

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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DURING the past month the revision courts have been occupied with the lists of municipal and parliamentary voters. With the exception of the decision at Abingdon respecting the right of a married woman to the municipal franchise, which we quote in another column, nothing has taken place that we know of having any reference to the claims of women to the suffrage. We notice this fact at the present time, for the sake of calling attention to the very different state of things at the revision courts in the year 1868. After the passing of the Reform Act of 1867 it was generally believed by women throughout the country that the franchises created by that act applied to women householders and ratepayers. This view was taken in many districts by the overseers whose duty it was to prepare the lists of voters, and consequently in such districts the lists which came before the revising barristers contained the names of all duly qualified persons whether men or women. In Aberdeen 1,088 women householders were put on the roll, and in Salford 1,341, besides many in other districts. When these lists came to be finally revised the barristers gave very contradictory decisions. In some cases they allowed women's votes to stand because they had not been objected to, without reference to the question whether they would have been struck off had an objection been raised. In other cases they struck them off on their own motion although no one had made any objection. In other courts the question was argued on its merits, and some barristers decided for, and others against the legality of the votes. These doubts were finally settled by the adverse decision by the Court of Common Pleas in November, 1868. After that decision it would, of course, have been of no use for any woman to make a claim to be put on the register. The absence of such claim therefore is no proof that women are indifferent to the right of voting. The records of decisions in the courts of 1868 afford very satisfactory proof to the contrary. There was scarcely a revising barrister in any district who

had not to deal with women claimants. In the metropolis women claimed in Westminster, Lambeth, Chelsea, Marylebone, Finsbury, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Southwark, and the City of London. They claimed in Edinburgh, Newcastle, Manchester, Salford, Bolton, Dewsbury, Stoke-upon-Trent, Leeds, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Bristol, Bath, Brighton, and in many counties north and south; in Cumberland and in Kent, in Lancashire and in Essex, in Warwickshire and in Surrey, in Yorkshire and in Wales. The records of these various claims, consisting of newspaper scraps which came to our hand at the time, are necessarily very imperfect and incomplete. We have no doubt that multitudes of women claimed besides those of whose application we happened to see the record. We look upon our list of cases as samples of what took place all over the country, and of what might be expected to occur should the claims have proved to be as valid in law as they are in equity—rather than as an exhaustive enumeration of them. Nevertheless it contains many interesting particulars. At Lambeth, on the name of a lady being called who claimed in respect of a house in Camberwell New Road for which she paid £50 a year rent the revising barrister simply said "I shall take no notice of that claim." In the same court an application was made by the overseers to strike out the name of a voter who was undergoing a sentence of penal servitude for manslaughter, but the Revising Barrister declined to omit that name. In North Essex Mr. FISH struck off all the names of women who had sent in claims to be included in the list of voters for the northern division of the county. In Manchester 5,100 claims of women were disallowed—and in Salford, in addition to striking off the names of 1,300 women who had been put on the list by the overseers and to whom no one had objected, Mr. HOSACK disposed of 857 others, who had claimed in consequence of being omitted by the overseers of Broughton and Pendleton. In Marylebone a number of women claimed, among whom was a sister of

Mr. BRIGHT. At Ruthin, North Wales, the claim of Lady AUGUSTA LOUISA MARSHALL, widow of Sir JOHN MARSHALL, R.N., was disallowed. In Bolton forty women's claims were struck off. In Hackney all the women who claimed were disallowed. In Edinburgh Miss BURTON fought the battle for her sex bravely, but unsuccessfully, in the county registration court. In South East Lancashire many women whose names had been put on the lists by the overseers of various townships were retained as voters, but others who appeared as claimants were rejected. In the East Riding of Yorkshire women who had been put on the list by the overseers were allowed to vote. In Leeds not only were the women's claims refused, but one lady was fined ten shillings by the Revising Barrister for the crime of considering herself entitled to the privileges of an English citizen, and seeking to establish her claim by lawful and constitutional methods in the courts specially instituted for considering and deciding such matters. In the City of London Mrs. SCOTFORD, who occupied a house for which she paid £30 a year together with all rates and taxes, claimed the franchise as a householder. The claim was disallowed. In Finsbury the Revising Barrister decided in favour of all the women claimants. In Southwark 300 women's names were struck off. In West Kent the claims of women to vote were refused. In West Cheshire all the women whose names were on the overseers lists were struck off. At Aberdare the Revising Barrister refused to strike off a woman's name because no formal objection had been raised. At Ormskirk, Lancashire, the Revising Barrister admitted the claim of women to vote on its merits, in consequence of which decision many women voted in 1868 for South West Lancashire. The same judgment was given at Cockermouth in Cumberland and at Winterton in Lincolnshire, by different barristers. At Ulverston 33 women whose names were on the overseers' list were expunged by the Revising Barrister. In East Surrey it was remarked that there was great apathy on the subject of the franchise throughout that great and important county, and that those persons who were entitled to be on the register exhibited extraordinary indifference on the subject, yet among the few claims sent in were several from women. In Stoke-upon-Trent women not only claimed, but appeared in person to support their claims in the court. The same thing occurred at Cheltenham. But their claims were refused.

