deny that this is, to a certain extent, a question of a contentious character. But the right hon. gentleman will admit that it presents an important aspect of a question which has largely occupied the time of the House, and it is important that it should not be passed by now. I appeal therefore with some confidence to the right hon. gentleman that he will, if possible, spare the day which has been secured for the discussion of this subject; that he will give us an opportunity of taking the opinion of the House on the day which has already been fixed; that in the event of that opinion being a favourable one he will facilitate the passing of the measure through its other stages in this Parliament. If the right hon. gentleman finds it impossible to leave the day which has been secured, I trust that he will, at any rate, afford another opportunity. I do not make any complaint against the general tone of the right hon. gentleman's obser-

vations, but I am sure he will feel with me that it was impossible to allow the proposal he has made to pass without saying these few words.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Tuesday, June 9th.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock.

A WOMAN'S FRANCHISE.

Dr. STIRLING gave notice that on Wednesday, July 8th, he would move that the Parliamentary franchise be extended to women, except when under coverture, on fulfilling the conditions and possessing the qualifications on which the franchise is granted to men.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

(SPECIAL REPORT.)

The annual meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on the afternoon of Thursday, July 9th, at Westminster Palace Hotel. Mr. W. WOODALL, M.P., presided, and there was a large attendance. Amongst those present were the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., Prof. Stuart, M.P., Mr. C. B. McLaren, M.P., Mr. Hopwood, Q.C., M.P., Mr. T. Roe, M.P., Mr. Coleridge Kennard, M.P., Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., Mr. W. Summers, M.P., Mr. Hollond, M.P., Mr. Puleston, M.P., Dr. Kinneir, M.P., Mr. J. Westlake, Q.C., Miss Tod (Belfast), Miss Becker (Manchester), Mrs. Charles McLaren, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Miss Rigby, Helen T. Matthey, C. H. Rae, Rev. Rupert Cochrane (rector of Langton), Mrs. Cochrane, Miss Cochrane, Dora Forster, Lucy Wilson, Agnes A. O'Connor, James Williamson, M.D., Mrs. Nunn, Miss Nunn, Miss Galloway, F. F. Black, A.M., Mrs. Black, Lucy Johnson, F. Martin, A. E. Hornidge, Miss Baines, Alfred G. Henriques, Mrs. Byers, Miss W. Mitchell, Miss Miller, W. J. Turner, John Hubbard, E. E. Putney, Mrs. Baynes, Miss Nias, Annie Leigh Browne, Mrs. C. H. Hodgson, Miss Cotton Walker, Mrs. C. Seymour, Miss F. Law, Andrew Allen, A. M. Lipscomb, R. J. A. Chard, Mrs. Beeson, Mrs. E. M. Southey, Mrs. F. Pennington, E. Moore, Mr. Moore, William Tebb, J. T. Patton, Mrs. Brooksbank, Mrs. Le Kelley, Ellen C. McKee, A. E. Shield, Mrs. E. G. Underdown, Chas. Bolton, E. A. Firth, E. H. Sturge, B.A., M. M. Boyce, Miss Sharman Crawford, James S. Baily, M. A. Andrew, S. Blackburne, N. A. Sanders, Ellen S. Brown, Arthur E. Brown, Mary Ann Lee, Mr. Floyd, Joseph N. Dawson, Mrs. Turner, A. Macdonell, Frank Lees, Anna C. Andrews, H. Zieen, R. B. Harrison, Miss Emily Reid (Hampstead), H. W. Nash (Newnham Terrace), Mrs. Grimes, Miss Florence Davenport-Hill, Geo. Booth, Kate Mitchell, L.C.P.I. (Sloane-street), R. Hall, E. Wood, Peter Williams, J. L. Wardley, Thos. Grundy, Emma A. Paterson, Miss Ledsam, Mrs. Ritchie, Miss S. A. Turle, Miss E. E. Stovell, Miss A. E. Tanner, Miss A. Law, Miss Gwynne, G. Chandler, Frank M. Dutton, M. Howell, J. H. Levy, The Misses Pontifex, Miss H. Gardner, R. Carlingford, W. S. Bolton, Edward Wells, Jeannette G. Wilkinson, Mrs. H. Kelsall, Mrs. John Jameson, Judith Hughes Crossman, Elizabeth Hall, Jacob Wood, Mrs. Barralit, Mrs. F. E. Snelling, Mrs. Cooper-Oakley, Mrs. Hallock, Herbert Burrows, Rev. E. T. Hoare, Augustus Cooper (Brighton), Mrs. John Hullah, Susan Glover, The Dowager Countess of Buchan, Mrs. Martin, Rev. E. Wyatt Edgell, Nathaniel Waterall, Mrs. E. L. Blanchard, James Taymin, Mdlle. Marie Poncione, Miss Reeves, Mrs. John Greenslade, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Mensbier, Mrs. Tiffin, J. Stuart, Mrs. V. J. Chamberlain, Allen A. Cooper, Miss Balfarnie (Secretary), &c. At the request of the Chairman,

Miss BALFARNIE read extracts from a number of members of Parliament and other friends who were unavoidably prevented by other engagements from attending. Mr. Gorst, M.P., the new Solicitor-General, wrote that he very much regretted being unable to be present. General Alexander, M.P., regretted that ill health prevented him being present, and sent a donation of three guineas to show his good will. Mr. John Morley, M.P., wrote "I wish I could do what you ask, but I am unable to be present, having another engagement." Mr. R. Yorke, M.P., whilst regretting his absence from the meeting, added that he would be in his place in

Parliament in the event of Mr. Woodall's Bill coming on. Mr. Beach, M.P., also wrote that he would support Mr. Woodall. Mr. Hibbert and Mr. Houldsworth also wrote; and the following gentlemen had expected to be present, but were unavoidably prevented from taking part in the proceedings, viz.:—Mr. Dickson, M.P., who was detained in Ireland with the County Down election; Mr. Thomasson, M.P., and Mr. Theo. Fry, M.P. Letters had likewise been received from Baron H. de Worms, M.P.; Colonel King-Harman, M.P.; Mr. Cunliffe Brooks, M.P.; Mr. Albert Grey, M.P.; Sir R. Cunliffe, M.P.; Mr. J. Slagg, M.P.; Mr. Rankin, M.P.; Mr. Caine, M.P.; Mr. Leonard H. Courtney, M.P.; the Countess of Portsmouth; Sir Richard Temple, Bart.; and Mr. Sydney Gedge.

