

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIV.—No. 166 PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

OCTOBER 1, 1883.

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**OPINIONS OF THE PRESS:** Being Articles and Extracts from the London and Provincial Press relating to the Discussion on Mr. Mason's Resolution in the House of Commons, on July 6, 1883. Published by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

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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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"... Gives a brief account of the laws, enabling and disabling, which affect the condition of women. It is a useful summary."—*Spectator*, Jan 14, 1882.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER,

PETITIONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—For Extension to Women.

EIGHTEENTH REPORT.—Continued.

Table of petitions for extension of parliamentary franchise to women, dated July. Includes names like Jane James, Mary Edmunds, Margaret Williams, etc., and their respective counties.

Table of petitions for extension of parliamentary franchise to women, dated July. Includes names like Henry N. Mitchell, George H. Hobbs, Robert Killip, etc., and their respective counties.

Total number of Petitions 607—Signatures 14,386

NINETEENTH REPORT, 1<sup>st</sup>—31 July, 1883.

Table of petitions for extension of parliamentary franchise to women, dated July. Includes names like Mary Williams, Margery Catherine Fortune Weale, etc., and their respective counties.

Total number of Petitions 609—Signatures 14,388

The Petitions marked thus (\*) are substantially similar to that from Plymouth. The Petitions marked thus (S) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

COLOUR BLINDNESS.—A series of researches having been undertaken by several Russian physicians as to colour blindness, Dr. Kolbe has just published in the newspaper Vrach (The Physician) the results. Out of 10,828 railway servants examined, no less than 251 were colour blind, and 32 proved to have an imperfect capacity for distinguishing colours. Women are subject to a far smaller extent to colour blindness than men. Thus, Dr. Kolbe, who has experimented on both men and women, discovered among the men 2.5 per cent of colour blind and 7.5 with imperfect vision, whilst among women he has discovered only 0.16 per cent of colour blind and 3 per cent with imperfect colour vision.

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The holiday season may be said to end with the beginning of this month, and already political work has begun in earnest. Political societies of all complexions are holding or arranging demonstrations, and members of Parliament are preparing to address their constituents. Our friends are reminded that they will do excellent service by taking care to be present at every political meeting or demonstration that occurs in their several localities, and taking every opportunity of pressing forward at every meeting held to consider the question of Parliamentary Reform the justice of the claim for the extension of the franchise to women on the same conditions as it is or may be given to men.

The speeches at the great Reform demonstration on the Town Moor at Newcastle afford gratifying proof of the advance of public opinion on the franchise for women. At nearly all the six platforms the subject was mentioned by one or more of the speakers, and the justice of the claim was fully admitted without a dissentient voice. The specific object of the demonstration was the extension of household suffrage to the counties, and the resolution was passed in accordance with it, but the tone of many of the speeches shewed that the ultimate object to be aimed at was such a scheme as would leave no portion of the people, men or women, without representation in the Legislature.

In one of his incidental speeches at the recent meeting of the British Association, the President, Professor CAYLEY, commented on the very short time that had elapsed between the first introduction of the telephone and its adoption among the ordinary appliances of life. He observed that it was but six years ago, at Plymouth, that the telephone was introduced to the scientific world by its inventor, Professor BELL, and it was then regarded as an incredible marvel that the tones of the living voice could be conveyed to a distance by a wire, but now the marvel had become so much a part of common life that people had ceased to wonder at it. He remarked that

this was an example of how rapidly people become accustomed to the most startling novelties.

There are some minds among politicians to whom the notion of a woman voting in the election of members of Parliament appears as wildly incredible and opposed to immemorial experience as the telephone appeared to those who first heard of its powers; but there cannot be the smallest doubt that when the franchise for women shall have become an accomplished fact it will quietly take its place among the agencies at work in the political and social world, and in an extremely short time be accepted as a part of the common order of things which men will have ceased to regard as in any way exceptional.

AMONG measures affecting women brought forward last session was a Bill for the maintenance of children, introduced by Mr. HOPWOOD, which imposed similar obligations on the father of legitimate children to maintain them as the law provides in the case of illegitimate offspring. If a husband neglects to provide for his wife and family, their only resource under the present law is to obtain relief from the parish. The guardians may give or withhold relief at their discretion, and they probably would withhold it in the case of the wife of a man known to be in receipt of a sufficient income. In any case, whatever the station or position of the parties, the wife must submit to the degradation of becoming an inmate of the workhouse or a pauper before she can claim one farthing towards the support of herself or her children, and when this dole has been given, it is the parish, and not the wife and mother, who can sue for the money expended in their maintenance.

But the mother of an illegitimate child has a direct claim for its maintenance, which can be enforced by magistrates' order, without imposing on either herself or her child the stigma of pauperism.

Mr. HOPWOOD did not go so far as to ask Parliament to sanction the claim of wives to maintenance. He limited his demand to giving legitimate children a legal right to enforce maintenance by their father without

making them paupers. But the Bill was blocked, and consequently it never reached the stage of second reading. It will probably be brought forward again next session, when it is hoped better fortune may attend it.

THE Bill to render legal marriage with a deceased wife's sister passed the second reading in the House of Lords by a majority of seven, but was lost on going into committee. In all probability the measure will be brought forward in the House of Commons in some form or other next session, when we shall experience the anomaly and injustice of a measure so vitally affecting family peace and morals, and the closest interests of women being discussed by an assembly of men only, representing men only, and responsible only to male electors, without the smallest reference to the opinions, the wishes, or the feelings of women. The only way in which women can influence Parliament is by the exercise of their constitutional right of petition, and we can but hope that our legislators, in dealing with this question, will take into consideration the opinions of women as expressed in the numerous petitions they have presented on the subject.

WITH the exception of Mr. MASON'S resolution the most important question relating to women that came before the House of Commons during the session was the resolution carried by Mr. STANSFELD on April 20th. This was a victory which bore immediate fruits, but which needs to be confirmed and established by Act of Parliament. It is beyond the province of this *Journal* to enter into details respecting legislation on this painful subject, but we expressed at the time and reiterate now our solemn conviction that when questions of public morality and matters touching the safety, honour, and welfare of women are under discussion in the House of Commons, members would be greatly strengthened and guided in forming a right conclusion if they were directly responsible to women among other electors in their constituencies.

A REMARKABLE instance of the value of the suffrage for the protection of interests was given not very long ago by the Earl of WEMYSS AND MARCH—then Lord ELCHO. At a political meeting at the end of the session last year, Lord ELCHO, in returning thanks for the House of Commons, said that the House of Commons had done much good work, and that the interests, even of the humblest, had not been neglected. They might remember

reading in the *Times* some months since an account of the Island of St. Kilda, a small island in the Atlantic, on the west coast of Scotland, which contained about seventy inhabitants, who lived on sea birds principally. Well, a Bill had been passed for the protection of sea birds. For the reason he had just mentioned a special clause exempted the island from the operation of the Bill, a fact which showed that no subjects of Her Majesty, however poor and distant they might be, were neglected, when their interests might be injuriously affected by legislation.

The subjects of Her Majesty, however poor and distant, who are represented in Parliament, are in no danger of having their interests neglected by the Legislature. The seventy inhabitants of St. Kilda, with probably scarcely a dozen electors among them, find a voice which reaches from their remote ocean solitudes and reverberates at Westminster with force sufficient to arrest or modify legislation adverse to their interests. But without a vote in the election of a representative in Parliament, their cry would have perished amid the echoes of the Atlantic waves that surround them.

A SUGGESTIVE illustration of the way in which it has been so long the custom to overlook women till it has become second nature was afforded, three weeks ago, on the occasion of a grand excursion which took place on board the *Lord Wolseley*, one of the largest ships afloat, and the first ship of the new Irish Shipowners' Company. There are a few lady shareholders in the Company. On this occasion all the shareholders were invited except—the ladies! Now the loss of an excursion and the pleasure of sailing down the beautiful Belfast lough on this magnificent vessel may not seem a very heavy "grievance," nevertheless the lady shareholders may have some curiosity to know the reason for their exclusion. Straws show the way a current flows. Are a woman's shares in a Company to be saddled with a similar disability, amounting to inferiority of value, as a woman's house and land which give her no political qualification? Or is it merely that the Directors, like so many other men in authority, have been so much in the habit of looking upon women as *non cives* who are set apart from the rights and privileges of men, that it never occurred to them that the lady shareholders had the same claim as the gentlemen to participate in a pleasant excursion provided at their own cost.