In the same papers in which we read of these unsuccessful efforts by women to claim the privileges granted

by the new Reform Act, we find instances of women being summoned to the court and made to pay the rates imposed by that Act as an express correlative and qualification for the vote. In the Manchester City Police Court a very large number of women were summoned for non payment of rates. In most of the cases the landlords had put an additional threepence per week on the rent to cover the rate, and yet allowed the tenants to be summoned. Several women expressed themselves strongly as to this exaction. Threepence per week is no light matter to be added to a poor woman's weekly rent for the privilege of enabling her neighbour to vote. In Hackney upwards of six thousand persons, most of whom were women, were summoned for non payment of rates under the new Reform Act. Long before the time for hearing the summonses the crush was fearful and many women had to be lifted out of the crowd in a fainting condition. The rate collectors bore testimony to the wretched condition of the parties and to their being utterly unable to pay the amount of the rate, but the magistrates had no alternative but to make an order that they must be paid. Yet when women came to claim the vote ostensibly given as an equivalent for the personal payment of rates imposed by the Reform Act they discovered that "words importing the masculine gender" were construed to include women in the clause imposing burdens, and to exclude them in the clauses conferring privileges of one and the same Act of Parliament.

We ask that this anomalous and one-sided construction of laws affecting women may be removed, and that the privileges may be impartially distributed along with the burdens of the State, so far as these can be apportioned by legislation. We ask to have the principle of the Representation of the People Act, 1867, which takes the family as the unit in the political society, and purports to confer the franchise on the householder or head of the family, impartially applied. We ask that in all cases the householder or head of the family who is responsible to the State for the taxes due on the family income and expenditure, shall have a share in the representation irrespective of the circumstance whether such householder be man or woman. Until this is accomplished household suffrage cannot be said to exist, even in boroughs, nor, until the rule is established impartially and universally in respect to all persons, will the legislature be giving a fair trial to household suffrage as a means for securing representation to every class and every interest in the community.

MARRIED WOMEN AND THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE.

At the Abingdon Revision Court the question has been raised whether married women are entitled to vote as burgesses. Mrs. Mary Passey, a married woman, living apart from her husband, was objected to by Mr. Challoner, the Conservative agent. He maintained that a married woman is disqualified, and that her occupation of the house must be deemed to be her husband's. Mr. St. Swithin Williams, the Liberal advocate, said: Under the municipal Acts marriage is no disqualification. The only disqualifications mentioned in the new Act are the receipt of parochial relief and the being an alien. The Act provides that every person who occupies a house for the twelve months, who is rated, and whose rates are paid, shall be enrolled as a burgess. And the last clause says that the word "person" shall mean women as well as men. For the parliamentary franchise a person must occupy "as tenant or owner;" and no doubt the tenancy of a married woman is in law her husband's. But in the Municipal Acts the words "as tenant or owner" do not occur; it is sufficient to occupy. Though the tenancy of this house, that is, the right to occupy it, is, in law, the husband's, the actual occupation has been the wife's. This lady has occupied, she is rated, and her rates are paid. She has, therefore, fulfilled the conditions prescribed by the Municipal Act, and she is, I submit, entitled to be enrolled. The court adjourned to consider its decision, and the vote was retained.

TAXATION VERSUS REPRESENTATION.

The following letter has been addressed to the editor of the *Englishwoman's Review*:

Madam,—It has been for some time a deep conviction of mine that the best, and, perhaps the only protest, which women can make to show their earnest desire for the Suffrage, is to refuse to pay the state taxes: since the rights, given to men taxpayers, are denied to them.

On this conviction I have acted, having felt it a solemn duty to do so.

The state taxes are required in January, and in February last, after receiving a notice, I wrote to the collector declining to "give my money to be employed by a government, over the expenditure and measures of which, I, and all other women (except, perhaps the Queen) could exercise no control." In March I received a notice, from the Surveyor of Taxes, and I now quote part of my letter, refusing payment, to him.

"I decline to pay the state taxes on principle and not from any inability to do so. The parliamentary vote, which is made to depend upon taxation, gives to men, who are householders, their due influence in public affairs, and enables them to guard their own interests. This great right is denied to women.