The annual report, which has been published in another form, was taken as read. Miss Balfarnie, in calling attention to some of its more prominent passages, drew attention to the fact that it had been prepared before the appropriation by the Government of the day appointed for Mr. Woodall's Bill.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I hope that you will give to the report which has been formally submitted to you the consideration which it merits. You will find that it tells us of earnest and arduous work—that it gives varied and abundant evidence of the increasing interest which is felt in our question,—and I think you will also agree with me that it testifies to continuous progress of public opinion in regard to the claims represented by this association. (Hear, hear, and applause.) We are still told, however, that those on behalf of whom these claims are made are themselves either indifferent or hostile to our proposal. Well, you will find in the report some reference to the number of petitions which have been presented to the Houses of Parliament from those who are, as we believe, entitled to the suffrage. I have had the opportunity of seeing these petitions in considerable number, but I am bound to say that petitions are to be measured not so much by their number as by their quality; and I have never seen petitions more impressively signed, or giving so much evidence of the genuineness which has prompted their signatures, as in the case of those which have been presented in favour of women's suffrage. (Hear, hear.) You will find also that over the three kingdoms there have been meetings largely attended by women claimants. These meetings have been held sometimes in the most capacious halls in the largest centres of population, and they have been overflowing in numbers. On the other hand, you had meetings held in the drawing-rooms of the well-to-do, as well as in the clubs of the working men and other more humble associations. In fact, all sorts and conditions of men and women—in places where they most do congregate—have taken their various opportunities of testifying to the earnestness with which this claim is pressed. Various associations have also agreed—in many cases unanimously—to petition in support of the Bill which I have had the honour to introduce; but I think I may single out as very significant the overwhelming vote which was taken at the last Congress of the Trades' Unions, because it has been so often suggested that there was on the part of the representatives of those bodies a jealousy with regard to the possession of political rights by women—a suspicion from which I am very glad to see they have completely exonerated themselves. (Applause.) While thus supported by so many popular expressions of sympathy, it is particularly gratifying to us to-day to realise that more than was ever the case our platform is not limited to one political party. (Hear, hear.) Amongst the Liberal party, and among those who have been the pioneers of Liberal principles, this movement of ours has always found much sympathy. We have always contended for the constitutional maxim that taxation should carry representation with it. (Applause.) We have always claimed to rejoice in everything that brought to the service of the State a larger number of capable citizens; but I am sure the Conservative members of Parliament who are with us to-day will testify to the fact that, if many of the Conservative party have been tardy in the acceptance of our principles, they are very strenuous in the support which they are giving us to-day. If that be true of the rank and file of the two parties, it is remarkably true also with regard to the leaders of those parties. (Hear, hear.) You have seen it stated in the newspapers that Mr. Gladstone was prepared to give his assent to the principle of the measure which I have introduced by voting for the second reading. (Applause.) I have no authority to make that statement myself, but, on the other hand, I have not the smallest reason to doubt its accuracy. The position of the present Prime

Minister in that respect is equally satisfactory and assured. (Hear, hear.) Lord Salisbury, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Iddesleigh, Lord John Manners, and others of the most responsible leaders of the Conservative party are warmly pledged to support our movement. (Applause.) These evidences to which I have referred are remarkable in many respects; but it does appear to me that they are singular in that they are not the outcome and result of anything like a direct electoral pressure upon members of Parliament. They, in fact, testify, as it appears to me, to the inherent force of a sound principle—of a claim founded upon justice. (Applause.) And yet, notwithstanding all these evidences of progress, the women householders of the three kingdoms are still kept waiting at the portals while the five million of householders who have the advantage of sex will be called upon shortly to exercise their political rights at the ballot box. You may ask how this comes about, and those who are not familiar with the peculiar difficulties which stand in the way and bar progress in Parliament may well be excused some expressions of surprise. The surprise will, perhaps, be modified if you cast a glance at those other questions on which it has been so long supposed that public opinion was practically ripe, but which still await legislative solution. The reformers who have addressed themselves to the questions of the licensing laws, of the marriage laws, of the burial laws, or to the question of leasehold enfranchisement, &c., all have to stand and wait in the same way. Our case has, perhaps, been the more painful because it has seemed from time to time as if we were at the very point of grasping that for which we contended; but continually a turn of the kaleidoscope has altered the position of affairs; and as you will find it stated in the report, that time after time, when we had a day secured, the fortunes of Parliamentary business deprived us of it, and that has again been the case at this very last moment. You are told in the report that I had secured the first place on the orders for Wednesday, the 22nd of this month, but you who follow the Parliamentary business of the day will have learned that on Tuesday last the House of Commons unanimously assented to a resolution proposed by the new Government by which all such rights have been confiscated, and my day, like every other private member's privilege, is placed at the mercy of the Government. All I can say is that, as long as there is a gleam of hope or the shadow of a chance, you may rely upon our being vigilant to avail ourselves of that opportunity—(hear, hear);—but I do not disguise the fact that I should be unduly sanguine, were I to suppose, after the House has determined to proceed only with business of the most urgent and absolutely necessary or non-contentious kind, that an exception will be made in favour of a proposal which, notwithstanding the great progress made in its favour, cannot yet be said to be non-contentious. But you will turn, I doubt not, ladies and gentlemen, from a moribund Parliament, with its record of great achievements and of many failures, to that golden future on which so many hopes are cast—to the new Parliament which, more than any Parliament that has preceded it, will approximate to the true theory—and will more directly realise in practice than has ever hitherto been done the theory of the constitution that taxation ought to imply representation. You may feel well assured that a Parliament so composed will exhibit more conspicuously on that very account the anomaly against which you have been contending, viz., the exclusion of large numbers of perfectly capable citizens merely on the ground of sex. I believe we are assured, if the opportunity were given us, of a majority in the present Parliament. So far as it is possible to judge from the professions of candidates now seeking places in the new Parliament—and I am sure we are particularly delighted to see some of them on the platform with us this morning—there is at least an equally good assurance of a majority in the new Parliament. (Hear, hear, and applause.) You will, I hope, take to heart the earnest appeal of the report which calls upon everyone to do what in him lies to advance our cause by giving particular attention to it in the various constituencies, and especially in regard to supporting those candidates in the different constituencies who may favour our principles. (Hear, hear.) I have good reason to acknowledge the warmth, and to value the generosity, of the support which has been given to those in Parliament who have been favouring your cause. It was, perhaps, too much to hope that we should have been perfectly unanimous with regard to the particular manner by which these claims should be secured, or the particular tactics to be followed. We have had to regret some schisms in our ranks. I hope it will not be overlooked by anyone here present

that the fundamental principle of the Association in whose interests you are met is to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same condition as it is or may be granted to men. (Hear, hear, and applause.) I acknowledge that as the guiding principle which must animate all of us who are working in this forward movement; at the same time we have to recognise the fact that at present not one woman in the United Kingdom has that privilege. All women are equally excluded; and I am bound to say that I feel it to be a little unjust, not to say absurd, that I should find myself charged with placing a bar or some special prejudice in the shape of disfranchisement. Whilst we recognise a great principle, I hope no difficulty in the way of its realisation will be presented from a merely *doctrinaire* point of view. I hope you will show the confidence hitherto accorded to tried friends of the movement, and that, whilst trying to accomplish the great theoretical principle for which we are contending, we shall at the same time always endeavour to secure the most practicable ends possible in favour of which we can combine the forces of a majority in Parliament. On these principles, and on these lines—prepared it may be for a prolonged contest, but hoping for an early result—we shall bate not one jot of hope or effort in the future, conscious of the justice of our claim and assured of the certainty of its ultimate triumph. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said their friend Mr. Puleston had to leave the meeting on account of another engagement, but would perhaps say a few words now.

Mr. PULESTON, M.P., said his interest in their cause continued unabated, and he congratulated them that their banner was carried by so worthy and estimable a leader as the chairman. (Applause.) He (Mr. Puleston) regretted that circumstances had made it impossible to accomplish the object in view by engrafting an additional clause in the Franchise Bill. He had thought there could be no fitter opportunity, but that was now past, and they could only look forward to a brighter future, which could not possibly be much longer delayed. (Applause.)

