

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIV.—No. 168. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

DECEMBER 1, 1883.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

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Foreign Notes and News.
Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACTS.

With an Introduction and Notes on the Act of 1882. By H. N. Mozley, M.A.—BUTTERWORTH, 7, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures during the recess for petitions, to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution, which may come on for discussion at an early date next session. 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, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester ; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol ; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

WIMBLEDON.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall, Wimbledon, on Tuesday, December 4th, 1883. Miss C. A. Biggs, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Miss Müller (member of the London School Board), and others will address the meeting. The chair to be taken at eight o'clock by H. W. LAWRENCE, Esq.
Admission free.

SUDBURY.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Sudbury (by kind permission of the Mayor), on Thursday, December 6th. Miss C. A. Biggs, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, and others will attend. Doors open at half-past seven. Chair will be taken at eight o'clock by ROBERT MATTINGLY, Esq., the Mayor of Sudbury.
Admission free.

BURY ST. EDMUND'S.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Bury St. Edmund's, on Friday, December 7th, 1883, when Mrs. Ormiston Chant, Miss C. A. Biggs, and others will attend and address the meeting. Doors open at half-past seven. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock by Mrs. LUCAS.
Admission free.

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.—29, Parliament-st., London, S.W.

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.

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MARSDEN LIBERAL CLUB.—On December 4th, a lecture will be delivered in the Mechanics' Hall, Marsden, by Miss Becker, on behalf of the National Reform Union, on the Right of Women to the Parliamentary Franchise in connection with the forthcoming Reform Bill. The chair to be taken at half-past seven by J. E. ROBINSON, Esq. Admission free ; Reserved Seats for ladies. A collection at the close to defray expenses.

F. BEAUMONT, } Secretaries.
G. HIRST, }

THE NEW VOLUME.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XIV. January to December, 1883. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London : Trübner and Co. ; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held in the Town Hall, Manchester, November 14th, 1883. In coloured cover, price 6d., to be had of the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

OBSERVATIONS ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. By Viscount HARBERTON. Price One Penny. Published by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

A HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN engaged in Social and Political Work, Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN. Price One Shilling. Published by J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11, Quay-street, Bristol.

"It will be found a desirable acquisition by all who take a part in public matters affecting women, or who desire to know the principal topics which have or deserve attention. The legal elements of the book have been very carefully brought together and are fairly complete."—*Queen*, March 15, 1881.

"The amount of information compressed into a very small space is not more remarkable than the skill with which it is arranged and digested."—*Social Notes*, May 6, 1881.

"... 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, 29, Parliament-street, Westminster, London, S.W.

THE MARCH OF REFORM.

Sung at Reform Meetings in 1832; Revived at the Birmingham Jubilee Reform Meeting, 1882.

WORDS ADAPTED TO BE SUNG AT WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MEETINGS.

By ATTWOOD.

Allegro. *p*
Lo, we an-swer! See we come, Quick at Freedom's ho-ly call, We

come, we come, we come, we come, To do the glor-ious work of all. And

sis-ters, raise from sea to sea The sa-cred watch-word "Li-ber-ty;" And

The 2nd and 3rd verses begin thus.
sis-ters raise from sea to sea, Tho sa-cred watchword "Li-ber-ty." God is our Guide, and, &c.

God is our Guide, and in His name
From hearth, from workshop, and from loom,
We come, our ancient rights to claim,
Those rights, with duties, to resume.
Then sisters, raise from sea to sea,
The sacred watchword "Liberty."

God is our Guide, no sword we draw,
We kindle not war's battle fires;
By union, justice, reason, law,
We claim the birthright of our sires.
We raise the watchword "Liberty,"
We claim our birthright to be free.

Played at the Annual Meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage,
Town Hall, Manchester, 1883.

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THE decisive expression of opinion at the great Liberal Conference at Leeds in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, has been followed during the last month by other weighty manifestations of the opinion of Liberal representative bodies to the same effect.

ON November 16th, the General Committee of the Edinburgh United Liberal Association met to consider the equalisation of the county and burgh franchise and the county franchise, and the extension of the Parliamentary vote to women householders. Bailie LEWIS moved that this meeting regards the extension of the franchise to female householders as just and reasonable, and would hail with satisfaction the introduction of a Government measure which would confer the Parliamentary franchise upon all female householders, whether resident in counties or burghs. Councillor TURNBULL seconded the resolution. To this an adverse amendment was moved by Mr. J. C. BURNS. On a division, only twenty-five voted for the amendment, and the resolution moved by Bailie LEWIS was declared carried by a majority. A copy of the resolutions was forwarded to the PRIME MINISTER and the HOME SECRETARY.

ON November 21st, a meeting of the General Council of the Manchester Liberal Association was held, to consider the resolution passed at the Leeds Conference. Mr. J. E. SOUTHERN moved "That in order to meet the just expectation of the country, and to fulfil the pledges given at the last general election, this Council is of opinion that a measure for the extension of the franchise should confer on householders and lodgers in the counties the same electoral rights as those enjoyed by householders and lodgers in Parliamentary boroughs, and should extend to Ireland the franchise enjoyed by Great Britain; and that, in the opinion of this meeting, any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the

qualifications which should entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government." Mr. OSBORNE moved that the passage relating to women should be struck out. After the discussion the amendment was rejected by a large majority, and the original resolution including the franchise for women was carried unanimously.

ON November 26th, the annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation, whose head-quarters are at Birmingham, was held in Bristol. Delegates were present from affiliated societies all over the country. In the course of the proceedings Mr. LEWIS FRY, M.P. for Bristol, moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right to vote in all matters of local government." The motion was seconded by Dr. CALDICOTT, and supported by Mrs. WALTER M'LAREN and Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, and carried by fifty-five votes to fifty, a majority of five in favour of the resolution.

DURING the past month many members of Parliament have spoken in various parts of the country in favour of the franchise for women. Mr. FAWCETT, in his address to his constituents at Shoreditch, said he rejoiced at the decision of the Liberal delegates at Leeds, that a removal of the political disabilities of rural householders should be accompanied by a removal of the no less indefensible political disabilities of women.

Mr. COURTNEY, speaking at Liskeard of the Leeds Conference, said the question of women's suffrage was forced on them, and he believed that on a Reform Bill being brought forward women would have votes.

Mr. W. S. CAINE, M.P., speaking at a great Liberal meeting at Yeovil, said he did not believe in excluding women from the exercise of the franchise, and he did not think they would be excluded much longer.

Mr. BIDDLE, M.P., at the Mayor's banquet at Sudbury,

expressed himself in favour of the franchise being given to unmarried women.

Mr. MASON, M.P., at Ashton, said he had moved last session a resolution in favour of the suffrage being conferred on women ratepayers. He had done his best to give them a vote.

Mr. LEAKE, M.P., at Moss Side, said women who were heads of houses should not be debarred from giving a vote, and his colleague, Mr. AGNEW, said the franchise should be given to every ratepayer.

Mr. ARNOLD MORLEY, M.P., at Nottingham, in reply to a question whether he would support a Bill enabling women householders to vote for members of Parliament, said he had already done so and would do so again.

Mr. CHRISTIE, M.P., wrote, in acknowledging the receipt of a memorial adopted at a public meeting in Lewes, that after that expression of opinion he should be very happy to vote in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women who possess the necessary qualification.

THE Hon. BERNARD COLERIDGE, the probable Liberal candidate for Bristol, has expressed his sympathy with the movement for the enfranchisement of women. Mr. LOCKWOOD, Liberal candidate for York, said to deny to women the right of exercising the franchise was illogical. Both the candidates for Ipswich—Mr. HENRY W. WEST, Q.C., Liberal, and Sir WILLIAM CHARLEY, Conservative—have voted in the House of Commons in favour of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, and whichever of them is returned may be trusted to do so again.

THE annual meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on November 14th, under the presidency of the MAYOR of MANCHESTER. The adoption of the report, which spoke hopefully of the prospects of the movement, was moved by Mr. JOHN SLAGG, M.P. for Manchester, and the meeting was addressed by Mrs. WALTER M'LAREN, Miss LAURA WHITTLE, Miss S. B. ANTHONY, Miss BECKER, and others.

Meetings have been held in Ipswich, addressed by Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, Mrs. CHANT, and Miss MULLER; at Reigate, by Miss C. A. BIGGS and Mrs. CHANT; at Dundee and Minehead, by Miss EMILY STURGE; at Wiveliscombe and Durton, by Miss EMILY SPENDER and Miss BRADLEY; and at Wellington, by Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, Miss BLACKBURN, Miss COLBY, and Mrs. BEDDOE.

In the north of Ireland a series of meetings addressed by Miss C. A. BIGGS and Miss TOD have been held at Bangor, Carrickfergus, and Holywood, concluding with the annual meeting of the North of Ireland Society at Belfast.

Lectures have been delivered by Mrs. FENWICK MILLER at political clubs in Islington, Chelsea, and Hackney; and by Miss BECKER at Liberal clubs in Radcliffe and Moss Side, near Manchester.

MR. W. S. CAINE, M.P., in a letter to the *Times*, announces his intention of introducing next session a Bill to abolish the property qualification for Poor-Law Guardians, making it the same as for the School Board. The object of this Bill is mainly to facilitate the election of women as Guardians, the existing high rating qualification operating as a bar to the election of many women most competent for the post. Mr. CAINE writes from practical experience of the value of women's work as Guardians in the Clapham and Wandsworth Union, three of the best of his colleagues being women.

We earnestly echo Mr. CAINE's wish that he may have the good fortune to see this Bill become an Act of Parliament.

A YOUNG baby has just been torn from its mother's arms by the operation of the monstrous law which denies to mothers the exercise of the most sacred and indefeasible natural right that exists in created being. From a case just decided in the Court of Session at Edinburgh it appears that the petitioner, George Beattie, applied to the court for an order upon his wife to give up her baby. In answer to the petitioner it was declared that Mrs. Beattie had been forced to leave her husband owing to a consistent course of unkindness and cruelty culminating in actual assault. It was further shown by medical certificate that the child was teething, and that it could not be removed from its mother with safety.

In the face of that testimony the Court ordered the suffering baby to be deprived of its mother's care, and handed over to the custody of the father. Neither the alleged cruelty which had forced the mother to leave her home, nor the actual cruelty of the decree to take away her baby, was held by the Court to be a sufficient reason for refusing to grant the petition. The feelings of the mother as the officers of "justice" came to snatch her baby from her bosom can hardly be imagined, still less described. If outraged nature were to lead mothers in

such circumstances to defy and disobey the wicked and unnatural decree, and cling to their infants till dislodged by main force, no one with human feelings would condemn them; and perhaps a few cases of such resistance would do more to awaken the conscience of our legislators to the iniquity of the rule than reams of publications or years of entreaty for an amendment of the law that "a mother's rights are *nil*."

FRENCHMEN are supposed to be under a delusion in believing that Englishmen sell their wives, but a recent trial for bigamy at Liverpool Assizes, before Mr. Justice DENMAN, shows that some Englishmen entertain the belief that the transaction is regular and lawful. On November 13th, BETSY WARDLE was indicted for having, on the 4th September, 1882, married GEORGE CHISNALL, her former husband being then alive. The prisoner pleaded guilty, but said her former husband gave her no peace, and sold her for a quart of beer. She imagined this was a legal transaction, and that she could marry again.

This announcement was, it is said, received in the court with "laughter." The second husband was called and asked how he came to marry the prisoner. He answered "Well, I bowt her." The judge said "You are not fool enough to suppose you can buy another man's wife?" on which he replied, "I was." Mr. SWIFT asked his Lordship not to pass a severe sentence. The prisoner imagined that because she had been sold for sixpence there was nothing criminal in marrying again. His Lordship said it was absolutely necessary to pass some punishment on her, to teach her that a man had no more right to sell his own wife than his "neighbour's wife, or cow, or ox, or ass, or anything that was his."

The wife who had been sold was then sentenced to a week's imprisonment with hard labour, while the man who had sold her, and the man who had bought her, received neither punishment nor censure!

THE judgment in this case appears inexplicable on any reasonable ground. We have always supposed that the essence of the crime of bigamy consisted either in the injury caused to the party who had been deluded into a false marriage by the belief that the other party was free to marry, or in the mockery made of a solemn service by going through the form well knowing it to be no marriage. But there was no deception in this case, for the man knew all the facts. Both seem to have been alike innocent of the intention to mock the ceremony, as both seem to have

believed that the woman was free to marry. This condition of ignorance is hardly credible, but like many other incredible things it seems to be a fact. If it is a crime to buy and sell wives, let the men who do such things be punished; if there is no crime in the transaction, why should the wife who is sold be punished? Unfortunately there is not a solitary instance of law made or administered so as to punish women in order to teach men.

WE fear that the words used by the learned judge will hardly tend to remove from the minds of his hearers the notion that men's wives are their chattels, out of which the idea that they have a right to sell them springs. Mr. Justice DENMAN is reported to have said that a man had no more right to sell his *own* wife than his *neighbour's* "wife, or cow, or ox, or ass, or any other thing that was his." The ignorant men whom he was addressing may plead judicial authority for the assumption that their neighbours' wives belong to their neighbours, the same as their cattle, and therefore by implication that their own wives belong to them as their cows belong to them or any other thing that is theirs.