"It is an acknowledged principle in this country's laws that the citizen who supports the state is entitled by a parliamentary vote, to regulate the expenditure, and to allow, or disallow, the measures of the Government. It is obviously unjust to tax women householders, and then by refusing the parliamentary vote, to deny them their due influence in state matters, and the power of guarding their own interests.

"I protest against this injustice.

"Were equal rights given, and justice granted to women as to men, I should most willingly contribute my share to the support of the state."

I received several notices between March and June; and as I continued to refuse payment, the collector, on Tuesday, June 20th, brought a broker, and put a "man in possession" in my house. The man remained till the following Monday, when

the broker and two appraisers came, who, after valuing sundry goods, and going through some formalities in a police constable's presence, took the goods away, and subsequently sold them.

It would have been perfectly easy for me to let a friend buy in the goods at once, but I wished, as I believe I am the first woman making this kind of protest, that the matter should be completely carried out; though, of course, it makes the expense greater. I do not think that it would be again necessary to let goods be taken away, as any future refusal would be only a continuation of the protest.

I made this protest because I believed it to be the only way by which we can prove to those who govern, that Mr. Gladstone was never more wrong than when he said there was "neither desire nor demand" for Women's Suffrage, and to show that we do not intend to let the question of representation, for, numerically, more than half the nation, rest, till the minister and his followers have made up their minds upon secondary questions, such as the Ballot; and to show that we will continue to petition and protest as much as possible in the most quiet, orderly way we can.

Women have little desire to emulate those who seek to influence a government by violence: nor do I think that any woman would wish, any more than I, if it could be, to have the Royal Prerogative exercised in our behalf, though it should be wielded by a woman, to free her sex from social and political slavery.

We want the legislators, whose right to make laws, without our co-operation, we deny, to yield to us the long withheld share of political liberty which is our undoubted right, and, in future, to join with us and act with us in doing the best for the whole nation.

A HOUSEHOLDER.

MR. GEORGE POTTER ON THE CLAIMS OF THE PEOPLE.

In a letter which appears in the *Times* of October 3, 1871, Mr. George Potter says "The just claims of the people will never be understood, and therefore never be duly appreciated, until in Parliament they be explained, advocated, and defended with the assistance of representatives from among themselves. As it is, 20 millions of people have not one man of their own order to state their special interests."

We beg to remind Mr. George Potter, and those who sympathise with his views that there are not 20 millions of men of all classes in the British Islands, but that there are something like sixteen millions of people who not only have no representative of their own order in the House of Commons to state their special interests, but who have not even one vote in the election of representatives of the people.

SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS AT LEEDS.

The National Association for the promotion of Social Science held its annual meeting at Leeds on the fourth of October and succeeding days. Many distinguished ladies took part in the proceedings, and several important subjects connected with the advancement of the social and educational position of women were discussed not only in the sectional meetings of the Association, but in meetings convened for the purpose by those who took an interest in promoting these matters. As none of the discussions bore directly on the question of the suffrage for women, although every effort to ameliorate their condition is more or less indirectly connected with the removal of their political disabilities, we reluctantly are compelled by pressure on our space to postpone the claims these interesting discussions have on the attention of our readers to those of subjects more immediately connected with the object of our paper.

THE HOME SECRETARY AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

On September 30 the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce addressed his constituents in the Free Church, Crosshill. After the address,

The Chairman invited electors to put questions to Mr. Bruce.

An ELECTOR said he wished to know whether Mr. Bruce would remove the present injustice of women householders and ratepayers being excluded from the Parliamentary franchise? (Hisses and cheers.)

Mr. BRUCE said he gave a willing support, by vote and also by speech, to the bill introduced by Mr. Jacob Bright for the extension of the municipal franchise to women, inasmuch as they already possessed franchises of a similar nature under the Local Government Act, and in various other departments of local government; but he was not prepared to extend the right of voting to women, nor did he think it would be to their advantage to do so, in regard to political subjects. (Cheers.)

Mr. MURDOCH asked whether the right hon. gentleman, since he did not approve of giving the Parliamentary franchise to women householders, would state his reason for entertaining this view. It should be remembered that many women were more intelligent than many men—(laughter)—and still sex was a barrier to the possession of the franchise. Further, women householders had burdens and taxes to pay without having any control over their imposition.