The Right Hon. J. STANSFELD, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, said that report contained abundant evidence of progress. In it he found a significant and interesting statement which said there seemed to be a strong feeling among the supporters of women's suffrage in the House of Peers that the measure should originate in the House of Commons; and also a decided impression that, if the Bill were passed by the House of Commons, it would not be rejected by the Lords. Upon the occasion of the discussion of the Bill in the House of Commons some time ago, the view which he took and the argument which he ventured to put before the House was precisely this, viz., that the difficulty—whatever that difficulty might be—lay in the House of Commons, and not in the House of Lords. He was very glad to have that opinion now confirmed, for he had no doubt whatever that that statement would not have found its place in the report without sufficient cause and justification; and he noted that as another fact and element in their favour in the cause which they had undertaken. (Hear, hear.) He also found from the report that resolutions in favour of women's suffrage had been adopted by some twenty-eight or thirty Conservative associations. This fact, in combination with the Liberal and Trades Union movements in their favour, they were entitled to take very much to heart as greatly encouraging their hopes. (Applause.) Especially was this so when they remembered that, among the men who pulled the wires of the Liberal party and thought out for themselves what was the best policy for the party as a party, there was a very prevalent opinion that the conferring of the suffrage on women would tend to the advantage of the Conservatives and not of the Liberals. Thus, though they had hitherto in the House of Commons more Liberal than Conservative supporters, they had in the country among those who took upon themselves the responsibility of party political affairs a feeling that the admission of women to the franchise would tell against their party. It was therefore very important to see that Liberal caucuses were beginning to find that they could no longer refuse their assent to the principle that the same law which applied to men ought to apply to women in the representative system of this country. (Hear, hear, and applause.) In referring to the resolution in their favour by the Trades Union Congress they must remember that it numbered among its members no inconsiderable proportion of those who had just been enfranchised, and it was gratifying to find that in that very class an enthusiastic welcome awaited them, and that they were hoping for their admission

within the pale of the suffrage. These were evidences of great progress, and let him add one other evidence which on these occasions, when he had to address himself to this subject, he generally liked to name. His political life and experience had already extended over a considerable number of years, but he undertook to say that in the whole of that experience no public question whatever had made any progress comparable with the progress of what they might call the great "woman question," of which their movement was the principal exponent. (Hear, hear, and applause.) In confirmation of this great dominant and notable fact, he pointed to the evidence contained in the present report, and to the evidence contained in the reports of the last few previous years; and he thought they would agree with him that they had every reason for hope, and that they would be wanting in courage and faith if they leaned for a moment to the side of despondency or despair. (Hear, hear.) He might now play the part of a judge, and give them the other side of the question, for it was well first to judge and then to act. Victory was not yet won, and it might be that victory might still be long delayed. They had hitherto for some years been conducting what had sometimes been called an academic discussion, which they might in the future come to look back upon as comparative child's play. The very fact of the immense progress they had made was an evidence, he would not say of the probability, but at least of the possibility, of having to fight at closer quarters on this question, for they had now made this question for the first time a question of practical politics, and they might therefore find that the combat might assume a different character, and that it might become absolutely necessary, if he might use a somewhat virile expression, to take off their gloves for the fight. (A laugh.) They had been put on one side by the Household Suffrage Bill, and in his opinion a great injury was inflicted upon them by thus putting them on one side. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He for one resented that treatment, which would react against the men who were the cause of it, to whatever party they belonged. They had been put aside by the Household Suffrage Act, which had greatly increased the constituencies, and this had created a new danger or a new disadvantage for them, because the wider the extension of the suffrage, the greater the labour and the effort and the difficulty of fighting an up-hill fight in favour of the still-excluded class. He knew what it was to have to fight a long and an up-hill and a hard and bitter fight; and what he had now to tell them was that they had no business with optimism and with soft illusions. (Hear, hear.) What they had to do was rather to imagine the worst, and to steel themselves to the work, remembering that no class ever yet won its rights without struggling for them, and that no class which ever persistently fought ultimately failed. (Applause.) Another danger before them which he would point out was the danger raised by manhood suffrage. Household suffrage without the admission of women at any rate did not close the door; but before long, if they should be supine, they might find every male adult admitted within the door of the constitution—as some men desired to admit them in preference to any women—who would undertake that, once in, they would not barricade the door? Who would deny that manhood suffrage, considered as a principle, implied in so many words a denial of the rights of women? Their business, therefore, was to be up and doing, not to lose a day, not to believe in anything but themselves—their own fortitude, their own determination, their own courage, and their own work. (Hear, hear.) As Mr. Puleston told them, they had been well led. (Applause.) Their friend the chairman combined the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*. Mr. Woodall would not be wanting in courage and in fidelity to their cause even if it became necessary to fight with the gloves off. Their duty, however, was to strengthen his hands in the great responsibility which at his request they had undertaken. (Hear, hear.) The end in view could only be accomplished by a demand, and a persistent demand and assertion of their rights on the part of the women themselves. (Applause.) As between these two views, hope and fear on either side, he did not say at this moment on which side the balance lay. None of them could open the portals of the future or gain the gift of prophecy; but it was not their duty or business to speculate upon the chances of an easy victory. What they had to do meantime was to take the worse rather than the better outlook, and prepare themselves for that. This at least he could say with the utmost confidence, first, if they were persistent and true, victory sooner or later was absolutely certain—(hear, hear)—and if they

braced themselves to the greatest possible efforts, based upon the hypothesis of possible obstacles, they would all the sooner win the ultimate victory which they sought. (Applause.) He had much pleasure in moving the adoption of the report.

The CHAIRMAN, remarking that their supporters were not to be found only in one political section, said they had present the representative of a newer party which was likely to be an important factor in the new Parliament. He had now the pleasure of calling upon Mr. Justin M'Carthy. (Applause.)

Mr. M'Carthy, M.P., in seconding the adoption of the report, said he felt special interest in addressing them for the reason that this was the first time since he entered public life on which he had ventured to say a single word on this question of women's suffrage. (Hear, hear.) Perhaps they would not welcome him with any the less good will when he added that he was himself a sort of evidence of the progress they had made. For many years he had held back from any active part in the movement, and could not altogether see his way to believe in its practical advantage, or even in its essential principles of justice. Having, however, been once converted, he had made so much progress that he felt able to come forward now to address them as an advocate of their cause, and he therefore thought he might be taken in himself as some illustration of the hold that cause had come to have over the public opinion of men in general. (Applause.) He was not going to-day to discuss the principle of their demand, for that he took to be settled as far as argument could affect or attain it. All that could be said to vindicate the justice of their principle had been said, and would no doubt have to be said over and over again. At the same time they had now arrived at that stage when it was no longer what Mr. Stansfeld had called an academic question, but one of debate and division in the House of Commons. But without going back to any question of the abstract justice of the claim, he might possibly, without seeming egotistic, tell them one of the many lessons which had brought home to his mind a strong conviction that their claim was just. He was by trade a writer of fiction, and in that capacity he had had to describe a great many men and women. It was once his fortune to write the story of a very gifted and very capable woman, who suffered much from an incapable and worthless husband. As this contrast came working spontaneously from his mind—nothing prepared before he came to write—it gradually occurred to him to put to himself the question, what reason could there possibly be why this woman should be shut off from all real and active share in the business of the world, whilst this man should come to such share as a matter of right? Out of this feeling began to grow the conviction which, strengthened by other more solid and practical reasons, had brought him now to stand upon their platform. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He would now like to offer a few words of practical advice. They all assumed that this cause was going to be won. The only question now was, how, having reached this stage, it was to be carried further. He was not altogether without experience in a certain more or less successful political agitation, and he might perhaps say—judging from his own experience—that he entirely agreed with some of the suggestions made by their esteemed friend Mr. Stansfeld. He thought they and their advocates would do well to be just a little more aggressive in their way of conducting their question. (Hear, hear.) He would not have them to be altogether too docile and too subservient, or too thoughtful of the comfort and convenience of persons in Government. (A laugh, and hear, hear.) He spoke now of Government solely as an abstraction, and without reference to any particular set of persons of either side in politics who might happen to be on the Government benches; indeed he was personally so far independent that the mind of man or woman could not conceive of either himself or his party on the Treasury benches in this country. (A laugh.) He would recommend them not to rely too much on the fact that they had friends in the Government. (Hear, hear.) That was all very well so long as they could make their cause very conspicuous and clear both in their minds and in the mind of the House of Commons; but friends in the Government were rather more apt to use their friendship for the sake of making their friends assist them than for the sake of making their official colleagues assist those friends. (Laughter.) Whenever he heard of a number of friends of women's suffrage who, going into office, found that they could not manage the two things together, and therefore at once resigned office rather than renounce the cause of women's suffrage, then he would believe that having friends in the

