

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

RULES.

I. The object of the Society is, to obtain for Women the right of voting for Members of Parliament on the same conditions as it is, or may be, granted to men.

II. Approval of the object of the Society and an annual subscription of any amount shall constitute membership.

III. The subscriptions are due on the first day of January for the current year.

IV. An Executive Committee shall be appointed at an Annual General Meeting, which Committee shall have power to add to its number.

V. The Committee, at its first meeting subsequent to the Annual Meeting, shall appoint a secretary and a treasurer.

VI. A General Meeting of the Society shall be held once a year to receive the report, the statement of accounts, to appoint the Committee, and transact any other business which may arise.

VII. A Special General Meeting of the Society may be called at any time by the Committee, and, at the written request of twenty-five members, the secretary shall call a Special Meeting. At such meeting no subjects shall be discussed but those mentioned in the notice summoning the members.

VIII. No General Meeting of the Society shall be called without eight days' public notice of such meeting.

IX. These rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting; and no rule shall be altered at any meeting unless a month's notice of such proposed alteration has been given to the Committee.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Edinburgh National Society for  
Women's Suffrage,

HELD IN

THE FREEMASONS' HALL,

GEORGE STREET,

28th DECEMBER 1882.

EDINBURGH

PRINTING COMPANY, 41 CHAMBERS STREET.

JANUARY 1883.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MRS M'LAREN, Newington House, *President.*

Miss ANDERSON, 8 Dryden Place.  
Miss BURTON, Liberton Bank.  
Miss CALDWELL, 2 Victoria Terrace, Portobello.  
Miss CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street.  
Mrs FERGUSON HOME of Bassendean.  
Mrs HODGSON, Bonaly.  
Mrs HOPE, 11 Polwarth Terrace.  
Miss HOPE, 11 Polwarth Terrace.  
Miss HUNTER, 5 Great Stuart Street.  
Mrs M'QUEEN of Braxfield, 3 Lansdowne Crescent.  
Dr AGNES M'LAREN, 26 York Place.  
Miss M. MATHESON, 19 Northumberland Street.  
Miss MURRAY, 6 Napier Road.  
Mrs NICHOL, Huntly Lodge.  
Mrs ORD of Muirhouselaw.  
Mrs PATERSON, 6 Bruntsfield Crescent.  
Miss RAMSAY SMITH, 9 Bruntsfield Crescent.  
Miss ELIZA STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent.  
Miss LOUISA STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent.  
Mrs WELLSTOOD, 6 Salisbury Place.  
Mrs WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street.

Miss A. CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street,  
Miss SIMPSON, Selville, Portobello, } *Hon. Treasurers.*

Miss WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street,  
Miss E. KIRKLAND, 13 Raeburn Place, } *Secretaries.*

This Society consists of all friendly to its object, and  
who subscribe to its Funds.



EDINBURGH  
NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, was held on 28th December 1882, in the Masonic Hall. There was, considering the disagreeable character of the day, a large attendance of ladies. Mrs DUNCAN M'LAREN, who presided, was accompanied to the platform, among others, by Mrs Kirk, Mrs Nichol, Miss Maitland, Mrs Wellstood, Miss Murray, Mrs Charles M'Laren, Miss Eva Müller, Madame Woyka; Miss Lang, Port-Glasgow; Mrs Hope, Miss Simpson; Mr Charles M'Laren, M.P.; Professor Calderwood, ex-Bailie Lewis, Mr R. A. Macfie, Rev. Dr Adamson, &c.

Mrs M'LAREN, in opening the proceedings, said this was a season of the year in which they could hardly expect a very large gathering. Everyone seemed intent on buying books and toys for children, who ruled the world at this day. (Laughter.)

Miss ELIZA WIGHAM then read the Annual Report, as follows:—

“The year 1882 will be a memorable one in the history of the Women's Suffrage question in Scotland, as several important events have marked its progress.