Mr. BRUCE replied: With reference to the female franchise, he thought they would see at once that there was a very great difference between the exercise of the political franchise and the ordinary municipal franchise. From time immemorial women had exercised the municipal franchise, and therefore there was no reason for excluding them from any particular portion of it; but with respect to the other, while he admitted that the question was a very arguable one, he on the whole thought it would be for the happiness of both sexes that the vote should not be given to the female sex. Although it was true, as the honourable gentleman had said, that they bore many of the burdens in common with the men, it was also perfectly true that there were a great many burdens which they did not bear, and it might be that women in Parliament would in a moment of enthusiasm vote us into a war, knowing that they themselves were exempted from the danger of bearing arms. (Laughter.) At the same time, he was bound to admit that when he had charge of the Licensing Bill, he felt considerable regret that the women of England had not votes as well as the men. He was convinced that if they had possessed the franchise they would have been with him in carrying a good strong measure of licensing reform. (Cheers.)—*Glasgow Daily Herald.*

We beg to thank the electors of Crosshill for their effort to educate their representative on this aspect of the extension of the franchise. On the first question being put Mr. Bruce was not prepared to extend to women the right of voting on political subjects. To the second question he admitted that there was one political subject on which he felt regret that women had not votes. We congratulate them on the improvement of their pupil under their tuition, and as he finally, like his chief, expressed his opposition to the proposal "in terms of great moderation," we think they may be able to convince him ultimately that not only licensing reform, but every other question which deals with the social welfare of the people would have a better chance of being carried to a satisfactory solution if women possessed the franchise.

We commend the example of the electors of Crosshill to those of other places. There is no service more effectual to the cause than that of publicly calling the attention of members of

Parliament to the justice of the claim when they come to dispense and to receive political inspiration in intercourse with their constituents.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER, M.P., ON
EDUCATION AND POLITICAL POWER.

In the report of an address by Mr. FORSTER, at the opening of the new Mechanics' Institute, at Bradford, on October 2nd, we read:—"We are constantly hearing that now there is a special claim for additional effort, and this claim is based upon the legislative measures which we have lately passed giving a power to almost every class in the community, and giving political power to every head of a family in a town. It is said how dangerous will be the use of this power unless those who have it are taught and educated. There is much truth in that. I was one of those who never would listen to that cry which was frequently made, 'Do not give men power until you have given them teaching,' and I would not listen to it for two reasons—namely, first, I doubted very much whether we could get teaching if we did not get power, and, secondly, I believed that teaching in schools is, after all, not all the teaching of life. There is much teaching in the daily life of a free Englishman which fits him for the exercise of the rights of citizenship, quite independent of the knowledge which he may obtain at school. I also felt that no greater or more powerful stimulus could be given to the cause of education than the fact that power would be in the hands of voters, and that a fear would be created as to the danger of having uneducated voters. I am glad that that fear does exist and is stimulating efforts to educate the people. . . . A new chapter is beginning in Christian civilisation. Whereas it was at one time merely the upper class who had power, and then again the middle classes, now power has come to the working man and the operative throughout the country; and we have to deal with men in the possession of political power, and with the knowledge that their claims and their interests must be fully considered."

We trust that Mr. Forster will pursue the same enlightened policy should the cry be raised, 'Do not give women power until you have given them teaching;' and we think that his reasons for not listening to this cry in the case of men apply with tenfold force to the case of women, especially as under the existing electoral laws the proportion of women to men voters would be very small. We are surprised that Mr. Forster should have committed himself to the statement that a measure had been passed "giving political power to every head of a family in a town." We do not know how many heads of families in Bradford are excluded from political power, but he made a similar statement at Manchester, where 9,000 householders whose names are on the citizens' roll are excluded from the Parliamentary vote. It is rather too hard, not only to refuse political power to these householders but at the same time to claim credit for having enfranchised all the householders in a town. Mr. Forster himself has never given a vote in opposition to the proposal to extend the suffrage to all householders in boroughs, and therefore it would not be just to class him with the opponents of reform, but we think we have a right to ask him to acknowledge the existing disfranchisement, and to content himself with saying that the great majority of householders in towns have the suffrage. Women have the best of all reasons for their doubts whether they can get teaching until they have power—and we are convinced that the educational resources of the nation will never be made available for them until the Government feel that they have to deal with women in the possession of political power, and with the knowledge that their claims and their interests must be fully considered.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, &c.

ENGLAND.

WIGAN.

On October 24th a public meeting to promote the claims of women to the exercise of the parliamentary franchise, was held in the Public Hall, Wigan. The Hall was densely crowded many persons being unable to obtain seats. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Melling, J.P., and on the platform were Mr. Ryley, Mrs. Ryley, Rev. Philip Hains, Mrs. Butler, Miss Lydia Becker, Rev. Mr. Drew, Mrs. Drew, Mrs. Leech, Miss M. A. Brown, Rev. W. Collyer, and others.