C. A. B.

AN incident lately recorded suggests some reflections

on the right of fathers to do what they will with their own children, and on the additional security which might be afforded to children of tender years if the law allowed to their mothers some authority or voice in matters concerning them.

A certain Mr. WARD, in his zeal for scientific discovery, claims to have invented a dress for enabling persons to cross the sea, which appears to have been constructed with a view to keeping the wearer afloat in all weather. For some unexplained reason Mr. WARD determined not to make the experiment as to the sea-going properties of his invention in his own person, but made his little boy, aged nine years, put on the dress and attempt the passage of the channel from Dover. The weather proved too rough for the lengthened attempt, but the unfortunate child was towed from shore, and allowed to battle with the wind and water and to be soaked in the drenching rain for more than an hour, and was at one time in considerable danger of being dashed upon the rocks. After this experience it is not surprising to be told that "he suffered a good deal from sickness when taken out of the water."

We have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that such an experiment on the powers of endurance of a young child whether undertaken with or without his "consent" was an act of cruelty, and as such ought not to be held to be within the legal rights of a parent. We do not know whether the boy has a living mother, nor whether her consent was obtained before risking the life and health of her child in this manner. But if, as may perhaps be the case, the boy has a mother who loves and cares for him, and she objected to his being subjected to this severe ordeal, she had no legal right whatever to refuse her consent, or to interpose in his behalf. The law says the father alone has a right to dispose of the child. If he chooses to risk its life in dangerous experiments for gain or renown, she must stand aside powerless, for "a mother's rights are *nil*."

WE are glad to learn that Mr. BRYCE, M.P., has given notice that he will next session introduce in the House of Commons a Bill to amend the law relating to the custody of infants by the recognition of the natural rights of mothers. From a notice which appears in another column our readers will obtain further information relating to the proposed Bill.

THE objections raised against the franchise for women in

the present day find a curious parallel in similar objections raised against the enfranchisement of the people in the discussion preceding the Reform Bill of 1832.

In *Blackwood's Magazine* for August, 1831, there is a "Conversation on the Reform Bill," which might well be commended to the notice of Mr. LEATHAM and others who are afraid of the consequences of political enfranchisement. In the course of the dialogue, one of the interlocutors named BIRD says, "Well, gentlemen, you may talk as you please; but I cannot consent to think the people either blind or ignorant because they think that such places as Birmingham and Manchester should be represented in Parliament." To this the opponent of reform, who is called COURTNEY, replies, "If you can prove that the interests of these important towns require representatives, I am content that they should have them, and still more so if it should appear that they are necessary for the well-being of the country at large." But if not, "I cannot in such case see the reasonableness of imposing on Birmingham or Manchester the onus of sending representatives to Parliament."

BIRD replies: "The onus! But it is a glorious privilege! You say it is necessary to justify the conferring of such a privilege; I say that a reason is necessary to justify the withholding of it."

To this COURTNEY replies that the privilege of serving our country in the Senate only differs from that of serving our country in the field by being a privilege of a different kind. And yet if Birmingham and Manchester were exempted from a general ballot when the militia were called out, they would scarcely consider it a very great grievance. "Why, then, do the populace of these manufacturing towns (for I deny that the feeling extends beyond the populace) grumble so loudly that they are not called upon to exercise the elective franchise? If they can show any such necessity for it, as I have before intimated, I am willing to grant it. But if they cannot, I do not see any *public* object which could be gained by conferring it; and even if I did not see (which I do see) grounds to suspect that it might in such cases be abused, I could not consent to waste the time and disturb the peaceful avocations of the inhabitants without a prospect of some adequate advantage." He continues: "The difference between you and me upon that part of the subject amounts to this: You would have these populous places represented whether there be a necessity for it or no; I would wait for the proof of the necessity."

BIRD rejoins: "I think it must be self-evident that

the interests of these large manufacturing towns require the protection and the patronage of representatives."

COURTNEY: "That is certainly not self-evident. I believe, on the contrary, it has never happened that they have been at a loss for an organ by which their wants and their wishes might be made known to Parliament. I believe, moreover, that if they get representatives, their interests are much more likely to be neglected than they are at present. It is only a few years since one of these large towns petitioned against being represented, so convinced were the sober-minded and intelligent individuals who had then some influence over the people that the boon of sending members to Parliament would but poorly compensate for the faction, the turmoil, and the expense of a contested election."

How like are these sentiments to the utterances of the present time against the enfranchisement of women when we find one eminent Liberal averring that the "best" women do not desire the suffrage, and another prominent Radical shrieking that all the advantages of representative government are too dearly purchased by the risk of contact with "the mire and filth of contested elections."

Let those who are disposed to attach much weight to these dismal prognostications take courage from the fact that in spite of the burden of political enfranchisement, and the cost and turmoil of elections, the inhabitants of Birmingham and Manchester have contrived to pursue their peaceful avocations, and that their interests have not been liable to be more neglected than before, because they have obtained the privilege of sending representatives to Parliament.

ONE of the papers read at the British Association gave suggestive statistics on the stature and weight of the inhabitants of the British Isles, from which it appears that the average stature of an adult Englishman is 67.36 inches, and of Englishwomen 62.65 inches, showing a difference of nearly 4½ inches, while as to weight, the average man outweighs the average woman by a little over 32 lbs.; and if the figures regarding the relative strength of men and women can be relied on, women are, on the average, only half as strong as men (although in this latter particular some doubt of the accuracy of the observations is suggested, as the women of the labouring classes have not been represented). We fancy we hear some of the opponents of women's suffrage triumphing over these statistics. "There! you see; how can women

be fit to exercise the vote, when they are only half as strong as men, and physical force, after all, is the ultimate basis on which law rests, &c., &c." Assuming for a moment that the worshippers of physical force are correct in their deductions, we come next to the awkward fact that these same statistics show the fishermen of Flamborough to exceed the artisans of Sheffield in stature by three inches, and in weight by 24 lbs.; and the agricultural population of Ayrshire show the still greater superiority over the inhabitants of Glasgow and Edinburgh of over four inches stature and 36½ lbs. weight. Thus there is more difference in weight between a Scotch ploughman and a citizen of the Northern Athens, than there is between the average man and woman. But the inferior stature has in these instances possessed the franchise, and the greater weight and bulk been deprived of it. Surely we may expect now that men will admit that political fitness is not always commensurate with superiority of bone and muscle.

C. A. B.

IN the Mathematical Section of the British Association meeting, a paper was read by Mr. PREECE, electrician to the Post Office, on "Electric Communication." A gentleman inquired whether the "switchboard" used for the purposes of the telephone exchange was worked by ladies or gentlemen, as he said he was annoyed by sounds reaching him which he supposed were caused by conversation in the switchroom. Mr. PREECE replied that the switchboard was worked by ladies, who were found to do the work much better than men; they were patient, attentive, and silent, and very quick at attending to the signals. There was absolute silence in the switchroom, and the noises complained of were the result of conversation over neighbouring wires, and no way caused by the clerks.

The incident reminded us of a story told of the early days of ordinary telegraphy, when an old lady, over whose house a wire was fixed, complained to the secretary that she was kept awake at night by the messages continually passing over "them wires." The secretary—douce man—did not attempt to argue with her, but told her that the clerks engaged on that particular wire were young men, and he would take care they were sent away and replaced by a number of respectable young women, and then she would have no further annoyance. The old lady went away happy. The invention of the telephone has made the old lady's notion one which has no longer the sound of supreme absurdity; and it is perhaps well for the public that the manipulation of the switchboards is entrusted to steady and trust-

worthy young women who can be relied upon for faithful and conscientious working of the multifarious wires.