“We have first to allude to the Municipal Franchise, which has been extended for the first time to women ratepayers in this country. In anticipation of the exercise of this privilege, our Committee took steps to arouse the women to a sense of the responsibility which

attaches to it, and to the faithful discharge of this duty to the State. Five ward meetings were held in this City in summer, and one in Leith. These meetings were presided over by Town Councillors or other influential citizens. In Leith, the Provost took the chair. On all these occasions excellent and convincing addresses were given; and petitions were sent to the House of Commons, praying that the Parliamentary Franchise also should be extended to women ratepayers.

"No less than 40,000 leaflets on 'The Duty of Women in regard to the Municipal Vote' were circulated throughout Scotland. In Inverness, Dr M'Kenzie and Rev. G. Robson undertook that one of these leaflets should be put into the hand of each woman householder; and we are greatly indebted to those friends, and to others who thus patriotically interested themselves in the various other towns. Many newspapers copied the leaflet, and commended it to the consideration of the new electors.

"To aid the interest in this movement, Miss Jessie Craigen was sent by the Committee to circulate information and hold meetings in Aberdeen, Perth, and Dundee. Miss Kirkland also visited Perth, and did good service. Three meetings were held in Aberdeen; over one of these Rev. Mr Masson presided. His introductory remarks were reprinted and circulated. Two meetings were held in Perth, and three in Dundee. At all of these meetings influential citizens presided and took part. Provost Moncur took the chair at one meeting at Dundee, which was addressed by Miss Wigham as well as Miss Craigen. A meeting was also held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Edinburgh, shortly before the election, Mrs Wellstood presiding; Mrs Scatcherd, of Leeds, Mrs Shearer, from London, and Miss Stoddart, of Kelso, were present and spoke effectively. A resolution was passed, thanking Dr Cameron for the boon he had conferred on the women of Scotland by carrying this measure through Parliament, and pledging the meeting to promote a general and intelligent exercise of the vote.

"As a result of our efforts, we were glad to learn that on the 7th of November the women came out well in most towns, and manifested as warm an interest in their new duty as could reasonably have been expected.

"In Edinburgh there were contests in two wards only,—St Luke's and St Leonard's. In both of these the women voters came well forward to exercise their citizen right. In the latter ward, Mrs Wellstood was present as an authorised agent at the polling place, having been duly sworn in that capacity, and her services were most useful.

"No more striking indication of the progress our cause has made can be mentioned, than the fact that the Convention of Royal Burghs, the most important Parliamentary organisation in Scotland, spontaneously petitioned the House of Commons that the Parliamentary Franchise should now be extended to women, without further delay, seeing that they have had the municipal and other franchises accorded to them. Twelve Town Councils followed this example:—Banff, Leith, Dumfries, Aberdeen, Dunfermline, North Berwick, Peebles, Dunbar, Moffat, Paisley, Perth, and Edinburgh.

"Our Committee has sent numerous petitions, from Edinburgh and other places in Scotland, to Parliament, in support of Mr Hugh Mason's motion for the Removal of the Electoral Disabilities of Women. Also in support of a notice of motion to introduce the following clause in committee on the Corrupt Practices Bill in the House of Commons, "That all persons liable to be *rated for expenses* under the Election Commissioners Act 1869-70, shall be entitled to be registered as electors, and to vote at Parliamentary elections, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding." Owing to the pressure of business in Parliament no opportunity was afforded for bringing forward these motions.

"Perhaps the most conspicuous event of the year, connected with our agitation in Scotland, is the great Demonstration of Women which was held in Glasgow on the 3d of November. The preliminary arrangements claimed much labour on the part of our Committee. Our Secretary, Miss Kirkland, united with Mrs M'Corrick, Mrs Scatcherd, and Mrs Shearer, from England, in holding preparatory meetings. Of these, twenty-nine were held in Glasgow and the neighbourhood; seventeen of which were public meetings, eight drawing-room meetings, three mothers' meetings, and one a large and important conference, presided over by Ex-Bailie Burt, and addressed by many friends interested in the question. The Demonstration itself was probably the most remarkable meeting ever held in Scotland. It was a most inclement evening, but as the ladies who were to take part in the meeting drove up to the door of the hall, they saw large numbers of women being turned away, with the words that all Glasgow had been in the hall an hour ago. It was a sight to be remembered, as they entered the hall,—five thousand women assembled there, manifesting intelligent enthusiasm and calm resolve that political justice should be extended to them! The great doors of the Entrance Hall, which are only opened on special occasions, were thrown open. Our own President, Mrs M'Laren, occupied the chair; her beautiful speech, and the admirable addresses which followed it, were calculated to convince