The CHAIRMAN said that if it was proper, and he thought that all would admit that it was quite proper, that a lady should occupy the throne of these realms, surely they might be able to make some little allowance and entrust ladies with questions of legislation in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. W. DREW moved the adoption of the following resolution:—"That the exclusion of women otherwise legally qualified from voting in elections for members of Parliament, being unjust in principle and inexpedient in practice, this meeting is of opinion that the right of voting should be given them on the same conditions as it is or may be granted to men."

Mrs. JOSEPHINE E. BUTLER seconded the resolution. She said that it was in the year 1860 when she first took up her pen to plead the cause which brought them together on that occasion. At that time she had not even heard the name of Miss Becker; but many promoters of the movement were thinking the cause they had at heart over in silence. The experience of the last two years had taught her more than anything in her past life of the imperative necessity of women being represented in Parliament. (Hear, hear.) She spoke of women's suffrage merely as a means to an end, and not as an end to be desired for its own sake. (Hear, hear.) Some people appeared to be under the impression that when women asked for the suffrage they were striving after some vague dignity which would give them merely a theoretical equality with men. The movement had also been regarded as an intellectual movement among the higher classes of educated women. If it were so, she should not feel the interest in it that she did. (Hear, hear.) She did not know much about the particular wants, aims, and desires of grand ladies, but she did know something about the oppression of the poor and the sufferings of women. (Hear, hear.) The cry of oppressed and outraged womanhood and childhood had pierced her soul with such a wound that it could only be endured by engaging in incessant and unceasing activity in labouring to redress their wrongs. When she looked around her for the means of redress she saw among many one, simple, legitimate, and most effectual if carried out. That means was women's suffrage. (Hear, hear.) If women had possessed votes, and exercised care, vigilance, and common sense, some of the bad laws under which they were now groaning, and which were blighting society with their poisonous influences, could never have been passed. (Cheers.) If women possessed votes now, at this moment, some of these pernicious laws would be repealed, and good arrangements substituted without the necessity of keeping up so terrible an agitation as they were compelled to keep up. (Hear, hear.) The cry of the poor, the outcast, the widow, the orphan, and the deserted infant would never have come up as they came up now, with such a bitterness of loneliness and such an unheeded appeal. (Hear, hear.) The suffrage was a solemn trust and responsibility offered to the people, if they would claim it, to exercise on behalf of others, and the friends of the present movement wanted them to desire it and labour to attain it, not as an

honour to themselves, but as a means whereby they might help their suffering fellow-women and their country. (Hear, hear.) Even if they disliked the idea of possessing it, and would rather be without it, they ought to rise above all selfishness, and embrace the responsibility as they would undertake any other duty for the good of others. (Hear, hear.) Private prejudices and likings must be laid aside, and sacrifices made. (Hear, hear.) They might be well enough off, or think themselves so, but the world was full of woe. (Hear, hear.) She pleaded for others; it was for humanity's sake that she asked them to rouse themselves and aid the cause. (Hear, hear.) They heard the expression "women's rights" ever and anon used with contempt, and her very soul was grieved to hear in the different departments at the Social Science Congress at Leeds, ladies and gentlemen standing up pleading for education and other things, but carefully prefacing their remarks with the words: "I am very anxious to have it understood that I am no advocate for women's rights." (Laughter.) So spoke Mr. Roundell in speaking of education, and she could not help expressing a wish to say to each speaker, "If you do not plead for women's rights, then you consent to women's wrongs." (Cheers.) It was not as a mere sex question that she wanted to bring the matter before them, there were far larger views of the question she wanted them to look at, because these were awful times in which our lot was cast. A thoughtful man lately observed, "In this our day it seems to me that our only hope is from the Christian Churches and from our women." She should be sorry, however, if the movement were made a sex battle. It was not a sex battle. (Hear, hear.) The great cause of freedom and morality was injured by pressing on the contest so exclusively on this ground, but she was glad to find the movement growing outward, and becoming what it was destined to become—a mighty war of principle, in which men and women had an equal stake, and a deep common interest. (Hear, hear.) As she had often maintained, any rude and selfish domination of men over women, or of one class of men over another, always resulted in the deepest injury finally to the domineering class. A bold and frightful national outrage on womanhood had been the occasion—perhaps the fortunate occasion—of the calling up of a great array of protectors and defenders of principle, justice, and freedom. (Hear, hear.) The fact that this last extreme outrage on womanhood involved at the same time so extreme an outrage on the laws of God and on the moral code of Englishmen was, she repeated, perhaps fortunate. The woman's suffrage movement had made great progress within the last two years among two classes of people at least—i.e., Christian women and thoughtful working men. (Hear, hear.) Thousands of women once indifferent were now roused to desire to see women's suffrage. They had been awakened as by a great shock to the knowledge of the immoral state of the nation; they saw millions widely depraved by intoxicating drink; rich men becoming richer by ministering to the evil appetite; unjust law made by men alone; statesmen and the Government undertaking to make vice salutary to men; the public exchequer thriving on the vices of the people; the aristocracy given up to luxury and loose living; the Queen's ministers and Parliament, with the public press, preoccupied by the studies of ambition and wealth, and seldom or never in earnest to make public virtue the primary object of the State; and they also saw far too few of the ministers of religion, and least of all the bishops and dignified clergy coming forward to denounce these abominations. (Hear, hear.) Viewing all this, good women and good men had learned to see the female vote in a new and solemn light. They could not stand aside and see the country going down before those evils. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried amid general applause.