"MORALLY guilty." Such was the verdict of a coroner's jury at an inquest recently held by Sir JOHN HUMPHREYS, coroner for East Middlesex, on the body of MARY ANN HEALEY. The mother-in-law of the deceased stated that the woman had been for two years in failing health, and was subject to epileptic fits. A woman who occupied apartments in the same house said she had frequently seen the deceased beaten and kicked by her husband. The witness had sometimes to hide her under the bed to protect her from his violence. The deceased had often complained of want of food. Another witness testified to having seen the husband strike and kick the deceased. He had thrown ginger-beer bottles at his wife, and on one occasion he nearly broke her jaw. Other witnesses gave similar evidence. A medical witness said he could not say that the violent treatment that the deceased had received from her husband was the immediate cause of her death. The jury, after a long consultation, returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and added that they considered the husband as "morally guilty" of his wife's death, and recommended that he should be — censured.

WE mentioned a short time ago that Signorina LIDIA

POET, after having duly qualified herself at the University of Turin, had claimed to have her name placed on the list of advocates, and that after full discussion by the Consiglio degli Avvocati her claim had been admitted.

We now learn from a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* that her opponents have carried the matter to the Court of Appeal, and the result is that her admission to the ranks of advocates is annulled.

The document on which the grounds for this decision are stated is a rather remarkable one. The strongest point is that, although the Italian Code does not expressly exclude women from the legal profession, its spirit is against it, and that special legislation would therefore be necessary in order to enable women to practise. So far the judges, whether their decision be sound or otherwise, are strictly within their powers. It is their function to declare what the law is, and their decision is final. But when the Court, not content with giving a decision according to the actual state of the case, goes on to argue against the policy of admitting women as advocates they appear to step beyond their function, and their reasons tend to throw doubt on the legal soundness of their judgment. They express a fear that if lady advocates were allowed the judges would sometimes be suspected of leaning towards the side that had the advantage of an *avvocata leggiadra*. They also wish women to reflect whether it will really be a matter of progress for them to be "the competitor rather than the companion of man, as Providence intended."

We do not suppose these sentimental considerations will console Signorina LIDIA POET for the denial to exercise the vocation to which she has been called by her natural tastes and powers, and which she has qualified by years of study, and for which her ability has been tested in the same way as those of her compeers. It may be a happier fate for a woman to be the companion than the competitor of man; but is a woman who has no "companion" to starve rather than earn her living, lest she should become a "competitor" of man? or is she only to be allowed to compete with him in the hard and ill-paid work of the world, and to be warned off when she essays the more honourable and remunerative fields of professional and intellectual labour?

WE noticed a short time ago the case of the women of Cornwall, who were employed in knitting sailors' guernseys, and whose employers paid them in drapery goods instead

of in coin. We are glad to learn from a correspondent of the *Western Daily Mercury* that the subject has been brought before the notice of the Government officials, and that a report is to be made to the HOME SECRETARY regarding the operation of the truck system in relation to the work which engages these women.

The system has been defended in some local newspaper, one writer saying that if the knitting were a question of working for a livelihood, the payment would seem justifiable, but the work is not followed for a living, but as a means whereby the thrifty wife or daughter of the fisher or labourer may fill up odd time and add to the comforts of the household.

To this the reply is obvious, that whether the work is done for actual livelihood or to add to the comforts of the household the worker is both in justice and law entitled to be paid in coin. It is provided by the Truck Act that any contract by which an employer agrees to pay a workman his wages in goods or in kind shall be wholly void. This applies only to the trades named therein, but the knitting of worsted into jerseys is specially mentioned in the statute. The fact that the workpeople agree to this arrangement is of no importance; the workman can sue and recover for the whole of his wages which he has not received in coin, and the employer cannot set off the goods supplied. Further than this, the employer can, upon a summary conviction, be fined up to £10.

It is probable that many of these poor people are in ignorance of the law which would protect them. Therefore it is well that the attention of those in authority should be called to the subject, in order that the unjust and oppressive system may be swept away.

MRS. ELIZABETH CADY STANTON and Miss SUSAN B. ANTHONY sailed from Liverpool on the 17th of November in the *City of Rome* for their own country. We trust they will carry back pleasant recollections of their visit to Europe, and we can assure them of the cordial good wishes of their friends on this side the water for themselves and for the cause to which they devote their energies.

THE WORK OF THE QUEEN.—At the Nairn Farmers' Society dinner recently, Lord Thurlow, in proposing the health of the Queen, said that he had now the honour of being for the third year one of Mr. Gladstone's lords-in-waiting, and from the opportunities he had had, in placing business before Her Majesty and otherwise, he could say that the generally received opinion of the real hard labour Her Majesty had to perform was by no means exaggerated. It was no exaggeration to say that the Queen was the hardest worked person in her dominions.

THE NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION.

ANNUAL MEETING IN BRISTOL.

RESOLUTION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ADOPTED.

The sixth annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation was held on November 26th in Bristol. The proceedings commenced with a conference in the Lesser Colston Hall, and there was a fairly large attendance of delegates. The chair was taken at half-past two in the afternoon by Mr. HENRY FELL PEASE, the president of the association, and amongst those who were present were the following: Alderman W. Kendrick, J.P. (chairman of committee), Alderman J. Powell Williams (hon. secretary), Messrs. F. Schnadhorst (secretary), A. Cameron Corbett, John Edward Willis, W. C. Borlase, M.P., John Brinton, M.P., E. H. Carbutt, M.P., Jesse Collings, M.P., Baron D. Ferriores, M.P., Lewis Fry, M.P., T. Rowley Hill, M.P., C. H. James, M.P., P. Stewart Macliver, M.P., Joseph Palley, M.P., W. J. Stanton, M.P., W. H. Wills, M.P., and delegates from affiliated associations. The lady delegates were—Bristol Women's Liberal Association, Miss Anna M. Priestman (president), Miss Helen Sturge (hon. secretary), Mrs. L. Ashworth Hallett; Keighley Liberal Association, Mrs. Walter M'Laren.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening address, said the Federation had cordially accepted the invitation to visit Bristol, and he congratulated them on having a representative assembly present; it was not a large one, but it was a thoroughly representative one.

The officers had received the following memorial, which had been influentially signed:—

"To the Management Committee of the National Liberal Federation.

"Gentlemen,—We, the undersigned, being members of Liberal Associations in Bristol, beg to submit the following point to your serious consideration in connection with the approaching annual meeting of the Federation, to be held in Bristol on the 26th instant. We are aware that, by the terms of the resolution passed at its annual meeting in 1882, the programme of the National Liberal Federation includes extension of the franchise to all householders, thus including women. Nevertheless the resolution will not be so understood by many, unless women are expressly included. We, therefore, beg that when preparing the programme for the meeting of November 26th you may include a resolution which shall expressly place women in the programme for extended franchise in counties and in boroughs, thus ratifying the action agreed upon by an overwhelming majority of the representatives of Liberal opinion at the Conference at Leeds.—We remain, Gentlemen, yours faithfully, S. Morley, M.P., Lewis Fry, M.P., W. H. Wills, M.P., P. Stewart Macliver, M.P., &c., &c., &c."

He had to state in the first place that the memorial did not reach the officers in sufficient time for formal consideration at their meeting when the resolutions for the conference were determined upon. They had, however, since had an opportunity for considering the matter, and their position to it might be thus stated. The officers were not able to submit resolutions involving important principles unless authorised by the general committee of the Federation. (Applause.) The question of women's suffrage had not been discussed by the committee nor had any resolution upon it been passed. (Hear, hear.) It was open, of course, for any representative by giving notice to the chairman to bring the matter before the meeting. The officers, however, desired to point out that the resolution submitted to-day was one not only demanding the extension of the franchise, but claiming for it urgency and precedence. In that respect it appeared to them that the general question of the extension of the franchise and the question of its extension to women did not stand upon an equal footing—(applause)—for whilst the demand for urgency and precedence in regard to the one was reasonable and timely, to make it with regard to the other was to ask for what was not practicable or possible in the present state of public opinion. (Applause.) The officers, therefore, did not feel able to accept an amendment in the sense of the resolution, but should the resolution be accepted as it stood, and another resolution in favour of the extension of the franchise to women householders be moved subsequently, they would offer no opposition to it. (Hear, hear.) In either case the decision, after full and fair consideration, must, of course, rest with the meeting. (Applause.)

Mr. CHARLES TOWNSEND, president of the Bristol Liberal

Association, moved: "That this meeting heartily concurs with the Leeds Conference in declaring the question of Parliamentary Reform urgent, and presses on Her Majesty's Government the necessity of introducing a Bill for the extension of the suffrage during the coming session; such Bill to be followed by a comprehensive measure for the redistribution of seats, which shall give as nearly as possible an equal value to every vote, and shall not maintain the present, or provide any other artificial means for, the representation of minorities."

Mr. JAMES ELLIS (Leicestershire) seconded the motion. Mr. LEWIS FRY, M.P., said he had given notice of an amendment to the resolution which would have the effect of declaring the desire of the meeting that the franchise should be extended to all householders without distinction of sex. (Hear, hear.) But he was very desirous, if possible, that the resolution now before the meeting should be passed unanimously. Therefore, to that end, he would ask leave of the president to move a substantive resolution to the effect of his amendment when the present motion had been carried. If they permitted that course he would refrain from moving any amendment to the present resolution.

Sanction for this course having been given, the resolution was adopted.

Mr. LEWIS FRY, M.P., then introduced his motion:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government." The hon. gentleman said a previous speaker, referring to this motion, thought the opinion of the meeting would be that they ought to do one thing at a time. That was also his opinion. At the same time he thought that when they were about to confer—as he thought they would—uniform household suffrage in boroughs and counties, then was the time for those who thought the franchise should be extended to women to come forward and urge this claim. (Hear, hear.) The suffrage was only asked for those women who possessed the same qualifications as now gave it to men voters; therefore the point was reduced simply to this—whether sex alone was to debar women from having a vote. (Hear, hear.) It seemed to him too late in the day to contend that women by sex alone were to be debarred from public life. He reminded the meeting that women had received power to vote in municipal, school board, and poor law elections. In all these things there was nothing like experience, and the experience which they had as regards municipal and school board elections had clearly shown that women were capable of exercising that amount of political power in a useful manner. In the present day the onus seemed to him to lie upon those who objected to the extension of the franchise to women to show why it should not be done. He would not weary the meeting with a long speech, as the question had been fully argued, if not thrashed out. But he would allude very shortly to one or two objections which he believed were chiefly relied upon by those who objected to this proposal. It was very often said that women ought to be preserved from being mixed up with the tumult and what was sometimes called the filth of Parliamentary elections. He heartily agreed with that in one sense; but since the Ballot Act had been passed, happily a very large part of the tumult which formerly attended Parliamentary elections had been got rid of, and now that the Corrupt Practices Act had been passed he trusted that a considerable amount of the filth would be got rid of. They ought never to rest satisfied with anything connected with Parliamentary elections of which they would be ashamed for the pure minds of women to be brought into contact with it. (Hear, hear.) Then it was said that this would render women less domestic and feminine; but experience had taught them rather the opposite. He asked gentlemen, who, like himself, had sat upon school boards with intelligent ladies, whether these ladies were one whit less feminine in consequence of such work. His experience was that some of those who undertook most successfully the duties of guardians of the poor might be properly described as ornaments of the female sex in every respect. (Hear, hear.) He, therefore, for one could not agree that there was any weight in the objection that taking part in public life to this extent was at all likely to interfere with that feminine delicacy which they all wished to preserve in the female sex. If they allowed women to exercise the functions to which he had referred, he could not see how the mere fact of walking up to the ballot box and dropping in

a ballot paper should be thought to be unwomanly. He knew some of his friends said this would not be a Liberal change, that the great bulk of the women voters would be Conservative—(hear, hear)—and therefore damage would ensue to the Liberal party. He did not altogether believe that, but if he did he must say he did not think it was any sufficient answer to the claim. (Cheers.) He did not think any true Liberal would object to anyone who was otherwise entitled to vote having the privilege simply because that individual differed from the opinions which he or she held. (Applause.) It was said that women were more open to the influence of others than men were, but if they were given political power that kind of subordination to the influence of others would by degrees become less and less. They, as Liberals, held the opinion that political intelligence could only be properly developed by the exercise of political rights, and therefore he believed that if the franchise were extended to women, any catastrophe to the Liberal cause such as some of his friends feared would be very far from being realised. While the objections to women's suffrage did not seem to him to be substantial, he must say the reasons for the change seemed to him to be very cogent. He put it first chiefly on the ground of justice, because he did not see how politically they could draw a distinction unless they could prove that that distinction was founded on some substantial reason, and he did not see how they could on the mere ground of sex draw that distinction which excluded women from the franchise. Instead of political life suffering from the proposed change, he was inclined to feel that the influence of women would be exceedingly good. Social questions were more and more coming to the front. They heard a great deal about "homes of the poor," and questions of that kind would in the future very considerably occupy the attention of the legislators, and he wished that the views of the female sex upon that matter should be well represented by those who were returned to the House of Commons. He believed the influence of women on these and similar questions would be exceedingly good, and that their votes would always or nearly always be given on the side of humanity and morality. He heartily hoped the time was not far distant when the proposed change would be made. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. CALDICOTT seconded the resolution, and remarked that to his mind what they had to consider was whether that was the time at which this question should be pressed upon the attention of the Legislature. (Cries of "No, no," and "Hear, hear.") While some of them thought it was, it was very evident that there were a great number of representatives and delegates present who thought it was not. The best way to settle the question was to see which was in the majority. Whatever might be the opinion of the majority in that room he believed a very large majority of the Liberal party in the country were in favour of an extension of the franchise to women. (Cries of "No, no," and "Hear, hear.") If that meeting did not agree with that opinion then the minority of those present would bow with perfect resignation to the will of the majority. (Cheers.)