and confirm all hearers. There was no opposing element, a most earnest tone pervading the meeting; and as the voice of prayer was heard entreating the Divine blessing on that large gathering, it was felt that our work was owned by Him who has willed that freedom should be the birthright of every human being. As speech after speech was heard, enforcing some important point of the subject, earnest attention was given by the vast audience, and the intelligent responses denoted appreciation and assent. The speakers were all highly gifted, and seldom or never were so many women's voices heard in such clear and eloquent tones advocating the right. There was Mrs Cady Stanton, from America, the veteran worker in the cause of the slaves' emancipation; Mrs Charles M'Laren, the youngest of the advocates, whose eloquent words went deep into the minds of the audience; Miss Becker, the apostle of Women's Suffrage; Miss Flora Stevenson, one of the two first elected lady members of the School Board in Scotland; Miss Burton; Mrs Scatcherd; Mrs Shearer; Mrs Wellstood; Mrs Beddoe, of Bristol; Miss Tod, of Belfast; Miss Craigen; and others,—all faithful, consistent advocates of equality before the law. Prominent on the platform sat Mrs Nichol, Miss Maitland, Mrs Kirk, Mrs Arthur of Barshaw, Mrs Lucas, Mrs Thomasson, Mrs Parker, Miss Sturge, &c., &c., &c. It was an unusually representative gathering, of all ages, denominations, and shades of political opinion. A long list of letters of sympathy was read by Miss Wigham, which included the names of many friends who could not be present that night, and yet to whom much of the present position of the cause was due. As we are issuing a large number of verbatim reports of the speeches, we need not on this subject say more, than to beg our friends to read attentively the serious words of those who addressed the great Scottish National Demonstration of Women, held in Glasgow on the 3d November 1882.

“The next morning a large Conference was held, to give practical effect to the sentiments expressed the night before; it was presided over by Professor Lindsay, and many speakers took part in the deliberations. A provisional committee was formed to carry out the objects of the Conference, and it is hoped vigorous action will follow.

“We must not omit to mention a remarkable change in the law affecting the position of women, which was gained in 1882,—‘The Married Women's Property Act for England.’ This Act completes the great measure of justice which was initiated by the Act of 1870, and finally secures to every married woman in England that which formerly could only be secured by costly and elaborate settlement,—

the absolute right to and control over all property, whether earned by her own exertions or coming to her by gift, inheritance, or bequest. So far as the ownership of property and the right to control are concerned, the status of a wife is now legally equal to that of a husband. The force which guided this bill outside Parliament, was directed by the untiring hands of Mrs Jacob Bright and Mrs W. Elmy. The bill, which was originally introduced by Mr Hinde Palmer in the House of Commons, was this Session taken up by the Lord Chancellor, and carried through the House of Lords without a division, and a similar happy fate befel it in the Commons. It ought to be remarked, that the Act carried by Mr Anderson in 1881, is yet far behind the English law on this question, although in itself a great gain.

“We must gratefully thank Miss Simpson, one of our own Committee, for her services in having, in June last, organised and carried to a most complete musical success, a concert for the benefit of the cause. Very favourable notices of this concert were given in the papers, and as it was entirely conducted by women, it formed a novel feature in musical entertainments.

“We have as usual to record the loss of faithful friends by death. Amongst these are—Mrs M'Culloch, of Dumfries, one of our earliest friends; Miss Rhoda Garret; and Sir David Wedderburn. Sir David was our constant advocate, in and out of Parliament, from the beginning of our Association. Miss Rhoda Garret always stood forth nobly as a representative and eloquent advocate of the true position of women in every department of life. Her distinguished and self-sacrificing career, so suddenly cut short, deserves a longer record than we have space for here.