MISS LYDIA BECKER, in moving the adoption of the second resolution, was much applauded. She proposed:—"That this meeting expresses its approval of the object of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and of the course it has hitherto pursued, and pledges itself to support its efforts in promoting the bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women by all practical and constitutional methods." She said that a great part of the duty which devolved upon the proposer of such a resolution had been removed by the cordial unanimity with which the previous one had been carried. (Hear, hear.) Under the Representation of the People Act of 1867, it was generally supposed that women would possess the franchise, and, acting upon that impression, a number of women's names were accordingly placed upon the burgess rolls in various districts. In the district of Wigan, especially in the neighbouring township of Ormskirk and Scarisbrick, the overseers placed women's names upon the register, and the Revising Barrister, after the question had been argued on its merits, decided that women were admitted under the act. As a consequence, between 30 and 40 women were placed on the register for South-West Lancashire, many of whom voted at the general election; but the decision of the Court of Common Pleas dissipated the expectation that they would remain upon it. Women now asked that they should be relieved from these electoral disabilities, on the ground of simple justice. (Hear, hear.) A little while ago she stood upon a platform at Manchester at a meeting the object of which was to give prizes to boys who had distinguished themselves, and the awards were given by the Right Honourable W. E. Forster, M. P., who gave utterance to the astounding statement that Government had given the franchise to every head of a family in a town. Now, in Manchester there were about 9,000 heads of families who had no votes, and she was surprised to hear such a statement from a minister who ought to have known better. (Hear, hear.) She firmly believed that the influence, mission, and office of woman in a community was to keep alive and sustain high moral sense, and to exercise a certain restraining influence upon the ungovernable and evil passions of man. (Hear, hear.) And if women had to do this, why should they not have power to do it by possessing the right to have a voice in the Government of the country? (Hear, hear.) There was also the great question of peace, the solution of which she thought would not be brought about so long as political power was denied to the non-combatant sex. (Hear, hear.) She did not acknowledge much difference in the mental qualifications of the two sexes, but she thought there was a great difference in the moral and emotional character. Men were more apt than women to settle their quarrels by fighting. (Laughter and "Hear.") She believed, however, that women would fight and contend much more earnestly for an object on which they had set their hearts than men, but she did not think they loved fighting for fighting's sake, as men appeared to do. (Laughter, and "Hear, hear.")

The Rev. PHILIP HAINS seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A resolution expressing approval of the course taken by Mr. Lancaster in voting for the second reading of the Women's Disabilities Bill, and requesting that he and Mr. Woods would support the measure when next introduced into the House of Commons, also adopting a memorial to the Prime Minister praying that the Government would support the Bill, and authorising the chairman to sign the memorial on behalf of the meeting and forward it to Mr. Gladstone, was carried unanimously.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

SCOTLAND.

INVERARY.

A large and influential public meeting was held in the Court House, Inverary, on Tuesday evening, September 27th; Provost M'Arthur in the chair.

After an address by Miss Taylour the following resolution was moved by J. M. WRIGHT, Esq. (banker):—"That this meeting pledge itself to support Mr. Jacob Bright's bill 'to remove the electoral disabilities of women,' and authorise the chairman to sign a petition in favour of said bill, and forward the same to both Houses of Parliament."

The resolution was seconded by Rev. NIEL M'PHERSON (parish minister), and supported by Rev. G. MEIBLE (U. P. minister), and when put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

OBAN.

A large public meeting was held in the New Hall, on October 2nd, to hear Miss TAYLOUR lecture on "Woman's Suffrage." Amongst those present were Professor Blackie, of Altnacraig, Oban, Rev. Hugh M'Farlan, Rev. Patrick Cameron, Mr. Robert Lawrence, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Balderston, &c. Mr. JOHN STUART M'CAIG presided.