WE have been so long accustomed to take women's suffrage in school board elections as a matter of course about which there never has been any dispute or difficulty since school boards were established, that it is difficult to imagine that a different state of things can exist in the United States. Yet an incident just reported in the *Woman's Journal*, Boston, shows how far behind the mother country is public opinion on this subject in America. At a recent school board election in Indianapolis a member who had discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the people, was threatened with opposition. As soon as it was known that his seat might be endangered the best element, including intelligent mothers and women teachers, rallied to his support and exerted their influence to secure his election by talking to voters and distributing the tickets by means of which elections are conducted in America. Naturally the excitement and interest of the women led to discussion of the question of women's suffrage, and several gentlemen on election day expressed the opinion that a widow with a family had a right to vote at a school election, and the inspector and judges, inclining to the same opinion, expressed a willingness to accept a widow's vote if offered. An elderly lady, the mother of two efficient teachers in the public schools, a property owner, and a tax-payer, hearing of this, went quietly and modestly to the polls and offered her ballot. Meanwhile two men, who seemingly feared that a woman's vote would throw the earth out of its orbit, stationed themselves at the polls and gave notice that if her vote was insisted on they would be compelled to challenge it. Consequently it was decided that it could not be received.

The commotion excited by the tendering of a vote by one woman in a school board election in America appears ludicrous and incomprehensible to us on this side of the water, where women vote everywhere in all school board elections, and women candidates come forward in yearly increasing numbers.

There is not a prophecy of evil as to the malevolent effect of allowing women to vote in Parliamentary elections in England that cannot be paralleled by similar utterances in the legislative bodies of the United States against the proposal to admit women to the municipal and school board parties in America. Fearful politicians may therefore take courage from reflecting that as we have given English women these two votes without the evil result apprehended, we may expect that the alarm expressed as to the consequence of the further development of the principle of the franchise for women may prove equally unfounded.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

MANCHESTER.

Of the two candidates for the seat vacated by the death of Mr. Birley, the Radical, Dr. Pankhurst, has been a member of the Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage from the first year of its existence, and his professional assistance and eloquent advocacy have always been at their service when called upon. Dr. Pankhurst was also a member of the Married Women's Property Committee, and has in many other ways given active and valuable help to the advancement of the position of women.

The Conservative candidate, Mr. W. H. Houldsworth, was a colleague of Mr. Birley in the Conservative candidature at the general election of 1880. At one of his meetings on that occasion he returned a favourable answer to a question about women's suffrage. During the present contest, at a meeting held in the Hulme Town Hall, on September 25th, the following question was handed to Mr. Houldsworth: Would you, if returned, vote in favour of the extension of the franchise to women who possess the qualification which entitle men to vote? Mr. Houldsworth read the question amid manifestations of approval from the audience; and his reply, "I would," was received with loud cheers.

The nomination took place on September 29th, and the polling is fixed for the 4th instant. Whichever of the candidates proves successful, Manchester will again have sent a supporter of women's suffrage to the House of Commons, and the incidents of the candidature afford the strongest presumption of the justice of the principle which commends itself alike to the judgment of an extreme Radical like Dr. Pankhurst, and a staunch Conservative like Mr. Houldsworth.

## PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, August 22.

On the order for the third reading of the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill,

Lord DENMAN moved an amendment with the object of conferring the franchise upon women.

Lord THURLOW could not accept the proposal, as it would be extremely inconvenient to make at the end of a session, and in connection with a mere continuance Bill, so large a change as the noble lord opposite asked for. (Hear, hear.)

The amendment was negatived, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

## LIBERAL CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

SALFORD.

On September 11th a deputation from the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, consisting of Miss Becker, Mrs. Roby, and Mrs. Gell, waited upon the Executive Committee of the Salford Liberal Association. The object of the deputation was to induce the committee to instruct its delegates to the forthcoming Conference of Liberals at Leeds to vote for the inclusion of the Women's Parliamentary Franchise in the Government Reform Bill. In a concise address, Miss Becker stated the case she and her colleagues had been commissioned to advocate, and when the thanks of the committee had been cordially offered, the deputation retired. The committee decided to leave their delegates free to consider and act upon their best judgment at the Conference.

WARRINGTON.

A meeting was held on September 18th, at the Liberal Club, Warrington, for the purpose of hearing an address from Miss Lydia Becker, who, with Miss Backhouse, attended as a deputation from the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage. Mr. M'Minnies, M.P., presided.—Miss Becker appealed to the meeting to instruct the delegates whom they were about to send to Leeds to support the extension of the suffrage to women.—The Chairman said he had always voted in favour of women having the suffrage in this country, but he felt in somewhat of a difficulty on the question. He did not know whether it would be agreeable to the gentlemen who might

attend the conference to have their actions so controlled that they would be obliged to support such a measure. The meeting resolved to let the delegates use their liberty on the question of women's suffrage.

**BACUP.**

At a meeting of the Bacup Liberal Club on September 23rd, a letter was read from Miss Becker, asking whether the club would be willing to receive a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage, for the purpose of asking them to instruct their representatives at the forthcoming Conference at Leeds, to vote in favour of the extension of the franchise to women on the same conditions as it is, or may be, given to men. In reply to the letter, the committee stated that they were unanimously in favour of the object of the letter, and would not fail to impress their views on their representatives at Leeds.

**HASLINGDEN.**

This Association does not send delegates to the Conference at Leeds, but they have passed a resolution in favour of the franchise for women, which will be forwarded to the Conference.

**BURY (LANCASHIRE).**

The Committee of the Bury Liberal Association have agreed to instruct their representatives at the Leeds Conference to vote in favour of the extension of the franchise to women on the same conditions as it is, or may be, given to men.

**LEIGH.**

The Secretary of the Leigh Liberal Club, in reply to an application to them to receive a deputation on the subject of the franchise for women, writes that there will be no need of a deputation, as they are favourable to the views of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

**LANCASTER.**

The Hon. Secretary of the Reform Club, Lancaster, Mr. Robert Brash, writes that he will attend the Conference as representative of the club, and will vote for the franchise being given to every ratepayer independent of sex.

**ACCRINGTON.**

The following letter has been received from the Secretary of the Accrington Liberal Association :—

September 25th, 1883.

Dear Madam,—I received your letter dated Sept. 11th, 1883, and read the same at a meeting of our Executive held last evening, Ald. Rhodes, J.P., in the chair. I was requested to say that the gentlemen who will represent us at the Leeds Conference are alive in regard to the contents of your letter, and that the Executive would be sorry to take up the time of a deputation, seeing that all our members are more or less in sympathy with the objects of the society which is so ably represented by yourself.—I am, dear madam, yours faithfully,  
 "JOHN P. HARTLEY, Hon. Sec.  
 "Miss Becker."

**YORK LIBERAL COUNCIL.**

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of the Liberal Council, held on Sept. 26th, at the club premises, Castlegate, York, Alderman Sir James Meek in the chair, after the usual routine business had been disposed of, the following gentlemen were appointed to represent the York Liberal Council at the ensuing conference of the Liberal party on Parliamentary reform, to be held at Leeds, on the 17th and 18th of October :—Alderman Sir James Meek, Councillors Coning, MacKay, and Dickenson, Messrs. Jos. Rowntree, W. Swales, H. W. Empson, Chas. Ernest, J. Sanderson, R. Coulson, G. Manton, and J. H. Wray (secretary). A communication was read by the secretary which he had received from the president and hon. secretary of the York Women's Liberal Association, requesting the Council to instruct its representatives at the forthcoming conference at Leeds on Parliamentary reform to support any motion which might be proposed for giving to women householders the right of voting at Parliamentary elections. It was unanimously resolved that the communication be handed to Sir James Meek, with a request that he and the other representatives should avail themselves of any opportunity to forward the object aimed at. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the proposition of Mr. Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Mr. H. W. Empson.