Government was a very good thing—a laugh, and hear, hear)—but for the present he did not think they could have a better principle than to assume, until they saw good reason to the contrary, that the moment a man was absorbed into an administration he was for the time lost to their cause. They and their advocates must fight for themselves. (Applause.) They must make the House of Commons feel that the cause had passed far beyond the academic stage, and that some of them were determined to press it to the front without regard to any passing Parliamentary interest which might be claiming, and perhaps not rightly claiming, precedence. That was the kind of advice he would give to the friends of women's suffrage. (Hear, hear.) It was a saying of the late Emperor Napoleon that the world came to him who waited. That was a very good sort of half truth, as most of these axioms were, but if one waited all too patiently and did not assert his claim, the world, if it came to him at last, was very apt also to pass him by. (Hear, hear.) That, he thought, was one danger which they should not overlook. They might be too generous to others, and postpone their claim for the convenience of some particular party or question; and in that way they might lose years and years in the accomplishment of their work. (Applause.) He therefore advised them not to be too patient, but to be rather more aggressive, counting every one as against them who was not for them, and, as the Americans would say, let them fight their own corner and always do the best they could. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN remarked that, in calling upon Mr. Coleridge Kennard, M.P., he might take the opportunity of expressing the obligations of their cause to that gentleman, and their good fortune in having his name on the back of the Bill.

Mr. C. KENNARD, M.P., in supporting the motion, said he congratulated himself on meeting them once more on these occasions, as he did last year, in order that they might take stock of their position, and hopefully look forward to the future. He quite agreed with the exhortations which had fallen both from Mr. Stansfeld and from Mr. McCarthy, that they should not take a despondent, but rather an aggressive attitude in furthering this great cause. It was necessary for them to realise the difficulties which stood in their way. He had not himself lost any opportunity of urging that this question should have the most favourable consideration of the Conservative front bench, where they had an earnest friend in Lord John Manners. They should not lose heart even in view of the disappointment naturally felt at the fact that the Government had appropriated Mr. Woodall's Wednesday in the House of Commons. For his own part he was glad that every question of this kind with which he had been called upon to deal had been one of enfranchisement and not of disfranchisement, a line which he would continue to take. They would perhaps bear with him if he now gave them a little piece of advice as to a matter of method and tactics. What he would venture to do was to ask them, when dealing with this question of women's suffrage, to refrain as far as possible from any partizan or pronounced expression of their own personal political predisposition. He was far from wishing any one of decided opinions to obliterate or abandon their party preferences, but it was undesirable to put these prominently forward in dealing with this question, especially as the unstable mind of some Liberals or Conservatives whom they wished to gain as friends might be disturbed by fears that their cause or party might be injured by the introduction of ladies into public life. He did not wish to deprive a single woman of her party predispositions, nor would he even criticise or censure these in the least, but as a matter of tactics on this question they might keep these somewhat in the background. Let them be independent, Catholic, universal, and then they would be stronger when the question had to be decided in Parliament, where party Government was sometimes put by many members before abstract principles. If they did not bring their great question to the front this session, he believed they certainly would succeed next year, especially if they used all their influence for the return of candidates who were favourable to their views.

Miss BECKER, in also supporting the adoption of the report, said she did not think the hopefulness of the situation was materially diminished or affected by the postponement which had been made unavoidable by the appropriation of the day fixed for Mr. Woodall's Bill. Since the passing of the Franchise Bill, the suffrage had come to be regarded as no longer the privilege of certain persons or particular classes, but as the right of every citizen. This change had

favourably affected the attitude of many members of Parliament who formerly resisted the extension of the suffrage to women. The standard of fitness had been so lowered that it was no longer possible for any person to maintain that the women ratepayers and householders were below that standard—(hear, hear)—and meantime the standard of education among women had been steadily rising. The next Parliament would include a large proportion of new members, which meant an accession of friends to the cause. There never was an election in which women would have more to do than in the next general election, and they would to a certain extent help forward the friends of the political party to which they might be attached; but she (Miss Becker) quite agreed with the caution given by Mr. Kennard, that those prominently connected with the women's suffrage movement would do well not to allow their party predilections to appear very conspicuously in connection with this agitation. She sometimes received letters complaining that some step taken or some particular utterance by somebody seemed unwise and might damage the cause; but this movement would be unlike every other great movement if there were not differences of opinion sometimes as to the mode in which the ends in view were to be accomplished. It was a proof of earnestness that there were these differences; but they were not such as could not be harmonised for the common good by the exercise of good sense and toleration. (Hear, hear.) They must now work hard in impressing the new constituencies, but in this work zealous committees were already actively engaged all over the three kingdoms. Lecturers would have to be sent round the country, for it was to be observed that candidates were always more open to reason before the election than after it. (A laugh, and hear, hear.) The work would still require much support in money and sympathy, and she had every confidence in commending to the public the work of this committee. It was to be hoped that when they met again next year it would be to chronicle a victory. (Hear, hear, and renewed applause.)

Mr. J. H. LEVY, who rose from the body of the hall, expressed his objection to the proviso in Mr. Woodall's Bill, which would have the effect of disfranchising all women under coverture. A blow at the law of coverture had been struck by the Married Women's Property Act, and he would regret to see any new disability attached to marriage. If Mr. Woodall had found himself compelled, as the lesser of two evils, to accept the proviso in question as an amendment, that would have been a very different thing from putting it forward as a part of the original Bill. At the risk of being classed as a doctrinaire, he maintained that it was not for them to offer up the rights of married women, and he appealed to the leaders of this movement not to do even a small wrong, if it was a small one, in order to attain a great right.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Levy had stated with great force considerations with which the meeting was familiar and which were certainly not overlooked by those who were responsible for the leadership of this movement.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then put to the meeting and carried *nem. con.*

Professor STUART, M.P., moved the next resolution, viz.: "That this meeting records its sense of indebtedness to Mr. Woodall for his able and persistent leadership, and pledges itself to support his action by every means in its power." When they had chosen a leader the best thing they could do was to stick to him, and he was sure the best line they could follow was to back up Mr. Woodall in carrying out what represented the wishes of the majority. There was no doubt much to be said in the direction in which Mr. Levy had spoken, and, in fact, in many directions; but meantime the most important thing for them was to secure the votes for some women. (Hear, hear.) He wanted to see the claim of women to the franchise recognised; he wanted to see the distinction of sex in regard to the franchise broken down; and any means that would lead towards that end he believed it would be politic and statesmanlike to pursue. He would therefore pursue whatever means would lead most immediately to that end. (Applause.) Outside of that point there was the question not only of whether married women should have the vote but also whether women should sit in Parliament. He himself went quite to that extent, and would be prepared not only to accept, but to welcome that as an advantage to the country at large, but the arguments for women sitting in Parliament were of a different kind from those for women having the franchise. He