At the close of Miss Taylour's address, the Rev. HUGH M'FARLAN proposed a resolution approving of the measure of Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Eastwick, and Dr. Lyon Playfair.

Mr. JOHN SINCLAIR then seconded the motion.

Professor BLACKIE then moved as an amendment—"That this meeting have heard with great pleasure and sympathy the eloquent address of Miss Taylour in favour of the rights of women, and pledge themselves to give the subject their serious consideration, but that they are not prepared in the meantime to give their formal assent to any *ex parte* pleading on a subject of such social novelty."

Mr. LAWRENCE seconded the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN called for a show of hands in favour of Professor Blackie's amendment, and then in favour of Mr. M'Farlan's motion, and declared the motion carried by a large majority.

In the absence of the Rev. Charles White, the CHAIRMAN moved that a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill be sent from the inhabitants of Oban, and forwarded to Parliament at the proper time, and that a committee be appointed to carry this out.

The motion was seconded by Mr. M'Farlan, and unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN moved a vote of thanks to Miss Taylour for her eloquent lecture, and to Miss M'Laren, of Edinburgh, as joint secretary of the Scottish branch, which was carried with applause.

Miss M'LAREN, in returning thanks, pointed out that in the division in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women the Scotch members voted two to one for the bill, so that if it remained with the Scotch members the bill would have passed. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.—*Abridged from Glasgow Daily Herald.*

INVERNESS.

On October 5th, Miss Taylour, of Belmont, read a paper in the Music Hall, advocating the right of women ratepayers to electoral franchise. Although the weather was unfavourable there was a fair attendance; and, in the absence of the Provost, Bailie Simpson took the chair, stating that he thought it his duty to preside officially, although he did not agree with the movement for giving the suffrage to women. Miss Taylour

was accompanied to the platform by Mrs. Holland, Liverpool; Miss Maclaren, Newington House, Edinburgh; the Rev. Mr. Robson, Ardross-street; and Mr. Maclennan, solicitor.

Miss TAYLOUR explained the position of the movement at the present moment. She concluded by calling on the "worthy daughters of liberty-loving sires" to assert their true position; assured them that political degradation involved more or less social and moral degradation; and exclaimed, "Sisters, let us escape from it."

The Rev. Mr. ROBSON said: Had we Home Rule, women would be admitted to the franchise in Scotland, for on this last division 25 Scotch members voted in favour of the measure, and only 13 against. Among the names supporting it were those of Lochiel and the member for the neighbouring county of Nairn; he was sorry the name of the burgh member did not also appear. He begged to move the following resolution:—"That this meeting authorise the provost to sign, in the name of the meeting, a petition in favour of the Bill for conferring the franchise on women who are householders and ratepayers, which is again to be brought before Parliament by Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Eastwick, and Dr. Lyon Playfair."

Mr. MACLENNAN seconded the motion, and the chairman having put it to the meeting, no amendment was offered, and the resolution was declared carried.

Bailie SIMPSON said though he did not agree with the movement, there were many views expressed by Miss Taylour with which he sympathised; and he had listened to her address with pleasure as a fine exhibition of womanly spirit. He was sure the meeting would accord a vote of thanks to Miss Taylour, and none more readily than the young ladies, who seemed to enjoy it so much. (Laughter and applause.)

A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman on the motion of Mr. Robson, and the meeting separated.

KIRKWALL.

On October 9th a public meeting was held in the Volunteer Hall, Kirkwall, to hear an address by Miss Taylour on women's suffrage. The hall was crowded in every corner, and many were unable to gain admittance. Miss Taylour and Miss M'Laren entered the hall amid loud cheers, accompanied by Provost Bain, the Rev. Messrs. Spark (Established Church), Smith (Congregational Church), Webster (United Presbyterian Church), and Stuart (Free Church).

Provost BAIN was called to the chair. He said he must guard himself by saying that he must not be understood as sympathising with the object of the meeting. He believed that the House of Commons as at present elected would be found at all times desirous and ready to rectify any defects in the law affecting women's rights and property that might be pointed out. But whilst he held these views he was open to conviction, and he had not lived so long in the world, and mixed so much with its affairs, as not to know that we must often modify, alter, or even entirely change our most cherished opinions to meet the case of altered circumstances and the facts which further inquiry and knowledge often bring to our consideration.

Miss TAYLOUR then delivered her address and at its close resumed her seat amid loud applause.

Mr. WEBSTER moved, and Mr. PEACE seconded a resolution adopting a petition to the House of Commons in favour of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

A motion was then made by the Rev. Mr. SPARK, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Smith, appointing a committee to prepare a petition to be signed by inhabitants of Kirkwall in favour of Mr. Bright's Bill, to be forwarded to both Houses of Parliament at the proper time.