Mrs. WALTER S. B. M'LAREN said she had come to give her vote in favour of the resolutions which the men were passing for themselves, and she hoped in return the men would vote for resolutions in favour of women. (Cheers.) She claimed the franchise for women on the ground of simple justice. (Hear, hear.) Those who bore the burden of taxpaying should have a voice in the government of the country. They had been told that that was not the time to bring the question forward, and that they must wait because it was not acceptable to the Government. How long had it been the policy of the Liberal party so to frame their demands that they should be acceptable to Governments? (Cheers.) Did anyone doubt that Mr. Gladstone, whom they were told would not give the women the franchise, would deny any just demand that the nation made upon him. (Hear, hear.) The question of what Parliament would or would not give was not one for the meeting to decide, but it was for the meeting to carefully and impartially inquire into the nature of the claim that women were making—(hear, hear)—and surely they would find that that claim was just, if they looked at the claims they themselves were making. Could they hesitate when they had felt the justice of that claim to help the women to obtain what they could not obtain by themselves. (Cheers.)

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT thought that women had some claim to speak on the question. Those gentlemen were all represented; they all belonged to a represented class. She did not. (Hear, hear.) She expected if she could ask each of them to-day, she

would find that the only people who belonged to an unrepresented class were women. They had been sent there by Women's Liberal Associations, and Men's Liberal Associations, that they might plead the cause of electoral reform, and they were told that the question was urgent. Did they know that there was one special wrong which women suffered from through disfranchisement that men did not suffer from? They were sometimes turned out from their homes and their farms because they had no votes. (Hear, hear.) When the husband was dead the woman was turned out of the home or the farm, because landlords preferred having for their tenants those who were voters. (Hear, hear.) Was not that a question of urgency? Was it urgent to keep homes for their people or not? (Cheers.) She believed that a man never had to submit to such great injustice. They were told that the federation were not wire-pullers, and that they were not to support wire-pullers, but it was the wires of the people which moved that federation, and they were told one of the objects of that federation was to move on, and she asked them to move on—(cheers and laughter)—on just lines, and not put aside their principle for expediency. If there was a member of the Government who did not wish to extend the franchise to women, tell him to extend it to all householders—make it a household measure. (Hear, hear.) They were told that it would complicate the Government measure, but she told them it would complicate the Government measure if they left women out. (Cheers and laughter.) She referred to the attempts made to bring in Reform Bills, in 1866 by Mr. Gladstone, and by Mr. Disraeli in 1867, and said because these measures did not give satisfaction generally they had a "Cave of Adullam" and a "Tea-room party." If the Government brought in a Reform Bill now and did not give a vote to women, they would have another Cave of Adullam and Tea-room party, and the Government would have to give way. (Applause and laughter.) What was the true course for Government to take? It was to get a true and honest householders' bill, irrespective of sex. (Applause.) The struggle for life was harder now for women than for men; and in extending the franchise to women they were not going to the residuum which Mr. John Bright spoke about—they were, in giving it to women householders, conferring it on intelligent women; and they should have one register—not as at present, two—a register of voters for Parliamentary elections and another register for municipal elections. (Hear, hear.) She, as a West of England woman, was proud that Mr. Lewis Fry had taken the position he had to vindicate principle at the expense of anything that was put forward. (Applause.) If they gave women the franchise it would be the grandest legacy that was ever gained by a free people. (Loud applause.)

Captain VERNEY said Mr. Fry had omitted to notice the only two objections of weight to the resolution he proposed. One was that ladies had enough power already—(laughter and applause)—and the other that they did not use their vote when the power had been given them.

Alderman KENRICK explained that the officers of the association did not express an opinion on this matter; if they thought it could be included in the Franchise Bill and passed next session, then they might carry the resolution.

Mr. M'LAREN mentioned that the Leeds Conference decided in favour of the principle.

The resolution was carried by 55 votes to 50; majority 5.

EVENING MEETING AT COLSTON HALL.

In the evening there was a public meeting at the Colston Hall, and it was attended by between four and five thousand people. The chair was taken by Mr. CHARLES TOWNSEND, chairman of the Bristol Liberal Association, and amongst those who were present were the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Mr. W. C. Borlase, M.P., Mr. J. Brinton, M.P., Mr. E. H. Carbutt, M.P., Mr. Jesse Collings, M.P., Baron de Ferrieres, M.P., Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., Mr. T. Rowley Hill, M.P., Mr. C. H. James, M.P., Mr. P. S. MacIver, M.P., Mr. Joseph Pulley, M.P., Mr. W. J. Stanton, M.P., and Mr. W. H. Wills, M.P. Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Miss Sturge, and other ladies were also present.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, M.P., moved the following resolution: "That this meeting expresses its hearty approval of the resolutions passed at the conference held this day, and especially places on record its opinion that in giving precedence during the coming

session to a great measure of enfranchisement, the Government will meet the just wishes and expectations of the country, and receive the hearty and unanimous support of the Liberal party."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. HANDEL COSSHAM, and carried.

MANCHESTER LIBERAL ASSOCIATION. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ADOPTED.

On November 21st a meeting of the General Council of the Manchester Liberal Association was held in the Memorial Hall, to consider the resolutions passed at the Leeds Conference. Mr. J. A. BETH presided. Amongst others present were Messrs. J. W. Southern, E. J. Broadfield, C. J. Herford, T. A. Bazley, Dr. Samelson, C. P. Scott, J. Mosley, H. Coffey, W. H. Burrow, R. C. Richards, Jesse Bryant, H. J. Roby, Percy Glass, W. Nicholls, W. Fogg, J. B. Parkinson, Professor Hopkinson, W. H. Holland, R. Affleck, and Dr. A. Emrys-Jones.

After the transaction of other business, Mr. E. J. BROADFIELD moved, and Mr. W. H. HOLLAND seconded, the first Leeds resolution, which expressed the opinion that the extension of the franchise was a matter of paramount and urgent importance, and that it was the duty of Her Majesty's Government to introduce in the next session of Parliament a Bill dealing with the question.

Mr. J. W. SOUTHERN, who was received with cheers, moved the second resolution, which was as follows:—"That in order to meet the just expectation of the country, and to fulfil the pledges given at the last general election, this Council is of opinion that a measure for the extension of the franchise should confer on householders and lodgers in the counties the same electoral rights as those enjoyed by householders and lodgers in Parliamentary boroughs, and should extend to Ireland the franchise enjoyed by Great Britain; and that, in the opinion of this meeting, any measure for the extension of the suffrage should confer the franchise upon women who, possessing the qualifications which should entitle men to vote, have now the right of voting in all matters of local government." He believed the six forms of franchise existing in the counties should be abolished, and one simple hearthstone and lodger franchise should take their place. But he forebore to make any further additions to the resolution because he felt that the less they interfered with the resolutions arrived at by such a body as that which met at Leeds the greater would be the appearance of unanimity and the greater would be the effect upon the country and the Government. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JESSE BRYANT seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. CAVANAGH.

Mr. G. OSBORNE said he objected to the passage in the resolution which referred to the extension of the franchise to women. They would find that in all country villages there were clergymen of the Church of England placed there by appointment who were generally Tories to the backbone. (Laughter.) They visited from house to house, and there was not a single shopkeeping woman whom they would not be "down upon" if they did not vote Tory. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) They would persuade women who were inclined to vote Liberal to vote for the other side. He moved that the passage relating to women be struck out.

Mr. J. B. PARKINSON seconded the amendment. He observed that he was not opposed to the extension of the franchise to women, but what they wanted to do at that meeting was to put something into practical shape. He believed the strongest advocate of women's rights would hardly go so far as to imagine that in the County Franchise Bill to be brought in by the Government there would be a clause giving the franchise to women.

After some remarks from Dr. Samelson and others, Mr. PERCY GLASS stated that he had a very different idea of the country districts from that expressed by Mr. Osborne. He believed the women voters in the country districts would be much more independent than Mr. Osborne supposed. Seeing that women were now allowed to vote at school board and municipal elections, there appeared to him to be no just reason whatever for denying them the power to vote for members of Parliament. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. EMRYS-JONES thought it would be a most retrogressive step to deny the Parliamentary franchise to women having the qualifications which now entitle men to vote. He was prepared to run

the risk of any immediate ill effects on the Liberal cause of such extension of the suffrage rather than deny justice to women any longer. (Applause.)

Mr. HEWIT was in favour of women's suffrage, but urged that it should not in wisdom be attached to the question of the county franchise, with the possibility of imperilling that quite distinct reform.

The amendment to strike out women's suffrage was rejected by a large majority.

The resolution, being put, was carried unanimously.

EDINBURGH UNITED LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

THE FRANCHISE REFORM—RIGHTS OF WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS.

The General Committee of the Edinburgh United Liberal Association met on November 16th within the Oddfellows' Hall (No. 2), Forrest Road, to consider the questions of the Local Government Board (Scotland) Bill, the equalisation of the burgh and county franchise, and the extension of the Parliamentary vote to women householders. There was a good attendance of the members, presided over by Bailie Anderson, chairman of the association.

After the first two subjects had been considered, Ex-Bailie LEWIS moved, "That this meeting regards the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to female householders as just and reasonable, and would hail with satisfaction the introduction of a Government measure which would confer the Parliamentary franchise upon all female householders, whether resident in counties or burghs." He thought it would be admitted that the resolution now submitted was one which might very properly be discussed at the meeting of a Liberal association. He regarded it to be the prerogative of genuine Liberals to correct abuses and anomalies, and to sweep away unjust monopolies in Government administration. The present position of women in relation to Imperial Government was an anomalous one, and ought at once to be rectified. He had never been able to see why men should hold a monopoly of political power, while women were equally amenable to the laws of the country, and were called upon to contribute their full share of imperial as well as municipal taxation. It was more than time that this oppressive and unjust monopoly should cease. All legislation which was based upon the assumption of the moral or intellectual inferiority of women he protested against as illiberal and indefensible. One of the leading distinctions between barbarism and civilisation was that the former degraded women while the latter sought to relieve them of civil disabilities and elevate them in the scale of social and political wellbeing. Seeing that women were amenable to the laws of the country, and contribute to its revenues, he was unable to see why they should longer continue in the position of vassals, and be classed with paupers, criminals, and idiots, who are alone shut out from the polling booth. If Government was to be liberal, logical, or consistent, the terms of the resolution must be promptly given effect to. As matters at present stand female householders were allowed to vote in the election of poor-law guardians, they were allowed to vote in the election of members of school boards, and they were also allowed to vote in the election of town councillors. Why, then, should they not be allowed to take part in the election of members of Parliament? They were lately told by the Birmingham chairman of a Liberal conference in Glasgow that it was dangerous to raise the discussion of this question among Liberals, because Mr. Gladstone and Lord Hartington were opposed to it. In view of Mr. Gladstone's earnest appeal in his famous speech at Dalkeith to the women of Mid-Lothian to bear their part ungrudgingly in the late political crisis, he was not prepared to accept the construction put upon the sentiments of the Premier by Alderman Kenwick. (Applause.) But, assuming for the moment that that gentleman was correct, what then? He might with equal propriety affirm that it was dangerous to oppose the discussion of this question, because Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Fawcett, members of the Government, were in favour of it. (Hear, hear.) But this was an argument which he was not greatly concerned to discuss. The question with him was not so much what was the opinion of any member of Her Majesty's Government, but was it reasonable and just that the rights of female householders should be recognised? It was not so much a question with him what were the wishes of the Government as what were the wishes of the community. He had always understood that Government was elected to give expression to the prevailing

sentiment of the people, and not that the people were enfranchised to give expression to the mind of the Government. He feared in these days when political party was, with a certain class of Liberals, of greater account than political principles, this important fact was being lost sight of. He confessed he felt humbled when he heard the chairman of the Liberal conference in Glasgow advocating such an illiberal and reactionary policy as that to which he had referred. He was decidedly of opinion that the tendency of such teaching was to do injustice to sound Liberal principles, to weaken the influence of Liberal government, and to operate most prejudicially in checking the enthusiasm of public spirit among the population. In so far as his experience went no Government, whether Liberal or Conservative, was likely to make great popular concessions to the people in the direction of reform without the urgent and well sustained pressure of the electorate. Let no one say, by proposing this resolution, that he was seeking to precipitate the Liberalism of Edinburgh to support a measure which was not within the range of practical politics. On the contrary, if they were to be guided by popular Liberal sentiment, this was among the very first questions demanding immediate settlement. The principle for which he was contending had been accepted by numerous Town Councils in Scotland which had repeatedly petitioned Parliament in its favour, while the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs had also unanimously petitioned in like manner. The value of this unanimous expression of opinion would be understood when he stated that the Convention embraced upwards of eighty Royal and Parliamentary burghs, and represented more than one-half of the population of Scotland. Then, what of Parliament itself? In the division which took place on Mr. Mason's resolution during last session of Parliament there was only a majority of sixteen against it, and which included—with those who paired—ninety-nine Conservative members, while a majority of thirty-one Liberals were in favour of the resolution. Surely in view of those facts no one claiming to be an advanced Liberal would venture to argue that the question of female suffrage was not within the range of practical politics. Since the division on the resolution of Mr. Hugh Mason the question had been prominently before the country. At a large Liberal Conference recently held in Leeds, and presided over by Mr. John Morley, a resolution was all but unanimously adopted even more stringent than the one now under consideration. At the recent Liberal Conference held in Glasgow there was passed a resolution, the practical effect of which was to confer the Parliamentary franchise on female householders in counties, but which denied it to those resident in burghs. What he asked was not that we should commit the association to a position so illogical and inconsistent, but that they adopt a resolution which was just, reasonable, and necessary; do justice to an injured class in the community, and by doing so they should maintain the political reputation of the Scottish metropolis which had long enjoyed the enviable distinction of being one of the most advanced and Radical constituencies in the United Kingdom. (Applause.)