“It has been considered expedient to alter the period of our financial year, so as to make it terminate with the statutory year. This Report therefore embraces only a period of nine months, and the subscriptions now due will be acknowledged in our next Report. In the meantime, we refer to last year's balance, on which we have been working during the summer and autumn, having been able to meet the extraordinary expenditure of the year through the means of a small legacy kindly left to us a few years ago by a sympathising friend; and the expense of the agitation regarding the Municipal Franchise, was met by a generous gift from Mr Thomasson, M.P., Bolton.

“We trust our friends will still rally round us, and enable us to go on with increasing vigour, for we believe we may take courage in the hope that the object of our Association will shortly be accomplished. When its ostensible end shall be obtained, its educa.

tional influences will be found to have been of great value in leading women to their true position in the important field of political service which they will be called upon to occupy, as we sincerely trust, for the purification and elevation of the moral and social relations of the country they love."

Mrs DUNCAN M'LAREN, who was received with applause, moved that the Report be adopted, printed, and circulated, and that the office-bearers be reappointed for the ensuing year. She said,—This interesting Report suggests much that I should like to say to you, but time will not permit. I daresay that part of it which has told of the recent great women's suffrage demonstration in Glasgow would surprise many here, as so little notice was taken of it by some papers which profess to give in their columns the historic events of the day. If upwards of thirty meetings had been held in and about Glasgow, crowned by a great gathering of five thousand men, to ask the Government to confer some right upon them, the papers would have been full of it. We have, however, amongst the press noble advocates of our cause, and an ever-increasing number; but there are some editors, and some members of Parliament, who are rather like the ostrich, they hide their heads, and think by neither hearing us or seeing us in meetings assembled, they can stop a movement whose success they are not anxious for. They deceive themselves. Wilful blindness cannot stay the great influences that are at work when any step in the way of human progress has to be made. We are still told by professed friends even, that they must decline to come to the front to help us until women show more zeal in the cause. I would ask such to tell us how we are to show our zeal, if meetings in which forty thousand women have assembled—meetings got up by women entirely, and addressed by women only—are not to be taken into account; if these demonstrations show no zeal, it is their duty to tell us how zeal is to be shown. It is always said there is no argument like one which touches the pocket. Well, it may be that women householders will yet refuse to pay the taxes which ought to qualify them for a vote, if the deaf ear be much longer unstopped, and our cries are not listened to. There are thousands of women who would come forward, if they were not otherwise influenced by their male relatives. Wherever women go to get up meetings women come to them. Long pent-up feelings give way, and revelations are made, which rouse us more and more to the work God has given us to do, to prosecute His will, that every human being should know the blessing of freedom without distinction of sex. It is like the dawn of a brighter day to many poor women to find their condition is being sympathised with, and they at once

join our ranks, believing that they see an opening for greater justice to women through the Parliamentary franchise. There never was a question carried through the Houses of Parliament but many, both inside Parliament and outside, were much against it. I was in the House of Lords the night the corn laws were repealed. I sat amongst noble ladies, so-called, and as one peer after another came up to them, they asked in apparent agony if nothing could avert the calamity which was coming. One peer looked up at the clock and said, "No, nothing; in twenty minutes we shall be a dead body." Well, instead of becoming a dead body, the landowners flourished wonderfully under that act of justice for a long time. I believe our country would, in like manner, be benefited if women had a voice in the State. Justice never can bring evil in its train. The Right Hon. William Edward Forster was in Glasgow ten days ago, and the Scotch papers have been full of the event. But let me tell you, that great as that meeting was, St Andrew's Hall was the scene of a far greater event on the 3d of November last, and one which history will take some account of. It pains me to criticise anything Mr Forster says, because he gave women the vote for school boards, and enabled them also to sit on these boards; but men ought to be consistent, and to know that when they raise human beings in the scale of work or knowledge, the mind cannot help but soar to higher steps; it cannot be satisfied to stand still. I have been told that when the Municipal Franchise Bill for Women passed the House of Commons, Mr Forster was heard to say, as he came out into the lobby, "Well, this means the other franchise." And so it does; and women will never rest till they get it. Mr Forster, at his meeting in Glasgow, said he rejoiced to see the doctrine had recently been proclaimed, that the safe rule in politics is to do to others as we would be done unto. He rejoiced to see that stated "as the rule of political life," and he cried shame upon those papers which had seemed surprised at so "novel a doctrine." We women would also greatly rejoice if Mr Forster would himself act upon that New Testament rule. He said also, that "everyone should do as much good as he could in life." Yet whilst he would not like to be deprived of a vote himself, he deprives women, who have exactly the same qualification for a vote which he possesses, from having a vote by which they could exercise a far greater amount of good than is now possible, by furthering questions in the House of Commons which are for the public weal, and in which they are deeply interested. He spoke of the County Franchise Bill, and said if any one had doubts as to its need, let him come to Glasgow and he would find there extraordinary facts in favour of it, in the intelligence of the Glasgow people. He might also have gathered an extraordinary fact