could see that there were many groups of people, some of whom would stop short in their unity with this meeting at the question of single women having the vote. Some would go forward for extending it to married women; others would advance to the question of absolutely wiping out the distinction politically between men and women, so far as sitting in Parliament was concerned. He felt, therefore, that it was surely politic in them to proceed along such lines as might secure the fullest co-operation for the step which was most easily gained. (Hear, hear.) Some people felt at the beginning of this movement that it was likely to win with a rush. They were mistaken; and he thought they would find that great causes had not generally been won by rushes. (Hear, hear.) It took a little time to educate the people to a great cause; it might take longer still to educate many women themselves to the point which this association wished them to reach; but they should remember from history that the welfare and advance of a nation was secured by the progress of great causes, and not by mere party progress. The success of this or that party left a nation pretty much where it found it, except so far as the change from one party to another might facilitate the progress of one or more great causes. Therefore, those of them who were engaged in this great cause might very well follow the advice of Mr. Kennard, so far as not to put party considerations to the forefront in dealing with this question. Their immediate work was to influence candidates for the forthcoming election. They had first, therefore, to deal with men who now were electors, but after that was done their next work was with women, whom they hoped to see admitted to the franchise, for they might depend upon it that the strength and success of this cause depended on the fact that women wished to have the votes; and as the wrongs from which women suffered, and the misfortunes which befel this nation because of these wrongs became more generally known amongst women, they might depend upon it that that wish would grow and increase. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He trusted, therefore, they might see, after the general election was completed, a large number of meetings of women householders held by their association, so that they might make it distinctly known among all those whom they were seeking to enfranchise what were the exact objects at which they were aiming, and what was the value of their support for this good cause—(applause)—because in all causes that affected a multitude of people the greater part of that multitude, even on to the gaining of the cause, were often left practically in ignorance of the real value of the cause for which they were struggling. They wanted to add fuel and force to this movement, and that they must get from women themselves by showing them the true circumstances of their political and social position. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, in seconding the motion, said that although this had been a year of hopes defeated as well as of hopes raised, a great amount of good work had been done in connection with this movement throughout the country and amongst politicians of all parties. She had faith in the electorate, and did not at all believe that the extension of the franchise among male householders in counties would in any way injure their cause. (Hear, hear.) There were never before so many Parliamentary candidates willingly pledged to women's suffrage. (Applause.) The day of their victory, therefore, could not be very far off. If it were possible to give the vote even to only one woman, she would welcome that small concession, because it would make a hole in that hedge which had hitherto fenced round the exclusive political rights of men. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution having been passed,

Mr. WESTLAKE, Q.C. (a Parliamentary candidate for Paddington), moved the election of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year. He said that in reviewing the progress which their movement had made during the past twelve months, he thought they ought not to omit all mention of the fact that, in the political councils which had been formed in many of the new constituencies created by the Redistribution Act, ladies had been popularly elected as representative members. Those who had taken this action had recognised that the influence of women in politics, as in other matters, was a great fact which could no longer be ignored, and that the safest and best way of dealing with it was to recognise it by giving it a public, regular, and assigned place and function. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Those political councils which had so elected ladies had certainly not been actuated by any dread of extending political functions to married women, for they had placed both married and unmarried women on those councils, with excellent effect. In con-

clusion, he urged that the leaders of the movement should take a broader view of the principles involved, as well as a truer view of the means which would lead to the success of those principles, by inscribing on their banner—whatever amendments they might have to accept—"No legislation which does not fully correspond to our principle that the electoral rights of women should, under the same conditions, be the same as those of men." (Applause.)

Mr. C. B. M'LAREN, M.P., in seconding the motion, said he had listened with great interest to what had been said on the subject of giving votes to married women, and personally he was in favour of extending the franchise to them also; but in considering the exigencies of their Parliamentary position he was quite certain that the committee had exercised a wise discretion in so shaping their Bill as to conciliate opposition, even at the risk of apparently excluding married women. The fact was that the Parliament of this country never had and never would legislate simply on grounds of principle. The English House of Commons loved anomalies—(a laugh)—and proceeded gradually step by step until ultimately they might perhaps attain to a state of things approaching perfection. If they were to introduce a general enfranchisement Bill for women he did not believe that they could get very considerable support for it, but he was at the same time firmly convinced that, if they could once get the door opened for unmarried women, they would have very little difficulty in a few years time in admitting the married women also. (Hear, hear.) It had been one of the greatest trials of his political life to find the Liberal party deserting this question when Mr. Woodall pressed it to a division. He did not know of any more painful or pitiful spectacle than the stampede of the Liberal party from Mr. Woodall's amendment. (Hear, hear.) For that stampede, he believed, there was absolutely no excuse. He did not blame the Government, but he blamed those men who twenty-four hours before were pledged to the eyes to vote for this cause, and who yet without a word of excuse or apology went into the lobby against it. The whole aim of members of Parliament should surely not be simply to keep this or that Prime Minister on the Treasury bench, but to make the ministers whom they placed and kept there take up those questions which they were publicly pledged to support. (Applause.) He would like to see formed in the House of Commons a group of members who would determine to see justice done without delay to this and kindred questions.

The motion was passed, and Mr. Woodall vacated the chair, which was then taken by Mr. Stansfeld.

Miss TOD, who was introduced as a member of the Liberal Council of Belfast, moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, and in her remarks referred with satisfaction to the unmistakable signs of the progress of their movement both among the public and in the press.

Miss BALGARNIE cordially seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. WOODALL, in responding, said he hoped they might all be spared to assist in the early success of a movement which they believed to be not only just in itself but pregnant with the greatest consequences to the wellbeing of society. (Applause.)

The proceedings then concluded.

THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

SOUTHPORT HABITATION: THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

A meeting of the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League was held on July 20, in the Albany Galleries, Mr. THOMAS DALE, J.P., the Ruling Counsellor, presiding. Among the others present were Colonel Seel (Kensington branch of the league), Captain Charlton, Dr. Barron, Dr. Cornwell, Mr. W. Robson, Mr. Harvey, Mr. J. T. Astley, Mr. H. Herman, Mr. Thomas Astley, Mr. G. Rockliff, Mr. Carter (secretary), Mr. Friend, Mrs. Friend, Mrs. Thomas Dale, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. MacMillan, Mrs. Syddall, Mrs. Chas. Moore, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Baidon, Miss Scott, Miss Smethurst, Miss May Baidon, Miss H. Whitehead, Miss Stocks, and Miss Gardner.

After the transaction of some routine business, and the reading of some letters of apology for non-attendance,

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mrs. Dale to move the resolution of which notice had been given.

Mrs. DALE, who was received with applause, said: Mr. Chairman,

gentlemen, and ladies,—In proposing this resolution, of which I gave notice a fortnight ago, I am sure you will believe me when I say that nothing but a strong sense of duty would place me in the position I now occupy. It is repugnant to my feelings, but from my point of view it is the right thing to do, especially at this particular time, because if the stress of Parliamentary business permits of Mr. Woodall's Bill coming on, as was before arranged, on the 22nd, there is no time to lose in sending the expression which I trust this habitation will give to the cause I am here to advocate. (Cheers.) I desire to move the resolution for the consideration of the Southport Primrose League, and I do so with the more courage that I have an able and willing seconder, and also that the great legislator to whose memory and principles this League owes its origin highly approved of and persistently voted for the subject of my proposition, viz., the enfranchisement of women. Lord Beaconsfield—(applause)—considered their agile intellect, their practical wit, their prompt resource, and their diplomatic talent would render them most useful agents in many branches of the public service; indeed with regard to the last-named accomplishment, some celebrated author says there never was a great diplomatist who had not a woman at his elbow. (Laughter and applause.) In order that the gentlemen present may listen to me for two or perhaps three minutes with some degree of composure I may premise that husbands and wives have nothing whatever to do with my proposition. I can imagine a Utopia wherein each should be permitted to carry out his or her principles into action, and possess perfect liberty so long as that did not interfere with the liberty and rights of others—for we are all responsible to a higher power, and each "to his own master standeth or falleth." That happy age not having yet arrived I do not attempt to ask for the franchise for married women, but I wish you kindly to consider and, if with a good conscience you can do so, to pass the following resolution—"That this Habitation of the Primrose League is convinced of the desirability of granting the privilege of the franchise to women householders, and that Parliament by so doing will secure the help of many of Her Majesty's subjects who are loyal to their Queen and the British constitution; also, that copies of the resolution, signed by the Ruling Counsellor, be forwarded at once to the Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury, and the Right Hon. Sir Richard A. Cross, with a request that they will support Mr. Woodall's Bill, down for the first reading on the 22nd inst." (Applause.) Mrs. Dale continued by bringing forward in an able address many arguments in support of the resolution, and concluded amid much applause.