Councillor TURNBULL seconded the motion. He held that when they had granted the franchise to females in the case of school boards and municipal elections they could not refuse it in the case of Parliamentary elections. The effect of the proposal was simply to do justice.

Mr. J. C. BURNS moved the previous question. He had never approved of the extension of the franchise to women. He believed the power disqualified woman's regular function by causing her to be mixed up with public questions.

Councillor WALCOT expressed his strong pleasure at the tone of the motion and Mr. Lewis' remarks.

A proposal was made that the meeting adopt a motion for the extension of the franchise to all householders in counties and burghs.

Ex-Councillor WESTERN said he had never heard a more illogical, ungallant, and unmanly speech than that made by Mr. Burns. (Laughter.) They saw the great progress learning was making amongst women, and even in India a black woman had beaten a white man. (Laughter.)

Mr. BRYDEN seconded the proposal to extend the franchise to all householders.

The CHAIRMAN said he wished to explain that, while he would vote for Mr. Lewis' motion that night, he did not vote for a similar motion by Mr. Lewis at the Glasgow conference, on the ground that

it had been placed as a rider to the motion for the assimilation of the county and burgh franchise. He thought it would be extremely unfortunate if they entangled the two questions.

Professor CALDERWOOD gave as an instance of present anomalies that last year, in the district of his residence, there were eight out of twenty-six occupants of houses unrepresented. They were occupied by eight ladies, two of whom were members of the school board, working to the best of their strength in the services of their fellow-citizens.

Mr. THOM seconded Mr. Burns' motion.

Mr. RAMSAY, who was received with cries of "Vote," thought there was quite enough to do without introducing the question of franchise to women.

Mr. FAIRBAIRN indicated that he had always supported the extension of electoral rights to females.

A division was thereafter taken. Only twenty-five voted for the amendment, and the motion was declared carried by a majority.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN it was agreed to forward copies of the resolutions to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual meeting in connection with the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on Wednesday afternoon, November 14th, in the Manchester Town Hall, under the presidency of the MAYOR (Mr. P. Goldschmidt). Among those present were Mr. J. Slagg, M.P., Mr. Alderman Heywood, Mr. E. Asquith, Mr. C. Stewart, Dr. John Watts, Mr. Alderman Booth, Mr. H. Slatyer, Mr. A. G. Symonds, Dr. Whittle, the Rev. S. A. Steintal, Miss Lydia Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Walter M'Laren (Bradford), Mrs. M'Laren (Edinburgh), Mrs. Lucas (London), Mrs. McCormick, Miss S. B. Anthony, Mrs. Philips, Miss Laura Whittle, Miss M. Atkinson, and Miss Backhouse.

The MAYOR said that when he consented to preside he was influenced by several considerations, the most important of which he felt it his duty to state. In the first place he was aware that some of his predecessors had presided at the annual meeting of the society, and he could not be wrong in following their example; secondly, he was a subscribing member of the society, and had long been of opinion that the abstract justice of their cause was unanswerable; and thirdly, because there was a special fitness in having the chief member of the corporation in the chair, the rights of women having been first recognised in municipal elections. This was no question of party politics; he would not be in the chair if it were, for the Mayor of Manchester knew no party. The abstract justice of the claim of women to be admitted to the same position in regard to the imperial franchise as they already occupied in regard to municipal matters seemed to him, as he had said, to be unanswerable; and he ventured to say it could not be long refused. The recognition of its justice seemed to be extending, and the work done by women on school boards and in other positions of trust, as well as the great interest they took in municipal government, could not fail to have a strong effect on public opinion and on the Legislature. A question like this, however, could not succeed without much work and organisation.

Miss BECKER, secretary, read the Annual Report, which has been published separately.

Miss M. ATKINSON, on behalf of the treasurer, submitted the financial statement, from which it appeared that the subscriptions and donations amounted to £1,783. 3s. 4d., and that there is now a balance at the bank of £197. 2s. 9d.

Mr. SLAGG, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, expressed his satisfaction at being present on what he believed was the first occasion upon which Mr. Goldschmidt occupied the seat of office in that hall as Mayor of Manchester, and said he felt sure that Mr. Goldschmidt's term of office would be distinguished by great advantage to his fellow-citizens and by much honour to himself. (Applause.) Alluding to the movement for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women possessing the necessary qualifications,

Mr. Slagg said he must own that although he had always given his moral support to the proposal made by that Society, and had always voted for it, he had never taken any active part in the advocacy of that important movement. It seemed to him that any assistance he could give could not add very materially to the intelligent and enthusiastic efforts of those talented ladies who had already done so much to forward the cause. Women were quite equal to working out their own political salvation without any efforts or assistance from the sex which was physically stronger. The report which had just been read was most satisfactory. There was no doubt that the result of the Parliamentary division on the subject during the past session was in the highest degree encouraging to them. He thought there were signs discernible throughout the whole country of a very considerable advance towards conviction on that subject, especially now when the franchise was under consideration in relation to its extension; and he believed that thinking people were making up their minds that if the household was to be the basis of the franchise there could be no logical or just reason advanced why every separate household should not be properly represented. (Applause.) He had found while talking to a great variety of people on the subject, that some persons seemed to consider the proposal of that Society was one to create a separate fancy franchise for the special advantage of women, while others, even some among a well-informed class of people, were actually under the delusion that it was proposed to endow every woman with the voting power. He (Mr. Slagg) listened to the debates on that subject in the House of Commons with great interest, and was especially struck with one objection urged by Mr. Edward Leatham, who proposed the amendment to Mr. Mason's resolution. Mr. Leatham said, among other things, that he believed women would not object to being debarred from the mire and filth of a political election. Well certainly that was not a very cheering account of the condition of things to which men had brought elections. But we had removed all that turmoil, riot, and row which used to accompany elections, and by a recent Act it would be more than ever possible to conduct electioneering matters with complete order and smoothness. Those persons who urged arguments of the sort to which he had referred seemed to forget altogether what it was possible for women to do even at the present time; they seemed to forget that women were now more or less brought into contact with electioneering matters in municipal elections. It had been pointed out that at the present moment women could be churchwardens, parish constables, and overseers, and he believed they could even be appointed high sheriffs—(laughter)—so that the difficulty which it was supposed women would experience from having to do with elections seemed to have been disposed of a very long time ago. Then, again, a woman need not take part in either elections or politics unless she choose to do so. There were a great many armchair politicians among his (Mr. Slagg's) sex, who never seemed to bother themselves about politics at all, and if ladies choose to efface themselves similarly in a political manner it would be quite open for them to do so. As things were at present, a great number of women were not content to be deprived of the right to vote, and he would ask whether there was any force of logic or any principle of justice which could possibly withhold the power from them if they wished to exercise it? It seemed to him that the bestowal of the municipal franchise had altered the whole aspect of the question. When we acknowledged the justice and desirableness of the vote being exercised by women in municipal matters it seemed to him that the whole argument of those who opposed the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was gone. What, indeed, were national and imperial affairs but municipal affairs in a state of expansion and extension. The same problems in varied degrees were involved alike in municipal and national affairs, and he believed that in the future Imperial politics would more or less be a reflex of what was done and administered in municipal assemblies. Could it be said that experience had shown the slightest objection to the action of women in municipal matters? He should say no. If such a discovery had been made, he should have thought it would have been made by members of large corporations like that of Manchester. But what did we find in Manchester? Why that the vote in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was carried almost annually by a majority of nearly ten to one in the City Council; and that statement applied to a great degree to many other large towns. (Hear, hear.) As to the fitness

of women to undertake this duty, he would like to read an opinion on the subject expressed by Mr. Courtney, who was certainly not a sentimentalist. Mr. Courtney said "Women have assisted so admirably in administering the poor-law that the Local Government Board itself has nominated them when they have not been elected, and successive Presidents of the Local Government Board have promoted their election." Such testimony from such a quarter was very valuable. He was interested to see a remark bearing on this subject in a recent speech of Sir Richard Cross at a Conservative meeting in Paisley. Sir Richard said he desired above all things to gain the support of what he described as the influence of women for the Conservative cause, but he was not one of those who would give them the power to vote. Well, how was it possible to get the influence of women for the Conservative or any other party unless they were endowed with the power of voting? Yes, but it was said, what would that influence be? In his judgment it would be an influence entirely for good. Did anyone deny that the influence of women on society was good and elevating, and if that was the case in regard to society, would it not be the same in regard to politics? But then it was said women were fond of war. Well, perhaps some sentimental young ladies were fond of war, or thought they were; but he did not think any ladies who were brought into contact with war by having married soldiers were particularly fond of it. There was still another object urged, and one which seemed to him still more unreasonable. They were told women should not be allowed to vote because they could not fight. Why, if all the men who could not fight were to be disfranchised, they would have to confront a very large reduction in the voting power of the country. The middle-aged, the corpulent, the short of wind—the large proportion, indeed, of every assembly of men—would not be prepared to take the field. Patriotic and loyal citizen as he was, he was sure the Mayor would be dismayed if he were asked to add to his already manifold functions that of going out to meet the enemy in the gate. (Laughter.) This last was really not a reason, but an excuse, and a very poor one indeed at a time of day when we compelled our officers to retire at forty years of age. He believed that women would favour peace; their instincts, their interests, and all their desires must necessarily lead them in that direction. These were some of the objections; what was there on the other side? How had women acquitted themselves in the new spheres opened to them in recent years? Universities—and he was proud to say our University in Manchester in an especial manner—had been thrown open to them—(applause)—and they acquitted themselves in the academical arena, in proportion to their numbers, with a success equal to that of men. Professions would in an increasing degree be thrown open to them, and there was no reason to suppose they would not prove as successful in such careers as men. The onus of proof to the contrary lay entirely on their opponents. As to the women's part in politics, he believed that the legislative problems which would most attract the attention of politicians in the future would especially concern the social and moral well-being of the people; and what section of humanity was better fitted to deal with these questions than women, who already helped greatly in such work, and to whom we naturally turned on all matters of human sympathy. (Applause.) A number of his friends insisted that the public mind was not yet ripe on this question. He did not know how the public mind was to be gauged. His own experience of the public mind in this matter was that it was ripe. (Applause.) He believed that a public meeting of any sort, in any part of the town, would result, if a vote were taken, in a large majority in favour of giving the franchise to women. It was late in the day to say that the public mind was not ripe for the practical application of the principle, and he invited those who had any misgivings on the subject to apply any test which seemed good to them. (Applause.)

Dr. WATTS seconded the motion. The question had always seemed to him to be a very plain one and easy of solution. The franchise was based upon property, and yet was made to apply only to some holders of property. What was the reason some were excluded? It was not because they were not intellectual, because that objection would apply to a large number of those who had votes; it was not because they were not honest, because Mr. Headlam (the stipendiary magistrate) would tell them there were a great many more men than women brought before him for dishonesty; it was not that they were not sober, because Mr. Headlam

would tell the same tale in regard to the sobriety of women; it was not because they did not work as hard, because in the factory districts there were more of them at work than men; and our philosophers told us that women were as a rule quicker in perception than men, and consequently more capable of seeing the right. The only reason of exclusion was that they were women and not men. That seemed to him an obvious injustice. A property qualification should apply to all those who had the necessary property. He had no doubt women would work well in various new spheres of labour. He was always glad, for instance, to meet his colleague Miss Becker at the school board. (Applause.) He was sure she held her own there extremely well, and sometimes opened the eyes of her colleagues to facts which would not be visible to them if they had not a lady with them. (Applause.)

The motion was adopted.

Mrs. WALTER M'LAREN moved: "That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Hugh Mason, Baron de Worms, Mr. Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Henry H. Fowler, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Mr. Courtney, for introducing and supporting the resolution for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting, and to the 163 members who voted or paired in its favour in the division of July 6; and this meeting pledges themselves to support any further steps that may be taken by their Parliamentary friends to obtain the assent of the Legislature to this proposal."

Mr. H. SLATTER, in seconding the resolution, said that if the public were satisfied that the claims of women to vote in Parliamentary elections were based on justice, and he thought very few would attempt to deny that, then they ought to do justice to them and let the consequences take care of themselves. He thought the consequences which would thereby result would be of a highly beneficial character, but whether they would be or not he believed in that, as in all other matters, that the path of duty was the path of safety. (Applause.)