**THE REFORM DEMONSTRATION AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.**

On September 22nd a popular demonstration took place in the Town Hall, Newcastle, in support of the assimilation of the borough and county franchise. An imposing procession marched through the streets of the city to the place of meeting. There were six platforms. The resolution submitted at each platform was as follows : "That this meeting, believing that the assimilation of the borough and county franchise is imperatively called for in the interests of those who are now unjustly deprived of their political rights, and would, if granted, contribute powerfully to the progress and prosperity of the country as a whole, urges upon Mr. Gladstone's Government the necessity of accomplishing this much-needed measure of justice and reform in the ensuing session of Parliament." At several of the platforms mention was made of the claim of women to the franchise.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY, M.P., speaking at Platform No. 1, said they were asking for power for men who have brains, who work with the same energies, hearts which respond to the same affections, are touched by the same emotions, who have homes and who have families which are the centres of the same warm interests as those of all other classes, and of men and of women who share in an exactly equal degree in the weal and in the woe, in the good fortune and in the ill fortune of the country to which they belong.

At Platform No. 3, Mr. P. SHOTTON (Boilermakers,) in the course of the speech in which he moved the resolution said :—Let them remember that there was always a tendency in free institutions to degenerate into despotism, if no check was imposed upon those who held the power; and it required constant agitation, increasing and unwearied assiduity and activity to maintain their rights. They must either go forward, or they would have to go backward. They could not stand still. ("Go forward.") Yes, their friend said "Go forward," and "Forward" should be their motto; and forward they intended to go, whether they would or no. One word more. Some of their country friends, when they obtained the borough franchise, helped them; and now, when they had enjoyed it, they meant to help those in the counties to get it too. There was still another step of the ladder—a rung above that again. Another party wanted the franchise. He referred to the womanhood of England—women who paid their taxes. He alluded to the spinsters and widows, who bore all the burdens of free citizens, and yet were not allowed the right which every citizen ought to have. They in the boroughs had enjoyed the franchise; and when they had assisted those in the county to enjoy it also, let them not forget the ladies.

In supporting the resolution Mr. BRADLAUGH, M.P., said that he avowed that with the mover of the resolution, he was unable to make distinctions of sex.

At No. 4 Platform Mr. WILLIAM WIGHT (Dinneford) said at the close of his speech, in moving the resolution, that before another year had passed he hoped that every household in the United Kingdom would have a vote.

Mr. ROBERT CAMERON (Sunderland), who was received with enthusiasm, seconded the resolution. He said, as a Liberal—as a Radical Liberal, if they liked the word better—he was willing and desirous to confer upon every responsible citizen of this country the rights of freemen, even if he should turn out to be a Tory, and at the next election vote against them. He would go further than that. He would confer it upon the ladies. (Hear and laughter.) Many of them were Liberals, he knew; but sometimes he had found, when canvassing in Sunderland for municipal purposes, that a great many of them were Tories. Yet, notwithstanding that, he was bound as a Liberal to confer the right of voting upon every responsible person in the country. (Hear, hear.)

At No. 5 Platform the CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. C. Laird) said he went further than some of them. He believed that only one list was necessary, and that women were entitled to the franchise as well as men. Women were entitled to vote at municipal and poor-law elections, and why should they be deprived of the right of voting at Parliamentary elections?

Mr. GLASSEY (Northumberland miners) then moved the resolution. He said he thought if the fair sex had known they were to have been so eloquently championed on that occasion as they had been by the Chairman, they would have attended in larger numbers. (Laughter and cheers.) He thought the Chairman must have acted upon the hint he had received by that morning's post from a

**DISQUALIFICATION OF WIDOWS.**

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—The revision of the voters' lists for the borough of Ashton-under-Lyne was continued on September 18th by Mr. J. T. Foard, the Liberals being again represented by Mr. Jepson, the party agent, and the Conservatives by Mr. C. H. Booth, solicitor. In a number of cases widows whose husbands had died during the qualifying period claimed to be on the municipal list, adopting the prior qualifications of their husbands. Mr. Booth, who supported the first of these cases which arose, contended that the woman was qualified to take on the qualification of her husband, and reminded the barrister that he had allowed the municipal vote of a man who had married and taken his wife's succession.—The Barrister said he had no recollection of that decision, but in this case the claimant could not succeed. She had no occupancy, no tenancy, and no status during the life of her husband.—Mr. Booth said the same remarks applied to the case of a man who married a woman possessed of a qualification and then claimed the vote. There was, he contended, no disqualification in this case, so far as the municipal franchise was concerned.—The Barrister struck the names out, however, but promised to reinstate them if he could be shown at a later stage that he was wrong in his decision.

**A MAN ADOPTING A WOMAN'S NAME.**

CHELSEA, SEPTEMBER 18TH.—Mr. O. J. Williamson, Revising Barrister. In the course of the revision, objection was taken to a woman's name being on the list; but it appearing that it had been adopted by the claimant, a man, the claim was allowed. The Revising Barrister said that he remembered an instance similar in character. After he had struck out the name, as it was that of a woman, he received a very indignant letter from the man.

**A STUPID VOTER.**

LIVERPOOL, SEPTEMBER 24TH.—T. Grachan, a working man, stepped into the box, and claimed a vote for a cellar in New Hedley-street.

In course of examination Grachan admitted having received parish relief, and the claim was at once disallowed.

The claimant asked for his wages.  
 The Revising Barrister: Why should you be paid expenses?  
 Grachan: I was working on Saturday. (Laughter.)  
 Revising Barrister: Is that a reason why you should be paid here on Monday?  
 The Claimant: I don't know. (Renewed laughter.)  
 The Barrister: Have you any idea what you have come here for?  
 Claimant: I have not.  
 Barrister: Do you want your vote or your wages?  
 Grachan: I want the vote.  
 Barrister: Why should you be paid, then?  
 Grachan: Because I was working on Saturday. (Great merriment.)  
 The revising barrister declined to make an order, and Grachan, who seemed to be in a delightful state of mystification, meandered slowly out of court, still harping on the subject of his hire, and anathematising, almost audibly, the revision court and all connected with it.

Mr. Collins afterwards observed that it would be well if the Legislature had had some experience of a revision before passing any future Reform Bill.

**THE HUSBAND OF HIS WIFE.**

BOLTON.—Mr. W. R. McConnell opened the court for the revision of the lists at the Town Hall, Bolton, on September 27. An amusing case was that of a Conservative objection to the claim of Michael Callaghan, 7, Saturn-street, for many years a "professional objector" on behalf of the Liberal party in the borough. The name of his wife had been entered on the rentbook, but Callaghan said they had never been parted; they would rather "come to blows" than do that. The Revising Barrister allowed the vote.

**OPENING OF THE LEARNED PROFESSIONS TO WOMEN IN INDIA.**

The regulations of the Bombay University have been so amended that the learned professions will be thrown open to women. A proposal was introduced in the Senate of the University, last week, that in the regulations the pronoun "he" and its derivatives should be deemed to denote either sex. It was brought forward by a Brahmin, supported by an Englishman, and carried without a division.

**INCIDENTS OF THE REVISION COURTS.****PHYSICAL FORCE: THE POLICEMAN'S VOTE.**

CHESTER.—At the Chester Revision Court, on September 18th, an objection was taken by the Conservatives against the vote of George Edward Oldmeadow, on the ground that he was in the police service, being employed as a superintendent at the offices of the Chief Constable of the county. Mr. Brassey, the Liberal agent, supported the vote, and argued that although police officers were liable to a fine if they voted they still had a right to remain on the register, because if at any time they left the service it might be eighteen months before they could get on the list again. Police officers knew they had no right to vote, and they did not try to do so, but if the other side thought there was a danger of that they must look sharp after them. The Revising Barrister said he was inclined to think that a police constable had a right to be on the list though not to vote, and he would look into the cases and give his decision at another sitting.

## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

The Association met at Southport on September 19th. There was a very large attendance, including upwards of a thousand ladies.

In the Anthropological department Miss A. W. BUCKLAND read a paper on three golden cups of similar pattern that have been found, one in Cornwall, one in Mycææ, and one in the Necropolis of ancient Tarquinia, and endeavoured to show that some commercial intercourse must have existed between the Mediterranean peoples and the British Isles during the Bronze Age, to which period the Cornish Cup is assigned. This is in accordance with Irish legends, which invariably bring the heroes and founders of the nation from the shores of the Mediterranean.