Dr. CORNWELL seconded. He said he had not always been in favour of women's suffrage. Nay, he had been opposed to it. How was it then that he was in favour of it now? Because he was a convert to the principle involved. (Applause.) He had been thinking about women's suffrage for a long time. He had become a convert to the principle: firstly, because he thought it right that women who had to pay their share of the taxes of the country should have some voice in spending them. (Applause.) He did not, however, advocate that the franchise should be extended to women who were not householders. Another reason why he was in favour of women's suffrage was that he knew women were conscientious, and that their vote would have a good influence upon others. (Applause.) A further reason for his conversion in this respect was because of the large increase of the Parliamentary electors by the recent Act, which almost changed the character of the constitution, and because he wanted women to counterpoise the clodhoppers who had been admitted to electoral privileges by that Act. (Applause.)

Mr. WILLIAM ROBSON supported the resolution. He suggested that a copy of the resolution should be forwarded to Colonel Ireland Blackburne, the other member for South-West Lancashire, in addition to the other persons named. (Applause.) He was fully convinced that the time had arrived when the lady householders should have votes for the return of members of Parliament. (Applause.) The ladies were large taxpayers, and whatever Government was in office they never failed to call upon the ladies to pay up their taxes. (Hear, hear.) Having regard to these considerations, women should have the Parliamentary vote which they were in all justice entitled to, and he hoped the present Government would see their way to grant that privilege. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He really believed that the women would exercise the franchise in the interests of the country. (Applause.) He certainly would much rather trust them than the two millions of people who were going

to be added to the electorate under the Act lately passed. (Applause.) He would be sorry to say anything against the workmen of the country—he considered himself as a workman, but he adhered to the statement which he had made in this respect. (Applause.)

Mrs. MACMILLEN, who was cordially received, said: Mr. Ruling Counsellor, gentlemen, and ladies, I have much pleasure in seconding and supporting Mrs. Dale's motion. I feel that any remarks of my own on the subject of her paper can scarcely add weight to the impression already created in the minds of her hearers. The comprehensive, common sense, and yet perfectly womanly spirit with which she has put before you this question of women's franchise can scarcely fail to awaken a strong sense of the justice of her plea. For myself, I hold a firm theory that in whatever, or wherever, there is marked injustice—plain, and clear, and palpable—held up before an Englishman's eyes, he will go for it, and strike at it, straight out—a well-planted, resolute, knock-down blow, such a one as perhaps only an Englishman can give. (Cheers.) It is the strength and glory of an Englishman's characteristics that he will make wrong right—if he can—not only for himself, but for his neighbours. And this is the reason why we women have come here to address you this evening. Firstly, to try and convince such of you as are not in sympathy with women's suffrage of the injustice of the law as it now stands. Secondly, to ask you to champion us. Thirdly, to get you to give, for our sakes, that straight knock-down blow at an injustice which as well as being dishonest stamps your countrywomen with the seal of serfdom. We may be cultured, intelligent, exalted by noble work and social status, or ennobled by brave and honest toil fighting a daily hand-to-hand battle for the material wants of existence, we may be capable of the light and endurance of unflinching purpose to conquer more than material wants, to conquer earth for the hope of heaven, and yet, and still, you brand us as something lower, meaner, less rational and more stupid than the most ignorant hind, or the most brutalised boat canalman, or the most ignoble man-creature who vegetates in our country. (Hear, hear.) Last year the Liberals made capital out of the fact that the House of Lords by rejecting the Franchise Bill refused to extend the franchise to over two millions of loyal subjects. But they took no special note of the fact of that other two or three million of their countrywomen who, the loyalist of loyal subjects, were totally ignored in the Bill. Mrs. MacMillen concluded her eloquent address by an appeal to all Conservatives to help in this question. They had given women a common standpoint as sisters in the Primrose League, and, in return, she said, we ask you to give us your voices as one man, in true Conservative unanimity, and your hands as one hand in the manly support we require from you. (Great cheering.)

Mr. W. Robson's suggestion was adopted, and the resolution was, in the amended form, unanimously passed amid applause. The proceedings then terminated.—Abridged from the *Southport Visitor*.

GRANTHAM DAMES HABITATION.

On Monday, July 27th, about 800 people were entertained by Mr. Stephenson Clarke in his extensive grounds at Croydon Lodge, at the inauguration of the Dames Habitation (Grantham) of the Primrose League. Mrs. Garnet Man officiated as chairman and ruling counsellor. The Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Talbot, Lady Randolph Churchill, Mrs. Grantham, Mrs. Hardman, Lord Harris, Viscount Folkestone, Mr. W. Grantham, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Cosmo Bonsor (the candidate for East Surrey), Mr. T. R. Edridge, and many of the leading Conservatives were present. Lady Randolph Churchill, after having formally declared the habitation open, said she considered it a great honour and privilege to have been asked to come there to that most interesting ceremony. She hoped and believed that the habitation would have a direct and practical effect upon the coming election in the town. Lord Harris spoke of the successful issue of the Woodstock election, which he said was to be attributed to the exertions of Lady Randolph Churchill and her lady helpers. And if ladies could win an election in one place why should they not do so in another—in Croydon? Ladies were specially qualified to assist in aiding in an election, not only by those powers of persuasion which everyone was always ready to admit they possessed, but by their practical common sense, which they were able to bring into a discussion, and by which they would be able to convince the main body of electors. Mr. Grantham said the two great obstacles that Conservatives had to contend with were falsehood and ignorance. He was of opinion

that the influence ladies, and especially mothers, could exercise over the coming generation by grounding their children in sound principles was great. Other ladies and gentlemen also spoke, including Mrs. Garnet Man, Mrs. Peard, Mrs. Oldershaw, Mrs. Crowley, Mrs. Cosmo Bonsor, and Mr. T. R. Edridge. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Clarke for their hospitality.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEAGUE.

A meeting to discuss the advisability of women engaging in active political work was held on the afternoon of Friday, the 17th July, at the house of Mrs. Southey, Rosenthal, Forest Hill, Mrs. Southey presiding. A deputation from the Women's Political League was present. Miss Orme gave an account of the formation of the League, and stated its objects, which are to rouse women to a more living interest in public affairs, to employ them as canvassers for Parliamentary candidates, and to secure the election of capable women on the executive councils of political associations. Mrs. Charles Mallet, in speaking of the great advance made in recent years as regards the position of women, pointed out that in this matter we are but returning to the better state of things which had existed in some of the early civilisations, where an honourable and important part in public life had been assigned to women. Miss Hagemann replied to the objection which is so often raised, that politics are altogether out of a woman's sphere, by showing how closely charitable work, the various social reforms with which women are associated, and even ordinary domestic life, are connected with politics. If it has hitherto been considered within her sphere to visit from house to house on missions of charity, why may she not do the same to further the causes she thinks right by working for the return of their representative? In taking an interest in politics women were not clamouring for their rights, but rather recognising their duties. Miss Boyle Meyer (Sydenham) said that in her opinion women were not yet ripe for active political life, and strongly urged the formation of societies for the discussion of the events of the day. She further objected to the disinterested gift of women's services to general politics and to the support of men who still refused them the privilege of citizenship. In reply, Miss Orme said that capable women were not lacking, and, in proof of this, pointed to the names of those already elected on the councils of various political associations. If disinterested work was looked on with disfavour, let them regard the question from a more selfish point of view. What would be more likely to bring about a general recognition of women's full rights as citizens than the fact that they were both able and willing to work side by side with men in public affairs? Mrs. Southey, at the close of the meeting, made an earnest appeal to those present to do their share. At a time when there was a crying need for social reform, and for legislation in behalf of the poor, it behoved all women to rouse themselves from their callousness about politics, and to recognise that it was a religious duty to do battle, by protest and by active work, against the evil and the misery which would not be cured by being let alone.