Miss LAURA WHITTLE remarked that there were some alarmists who went so far as to say that if women were to vote at Parliamentary elections the peace of Europe would be endangered, the safety of our imperial possessions would be jeopardised, and a revolution would be caused in society. Well, the peace of Europe had been in danger, and the safety of our colonies had been in jeopardy, but not through the action of women. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Alderman HEYWOOD proposed: "That the following persons be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year—Professor Adamson, Mrs. Armstrong, Miss Maria Atkinson, Miss Becker, Miss Carbutt, Mr. Thomas Chorlton, Mrs. Joseph Cross, Mr. Thomas Dale, Mrs. Gell, Miss Hibbert, Mrs. Lucas, Miss Edith Lupton, Mr. Walter M'Laren, Mrs. Walter M'Laren, Mrs. J. Mills, Dr. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Roby, Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Miss Elizabeth Smith, Rev. S. Alfred Steinthal, Mr. A. G. Symonds, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, M.P., Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Miss Laura Whittle, Mrs. Barton Wright, Mrs. Phillips, with power to add to their number."

Mrs. M'LAREN (Edinburgh), in seconding the resolution, spoke in highly eulogistic terms of the efforts made by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd to secure the adoption of a resolution at the recent Leeds conference in favour of the franchise being conferred on women.

Miss S. B. ANTHONY said she had been travelling through the three kingdoms during the last four months, and everywhere she had met with a most cordial reception, not only at the hands of those who were called women's suffrage men and women, but of the general people. She gave some details of the progress of the movement in the United States. There was good hope, she thought, of the future.

The resolution was carried.

The Rev. Mr. STEINTHAL then took the chair. He said it was gratifying to him to hear from Miss Anthony that she had been received with hospitality by the suffrage societies on this side of the Atlantic, for he had recently received similar kindness from suffrage societies in the United States. (Applause.) From his own observation in that country he had no doubt the movement was gathering strength. They were working in a common cause with their friends beyond the sea, and the difficulties to be encountered were very similar in both cases.

Miss BECKER moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

Mrs. PHILLIPS (Liverpool), in seconding the vote of thanks, said she wanted a vote because she desired to vote against the opening of public houses on Sunday, and to vote that women who work might receive adequate wages. It was not a matter of sentiment with her. She did not in the least care whether or not she was thought equal to a man; she was quite content if she could get some opportunities of doing helping work among her fellow-creatures. (Applause.)

The proceedings then ended.

Before the proceedings commenced, and again at the conclusion of the meeting, the great organ was played by Mr. Swithenbank. Among the pieces given was the "March of Reform."

REIGATE.

On November 14th a meeting was held at the Public Hall, Reigate, for the purpose of advancing the movement for granting to women the Parliamentary franchise. Mr. J. B. CROSFIELD occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by several ladies, including Mrs. Ormiston Chant and Miss C. A. Biggs.

Mr. CROSFIELD, in opening the proceedings, explained that the object of the meeting was simply to assist in providing the means by which the law might be so altered that women who are otherwise qualified for the franchise may be possessed of it, that is to say, ratepayers and women who in every other sense possessed the qualifications that men possessed for the franchise should not be debarred from it in the future.

Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right of voting, and that a petition to both Houses of Parliament, based on this resolution, be adopted and signed by the Chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that memorials to Sir Henry Peak and Sir Trevor Lawrence, members for Mid-Surrey, be also adopted and forwarded to them, asking them to support any measure dealing with the extension of the franchise, which extends the suffrage without distinction of sex to all persons possessing the statutory qualifications."

Mr. J. C. MAPPIN said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution, and he endorsed many of the sentiments that had fallen from the previous speakers. He thought that the ladies of this country should have the same powers as men, provided they possessed the same qualifications.

Miss BIGGS supported the motion, which was put to the meeting, and carried with one dissentient.

Miss BIGGS moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, for whose great interest and kindness in presiding over them that evening they were very grateful.

The CHAIRMAN having acknowledged the compliment, the meeting terminated.

The *Surrey Mirror*, in a leading article commenting on the meeting, says:—

As for the argument that the proposal to enfranchise women is only the preliminary step to more daring demands, it seems to us to be scarcely worth a reply, so palpable is it that the possibilities of the future cannot affect the desirability of a reform in the present. When those demands are made it will be a fitting time to deal with them; at present it is more to the point to decide whether it is just, whether it is desirable, to comply with the demand for Parliamentary franchise which is now being so strenuously pressed. Amongst the cloud of doubts with which the question is beset, one point is perfectly clear, namely, that if women are to be enfranchised, the advent of the coming Reform Bill is the period when the reform can be best effected, and recognising this fact as they undoubtedly do, the leaders of the movement have chosen the present for the propagation of their views.

IPSWICH.

A public meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, on November 19th. The principal speakers announced were Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, and Miss Müller (member of the London School Board). Alderman E. GRIMWADE presided, and in addition to the ladies already named there were present the Rev. G. Shaw (late missionary in Madagascar), the Rev. J. Pollard, the Rev. J. F. A. Hervey (Shotley), Mr. W. B. Jeffries,

Mr. J. Glyde, Mr. F. J. Bugg, Mr. E. Fry, Mr. F. Corder, and Mr. W. Bennett. The room was well filled, a large proportion being ladies.

The CHAIRMAN said: This was a subject which very few gentlemen somehow cared to touch. He did not know why, but speaking for himself he had not, and never had any question about it, for to him it seemed that what the ladies were asking for was a simple act of justice. The whole subject, in his opinion, had been vilely caricatured by men. (Hear, hear.) The object of the Society was to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women, on the same conditions as it is or may be granted to men; not that a woman who had a husband was to have a vote. No, she must submit to the conditions of married life and play second fiddle. (Loud laughter.) If she lost her husband and succeeded to the same property which had given him a vote, where was the ground for saying that she was not as much entitled to the vote for that property as her husband? (Applause.)

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE moved a resolution to the effect that in the opinion of that meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possessed the qualification which entitled men to vote.

Mr. F. J. BUGG, in seconding the resolution, said he could not see any really good objection to the extension of the suffrage to women. He believed what they asked for was only right, and should be accorded to them. There was no doubt in his mind that as a result of the agitation the House of Commons would be induced to grant the ladies what they desired.

Miss MÜLLER supported the resolution, which was then put to the meeting, and carried without a dissentient.

Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT moved a resolution in favour of a petition, embodying the views of the meeting, being presented to both Houses of Parliament, and that the members for Ipswich (Mr. T. C. Cobbold and Mr. Jesse Collings) be requested to give any measure introduced on the subject their support. Mrs. Chant, in a forcible speech, supported the movement, on behalf of her widowed friends and single sisters. On this question of women's rights, she said for twenty years women had been subject to insult, and this insult would only be wiped out by an act of justice. (Applause.)

Mr. W. BENNETT seconded the resolution, which was carried. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT.

A meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, Dovercourt, on November 20th; F. Cottingham, Esq., in the chair. The chairman commenced his speech by expressing his surprise and congratulating the meeting on their large attendance. Miss Müller opened the subject by a logical and clear address, which was very cordially received and applauded. Mr. Foster then moved a resolution in support of the principle of women's suffrage, which was seconded by Mr. Grice, and supported in an eloquent address by Mrs. Ormiston Chant. The meeting also passed unanimously petitions to both Houses of Parliament, and a memorial to Mr. Tyler, M.P.

DUNSTER.

On November 12th, Miss Emily Sturge gave an address at the Assembly Rooms, Dunster, on "Women and the New Reform Bill." There was a very full attendance. The chair was taken by the Rev. T. Thompson. After the address a petition to the House of Commons, and memorials to Lord Kilcourse and Mr. Elton, candidates for the representation of West Somerset, were adopted on the motion of Mr. Bartholomew.

MINEHEAD.

On November 13th, Miss Sturge gave a similar address in the Concert Room, Minehead, which was also numerously attended. The Rev. E. Balmford occupied the chair. After a brief discussion a resolution adopting a petition and memorials similar to those at Dunster was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. S. Cox, supported by the Rev. E. S. Batliffe, of Bristol, and carried with one dissentient. A vote of thanks to Miss Sturge was moved by the Rev. Cowden Cole (Vicar of Upton), and to the Chairman by Mrs. Boucher.

WIVELISCOMBE.

At Wiveliscombe, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, on November 15th, when Miss Spender, of Bath, and Miss Bradley, of Clifton, addressed a crowded audience, the chair being taken by the

Rev. T. S. Macy, B.A. After the addresses of the deputation, the adoption of a petition was moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. Thorne, and carried by a considerable majority.

DULVERTON.

A meeting in the Town Hall, Dulverton, was addressed on the next evening, 16th November, by the same deputation, and also by Rev. W. Mottram (of Bristol), the Rev. John Wicks in the chair. The room was well filled, and a resolution adopting a petition, moved by Mr. Wicks, seconded by Mr. Catford, was carried, with two dissentients.

IRELAND.

BANGOR.

On November 19th, a public meeting was held in the Good Templars' Hall, Bangor, County Down, in support of the claim of women householders to the franchise. The attendance, despite the inclement weather, was large and influential.

On the motion of the Rev. Mr. PATTERSON, seconded by Mr. JAMES RAINEY, the chair was taken by Mr. John Coates, J.P.

The CHAIRMAN said he responded at once and with pleasure to the invitation given to him to take the chair on this occasion. They lived in an age of progress, and he had no doubt that the justice of the movement in furtherance of which they had met that evening would in their own time be recognised by the Legislature of the country. (Applause.)

Miss BIGGS (London) moved the first resolution as follows: "That the exclusion of women who are possessed of the statutory qualifications from voting in the election of members of Parliament is injurious to those excluded and to the community at large."

Mr. M'KINNEY seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Miss TOD, who was received with applause, moved that a memorial, signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, in favour of the extension of the franchise to women householders be forwarded to Her Majesty's Government, and to Lord Arthur Hill and Lord Castlereagh, the members for the county. She was so glad to say that the Ulster representation was also well in their favour. Among their supporters were the senior member for Belfast, a man for whom she had the very highest respect; the members for Derry, Sir Thomas M'Clure, Bart., and the Attorney-General; the member for Tyrone, and his son, the member for Dungannon; the member for Armagh, Mr. Richardson; Mr. Archdale, who represented Fermanagh; while they had the advantage of the support of both the members for Cavan. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) In the Government they had men like Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Fawcett, Postmaster-General, in their favour, and on the other side they had men like Sir Stafford Northcote, who had been their friend from the beginning, and they had Sir Thomas Bateson, who had voted in their favour on every opportunity that presented itself since Mr. Mill first introduced the question in 1867. It would, therefore, be seen that this was no party question. (Hear, hear.)

Rev. ALEX. PATON seconded the motion, which passed.

Rev. Mr. MAGUIRE, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said that he had that evening become a convert to the cause of women's suffrage.

Miss TOD seconded the motion, and spoke in high terms of the services rendered to more than one good cause by Mr. Coates.

The motion having been passed by acclamation, the proceedings terminated.

CARRICKFERGUS.

A crowded and enthusiastic meeting in relation to women's suffrage was held in the Courthouse, Carrickfergus, on November 20, under the presidency of Mr. M. R. Dalway, D.L. The following occupied seats on the platform:—Messrs. M. W. Dalway, John Dalway, Rev. Andrew Armstrong, Mr. John A. Bowman, Miss Tod (Belfast), Miss Biggs (London), &c. The chairman, on rising, was loudly applauded. He said the meeting was called to consider and pass resolutions on a great political question, but a question entirely outside the region of party politics—inasmuch as it is supported by men on both sides of the House of Commons, and by members of all shades of political opinions. The question of whether the franchise attached by law to the occupation or ownership of property liable to Imperial taxation should be exercised by women in the election of members of Parliament was one worthy

of their attention. When he (the chairman) had the honour of representing that borough in the Imperial Parliament he always voted in favour of women's suffrage. (Loud applause.) He never could see any reason why a woman who pays rates which entitle a man to exercise the franchise should be denied the same right. (Applause.) They heard a good deal nowadays about the extension of the franchise. He hoped those present would all be in favour of the extension of it to women paying the statutory rates. He would not trespass on the ground to be occupied by the speakers, but would call upon Miss Biggs to move the first resolution.—The motion was seconded by Rev. Mr. Armstrong, and carried amid applause.—Miss Tod moved that memorials to Her Majesty's Government be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and that similar memorials be forwarded to members for the county.—Mr. John A. Bowman (Larne) seconded the motion, which was passed. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

HOLYWOOD, CO. DOWN.

An influentially-attended meeting was held in High-street Lecture Room, Holywood, on 22nd Nov.; the Rev. Henry Osborne in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Miss Caroline Biggs, Miss Tod, Rev. C. M'Alister, Rev. Mr. Halliday, R. Patterson, Esq., and others. Memorials to the Prime Minister and to the county members were adopted unanimously; and very cordial sympathy with the cause was expressed.

NORTH OF IRELAND SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING AT BELFAST.

On November 26th the annual meeting of this association was held in the Clarence Place Hall, Belfast. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. Amongst the gentlemen present were the Mayor (Mr. David Taylor, J.P.), Mr. John S. Brown, J.P., Dr. Arnold, J.P., Rev. Dr. Johnston, Rev. R. J. Lynd, Rev. J. Kingham, Mr. Vere Foster, Mr. J. Mackenzie, Mr. Crawford, Rev. J. Donnelly, and Dr. Barnett.