In the Economic Section the report of the committee for promoting the teaching of science in elementary schools was read by Dr. Gladstone. In the course of the discussion Miss BECKER, who was warmly applauded, said she regarded this as one of the most important committees of the Association. Since the establishment of the Association a large and comprehensive scheme of national education had been put into execution, and every man, woman, and child was deeply interested in the question of whether the instruction given in the schools should be the best which it was possible to give. The importance of the subjects treated of by the committee would scarcely be exaggerated. She thought that much of what was taught in the schools was comparatively useless compared with these great subjects. As to the girls, she would diminish the time devoted to fine needlework, which was injurious to the sight and comparatively useless.

In the section devoted to mechanical science attention was called to the engineering ability of Mrs. Roebing, wife of the great engineer who had been entrusted with the construction of the Brooklyn bridge. When her husband fell ill, and was unable to continue his work, Mrs. Roebing took his place, and the bridge was completed under her direction. On one occasion some castings were required of a new pattern. The founders were summoned to a consultation with the engineer, and were greatly surprised to find themselves in the presence of a lady. She, however, designed the required patterns, which were found to answer their purpose admirably. Mrs. Roebing had the deserved honour of being the first to drive across the new bridge.

## THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

## NOTTINGHAM.

The sixteenth annual Trades Union Congress was opened at Nottingham on September 10th. The attendance was unusually large. About 150 delegates were present from 127 distinct trade societies or organisations, having a membership of between 300,000 and 400,000 persons. The following amongst other women's trades unions were represented: The Dressmakers, Milliners, and Mantle Makers' Society, London; the Westminster and Pimlico Tailresses' Trades Union; the Upholstresses' Trade Society, London; the Women's Provident and Protective Society, Oxford; and the Women's Trade Council, London.

The report of the Parliamentary Committee referred among other matters to the

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

At the request of the chain, nail, and nut and bolt trades of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, the Parliamentary Committee, at their full meeting in February, decided to introduce a Bill to prohibit girls under fourteen years of age working at forges. The secretary moved the second reading of the Bill on May 6th. The Government opposed the Bill, and stated, on the authority of the chief inspector of factories and workshops, that it was unnecessary, and that in 896 shops recently visited by the district inspector only nine girls under fourteen years of age were engaged at the work of torging chains and nails. On the other hand, those who opposed the Bill, on behalf of the employers in the trades affected, assured the House that it would deprive thousands of young people of the means of earning a living. The result of these two conflicting statements—both of which are, in the opinion of the Committee, equally misleading—was that the Bill was thrown out by a majority of 80, 44 voting for the Bill and 124 against it. In the opinion of the secretary there exists good ground for attempting to limit

female labour in those trades. The Committee felt bound to call attention to the extraordinary statement made by the Government, on the authority of the chief inspector of factories and workshops, that the district inspector had visited 896 of these smithies in a few weeks, and had been enabled to state, without a shadow of a doubt, that in all these shops only nine girls under fourteen years of age were employed. They contended, in the first place, that the visits of the inspector must have been far too hurried to have ascertained all the facts of the case; and, in the second place, that the irregular manner in which the work was carried on in these trades rendered it next to impossible, without constant and secret watching, for anyone to tell how many children were employed. They could not help thinking that the report was to a great extent prepared to suit the wishes of the chief inspector, who appeared to take a warm interest in opposing the Bill. They deemed themselves justified in expressing an opinion that it was somewhat beyond the duty of the head of an administrative department to actively oppose measures in Parliament.

On "Home" affairs the report suggested that there is not sufficient missionary work done by the unions. There was need for far more efforts to enlist the adhesion and services of the young men, and far too little attention was paid to the influence of wives in union matters.

## EQUALIZATION OF THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH FRANCHISE.

Mr. WILSON (Durham) moved the following resolution: "That without accepting an equalization of the county with the borough franchise as a final solution of the great question of Parliamentary reform, this congress is of opinion that the Government should lose no time in introducing their promised measure, and calls upon the organised trades of the country to assist by every means in their power in promoting the popular movement in support of this long-expected reform, and authorises the Parliamentary Committee to join with the Durham Franchise Association and other associations of all kinds in the proposed deputation to the Prime Minister."

Mr. SIMMONS (Maidstone) seconded the motion.

Mr. WILKIE (Glasgow) and Mr. TELFORD (Edinburgh) supported the motion.

Mrs. ELLIS said she would support the motion if women were included in the motion as having a right to the franchise.

Mr. WEILER (London) proposed an amendment to the effect that the Parliamentary Committee should use their efforts in furtherance of a "manhood and womanhood suffrage."

Only about a dozen hands were held up in favour of the amendment, and the original motion was then carried.

## CHILD LABOUR IN THE IRON TRADE.

Mr. JUGGINS (Darlaston) submitted the following resolution: "That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to use their best exertions to re-introduce the Factory and Workshops Act Amendment Bill of 1883, that applies to the employment of female children under fourteen years of age at forging nails, chains, bolts, or any such articles that are made from iron or steel." He said the somewhat sensational reports which appeared in certain of the London and provincial papers on the employment of juvenile labour in the nail and chain trades of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire were said by the masters to be untrue; but he could vouch for their substantial accuracy. Female children of tender years could be found in that district working as blacksmiths as late as eleven o'clock at night. It had been said that the object of this movement was to abolish female labour in these trades; but that was not the case.

Mr. LILLEY (Birmingham) seconded the resolution.

Miss WILKINSON (Upholstresses' Trade Society), London, did not understand why the Bill applied to girls only. The moral health and the physical health of boys were affected as were those of girls. Whether Mr. Juggins would admit it or not, this Bill would be an indirect blow at female labour. She had been told that many of the children in question worked in their own homes under their fathers and mothers; and if that was the case they would not alter the surroundings of the children by stopping their work. They heard a great deal about female immorality, and it seemed to be the general impression that they could make women moral by legislation and healthy by legislation. For herself she had grave doubts of the truth of that idea. At any rate, the Bill they wanted to re-introduce into Parliament would be a direct or indirect blow

at female labour. If they must have the Bill, let it apply to boys as well as to girls. Had they not quite legislation enough in the Factory Acts and the Education Acts? If these Acts were properly carried out they would be sufficient, at any rate for the present. They heard sensational reports about female labour in the Black Country, and when the thing was examined it was found that in this respect the district was not a bit worse than other parts of the country or Loudon.

Mrs. ELLIS, of Dewsbury, expressed her regret that the subject had not been introduced at an earlier period of the session, so that it might have been thoroughly thrashed out. There were 3,000,000 women engaged in the various trades of the country, and if legislation restricting their employment were to be carried out, she wanted to know what they were to do.

The resolution was, after a little further discussion, carried.

## THE STRIKE OF WEAVERS AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

A mass meeting of operatives was held towards the close of last month to consider the question of resuming work. There were 3,000 persons present, of whom two-thirds were women and young persons. A resolution was carried in favour of the resumption of work. At a meeting of Messrs. Leach's weavers at the Foresters' Hall, Stalybridge, on September 28th, a woman moved—"That we go back to work on the Blackburn list on Monday morning." (Cheers.) Another woman seconded that, and it was decided by an overwhelming majority to resume work on Monday morning.

## BENEFACTION TO THE DUNDEE HIGH SCHOOL.

Another munificent bequest has just been granted to the town of Dundee. At a special meeting of the directors of the Dundee High School, held in September, Provost Moncur said that the late Mr. Wm. Harris, who during his lifetime was such a munificent benefactor of the High School, had by his settlement left a further sum of £10,000 to the High School, subject, however, to the liferent of his sister. Miss Harris has now intimated her desire to anticipate the realisation of her brother's wishes by at once making over to the trustees, under his settlement, the sum of £10,000, if for that sum a property could be acquired suitable for the junior and girls' departments of the High School. The Provost further announced that a property suitable for this purpose could be acquired, and it was agreed to draw up a minute expressive of the sense of the School Board of the great liberality displayed by Miss Harris.