from Glasgow for the enfranchisement of women, but he ignored it. Mr Forster was speaking in that great St Andrew's Hall; the women he ignored were speaking in the same hall six weeks before, to an audience of women as large as the one he was addressing. He ignored us, but he must forgive us if we cannot ignore him, and the injustice he did us. Mr Forster suddenly jumped from the intelligence of Glasgow to poor Hodge in the agricultural districts of England. He said they used to think him too ignorant to have a vote. Well, they used to class women with Hodge, and say *they* were too ignorant to have a vote. But, Mr Forster said, thanks to the Education Act, the Hodge of to-day is very different from the Hodge of twenty years ago. Have not women also had the advantage of the Education Act? And when do you see these agricultural labourers, with all the advantages of that Act, getting up meetings of five or six thousand men, and asking for their rights with all the ability the best men of our land could show? The women of this country have advanced a hundredfold more than poor Hodge, in the last twenty years, and they started from a much higher platform. Mr Forster's injustice did not stop here. In acknowledging the beneficence of that great measure, the Married Women's Property Bill, he made it appear as though it had passed through Parliament with something almost like child's-play. Mr Anderson, M.P., knows too well, and so did Lord Advocate M'Laren, the gratitude we felt towards them for the great service they did women in Parliament in carrying that measure, to object to praise being given to others to whom it is due. Mr Forster also left unmentioned the work, which can never be fully told, of the women who pioneered that bill, and the one for England, through the House of Commons; watching the bills at every stage in both Houses, with legal heads and untiring hearts, and an ability which astonished the trained legal men who nobly co-operated with them. I wish you could all read the report of the wonderful work of the carrying of those Acts from the commencement. You would see what work some women are doing, whilst many keep aloof from political work because they are told it is the right thing for women not to meddle with politics, whilst they will gladly avail themselves of all the good which others have laboriously wrought for them.

The Report refers to workers who have gone to their reward. I would like to speak of Rhoda Garret, the cousin of Mrs Fawcett. Her name is synonymous with heroic action under a strong sense of duty. One could not, without entering into the details of private life, give any idea of her gifted mind and noble life. Conscious of the need there was to advocate more just laws for the women of her

country, she mastered the art of public speaking, and by her strong arguments, mingled with sarcasm and pathos, she would thrill large audiences as few men could do. She was one of those women who showed that to gain health, work and higher education were the stimulants which would best secure it. Often when I have seen her efforts, and those of other women, who have risen from beds of weakness in order to do good to others and benefit the world, I have thought their experience has been something like the woman we read of in Scripture, who touched the hem of the garment of Him who went about doing good, and she was healed. I do long that the younger women of this audience would understand for themselves how much richer life is, when these political questions, which are really social questions, are understood and worked for.