On the motion of Mr. MACKENZIE, the Mayor took the chair. After a short address the Chairman called on Miss Tod, who read the following letter from Mr. Courtney, Secretary to the Treasury:—

"Chief Secretary's Lodge, Phoenix Park,
Dublin, 21st Nov., 1888.

"Dear Miss Tod,—My stay in Ireland will be very short, and I do not think it will allow me to visit Belfast. Even if it were otherwise, I doubt whether I should be able to take part in your meeting next Monday, though I hope I need not assure you of my unabated interest in our cause. Scotland and Ireland—especially Ulster—have been our strongholds in the past, but I think England is coming round. The resolution at Leeds was most gratifying.—I remain, dear Miss Tod, yours very faithfully,

"LEONARD COURTNEY."

Letters were also read from Mr. T. A. Dixon, M.P., Sir Thomas Bateson, Bart., M.P., Mr. William Johnston, and others.

Miss Tod then read the report. After a general reference to the position of this question the report stated that during the recent visit of the Right Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., to Belfast, a deputation of ladies from this committee waited upon him at the house of another tried friend of women's suffrage, Sir Thomas Bateson, Bart., M.P., to present him with an address thanking him for the support he has given to it from the very first. His reply, whilst expressing reluctance to enter upon the general question of an extension of the franchise for men, renewed his cordial assent to the demand which we make, and his promise to seize the opportunities which may present themselves of obtaining it.

The Rev. Dr. JOHNSTON moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Miss C. E. BIGGS and carried.

The second resolution, which affirmed that the exclusion of women possessed of the statutory qualification from voting in the election of members of Parliament was injurious, was moved by the Rev. J. DONNELLY, seconded by Mrs. CHANT, and carried.

Mr. J. S. BROWN proposed the third resolution, which was that a memorial should be forwarded, through the borough members, to Her Majesty's Government. The resolution was seconded by Miss Tod and adopted.

Mr. J. S. BROWN was called to the second chair.

Rev. J. KINGHAM moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor for his kindness in presiding.

Mr. CRAWFORD seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

The MAYOR, in acknowledging the thanks of the meeting, said it would afford him great satisfaction if the meeting should have contributed anything towards the success of the cause. (Hear, hear.) The proceedings concluded.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

BELFAST.

A meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Blackwood, College Green, Belfast, on the evening of Saturday, November 17. Mrs. Byers occupied the chair; and there were present among others the Rev. Dr. Bryce, the Rev. J. Kingham, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Neill, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Murphy, Miss Hardy, and Robert Young, Esq., C.E. After a few words from Miss Tod and from Miss C. Biggs on the present condition of the movement, a general discussion ensued, in which various ways of furthering the cause in Ulster were suggested, and many of the guests pledged themselves to increased and continuous efforts.

An influentially-attended drawing-room meeting was held at Chlorine House, Belfast, by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. James Crawford, on 27th November. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Hannay, Vicar of Belfast, who mentioned in his opening address that he had long been convinced of the justice of the claim of women householders, but that he considered that it was most important at the present critical time that it should be admitted, especially having reference to the circumstances of Ireland.—Addresses were delivered by Mrs. Ormiston Chant, Miss Caroline Biggs, and Miss Tod, and an interesting conversation followed, in which Mrs. H. Thompson, Mrs. Lindsay, Dr. Milford Barnett, and others took part.

REIGATE.

On Wednesday, November 14, a drawing-room meeting was held, through the kindness of Miss Crossfield, at the Dingle, Reigate, when Mrs. Ormiston Chant and Miss C. Biggs explained the objects of the Society. The room was well filled, and much interest was expressed in the question on the part of the ladies present. Discussion was afterwards invited.

BRISTOL.

A numerous company of the friends of the women's suffrage movement in Clifton and Bristol assembled by kind invitation of the Misses Priestman, at Durdham Park, on November 10th, to meet Miss Anthony, of the National Women's Suffrage Association, U.S.A. Miss Anthony delighted all by her account, brief, yet packed full of interest and information, of the difficulties and encouragements of the work in America, of its similarities and its contrasts with the conditions of the movement in England. Her story, from the fullness of the experience of thirty years' unceasing work, filled her audience with a closer sense of union with their fellow workers in the States, and all regretted that Miss Anthony's stay amongst us should be so brief.

LIVERPOOL.

On the 16th of November Dr. and Mrs. Ewing Whittle gave an "at home" at their residence, 1, Parliament Terrace, Liverpool, to give the friends of the women's suffrage movement an opportunity of meeting Mrs. E. Cady Stanton and Miss Susan B. Anthony, prior to their departure the following day for the United States. Mrs. Stanton, Miss Anthony, Mrs. M'Laren, Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, and Mr. E. R. Russell and others spoke in favour of the enfranchisement of women.

LECTURES.

PENTONVILLE.

On November 7th, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, M.L.S.B., delivered a lecture on "Women and the new Reform Bill," at the Workmen's Club, Collier-street, Pentonville.

CHELSEA.

Mrs. Fenwick Miller lectured, at the Eleusis Club, on Nov. 18th. Mr. G. Mitchell, M.L.S.B., occupied the chair. The large

hall was completely filled. The lecture was listened to with much attention, and a good debate followed; all the speakers but one, however, were in favour of women's suffrage. The rules of the club prevented the moving of a resolution, but a petition laid at the door received a large number of signatures.

HACKNEY.

Mrs. Fenwick Miller, M.L.S.B., gave her lecture on "Women and the New Reform Bill" at the Hackney Radical Club, on 21st November. Mr. Elliott occupied the chair, and reminded the meeting that the delegates from the club to the Leeds Conference had been instructed to vote for women's suffrage. Mrs. Miller went into the question of the grounds upon which Liberals claimed a wide extension of the suffrage, and showed that every reason and every principle upon which representative government was based required the extension of the franchise to women. The adoption of petitions and memorial to Mr. Gladstone was moved by Mr. Battershall and supported by three other members, some of whom referred approvingly to Mr. Fawcett's recent utterance upon the subject. The petitions were taken charge of by a member of the political council of the club, with a view to their being forwarded by that body.

BOROUGH OF HACKNEY WORKMEN'S CLUB.—The political council of this club have formally decided to forward the memorial adopted after Mrs. Miller's lecture there on October 3rd to Mr. Holms, M.P., with a request, in the name of the club, that he will support the prayer of the memorial.

MOSS SIDE LIBERAL CLUB.

At a meeting held on November 3rd at the Moss Side Liberal Club, Manchester, Miss Becker delivered an address on behalf of the National Reform Union, on the subject of "The right of women to the Parliamentary Franchise, in connection with the forthcoming Reform Bill."—Mr. S. R. Mayall, chairman of the club, presided, and he was supported by Mr. J. Cummins, Mr. J. Hopwood, Mr. J. G. Elderton, Mr. F. Spencer, and Mr. J. Mackay (secretary). In opening the proceedings, the Chairman expressed his entire sympathy with the objects sought to be attained by Miss Becker. He contended that if female householders were not entitled to vote in the election of members of Parliament, they ought not to be asked to pay rates and taxes. Miss Becker, in the course of her address, said that if the demand was to be granted in the coming Reform Bill it must be through the Liberal party informing the Government that it should be granted.—In answer to a question that was put to her, the lecturer said she considered the law of England with regard to the custody of infants was "most horrible and most barbarous."—On the motion of Mr. Joseph Spencer, seconded by Mr. Samuel Dunsford, thanks were accorded to Miss Becker for her lecture; and after a similar compliment to the chairman the meeting separated.

RADCLIFFE LIBERAL CLUB.

On November 8th, Miss Becker delivered a lecture on behalf of the National Reform Union at the Radcliffe and Pilkington Liberal Club, on the franchise for women in connection with the new Reform Bill. Mr. Edward Makin, jun., presided, and the lecture was well received. The usual votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

BROUGHTON LIBERAL CLUB.

On Nov. 22nd, a public meeting was called in the Broughton Liberal Club, Great Clowes-street, Manchester, for the purpose of considering the question of the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women. Mr. Smith presided. Mr. T. Milner read a very able paper, after which he proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Miss Fossard:—"That, in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote." Some objections having been urged and replied to the resolution was carried, only one hand being raised in favour of our unjust representative system. The usual votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close.

YORK WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

ADDRESS BY MR. LOCKWOOD.

On November 20th a meeting was held under the auspices of the Women's Liberal Association, in the Victoria Hall, York, for the purpose of hearing an address by the Liberal candidate, Mr. Lockwood.

Between 500 and 600 ladies were present, and the proceedings were of an enthusiastic character. Mrs. H. RICHARDSON occupied the chair, and, after stating the object of the meeting,

Miss WILKINSON proposed: "That this meeting pledges itself to use every effort to secure the return of Mr. Lockwood to Parliament in the firm belief that the general good of the community and equal justice for all classes can be best secured by the continued existence of a Liberal Government."

Mrs. THORPE seconded, and Mrs. SCATCHERD, of Leeds, and Mrs. SPENCE, of Holgate, supported the proposition.

Before Mr. Lockwood rose, questions were invited. A lady wished to know if Mr. Lockwood was in favour of giving a Parliamentary vote to qualified women.

Mr. LOCKWOOD said he was glad to see that the women of York were beginning to take their proper position in the political world, for he might say at once that he recognised no logical principle which prevented them from taking the position and maintaining it as fully as the more favoured sex. (Cheers.) Respecting the questions that had been put to him, he would answer the last first, and he would like to refer the lady who asked that question to a speech he made to the Leicester Liberal Association not long ago, in which he went further than that lady on the subject, because he saw by the careful way in which she worded the question that she only indicated that the vote should be exercised by women who were themselves the head of a household. Now, he thought that was a very proper qualification. (Applause.) Why women should be precluded from the exercise of the franchise he could not understand. We trusted the women with votes in municipal matters, which, to his mind, were quite as important as Parliamentary matters, and in the selection of representatives on the School Board women were considered sufficiently versed in those matters to justify their being entrusted with votes. And what holier and more important task could they have than the selection of those to whom they were to entrust the education of the generations that were to follow them. (Cheers.) When they came to consider what woman's province really was, and how far they were entitled to trust her with the management of her affairs, they should not forget that they were ruled over by one of the best of women who ever lived, and he hoped she would long continue to reign—(cheers)—and to entrust the Queen with the ruling of this great empire, and at the same time deny to women the right of exercising the franchise was illogical. (Applause.) After further remarks from Mr. Lockwood on general subjects the meeting terminated.

LEEDS.

CENTRAL WARD.—On October 31 a meeting of women ratepayers of this ward was held in the Board School, Gower-street, on behalf of Mr. Corker, the Liberal candidate. Ald. Lowley presided, and addresses were given by Miss Carbutt and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd on "The duty of women householders in regard to the municipal vote," and "Women's interest in the government of their town." Great interest was shown, and a hearty vote in favour of Mr. Corker was carried, with only two dissentients. Cordial votes of thanks to the speakers and the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

WEST HUNSLET WARD.—EXTRAORDINARY ELECTION.—On Nov. 21st, a meeting of women ratepayers of the West Hunslet Ward was held in the Mission Room, to promote the election of Mr. Pickergill to the Town Council. Mr. Dyson occupied the chair, and the meeting was addressed by Miss Alice Ker, M.D., and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, on "The interest of women in the government of the town." The room was well filled, and the audience an attentive and enthusiastic one.—Mr. Pickergill also addressed the meeting, and a vote in his favour was carried unanimously.

BOLTON.

DERBY WARD LIBERALS AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A lecture on "Women's Suffrage" was delivered on November 20th, at Derby Ward Reform Club, Bolton, by Councillor T. Bromley, vice-president of the ward Reform Association. The chair was occupied by Mr. T. Warburton, and in the crowded audience were Mrs. Joseph Crook, Mrs. Carter Hollins, Mrs. Bromley, and a number of other ladies, the Rev. J. Bevan, Councillor Brimelow, Councillor Vickers, and Mr. J. C. Hollins.—The Chairman in opening the proceedings expressed himself in favour of the suffrage being given to women, and said he had to announce the receipt of a letter from Mr. Joseph Crook—(applause)—who could not attend through ill

health. He wrote to say it was their duty to urge upon Government the justice and necessity of including the enfranchisement of women householders in the coming Reform Bill. This was due to women generally as a means of redressing the many wrongs under which, as a class, they have long suffered unjustly. (Applause.)—Councillor T. Bromley avowed himself a firm supporter of suffrage being granted to householders. He proposed that it is desirable that the coming Reform Bill should give a vote to all householders of due age—male or female.—Mr. J. Waring seconded.—Mr. Lawson moved an amendment disapproving of the resolution, on the ground that women, being unfitted to fill many of the offices of the State, the army and police force, they should not have a vote.—Mr. Cunliffe thought Mr. Bromley had made the best of a bad case. He did not think if the Act passed that any but women of poor social status would go to the poll. The apostle Paul had distinctly ordered that women should keep silence on these matters.—Mr. Waring, jun., considered women should not be enfranchised.—A lady, whose name did not transpire, alluded to a remark that women voters were subject to bribery, and said this degradation of women would never have been if men had not come to them with money in their hands, asking them to vote for this or that candidate. But women in poor circumstances, she thought, would compare favourably with men living in the alleys of Deansgate. (Applause.)—Mrs. J. C. Hollins said if the Queen was capable of discharging her high functions, women who were householders and paid rates and taxes might have a voice in the Government.—The Chairman, in submitting the amendment and resolution, said he believed women were to a large extent what men had made them.—The resolution of Councillor Bromley in favour of the enfranchisement of women was carried by a rather small majority, and the lecturer expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the result and the interesting debate which preceded it.—A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.—From the *Bolton Weekly Journal*.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LIBERALISM IN MID-SOMERSET. YEOVIL.