## THE LATE AND THE PRESENT QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, who dates from Antanana River, July 20th, after describing the loss and disturbance occasioned by the attack of the French, says: "To add to our troubles the Queen, who has been suffering from a complication of dropsy, gout, &c., died on Friday morning last, July 13th, at about six or seven. She was taken worse on the Thursday evening. She joined in the usual evening prayers on Thursday, and her last words and acts were a most befitting conclusion to the peaceful and prosperous times God has given her for the last fifteen years. She declared that she died fully trusting in Jesus Christ as her Saviour. She begged that she would be buried quickly, so that no interruption should happen to the preparation for resisting the French. She charged the Prime Minister and the new Queen to remember that her kingdom was resting upon God, and that they were to continue as before in all matters of religion. She begged them to remember that not one foot of her land was to be given to the French. She named her niece, Razafindrahety, as her successor, under the title of Ranavalomanjaka III. About two o'clock of the morning of her death a violent earthquake shook the capital for some twenty seconds."

Ranavalomanjaka III, the new sovereign, is a woman of about twenty years of age. She is the daughter of a sister of the late Queen. Her mother and grandmother are still living. She was first educated in the country district by one of the London Missionary Society native teachers. She then entered a school in the capital, then was for some time in the school taught by Miss Gilpin, a member of the Society of Friends, and for some years after was in the London

Missionary Society girls' school at Ambodin Andohalo. She is clever for a Malagasy. She is well-behaved, is rather proud and haughty, somewhat hasty in speech, and easily provoked. Her husband, a relative of the Queen, died a few months ago. She is childless, and will doubtless become the wife of the Prime Minister, who was the husband of the late Queen.

The Prime Minister called the officers together early on Friday morning, the palace gates were thrown open, and the booming of the cannon all round the capital announced to us at one p.m. what we had known from whispers some hours before. From natives who were present, I learn that the announcement of the death of the Queen was made by the Prime Minister from the north verandah of the great palace. He told of the Queen's last words, about religion, the French, her successor, and her desire for a speedy burial, and for little mourning. The people were in terror, the great Friday market broke up in confusion, and men without hats and women with all their hair down went rushing in all directions, but chiefly in the direction of the great palace. The substance of the new Queen's message was to the same purport as what the Prime Minister had said. She wore a crown, had the scarlet umbrella held over her. She declared herself Queen by her late aunt's command. She promises to rule them as she did, urges them to fight the French, to keep to their Christian religion, and, as her aunt had done, so would she rest her kingdom upon God. By two o'clock the people were hurrying away, and thus for the first time in Malagasy history, and while their two chief ports are in the hands of the enemy, and many of the soldiers away fighting, and some thousands still encamped, fully armed, in the neighbourhood of the capital, a new Queen has come to the throne without the shedding of a drop of human blood. The people cannot realise that their heads are not to be shaved, and that they may go about with clothing over their shoulders. The ignorant are amazed—the better part are full of gladness. Queen Ranavalona The Good, in her death as in her life, was full of thought of how she could benefit her people and make their burdens light. May the same spirit animate her successor. The following are the things to be abstained from:—Men not to wear hats; women to wear their hair down; no public singing or playing of musical instruments, except during religious services; no building or working in clay or mud; no assemblies for play, &c.; no spinning of cotton or silk; no spear throwing. These, however, do not apply to the soldiers, they are to wear their hats, and show no outward sign of mourning. It is only 22 years ago since at the mourning for Ranavalona I. soldiers were made to fill up cannons to the mouth with powder and shot, screw in a plug, fire them off, and all save one or two were blown to atoms. Fifteen years ago the missionaries saw every man, woman, and child for weeks with shoulders bare, and heads shaved. No one dared sleep on a bed, and anyone daring to sing would have been guilty of high treason. Fifteen years ago tens of thousands of silver dollars, and an immense quantity and variety of gold and silver ornaments, as well as silk dresses, &c., were put into the coffin of the Queen at her death. All this has now been changed.

The following additional particulars are derived from an article in the *Echo*:—

The late Queen was a woman of pleasing countenance, rather dark for her tribe, grey hair, and of stout yet queenly figure. Her life was one of much seclusion and reserve. Her mind was, however, fully occupied with the affairs of State, and all matters of importance were discussed in her presence. Her early mornings were spent in reading and mental exercises, her forenoons in business of State, and her afternoons in needlework, or intercourse with a select number of the ladies, native and foreign, who dwelt at the capital. On the occasions of her annual visit in State to her country seat at Ambobimanga, she was usually attended by the present Queen, who always occupied a seat in the royal palanquin. All who have attended her court testify to her grace and dignity and gentle courtesy. She had long been in failing health, and having attained to nearly seventy years, the late troubles told upon her considerably, and especially the loss of territory in the North-West to the French.

The new Queen who gave up her name to take the designation of Ranavalona III. is the fourth Queen of the Hova Dynasty who has occupied the throne of Madagascar. This fact speaks well for the feeling with which the Malagasy regard the sex generally, and is in marked contrast to the degraded and irresponsible position assigned to women in most Eastern and partly civilised countries. The new

Sovereign is a lady of great intelligence, and she has been carefully prepared for some years for the distinguished position which she now occupies. A great portion of her life has been spent in the seclusion of Malagasy Court life, and in the society of her aunt, the late Queen, with whom she was a great favourite, on account of her gentle disposition, as well as her sagacity and natural good sense.

#### PETITION FROM WOMEN RESIDENT IN INDIA.

The following petition has been signed by many thousands of European women resident in India:—

The humble Petition of the undersigned European British subjects, being women residing in India, to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India. May it please Your Most Gracious Majesty,

Having learnt that a Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council of the Governor-General of India to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1882, by altering the existing law, so as to confer on native magistrates of certain classes jurisdiction to try European British subjects in the interior of India on criminal charges, and knowing the tender care and interest Your Majesty ever bestows upon your subjects in all parts of your dominions, we beg most humbly to approach Your Majesty, to express the grave alarm with which we contemplate the proposed change, and to crave your Majesty's intervention to protect us from the serious injury we believe it must cause to our welfare and happiness.

In thus craving Your Most Gracious Majesty's protection, we will forbear to enlarge on the many and cogent arguments against the said Bill, as affecting our countrymen in common with ourselves, being aware that such arguments have been ably set forth by our countrymen in India and England, and will confine ourselves to those particulars in which it specially affects women who are European British subjects in India.

First, then, we would humbly submit that the position held by women in native society is so entirely different from that held by their European sisters, and this difference so deeply affects all the relations of social and domestic life, and the customs, habits, and feelings connected with those relations, that no native of India, however highly educated, can possess the knowledge or sympathy essential to a correct appreciation of the feelings and conduct of European women. But such a correct appreciation of the feelings and conduct of accused persons can alone qualify a judge to try them; and consequently the effect of the proposed change in the law would be to transfer the trial of European women in India to men who, by the force of circumstances, are incompetent to do them justice.

The civilising effect of a residence in England on natives of India has been put forward as an argument in favour of the harmlessness of the proposed change. But this argument is inapplicable to the circumstances of the case, and, if it were applicable, would have very little force. For, in the first place, the Bill proposes to give jurisdiction over European British subjects not only to covenanted native civilians, who have been to England, but to native statutory civilians, native assistant commissioners and others, who have never left India, and have often had nothing worthy of the name of an English education; and, in the second place, experience has shown us that the effect of a residence in England on the character and feelings of natives of India is far from being generally such as to inspire us with confidence in their competence to try us.

Apart from the terrible risk of injustice to which European women would thus be subjected in cases in which they themselves might have the misfortune to be accused, their examination as witnesses in cases in which their countrymen might be accused, before native magistrates, would, owing to the great difference of modes of life, habits, and ideas already described, be in the highest degree hurtful to their feelings and repugnant to their sense of propriety, and this injurious consequence would be greatly aggravated by the fact that, in the majority of cases, the pleaders to whose cross-examination they would be exposed would also be natives of India.