Rev. Dr ADAMSON seconded the resolution. He held there were men at the present moment who had votes who were unable to exercise them rightly; and that women, if they were enfranchised, would be capable of recording their opinion in a much more intelligent manner. Representation should go along with taxation; and he maintained that Mr Waddy, in the recent Parliamentary contest in Edinburgh, had taken up a wrong position on the question at issue. The history of our country proved decidedly, that ladies had taken a practical interest in the politics of the country. They had entered into the political aspirations of the country, and had great influence on the minds of those who made our laws. Personally, and speaking as a member of a school-board, he could not understand how business in connection with such boards could be carried on without the assistance of ladies. Ladies performed their work there with a self-sacrifice which few indeed could imagine. He would not be ashamed to see a lady Lord Provost of the city of Edinburgh. When we had a Queen on the throne, he could not see how we might not also have a lady occupying the civic chair. Such positions will never do anything that would dishonour the sex, or destroy their modesty, which was certainly their crowning glory.

The motion was then adopted, in spite of the opposition of a gentleman present, who attempted to prove from Scripture that women had no right to take part in matters of "government."

Mrs CHARLES M'LAREN moved the second resolution as follows:—  
"That this meeting considers it unjust and inexpedient to exclude from the Parliamentary franchise women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who already are entitled to vote in municipal and school-board elections; and this meeting therefore learns with satisfaction, that Mr Hugh Mason intends to introduce a resolution during the next session of Parliament in favour of extend-

ing the franchise to women, and pledges itself to support him by every means in its power." In support of the resolution Mrs Charles M'Laren said, that those who had been in the habit of attending women's suffrage meetings must have noticed that the subject was now occupying a much more important place in society. Formerly they were treated with ridicule; now, however, a great change had taken place in the way of reviewing the question in society and in the House of Commons. Amongst its supporters they could now count a large number of the members of both parties, enlightened statesmen and cautious leaders,—so that if they had not the actual majority in the House of Commons, they had the intellectual majority; and they had a majority of the Scotch members. In the late Administration they had five Cabinet Ministers, and among the Ministers of the present day they had five warm friends; and they had the cordial support of many of the most important members of the House of Commons,—such as Mr Burt, the working man's member; Sir W. Lawson, the friend of temperance; Lord Kensington, the Whip of the Liberal Party; Mr Parnell, the leader of the Irish party; Mr Reginald Yorke, Sir M. Hicks-Beach, and Sir Stafford Northcote. In all they had a hundred and seventy-two who had voted for the extension of the Parliamentary suffrage to women; and in the present Parliament they should have more. Surely there must be something in the women's arguments which convinced those distinguished men that there was sufficient reason and justice on their side to warrant them vindicating their right to an equality before the law. There were people who apprehended danger from the movement, because they imagined that the purpose of its promoters was to enfranchise all women. That was quite a mistake. The proportion would only be about one in seven to the men, so that there was no cause for alarm. The great proportion of the new electors would be large proprietors, and school-mistresses, and ladies living by literature, and also ladies conducting business,—all of whom had as strong an interest in good government as men; and in some respects more so, for not being so strong and able to resist as men, they sometimes had to suffer larger injustice than men. In giving votes to such a class, they would strengthen rather than weaken the institutions of the country. Then there were others who objected to giving women the franchise, because they were likely to strengthen the Conservative party in Parliament. One member of Parliament, Mr Parry, had said so. They had no means of determining at present whether the admission of women to the electorate would alter the balance of parties, but she would say, that if Liberals objected to women on those grounds, she would not believe in Liberalism. Then there was the physical force argu-

ment, viz., that men were strongest, and better suited for the severer duties of life. But really it was not because men were strong, or wise, or honest, that they had votes, but simply because they were householders and proprietors. And were there not many intelligent women who stood alone, both as proprietors and occupants? It was a most anomalous arrangement. Then, it was urged against the movement, that courtesy to the sex would disappear. She had sometimes addressed meetings of working women, and asked them, what courtesy do you receive from men at present? do you find that the men think more of you because you are without the franchise? Their experience was the other way. The fact was, men paid attention to the young, and the pretty, and wealthy women, very much because it pleased men to do so. They were in no such hurry to pay their attentions to the old or the ugly. The reason why men revered women had not much to do with the question they were arguing. But she would remind men that they had received more from women than they could repay. They were indebted to woman for her loving care of them, and for a thousand little offices done for them, before they could care for themselves. It was time the men should do something more for them now. Give them the franchise in burghs and counties; take them out of the category of the criminal and the insane, and make them citizens of a whole nation. The importance of the vote was just this, whatever political consequences man might attach to it. History had taught this lesson, that just laws were never made for an unrepresented class. Lord Beaconsfield said that the laws affecting women were a disgrace to the statute-book. The laws of their country were made in the interests of men to the injury of women, in favour of husbands before wives, and brothers before sisters, and that was because of men possessing exclusive legislative power. Mrs M'Laren concluded with an earnest entreaty to her audience, to aid in furthering the movement for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. By doing so, although it would not correct all that they had good reason to complain of, still it would put them in a position whereby they could direct the attention of Parliament to the sufferings women had to endure from inequitable laws. Then they would see "the jocund day stand rosy on the mountain tops."