A great Liberal meeting was held in the Town Hall, Yeovil, on November 19, when the chair was occupied by Mr. JABEZ BRADFORD, who was supported by Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P. for Scarborough, Messrs. W. B. Downing (Wookey), W. S. Clark (Street), C. Clinker, F. W. Raymond, R. Southcombe (Stoke), C. W. Pittard, E. Pittard, J. Tompkins, A. C. Tompkins, &c.

In the course of his address, the CHAIRMAN said he was glad to see some ladies present that night. (Hear, hear.) They were looking forward to the time when the lady householders would be able to record their votes as well as the men. (Applause.) When the new Franchise Bill was introduced by the present Government, and he hoped it would soon be, he trusted there would be embodied in it an enactment to give the ladies the privilege of voting at Parliamentary elections. Ladies paid rates and taxes, and he did not see why they should be prevented from having a vote.

Mr. DOWNING moved, and Mr. CLINKER seconded, a resolution expressing unabated confidence in the Government, and urging the introduction of a Bill to confer the franchise on all householders throughout the United Kingdom.

Mr. W. S. CAINE, M.P., supported the resolution. He agreed with the remarks that fell from the chairman that every person, of either sex, who contributed to the National Exchequer had an equal right to record their votes for those who were entrusted with the expenditure of the money they contributed. (Applause.) He did not believe in excluding women from the exercise of the franchise, and he did not think they would be excluded much longer. (Applause.) We have admitted their right to vote for town councillors, for members of School Boards, for members of select vestries, for members of Boards of Guardians; nay, on one or two of those Boards they were permitted to occupy seats. He was a guardian of the poor for the district of Battersea, and on that Board there were three ladies who did the work of Guardians in every way as well as any of the other members, and a great deal better than some of them. (Applause.) It had been his privilege to vote for women to sit on School Boards, and no School Board was complete without them. (Applause.) There should be no taxation without representation. (Applause.) That was one of the fundamental principles of our constitution. And if women wanted votes the best thing

they could do was to refuse to pay the taxes until they got them. (Laughter and applause.) He always told them that unless they did that they would never get their votes. If some of those women who paid taxes would allow their goods to be sold once in a way, as a protest against the present state of affairs, it would make such a scandal that they might depend upon it they would soon get their votes. (Laughter.) Let them get their votes as the Quakers got Church rates repealed; and if the Legislature of the country would not entrust them with representation for the taxes they got out of them let them refuse to pay any more until they did. Then, probably, something would be done. (Applause.) Now the resolution that had been read asked that the franchise should be conferred on all householders throughout the United Kingdom. Why, it was a resolution in favour of women's suffrage. But the alteration which he wanted to see in the law with regard to the election of members of Parliament was a very simple one. He wanted to get rid of every other qualification, except that of a ratepaying qualification.

The resolution was carried unanimously, after which votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Caine and the other speakers.

MR. FAWCETT AT HACKNEY.

Mr. Fawcett and Mr. J. Holms addressed their constituents at Hackney, at a crowded meeting, on November 8, in the Town Hall, Shoreditch. In the course of his address Mr. FAWCETT said if ever I had been in any doubt as to the desirability of extending the suffrage, those doubts would have been removed by what has occurred in reference to land legislation during the last few years. (Hear, hear.) It has confirmed me in the conviction that it is not safe to leave any class unrepresented when its interests have to be considered side by side with the interests of other classes who are represented. Considerations such as these induce me to rejoice in the decision which was recently arrived at by the Conference of Liberal Delegates at Leeds, that a removal of the political disabilities of the rural householders ought to be accompanied by a removal of the not less indefensible political disabilities of women. (Loud cheers.) There have been questions in the past, and depend upon it there will be questions again in the future, which vitally concern the well-being of women, on which it is neither safe nor just that they should have no opportunity of making their wishes directly felt through the constitutional means of representation. Restrictions have been imposed, and still further restrictions may be advocated upon the labour of adult women; there are probably not a few of those I am now addressing who could tell by bitter experience how hard it is for a woman to earn her own living. If it is thought by women themselves that still further restrictions would add to these difficulties, how can anyone who believes in the efficacy of representative institutions deny to women the right of being able to influence legislation which so vitally affects their welfare? (Hear, hear.) But I will give another illustration connected with a subject which I know has a peculiar interest for many who are here assembled. Few constituencies have shown a more unswerving adherence to the principles of complete religious equality than you have. The indications are so plain that those who run may read them, that the time is not very remote when the question of disestablishment will occupy a position of prominence in English politics. I know an impression prevails that although a majority of men may be in favour of disestablishment, yet so many women are deeply attached to the Church that if they could record their opinion at the poll, a majority in favour of disestablishment could not be obtained. I am not saying now whether I believe this view is a correct one or not; but nothing could be more illiberal, nothing more unjust, than to obtain a majority in favour of disestablishment by continuing to exclude from all representation those who are at least as much concerned in religious questions as men are. (Hear, hear.) Although I need not repeat that I am personally warmly in favour of disestablishment, I think it would not be fair to secure it, unless the majority of the nation believed they would be benefited by it; and there could be no certainty that this majority existed if all women continued to be excluded from the suffrage.

MR. COURTNEY ON THE LEEDS CONFERENCE.

In the course of his annual speech to his constituents at Liskeard, Mr. Courtney, M.P., Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said a

great and powerful body had recently sent forth a mandate saying that the Government should at once devote its energies to the enfranchisement of the agricultural labourers. The conference did not find it so easy to limit their proposal to the franchise. The question of women's suffrage was forced on them, and they resolved that in the event of any coming Franchise Bill women must have their votes, and he believed that on a Reform Bill being brought forward women would then soon have votes. (Hear, hear.)

MR. ARNOLD MORLEY AT NOTTINGHAM.

On November 6th, in the large hall of the Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham, the borough members, Colonel Seely and Mr. Arnold Morley, delivered their annual addresses to their constituents. The spacious building was crowded in every part, the balconies being occupied for the most part by ladies.

Mr. ARNOLD MORLEY, who was received with applause, said: I am asked if I will support a bill enabling women householders to vote for members of Parliament. I will say at once that I have already done so, and I dare say I shall have another opportunity of doing so again. (Applause.)

MR. HUGH MASON, M.P.

On November 6th, Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P., addressed his constituents in the Ashton-under-Lyne Town Hall, this being the second occasion upon which he had appeared before them. In the course of his address he said: Now if I did not say a word upon women's suffrage I am afraid Miss Becker would never forgive me. (Laughter.) You know I moved a resolution the very last session in favour of women's suffrage—of the suffrage being conferred upon women ratepayers, but not for married women; and there I had the misfortune to differ with my friend Mrs. Jacob Bright, who wants married as well as single women to vote. Now I think the married women should vote through the husband, but that women who are widows and ratepayers, and bring up their families and pay their way, have a right to vote. I have done my best to give them one, and I hope you will approve of what I have done. (Hear, hear.)

MR. BIDDELL, M.P.

At the Mayor's banquet at Sudbury, Suffolk, Mr. William Biddell, M.P. for West Suffolk, expressed himself in favour of the suffrage being granted to widows and spinsters.

MR. LEAKE, M.P., AND MR. AGNEW, M.P.

The members for South-East Lancashire began their series of meetings with their constituents at the Liberal Club, Moss Side, Manchester, on November 17th.

In the course of his address, Mr. LEAKE, after referring to the male householders of Moss Side, said: But there are other householders; there is a small section of householders in our midst—small comparatively, but very important. I speak of those householders who are women—(cheers)—heads of houses, who have either to toil as men toil to maintain their houses, or who have inherited the means, as many men do, wherewith to uphold them; who pay taxes and rent, and do the State much service. I think these householders should not be debarred from a share in giving a vote for someone to represent them and their interests as human beings. (Cheers.) They already vote in our municipal elections for the men who take care of our towns; they will do us no harm, but great good, and we shall do them great good and some justice if we permit them to vote for the representatives in Parliament who guide the destiny of the nation.

Mr. AGNEW said he was glad to say he believed that the country was within measurable distance of a reform bill. It was becoming dangerous for the franchise to be withheld from the people. It must be given to every ratepayer.

LEWES.

LETTER FROM MR. CHRISTIE, M.P.

The following letter, in acknowledgment of the memorial passed at the recent meeting at Lewes, has been received by the Mayor:—

"117, Eaton Square, November 1.

"Dear Mr. Crosskey,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial from the inhabitants of Lewes in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the necessary

qualifications, and, in answer, to say that I shall be very happy, after the above expression of opinion, to vote in favour of such extension of the suffrage.—I am, dear Mr. Mayor, yours very truly,
(Signed) "W. L. CHRISTIE."

MR. FORSTER ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

An extension of the Bradford Girls' Grammar School, which is an endowed institution, with a very extensive curriculum, has recently been carried out at a cost of £2,000. Mrs. Forster opened the new buildings on November 9th, in the presence of a very large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in education. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Forster for her services, and the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., who was present, responded in her behalf. He remarked, after speaking generally upon the necessity for the development of the education of girls, that he had recently been in a country which was just emerging into civilisation. He had found a good secondary school established in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, which was a few years ago a poor Turkish unpaved, miserable town. Mr. Forster observed that it was one of the most satisfactory features of the age that the position of women was undergoing universal improvement, not merely in the matter of education, but in the opening out of spheres of employment by giving them more rights and by preventing their being wronged. One of the greatest signs of this was the Act which was lately passed preventing a woman losing her property because she was married. The right hon. gentleman in one sentence referred to the franchise question. He said that it had been from no want of acknowledgment of what had been due to women, and what was expected from women, that he had taken up the position which he had chosen on this question. But he was still of opinion that, in the apportionment of the work of the world, men had better not try to throw upon women the hard duty of voting or the harder duties of representation. Speaking directly upon girls' education, and not confining his remarks to this particular institution, Mr. Forster said it was most satisfactory that real solid information had not now to give way to accomplishments, but at the same time he hoped accomplishments would not be forgotten. There was a great deal said about the aim of school life being to make the girls good wives. That was undoubtedly what ought to be aimed at, but he confessed he did not quite like putting it in that manner; it looked as if one supposed that the sole object of women was to marry, and as if men wished their daughters to have a good education so that they might have good wives for their sons and nephews. He did not think that exactly the same expression would be used with regard to a boys' school—that its object was to make the boys good husbands. He concluded by urging the desirability of a wide education, which, without touching upon too many themes, at the same time secured solid information and requisite accomplishments.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Daily Review, Edinburgh.

Mr. Forster still desires to withhold the franchise from women, not because he thinks they are incapable of exercising the trust, nor because they are not entitled to political rights, but rather for the reason that education is giving them more power in society and legislation than it ever had before, and also that the duty of voting is too hard for women. The answers to Mr. Forster's objections are of the simplest. If women have influence it is desirable that they should be permitted to exercise it openly, and, as for the onerous character of voting, why, school board and municipal elections have shown that there is nothing burdensome about the duty. It is as easy for a woman to go to the poll and register her vote as it is for her to go to the post office and cash a money order. Mr. Forster should also remember that voting is not compulsory. If women found the duty hard, they could save themselves all trouble and exertion just in the way that abstentionists do at present.

Manchester Examiner, November 7.

We could be well content to see the Government of the country resting upon a constituency comprising all the households of the land. A vote for every family hearth, for every separate and independent household—this is in accordance with the oldest constitu-

tional traditions, and it provides every guarantee for free government. On this basis the women's suffrage question could be best settled. The claim advanced for them is one which will have to be admitted. When the franchise is extended to every occupier, it will be practically impossible to exclude those who possess the qualification required, who are themselves the heads of households, and who have already been admitted to a number of local franchises which are not less important than the right of voting for a Parliamentary representative.

Daily Review, Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh Liberal Association last night gave a most satisfactory account of the state of political feeling in the city. With conspicuous moderation and intelligence it discussed three questions of first-class political importance. . . . The third subject of discussion last night was the right of the female householder to the franchise. The claims of the women to the Parliamentary vote were ably argued by ex-Bailie Lewis on the ground of Liberal principle, and, though Liberals so advanced and sturdy as Mr. Burn and Mr. Thom divided the House against the motion, the association, by a very decided majority, declared that representation and taxation must go together. The discussion was conducted with excellent temper; and the adoption of the resolution must be accepted as a timely and necessary corrective for the illogical and altogether mistaken declaration which, through the misdirection of the English chairman, was made at the Glasgow conference.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

EXETER.

At the Exeter Parliamentary Debating Society on October 17th, Mr. H. W. Boyd Mackay moved, "That it is desirable that all electors possessing the property qualifications necessary for the exercise of the franchise in municipal matters should be invested with an equal right in Parliamentary elections." This was seconded by Mr. Warren, after which the debate was adjourned till the next sitting on October 26th. When the debate was resumed a large number of members on both sides of the "House" took part in favour of the resolution. The "Prime Minister" moved as an amendment to omit the word "property;" this was accepted by the mover of the resolution. Two other amendments were moved, intended to bring married women within the scope of the resolution; these were not, however, seconded. A further amendment, that the time for granting the franchise to women was not yet arrived, was, after much debate, lost by a moderate majority, and the original resolution, with the omission of the word property, was carried.