A further ground on which we implore Your Most Gracious Majesty's intervention is that, in the opinion of the natives of India, it is highly disgraceful for women of respectability to appear before a stranger of the opposite sex, particularly in a criminal court; and this is a feeling so deeply ingrained in their minds that no amount

of education and no residence in Europe can wholly disabuse them of it. The native magistrate before whom a European woman could be brought for trial, would consequently be unavoidably prejudiced against her, and she would thus be placed not only in a false position, but at an unfair disadvantage.

Moreover, the British Government in India having so far lent its sanction to this feeling as to exempt native women of respectability from appearing openly in court, the fact of our being compelled to appear, before the very men who claim and enjoy this exemption for their own women, would inevitably give rise, in the minds of ignorant people of the country, to comparisons prejudicial to the esteem in which we are held, and without which esteem our position in the midst of an alien and unsympathetic population would be intolerable.

Further, we would urge on Your Most Gracious Majesty's consideration the fact that, owing to the low estimate in which the natives of India hold the female sex, it would be imposing a special indignity on us, and inflicting a cruel wound on our self-respect, to subject us to trial by native magistrates.

Nor would the evil thus resulting be confined to this unnecessary and unbearable injury to our feelings. For the knowledge of the injury and of the dread with which we should regard it, would operate as a powerful incentive to any ill-disposed natives to resort to false charges against us for the purposes of extortion, intimidation, and revenge; and this temptation would be increased by a belief in our helplessness before an alien tribunal, isolated, as we should in many cases be, from our natural protectors; unable, as we should be in the great majority of cases, to obtain the assistance of European counsel, and ignorant, as we should generally be, of the language in which the proceedings would be conducted.

In the case of the poorer class of Europeans residing in the interior of the country, the danger arising from this cause would be of a most serious character, and would destroy their sense of security and embitter their relations with the natives around them to an extent which would be likely to prove a fruitful source of trouble.

So far we have confined ourselves to the respects in which the passing of the proposed Bill would result in grievous wrong and injury to ourselves. But we would also urge, as a matter well deserving of Your Most Gracious Majesty's careful consideration, that, by the degradation it would inflict on us in the eyes of the natives of this country, it would go far to deprive us of that influence for good on which the enlightenment and amelioration of the condition of our native sisters so largely depends, and which we believe to be an object of Your Majesty's anxious solicitude to promote.

We might say much more, but we feel that we have said enough to justify our humble prayer that Your Most Gracious Majesty will be pleased to use your constitutional power for the protection of your petitioners in such manner as to Your Majesty may seem fit.

And Your Majesty's humble petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

#### A MAGISTERIAL THEORY ABOUT SECOND HUSBANDS.

At the Clerkenwell Police Court on September 29th a woman applied to Mr. Barstow, the sitting magistrate, for his advice. She said she had a small business, which was sufficient to maintain her; but her husband behaved very badly to her, and was in the habit of taking her money and squandering it away. He obtained the money by applying to her customers for payment of accounts due to her. She asked if he had a right to receive this money.—Mr. Barstow asked if this was the applicant's second husband.—The applicant replied that he was.—Mr. Barstow replied that in almost every case in which application was made to him by wives for protection against the ill-treatment or neglect of their husbands, he found on inquiry that it was the second husband. He would have thought that the experience with the first husband would have enabled a woman to be more judicious in the selection of the second. But the reverse of this appeared, as a rule, to be the case. However, he informed the applicant under the new Act her husband had no right whatever to receive the accounts due to her from her customers, and her best course would be to send a circular to each of them, advising them that she would in future collect her accounts herself. The applicant thanked the magistrate, and said she would act upon his advice.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### CUSTODY OF INFANTS.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Madam.—The information supplied in the columns of the *Women's Suffrage Journal* is usually so correct that, I feel sure, the intelligent and accomplished lady who edits it and the readers who are instructed by it will be grateful for my pointing out an erroneous remark contained in its critique of the *Saturday Review's* comment upon the recent debate in Parliament on women's suffrage. The decision of the Court of Appeal, *In re Agar-Ellis—Agar-Ellis v. Lascelles*, having excited the public attention, the error (a most pardonable one in a non-legal writer) becomes of the greater consequence. It is said in the critique that "the legal custody of babies is vested in men because they are men." I make bold to say that the law is otherwise; and that should any English mother find her baby taken from her I should be only too happy to apply to the High Court of Justice for a writ of habeas corpus or to the Chancery Division by petition, whereon the maternal rights, perfect in the law of nature and, until the age of sixteen, in municipal law, would be vindicated, and her little treasure restored to her arms. Before the statute 2 and 3 Victoria was passed the municipal law, certainly, was otherwise. Thereby, however, the mother's controlling power superseded the father's till the infant attained the age of seven. 36 Victoria c. 12 extended the age from seven to sixteen. A glance at the report of *Agar-Ellis v. Lascelles* (*Women's Suffrage Journal*, p. 166) will show that Miss Agar-Ellis had attained the age of sixteen. The general subject of separation deeds, custody of children during and after divorce proceedings, and of infants considered as wards of court is too extensive for discussion at present. Your constant reader,

WILL GRIFFITHS, barrister.

Great Turnstile Chamber, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.,  
September, 1883.

[The mothers of England will scarcely accept the position that "the mother's controlling power supersedes that of the father until the age of sixteen," when that controlling power can only be exercised by petition to the Court of Chancery, a costly proceeding out of the reach of all but the rich. Even then it is only exercised by discretion of the court, who, in giving their decision, are usually governed rather by considerations relating to the presumed interests of the child than to the rights or feelings of the mother.—Ed. *W. S. J.*]

### LADIES AND POLITICAL ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

I am so much impressed by a piece of inconsistency connected with the recent division on women's suffrage that I venture to call your readers' attention to it. Mr. H. B. Ince, Q.C., voted against the Resolution within a week after his election for Hastings—an election actively promoted by Lady Brassey and her daughters, and having the important result of winning back a seat for the Liberal party. If Mr. Ince desires to preserve women from what Mr. Leatham terms the "mire and filth of a political election," why did he accept this help? Surely the act of quietly recording a vote by ballot is not more "mire" than frequent appearances on platforms at excited election meetings, the wearing of party colours, and personal canvassing. I trust that the women of Hastings, among whom there must be many hundreds of householders contributing by their industry to the prosperity of this seaside resort, will do their best to convince Mr. Ince that he walked into the wrong lobby on July 6th. EMMA A. PATERSON.

2, Queen Square Place, Bloomsbury.

### A LADY ASSISTANT IN CAMBRIDGE OBSERVATORY.

Professor Adams, in his report of the proceedings in the Cambridge Observatory for May 27, 1882, to May 26, 1883, states that "In calculating the tables for reducing the places of zone stars to the epoch he (Mr. Graham) has been ably assisted by Miss Walker, who has been chiefly occupied in the reduction of the zone observations, and already makes herself very useful as an observer. Mr. Todd is busied chiefly in calculating the reductions from apparent to mean place, and Miss Walker tabulates his results."

### MAINTENANCE OF WIVES.

At the Knaresborough Petty Sessions on September 25th, Charles Simpson, of Ouseburn, was brought up for disobeying an order of justices, under which he was to pay to his wife's maintenance. Mr. Byron appeared in support, and it was stated defendant was owing an arrear of 79 weeks' payments under the judicial order of separation. His conduct since towards his wife has been aggravated, and last week he gained admission to her house, smashed her furniture, and she was in continual fear. In the case of the arrears the matter was adjourned, and they dealt with the charge of wilful damage, for which the offender was sent for two months to prison and ordered to find sureties for a year.

### MEDICAL WOMEN FOR INDIA.

The senior post at Bombay in connection with the movement for medical women for India, originated by Mrs. Rittridge, will be filled by Miss Pechey, M.D., lately of Leeds.

In consequence of Mr. Rivers Thompson's orders, a native lady, Mrs. Gangooly, has been enrolled as a pupil in the primary class of the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.

Miss Ellen d'Abren and Miss A. bala Das have passed successfully their first year's examination in the Madras Medical College. Miss Das obtained a certificate of honour in practical chemistry.

A Parsee lady, Miss Putlibai Wadia, has made a translation into Gujerati of Chambers' *Short Stories*.