Mr GEORGE WATSON, advocate, seconded the resolution. He maintained that the inequitable treatment of which women complained, and the disabilities resulting therefrom, were exceptionally greater than the treatment of minors and the insane. A woman might possess intellectual gifts and educational acquirements by which she could attain to the highest pinnacle of distinction in the land, but she was not allowed to exercise them. He had looked in vain for





INCOME and EXPENDITURE for the Nine Months from  
31st March to 31st December 1882.

INCOME.	£	s	d	EXPENDITURE.	£	s	d
Balance from last year	-	-	6	Travelling expenses in connection with Municipal Election Agitation in Aber- deen, Perth, and Dundee	10	7	0
Donation from Mr Thomasson	47	17	0	Expenses of Meetings, Hire of Halls, and Advertisements for ditto	50	0	0
Subscriptions for half-year	50	0	0	Hire of Halls in Edinburgh for ditto	5	19	6
Receipts from Concert	23	18	0	Newspaper Advertisements for ditto	7	5	1½
Interest on Bank Account	21	16	9	<i>Women's Suffrage Journal</i>	13	3	0
Cash from Legacy paid into Bank	0	8	4	Leaflets, Stationery, &c.	14	3	6
Balance due to Bank	64	0	0	Expenses of Concert	22	10	9
	11	16	2	Rent of Committee Room	0	18	0
	-	-	-	Expenses of Secretary	67	0	0
	-	-	-	Printing and Postages	28	9	10½
	-	-	-		219	16	9
	-	-	-		219	16	9

26th January 1883. — I have examined the Treasurer's Statement, with the relative Accounts and Vouchers, for the nine months from 31st March to 31st December 1882, and find the same correct; and that there remains a balance due to the Bank as at the latter date of Eleven pounds sixteen shillings and two-pence sterling.

ALEX. MATHESON, W.S.

## EDINBURGH WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION TRACTS.

### No. 1.—Why Women, who are Householders, should have the Parliamentary Franchise.

1. Because it is a recognised principle in the representative government of Great Britain that the possession of property and the payment of rates are the basis of political rights, and it is unjust that women who possess property, and who pay rates, should be excluded from those rights simply on account of their sex.

There are 37,806 women landowners in England and Wales, or one woman to every seven men landowners—they pay rates and taxes but have no voice in saying how the money is spent.

There are 11,373 women householders in Edinburgh, or one woman householder to almost every three men householders—they pay the same taxes, endure the same burdens, and obey the same laws as the men, but they have no votes, merely because they are women.

2. Because women often suffer from not having votes. Widows have been turned out of farms and out of houses in order to make room for men who had votes.

176 women farmers in the West of England and in South Wales petitioned Parliament in March, 1882, to grant the franchise to women, and one of the petitioners wrote saying, "I hope you will win, as there are lots turned out here because women cannot vote."

3. Because while men and women alike must obey the law, men at present alone elect the Members of Parliament—women have to obey the laws and have no share in making them. Thus it is that many of our laws while favouring men are unjust to women.

3,146,307 women and girls are earning their living in England and Wales, or one woman to every seven of the whole population. They are working under Labour Laws which they had no share in making, and which, in many cases, from the ignorance or carelessness of legislators greatly hinder them in trying to earn an honest livelihood.