THE LAW AS TO THE CUSTODY OF INFANTS.

A BABY TAKEN FROM ITS MOTHER.

The *Daily News* has the following report of proceedings in the Court of Session, Edinburgh:—

FIRST DIVISION.—SATURDAY, NOV. 10.

(Before the Lord President, Lords Deas, Muir, and Shand.)

PETITION AND ANSWERS.—GEORGE JAMES BEATTIE v. MRS. ELLEN BEATTIE, FOR CUSTODY OF CHILD.

The petitioner, George James Beattie, builder, residing at Greenhill Place, Edinburgh, applied to the court for an order upon his wife, Mrs. Ellen Eliza, other Lilly Watson or Beattie, only daughter of Thos. Watson, M.D., Glasgow, presently residing at 6, St. Alban's Terrace, Dowanhill, Glasgow, to give him the custody of his child. Mr. and Mrs. Beattie were married on 6th October, 1881, and lived together until 17th February, 1882, when, as petitioner states, he was deserted by his wife, who went to reside with her mother and brother in Glasgow. On 20th September, 1882, as the petitioner learned by intimations published in the newspapers, his wife bore to him a son, who is named William Beattie. He averred that he had made every effort to induce his wife to return, but that she persistently refused. As his child was now more than a year old, and he has a suitable home for its upbringing, he now claimed his right of possession.

In her answers to the petition, Mrs. Beattie stated that she did

not desert the petitioner, but was forced to leave him owing to a consistent course of unkindness and cruelty, which, on the night before she left him, culminated in actual assault. She further explained that she has raised an action of separation and aliment against the petitioner, in which she also concludes for decree for custody of the child. As a further bar to its being removed from her charge, she was prepared with medical certification that, as the child is teething, it could not be removed from her with safety.

The case came up to-day for hearing. Mr. Murray, for the wife, moved the court, in respect of the dependence of the action of separation, to sist the present process.

The court refused to accede to this proposal, and further held that, as there was no averment by the respondent against the husband's fitness to have his child, it must be ruled by the Lilley case. The interlocutor was left open until Tuesday, in order that the court might be informed of the arrangement to be made for giving the wife access to the child in the petitioner's keeping.

Counsel for petitioner—Mr. Dickson. Agents—Fyfe, Miller, Fyfe, and Ireland, S.S.C.

Counsel for respondent—Mr. Murray. Agents—Macandrew, Wright, Ellis, and Blyth, W.S.

EXTRAORDINARY BIGAMY CASE.

SELLING A WIFE FOR BEER.

At the Liverpool Winter Assizes, before Mr. Justice Denman, on November 13th, Betsy Wardle (25), of no occupation, was indicted for having, on the 4th September, 1882, at Eccleston, married George Chisnall, her former husband being then alive.—Mr. Shand prosecuted, and Mr. Swift defended.—The prisoner pleaded guilty; and her counsel said that the prisoner stated that her husband gave her no peace, and sold her for a quart of beer. (Laughter.) She imagined this was a legal transaction, and that she could marry again. (Renewed laughter.) His Lordship observed that the prisoner stated before the magistrates that her husband was an idle fellow, and that he said he would sell her for a quart of beer.—The prisoner said her husband did so, and she could call Mrs. Brown and Alice Rodesley as witnesses.—Mrs. Brown was then called, and in answer to interrogatories by his Lordship, said that the prisoner had lived with her, together with her first husband, and also with the man Chisnall. The prisoner and Chisnall lived with her for some months prior to going through the marriage ceremony, at which she was herself an attesting witness.—His Lordship: Then you nearly brought yourself into trouble.—Witness: I did not think so. Her first husband sold her for a quart of beer.—His Lordship: Who told you that her husband had sold her for a quart of ale?—Witness: I saw the paper on which it was written. In reply to further questions witness said that the paper was shown to her by the prisoner and Chisnall, but she was unable to produce it as she could not find it. She did not think the prisoner had a right to marry again, but witness was asked to give her away and did so. (Laughter.)—His Lordship: You went to help her to commit bigamy. Take care and don't do it again. You were an accessory before the fact, and I do not know whether you will not be guilty of bigamy yourself in law if you do it again. (Laughter.)—Alice Rodesley deposed that she saw the prisoner sold for ale to the man Chisnall. She was also present at the marriage.—His Lordship: I am not quite sure you are not guilty of bigamy as an accessory before the fact. Don't do that sort of thing again. Men have no right to sell their wives for a quart of beer or for anything else. (Laughter.)—Mr. Shand having intimated that Chisnall was in court, he was called into the box. Having been sworn, his Lordship asked him how he came to marry the prisoner.—Witness: Well, I bowt her. (Great laughter.)—His Lordship: You are not fool enough to suppose you can buy another man's wife?—Witness: I was. (Laughter.)—How much did you give for her?—Witness: Sixpence. (Loud laughter.)—His Lordship: This is too bad. You are as guilty as she is. You are an accessory before the fact to her committing bigamy. You have committed bigamy yourself. (Laughter.) Everybody has committed bigamy in this case as far as I can make out. (Great laughter.) How long have you been living with this woman?—Witness: Going on for three years.—Mr. Swift asked his Lordship not to pass a severe sentence. The prisoner imagined that because she had been sold for sixpence there was nothing criminal in marrying again.—His Lordship said it was

absolutely necessary that he should pass some punishment upon her to teach her and those who held the same ideas that a man had no more right to sell his own wife than to sell his neighbour's wife, or cow, or ox, or ass, or any other thing that was his. (Laughter.) She would have to be imprisoned for one week, with hard labour.

Obituary.

DR. LOUIS BORCHARDT.—With deep regret we record the death of Dr. Louis Borchardt, of Manchester, which took place on November 15th, after a painful illness of some weeks' duration. Dr. Borchardt was born in Landsberg on Warthe in 1816. He studied and obtained the degree of M.D. in the University of Berlin. He took a lively interest in the political movements of 1848, and some of his utterances having given offence to the Government he was tried and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the fortress of Glutz. To relieve the tedium of imprisonment he was permitted to practise as a physician to the children in the place of his imprisonment. His little patients thronged his cell daily at the appointed hour, and here was laid the foundation of his subsequent fame as a children's doctor. His little two year old daughter was also a daily visitor. After his release Dr. Borchardt, driven from his own country by the persecution of the authorities, settled in England, and finally took up his residence in Manchester. He connected himself with the Liberal party in Manchester, to which he rendered great service. Dr. Borchardt may be called the foster-father of the women's suffrage movement in Manchester. On February 11th, 1867, a meeting of five persons was held in Dr. Borchardt's rooms in Mosley-street, Mr. Jacob Bright in the chair, when it was resolved to form a committee for the enfranchisement of women. This was the origin of the great society which has its head quarters in Manchester. Dr. Borchardt continued to lend his rooms for the meetings of the committee until the society obtained offices of their own in 1871. He remained up to the period of his death the trusted friend and adviser, and acted as honorary auditor of the accounts of the committee from the first meeting until the present year, when his mortal illness came upon him.

MR. T. C. COBBOLD, M.P.—We regret to record the death of Mr. Thomas Clement Cobbold, late Conservative member for Ipswich, who died on November 21st, after a long and painful illness, in his 51st year. Mr. T. C. Cobbold was elected for Ipswich in December, 1875, on the death of his elder brother, Mr. John Patteson Cobbold, who was elected in 1874. Mr. J. P. Cobbold voted for Mr. Bright's Bill in 1875, and the late member voted for women's suffrage in 1876 and 1875. The state of his health has latterly precluded him from attending to his Parliamentary duties.

GLASGOW.

A Conference arranged by the National Liberal Federation was held in Glasgow on October 30th, under the presidency of Alderman Kenrick, of Birmingham. Mr. James Sims, president of the Edinburgh Liberal Association, moved a resolution approving of the resolution passed at the Leeds Conference for the extension of the franchise to householders in the counties. Bailie Lewis pointed out that as the resolution stood it would extend the franchise to female householders in counties but not to those in burghs. He moved the insertion of the words "and to female householders in burghs" in the resolution. Councillor McLachlan seconded the amendment. The Chairman said he was bound to discourage as far as he could the acceptance of this amendment. They were met to promote practical politics. They had every reason to know that such an amendment would not be accepted by the Government. Councillor Jackson proposed to amend Bailie Lewis's proposition by providing, "that all women householders should be put on an equal footing with male householders as regards Parliamentary franchise." Mr. Jackson's amendment, having been accepted by Bailie Lewis, was put to the meeting by the chairman and lost. Many of those that spoke and voted declared that they were favourable to the principle, but deprecated its introduction at that time.

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, NOVEMBER, 1883.

Mrs. Walter S. B. M'Laren .. £5 0 0	Mrs. Tweedale (Hyde) £0 5 0
The Dowager Countess of Buchan .. 2 0 0	Mrs. Dunn (two years) 0 3 0
Mrs. Muir 2 0 0	Mr. W. E. A. Axon 0 2 6
Miss Fricker Hall 1 1 0	Mrs. C. Hollins 0 2 6
Rev. S. A. Steintal 1 1 0	Mrs. Barralet 0 2 6
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Abbott .. 1 1 0	Mrs. Marsh 0 2 6
Mr. John Slagg, M.P. 1 1 0	Miss Snowdon 0 2 6
Miss Edith Lupton 1 1 0	Mrs. Eliza Oldham 0 2 2
Dr. Wu. Price 1 0 0	Mr. George Chorley 0 2 0
Mr. C. H. Wyatt 0 10 0	Mrs. Mawby 0 1 6
Miss Hallam 0 10 0	Mr. Will Griffiths 0 1 6
Mr. Hugh Davis 0 5 0	
Mr. John Christie (two years) .. 0 5 0	
Mr. T. B. Carter 0 5 0	£18 7 8

S. ALFRED STEINTAL, TREASURER, 23, JACKSON'S ROW, MANCHESTER.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 28, 1883.

Miss Crossfield £5 0 0	Mr. Alfred Elliott £0 10 0
Mrs. Thomas Taylor 3 0 0	Two Friends, per Mr. Alfred Elliott 0 10 0
Mrs. S. W. Browne 3 0 0	Mrs. Jarvis (2 years) 0 10 0
Mr. Courtney, M.P. (2 years) .. 2 0 0	Mr. Nathaniel Wat rail 0 5 0
Mr. Seymour Trower 1 1 0	Miss Truell 0 5 0
Miss Robertson 1 1 0	Mrs. F. Mitchell 0 5 0
Mr. James Howard, M.P. 1 1 0	Mr. A. P. Busch 0 5 0
Mr. and Mrs. Moncreu Conway .. 1 0 0	Miss Justice 0 2 0
Mr. Charles Colbeck, M.A. 1 0 0	
Miss Fricker Hall 0 10 6	
Mr. F. C. Baines (2 years) 0 10 0	£21 15 6

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

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FROM OCTOBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 20, 1883.

Mrs. Garnett £20 0 0	Mr. J. T. Southall (Leominster) £0 5 0
Miss Priestman 5 0 0	Mr. Spratt (two years) 0 5 0
Misses Southall (Leominster) .. 1 0 0	Mrs. Warren 0 5 0
Miss Grosland (Worcester) 0 10 0	Mr. Thos. Colby 0 2 6
Mrs. Evans (Stroud) 0 10 0	Mr. Field 0 2 6
Mrs. C. H. James (Merthyr) 0 10 0	Mrs. Temple 0 2 6
Miss Thomas (the late) 0 10 0	Mr. Drew (Minehead) 0 2 0
Mrs. Delben (Wimborne) 0 5 0	
Mrs. Silby (Taunton) 0 5 0	£20 14 6

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 1, CECIL ROAD, CLIFTON. Office: 20, Park-street, Bristol.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT, 1882.

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

Madam,—Being interested in a case similar to that of a "Constant Reader," which appeared in a letter under the above heading in your journal of April last, I obtained advice on the subject, with the following result, which I quote verbatim:—"You cannot do as you propose. The Act in no way affects settlements made before its coming into effect. No new trustees can be appointed except in cases provided for by the deed of settlement. There is no power to release the trustees." Personally, I am not satisfied that this opinion is a sound one, particularly having regard to the letter of "E. H. Woodward," which appeared in your March number in reply to the inquiry of "An Old Woman," published in your issue of January last. I send you this for publication if you consider it of any value. Possibly some of your readers may be in a position to throw further light on the subject, which, I think, is one of some little interest.—Yours faithfully,

9th November, 1883. ANOTHER CONSTANT READER.

[The opinion quoted is undoubtedly sound. The case of E. H. Woodward came within the exception reserved. In the deed of settlement in her case provision was made for the appointment of new trustees, of which she availed herself to practically undo the settlement and resume personal control over her property. Notwithstanding the new Act, marriage settlements are in many cases desirable, and will continue to be made. The advantage of the new Act is, that it secures the rights of the wife where no settlement has been made, and educates men and women in the principle that wives have personal property rights which husbands are legally bound to respect as completely as they respect the property rights of their children.—Ed. W.S.J.]

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