CHELSEA LIBERAL COUNCIL.

Mrs. Leonard Courtney and Mrs. Westlake were on July 20th elected members of the Liberal Council for Chelsea.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

WAKEFIELD.

A vacancy having been caused by the death of Mr. R. B. Mackie, an election took place last month. The candidates were Mr. Hartley Lee (Liberal), and Mr. Edward Green (Conservative). Mr. Green expressed himself in favour of extending the franchise to women. The result of the poll was the return of Mr. Green by a considerable majority.

SOUTH-EAST LANCASHIRE.

ECCLES DIVISION.

On June 26, a meeting of the supporters of Mr. V. K. Armitage, J.P., Swinton Park, the Liberal candidate for the Eccles Division,

was held in the Congregational Schools, Flixton Road, Urmston. There was a large attendance, and Mr. W. H. S. WATTS presided.

After an address by Mr. Armitage, Mr. ROBINSON asked: Are you in favour of giving women householders a vote?

Mr. ARMITAGE: I have not been able to see any reason why a woman who pays rates in her own name should not be allowed to vote. (Applause.) The ladies, as a rule, do their work exceedingly well, and I do not see why they should be deprived of the franchise. (Hear, hear.)

GORTON DIVISION.

On July 14th, a meeting of the Conservative Council was held in the Court-room, Hyde Road, Gorton. Mr. John Brickel presided. Mr. D. I. Flattely, chairman of the Gorton Local Board, was invited to express his views with a view to adopting him as Conservative candidate for the Gorton division of South-East Lancashire. In the course of his address Mr. Flattely, without waiting for a question on the subject, said he was in favour of women's suffrage. At the conclusion of his address Mr. Flattely retired and, in his absence, a resolution was passed accepting him as the Conservative candidate for the division.

WEST ST. PANCRAS.

Mr. H. W. Lawson, accepted Liberal candidate for West St. Pancras, has, in reply to questions when presenting himself to the Liberal Committee, declared his support to the principle of giving the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women.

SWANSEA.

The following letter has been received from Mr. Yeo, Liberal candidate for Swansea:—

"WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

"Sketty Hall, Swansea, 9th July, 1885.

"Dear sir,—In reply to your inquiry, I know of no good reason why women should not possess equal electoral rights with men.

"The only doubt I have on the subject is as to whether women generally desire to possess the right which it is sought to confer. If this were made reasonably clear, I should be prepared to support such a measure as you describe.—I remain, my dear sir, faithfully yours,

"(Signed) F. A. YEO.

"C. H. Perkins, Esq."

CAMBORNE.

A correspondent from Redruth writes in reference to Mr. Conybeare, Liberal candidate for the Camborne division of Cornwall:—"The first question Mr. Conybeare was asked after his first address was whether he was in favour of women's suffrage, and I am pleased to tell you that he replied in the affirmative most promptly."

TOWN COUNCILS.

NOTTINGHAM.

A monthly meeting of the Nottingham Town Council was held in the Council Chamber on July 6th, under the presidency of the Mayor (Ald. Burton). There were present: The Sheriff (Mr. Fraser), Aldermen Acton, Barber, Cropper, Dennett, Ford, Gilpin, Goldschmidt, Gripper, Lambert, Lindley, Sir James Oldknow, Renals, Turney, Worth; Councillors Adcock, Baines, Bennett, Bentley, Birch, Blackburn, Brewster, Browne, Chadbourne, Cockayne, Cowen, Dowson, Elsey, Eyre, Farrands, Fitzhugh, Ford, Froggatt, Gregory, Hardy, Lees, Loverseed, M'Craith, Miller, Morrison, Nicholls, Pullman, Raven, J. Robinson, Smith, Soar, Sylvester, Truman, Vickers, Woodward, Wootton, and Young.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The TOWN CLERK stated that he had received a communication from the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, requesting him to lay before the Council a memorial asking Parliament to extend the franchise to women who were properly qualified. There was also in his hands a petition to the House of Commons for that purpose.

Mr. YOUNG begged to move that the Council be in favour of the petition, and that it be signed by the Mayor on their behalf.

Mr. COWEN seconded, and the motion was carried, Mr. Fitzhugh alone dissenting.

KIDDERMINSTER.

At a meeting of the Council of Kidderminster, The CLERK said the next communication was a letter from Miss Lydia Becker, asking the Council to adopt a memorial in favour of having the franchise extended to single women.

Alderman TOVEY proposed that the document be allowed to lie upon the table.

Mr. HOOPER seconded this. Mr. GREAVES moved as an amendment that a petition be signed by the Mayor in favour of having the franchise extended to women, and presented to the House of Commons.

Mr. HOLLOWAY seconded the amendment, which was supported by Mr. POTTER.

The MAYOR said he was in favour of the petition, and believed that both political parties would soon agree to granting what was asked for.

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried, there being nine for it and four against it. The petition was therefore adopted.

SCARBOROUGH.

At the monthly meeting of the Council on July 13th, a letter was read from Miss Becker, asking the Corporation to adopt a petition in favour of a measure for the enfranchisement of women.

Councillor HART moved that the Council adopt the petition and forward it to the House of Commons for presentation. He thought the time had arrived when the franchise should be extended to women, seeing that it had now been conferred upon every male householder in the country. It was well known that in this town there were a large number of women householders who were paying high rents and rates; in fact, who possessed all the qualifications of men who now enjoyed the privilege of a vote—and personally he held the view that women were quite as capable of exercising the franchise as men—and therefore he thought it was only right that women should share in the selection of Parliamentary candidates.

Councillor FOWLER seconded. Councillor T. P. WHITTAKER objected to the general principle of the Council moving in questions of this kind—it was quite beyond their province. They were not elected to represent the people of Scarborough on political questions. It was not wise for them as a Council to send petitions to Parliament in favour of bills which did not affect them as a public body. He objected not only because in this particular instance he differed as a private individual from the petition under consideration, but he objected as a general principle to such petitions being sent to Parliament. He thought it a wrong principle to allow themselves to be led away from their proper work to memorialising Parliament on questions which did not affect them. They had nothing to do with the Parliamentary franchise, and if they voted on the matter it would carry no representative opinion; it would merely be recording their own individual opinions.

Councillor BROCKWELL supported the motion. Councillor W. PEACOCK said that in reference to Councillor Whittaker's remarks there were certain questions which he thought it was not only legitimate but desirable that the Council should discuss, and he thought that this question of the enfranchisement of women was one that they might well move in. He thought that as a public body it was only right that they should express their views on subjects which were of great importance to the town.

Alderman CHAMPLEY agreed with Councillor Peacock, and supported the motion.

The MAYOR put the motion, with the following results:—For—The Mayor, Ald. Champley, Councillor Gawne, Councillor Newham, Councillor W. Peacock, Councillor Joshua Rowntree, Councillor Fowler, Councillor Hart, Councillor Featherstone, Councillor R. H. Peacock, and Councillor Brockwell. Against—the ex-Mayor, Councillor J. Barry, Councillor Hutton, Councillor T. P. Whittaker, and Councillor S. N. Smith. There were therefore 11 for the motion and 5 against. It was then declared carried.

SOUTHPORT.

At the meeting of the Council in July a communication was received from Miss Lydia E. Becker, who, writing on behalf of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, asked the Council to adopt a petition to the House of Commons, which was enclosed, in support of the Women's Suffrage Bill.

The MAYOR: Does anyone who owes a debt of gratitude to the ladies for his seat in the Council wish to move a resolution regarding this? (Laughter.)

Councillor SHERRAT moved that the corporate common seal be affixed to the petition. He was quite in favour of giving women the same suffrage privileges that men had. (Hear, hear.) He looked upon women as being quite as intelligent as numbers of people who were already enfranchised. As women had the same responsibility as men, and as large numbers of them took an interest in municipal matters, he did not see why they should be deprived of the right to vote at Parliamentary elections.