### THE PRINCESS BEATRICE AT ABERDEEN.

Princess Beatrice visited Aberdeen on September 27th, for the purpose of opening a bazaar in aid of the funds of the sick children's hospital. Her Royal Highness had also, in response to the invitation of the civic authorities, consented on behalf of the Queen to open a spacious and elegant public park presented to the city by Miss Duthie, of Ruthrieston, in memory of her brother and uncle. The occasion was celebrated in the city with the most marked enthusiasm. Her Royal Highness left by special train arriving at Aberdeen at noon. On the platform she was received by the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord Provost Esslemont. Lord Aberdeen, who accompanied the Princess to the bazaar, gave a short address explaining its object.

The Princess then said: I am very pleased to declare this bazaar open, and hope it may result in a large addition to the funds of the hospital. Mr. Todd, chairman of the directors, thanked her Royal Highness on their behalf.

The Princess was then entertained at luncheon, and at half-past two proceeded to the Town Hall. In the meantime, 1,500 school children and a procession of about 2,000 composed of the different trade organizations and societies of the town had proceeded to the New Park, which was reached at 3-30, and after prayer had been offered by Professor Milligan, Miss Duthie handed to her Commissioner a short address, in which she formally gave the park to the people, and expressed the great joy that it was to her to be assured that the Queen had interested herself in, and approved of, the work she had had at heart.

Miss Duthie then begged the Princess's acceptance of a silver key as a souvenir of the ceremony, and asked her Royal Highness to declare the park open for the recreation and enjoyment of the people of Aberdeen.

The Princess replied: It is with great pleasure that I have come here in the Queen, my mother's name, to declare this beautiful park open, the key of which I now hand to the Lord Provost. (Great cheering.) I am convinced Miss Duthie's very generous gift will greatly conduce to the health and enjoyment of her fellow citizens.

Her Royal Highness then descended from the platform for the purpose of planting a memorial tree. After driving round the park the Princess left for Balmoral at 4-30. In the evening the city was brilliantly illuminated.

The park is 47 acres in extent, and cost £50,000. It is situated on the banks of the Dee, within two miles of the centre of the city.

WIFE BEATING IN CANADA.

A recent case of wife beating, with the judgment on it, has called forth the following articles in Canadian papers:—

It is almost impossible to believe the statement, it is a disgrace to the country and the day in which we live, that the sanction of law should be given to one of the foulest and meanest crimes that a brute in human form could commit.

"At common law a man has the right to resort to the moderate correction of his wife for her misbehaviour. It is not, however, for a magistrate or court to step in and interfere with the rights of a husband in ruling his own home."

If this is a correct interpretation of the law, then the law is an outrage upon decency, manliness, and common sense. It is law which the Canadians of to-day have not enacted, to which they have not assented, of which they never heard, and which they will not tolerate.

In a late wife-beating case which came up before Judge Hughes at St. Thomas, his honour acquitted the defendant, and laid it down as part of the law that a husband possesses the undoubted right to personally chastise his wife when he deems she deserves it.

protected. Society owes them a duty, for they are only carrying out the dictates of Judge Hughes and the common law, and the police magistrate who would think of punishing them ought at least to be deprived of that inalienable right of every citizen—the right to pound his own wife.—Toronto World.

WOMAN IN THE "NINETEENTH CENTURY."

Mr. Theodore Stanton is about to publish a French translation of his valuable and interesting work on woman in the Nineteenth Century. The first volume is devoted to "Woman in America."

The work will be issued as soon as 500 subscriptions have been received. In its English dress it is a sealed book, as regards general circulation on the continent of Europe, but the French translation will enable it to be widely disseminated.

THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILDREN.

The cruelty and injustice of the law which vests the custody and guardianship of the children of a married pair in their father solely, to the exclusion of their mother, have long been acknowledged and resented by the large majority of thoughtful men and women.

In direct defiance of the law of nature, which ordains that every human child shall have two parents, the law of this country decrees that, so far as legal rights extend, the husband shall be the sole parent of a child born in marriage.

Iniquitous as is this state of the law, no serious attempt to set aside the evil principle on which it rests has as yet been made in the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland.

The promoters of this amendment of the law earnestly ask your help to enable them to secure the full recognition by law of the equal rights, obligations, and duties of both parents.

- (1) By questioning, if possible in public meeting, the Parliamentary representative or representatives for your own constituency, or otherwise eliciting his or their opinion on the subject, and communicating the result of your efforts to the address given below.

Petition headings, written or printed, leaflets, and other papers, may be had from Mrs. WOLSTENHOLME ELMY, The Low, Congleton, to whom all communications should be addressed.

Obituary.

MR. HUGH BIRLEY, M.P.—With great regret we record the death of Mr. Hugh Birley, the Conservative member for Manchester. Mr. Birley had been in failing health for more than two years, during which period he was unable to attend to his Parliamentary duties.

MR. HENRY OGDEN.—On the 15th ult., aged 67, at his residence, Midhurst, Henry Ogdén, of Manchester and Southport. Friends will please accept this intimation.

TORONTO WOMEN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE.

In consequence of the large number of ladies who have signified their intention of attending lectures at the Women's Medical School of Toronto, alterations have been made for their accommodation in the Hospital theatre, where it is necessary for them to attend for clinical work and operative surgery.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 28, 1883.

Table with 2 columns listing names and amounts. Includes Mrs. Garnett £25 0 0, Mrs. Hullah 5 0 0, Miss J. Coblen 1 1 0, Mrs. Maria Grey 1 1 0, The Misses Courtney 1 1 0, Miss E. Warrington 1 1 0, Miss Helen Taylor 1 0 0, Mrs. Remington Wilson 1 0 0, Lady Spokes 0 10 0, Mrs. Cook £0 7 6, Miss Spokes 0 5 0, The Misses Ponder 0 5 0, Miss Cook 0 2 6, Mr. Henry Harris 0 1 0, £38 0 0.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM AUGUST 20 TO SEPTEMBER 21, 1883.

Table with 2 columns listing names and amounts. Includes Mrs. W. S. Clark £10 0 0, Miss Priestman 5 0 0, Mrs. Atkinson 0 11 0, Mrs. H. F. James 0 10 0, Mr. David Williams (Merthyr) 0 10 0, Mr. Gilmore Barnett 0 5 0, Dr. Nicholson 0 5 0, Miss Sturge 0 5 0, Mrs. Bucknell £0 2 6, Mrs. Ewens 0 2 6, Mr. Concellor L. Ittall 0 2 6, Mr. Nesle 0 2 6, Mrs. Scott 0 2 6, Miss Steel 0 2 6, Mr. G. H. Williams 0 2 6, Mr. W. H. Williams 0 2 6, Mr. Lord 0 2 6, Mrs. Organ 0 2 6, Rev. J. Robbards 2 2 0, Mrs. Hume-Rothery 0 10 0, Rev. W. M. Lennox 0 5 0, Mr. Concellor Steel, jun. 0 5 0, Mr. Concellor Whitbread 0 5 0, Mrs. Mollison 0 2 6, Mr. Concellor L. Ittall 0 2 6, Mr. Nesle 0 2 6, Mrs. Scott 0 2 6, Miss Steel 0 2 6, Mr. G. H. Williams 0 2 6, Mr. W. H. Williams 0 2 6, Mr. Lord 0 2 6, Mrs. Organ 0 2 6, Rev. H. Levin 0 1 0, Mrs. Mollison 0 1 0, Mr. Norton 0 1 0, £21 19 0.

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 1, Cecil Road, Clifton.

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, SEPTEMBER, 1883.

Large table with multiple columns listing names and amounts across various regions: HARROGATE, BISHOP AUCLANDS, DARLINGTON (continued), DURHAM, NORTHALLERTON, MIDDLESBROUGH, WEST HARTLEPOOL, STOKTON-ON-TEES, SOUTH SHIELDS. Includes names like Mrs. E. Smithson, Mrs. Hunt, Miss Pearson, Mr. Anthony Hall, Mr. Joseph Lingford, etc.

S. ALFRED STEINHAL, TREASURER, 23, Jackson's Row, Manchester.



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