The motion was seconded by Councillor THORNTLEY, and passed.

WAKEFIELD.

At the monthly meeting of the Council, on July 14th, the Town Clerk read a letter from Miss Lydia Becker, which asked the Corporation to support a petition—the Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. Alderman Peacock formally moved that the Corporation forward a petition in support of the measure. Councillor Milnes seconded the proposal. A long and very lively discussion ensued. Ultimately, the subject was referred back to the Parliamentary Committee for consideration.

SCOTLAND.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

EDINBURGH.

The last of a series of drawing-room meetings for the present season, in connection with the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage, was held on July 2nd, at the residence of Mr. Duncan Smith, 30, Buckingham Terrace. The chair was taken by Mr. Duncan Smith, and there was a large and influential attendance. An interesting paper was read by Miss Simpson, and resolutions approving of the principles contended for by the association were submitted and supported by Miss Flora Stevenson, Dr. Elizabeth Bielby, from India; Mrs. Wellstood, ex-Bailie Lewis, Miss Wigham, Rev. Wm. Graham, and others. The meeting unanimously resolved to transmit petitions to both Houses of Parliament, praying for an extension of the franchise to duly qualified women, and also to take steps for supporting Mr. Woodall, M.P., when his motion comes before the House of Commons for discussion on 22nd inst.

In addition to the drawing-room meetings already held in Edinburgh on this subject, and which have been noticed in our columns, another took place on June 17th, on the invitation of Miss Maclean, 82, Great King-street. It was well attended, and was presided over by Mrs. Forbes. Addresses were given by Miss E. Kirkland, Mr. James Pringle, Miss Wigham, Mrs. Wellstood, Rev. R. Henderson, Dr. Agnes M'Laren, Miss Burton, and others. Resolutions were submitted to the meeting in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women, and were unanimously adopted. Votes of thanks to Miss Maclean for kind use of her room and to Mrs. Forbes for presiding brought the proceedings to a close. [This notice was inadvertently omitted from our issue last month.]

EDINBURGH PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

CANDIDATURE OF MR. J. HALL RENTON.

Edinburgh having been provided by the recent Franchise Act with four seats in Parliament instead of two, and having been divided into so many districts, Mr. J. Hall Renton, a native of the city, well known in business circles in London as he is to the electors of Edinburgh, comes forward as a candidate for the Central Division, including wards distinguished for their advanced political views, which Mr. Renton hopes to specially represent in Parliament. On June 19 the electors of the division were invited to meet him in the Oddfellows' Hall.

After Mr. Renton's address, Miss BURTON, who was cordially received, said she wished to ask Mr. Renton if he was in favour of extending the franchise to all householders who paid their rates and taxes. She added that she was a householder, and paid her rates and taxes, but she did not think she was included in the franchise. (Laughter.)

Mr. RENTON said he thought that all of them were very glad to see Miss Burton there upon this occasion. He was sure that for himself he looked upon it as a compliment—(cheers)—and he had great satisfaction in answering her question in a manner which would give satisfaction to her, if it did not give satisfaction to the

rest of the audience. It was not often that he agreed with the Conservatives, or with their leaders, but upon this occasion he certainly did go along with Lord Beaconsfield, and he would, were he in Parliament to-morrow, vote for the extension of the franchise to all householders who paid their rates and taxes.

MR. RALEIGH'S CANDIDATURE.

On June 26 Mr. Raleigh, a native of Edinburgh, now practising as a barrister-at-law in London, renewed his acquaintance with the electors of the Southern Division of the city, which he seeks to represent at next election, by addressing a meeting of the constituency in the Morningside Athenæum, the first of a series of meetings which he proposes to address in the division.

In reply to Mr. J. HISLOP, who sent to the Chairman a written question,

Mr. RALEIGH said that he was in favour of extending the suffrage to women on the same principle on which it was extended to men. (Applause.) In connection with this answer, he also replied that he was likewise in favour of married women who possessed property having votes.

EDINBURGH CONSERVATIVES AND THE FEMALE FRANCHISE.

At a meeting of the Council of the Edinburgh Conservative Association held on July 2nd, Mr. Alexander Blair in the chair, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. James Crichton, and seconded by Mr. W. N. Fraser, was carried by a majority of 25 to 3:—"The Council of the City of Edinburgh Conservative Association, having carefully considered the terms of a Bill entitled 'A Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women,' introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Woodall and other members of the House, both Conservative and Liberal, approve of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, as proposed in the Bill, on the following grounds:—1, that the proposal is in itself just and equitable; 2, that the right of women to vote in elections affecting local matters having already been recognised, the recognition of their right to vote in Parliamentary elections should not be longer delayed."

PUBLIC MEETING.

GALASHIELS.

A curious and extraordinary public meeting was held recently in Galashiels Masonic Hall. It was called by placard, intimating that addresses would be given on the federation of the British Empire, national churches, and female suffrage; that the Rev. Mr. Henderson, the Rev. John Watters, Mr. Thomas Stoddart, and other gentlemen were expected to address the meeting; and that Mr. Oliver would take the chair.

After other speakers had addressed the meeting, The Rev. Mr. HENDERSON began by remarking that when he assented to an invitation to address the meeting on women suffrage he did not anticipate what the character of the meeting would be. But he would not take up much of their time, and he begged a fair hearing. Mr. Henderson's argument was, in effect, as follows:—In this country, men who hold property and pay taxes have votes, but women, who own as much property and pay the same taxes, have no vote in national affairs. This distinction of sex is totally unjustifiable, by reason or moral considerations. Since 1869 women have voted in municipal elections, since 1872 in the election of school boards and poor-law guardians, and all admit that they have done so as wisely as males; therefore the presumption is that they would vote as wisely in the election of members of Parliament. In England the number of women thus excluded from the franchise was as one woman for seven males; in Scotland and Ireland, it was as one to eight. The number of women so excluded from their right in England was 11,377. Were women qualified on the same terms as men there would be from four to five hundred thousand added to the Parliamentary constituency. Their influence would be as beneficial in national affairs as it had been in Edinburgh and other places in educational matters. After referring to the growth of the idea and demand for female suffrage in and out of Parliament, Mr. Henderson urged all Liberals and Conservatives to adopt it as part of their political creed.

Mr. WATTERS, amid much noise, moved thanks to Mr. Henderson, which was cordially responded to.—Abridged from the Scottish Border Record.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF FRIENDLY CANDIDATES.

- Cheshire: MACCLESFIELD... *W. C. Brocklehurst (L)
Lancashire, S.E.: GORTON... D. I. Flattely (C)
Metropolis: Islington, S... H. Wilday Wright (C)
W... Danford Thomas (C)
Paddington, N... William Digby (L)
St. Pancras, West... H. W. Lawson (L)
Southwark, Rotherhithe... R. M. Pankhurst (L)
Surrey: WIMBLEDON... John Cooper (L)
Scotland: Glasgow... Lord E. Fitzmaurice (L)

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JULY, 1885.

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes entries like 'Poppun' £100 0 0, 'Miss Richmond' £20 2 6, 'Mrs. Barkell' 0 10 0, etc.

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 28, JACKSON'S ROW, MANCHESTER.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM JUNE 28TH TO JULY 28TH, 1885.

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes entries like 'Mrs. Frank Morrison' £50 0 0, 'Miss Clotilda Baynes' £20 10 0, 'Mrs. Aldridge' 0 5 0, etc.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 29, PARLIAMENT-STREET, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM JUNE 22ND TO JULY 25TH, 1885.

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes entries like 'Mrs. Garnett' £50 0 0, 'Miss Tanner' £20 10 0, 'Rev. J. Robberds (Cheltenham)' 7 2 0, etc.

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