Miss M'LAREN moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, who in acknowledging it suggested a vote of thanks to Miss Taylour, saying I confess for myself that after listening to her address my former opinions on the subject which she has so well treated have been considerably shaken.

The suggestion was adopted by acclamation, and the thanks of the meeting conveyed to Miss Taylour accordingly.—*Abridged from Orkney Herald.*

STROMNESS.

A large and influential meeting was held in the Town Hall, Stromness, on October 11, to hear a lecture by Miss Taylour on the question of Women's Suffrage. Bailie Stanger occupied the chair; and the ladies (Misses Taylour and M'Laren) were accompanied to the platform by Dr. Garson, Rev. Mr. Nisbet, Mr. Spence, &c.

The CHAIRMAN said he had much pleasure in presiding on this occasion, as he had for some time heartily sympathised in the movement for obtaining electoral justice for women. He did not see how the franchise could be withheld from women in a country where they were considered competent to own and manage property, and to buy and sell it at pleasure. He knew of no law which prevented a single woman from being sued for debt in the same way that a man was, and we all know that the tax-gatherer makes no distinctions. Why, then, should she not have a voice in the disposal of the taxes? He would leave Miss Taylour to explain the matter more fully, and had pleasure in introducing her to the meeting.

Miss TAYLOUR then rose and delivered her address.

The Rev. Mr. NISBET, after complimenting Miss Taylour on her eloquent address, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting authorise the Chairman to sign a petition in favour of the Bill for conferring the franchise on women who are householders and ratepayers, which is again to be brought before Parliament by Mr. Jacob Bright and Dr. Lyon Playfair."

Mr. WYLLIE seconded the motion.

Mr. SPENCE then moved the following resolution:—"That a Committee of the following gentlemen be appointed to prepare a petition in favour of Mr. Bright's Bill, to be signed by the inhabitants of Stromness and the adjoining country parishes, and to forward the same to both Houses of Parliament,—the Committee to consist of Bailie Stanger, Councillors Garrioch, Rae, and Rosie; Messrs. Wyllie and Spence, with power to add to their number."

Councillor ROSIE seconded the motion.

Rev. Mr. NISBET moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Miss Taylour, and Miss M'Laren.

Miss M'LAREN, in replying, said she hoped a petition in favour of Mr. Bright's Bill would be sent by the Town Council of Stromness, as well as one from the inhabitants generally. The Edinburgh Town Council had the honour of being the first public body to petition in favour of this Bill, and their example had been followed by nearly all the principal towns in the south of Scotland.

THURSO.

A public meeting in favour of women's suffrage was held in the Court House, Thurso, on October 17th. The lecturer—Miss Taylour—was accompanied to the platform by Miss Maclaren, daughter of the senior M.P. for Edinburgh, and Dr. Mill. There were also on the platform Sir Tollemache Sinclair, Bart., M.P., and Miss Olivia Sinclair, Thurso Castle; Rev. Mr. Wedderburn and Mrs. Burn; George Logan, Esq., and Mrs. Logan, Thurso East; and J. W. Galloway, Esq., National Bank. The room was crowded, numbers were unable to find sitting room, while several others had to go away without being able to obtain admission. There were also present Bailie

Bremner, Mrs. Bremner, and Miss Bremner; Bailie Sinclair and Mrs. Sinclair; Mrs. Smith, late of Pennyland; Mrs. Campbell, Bardnacavan; Mrs. D. Campbell; Mrs. Sinclair Bain; Miss Russell and Miss E. Russell; Messrs. D. Shearer, A. Mackay, James Waters, Miller Institution; W. Reid Tait, Pennyland, William Macdonald, senior, Hugh Sinclair, John Ferguson, &c., &c. Dr. Mill occupied the chair.

Miss TAYLOR delivered a most able and eloquent lecture, and made out a strong case in favour of allowing women to exercise the franchise, at the same time completely meeting the arguments against granting women the right to take part in political matters.

At the conclusion of the lecture, on the motion of the chairman, a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to Miss Taylor.

Sir TOLLEMACHE SINCLAIR, Bart., M.P., then proposed the following resolution:—"That the ownership or occupation of lands or houses, being the basis of representation in this country, it is unjust in principle to make sex a ground of disqualification." Sir Tollemache supported his resolution at some length.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. GALLOWAY, and unanimously carried.

Bailie BREMNER proposed the second resolution, which was as follows:—"That this meeting authorise the Chairman to sign a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, and further appoint a Committee of the following ladies and gentlemen to prepare a petition in favour of the Bill, to be signed by the inhabitants of Thurso and adjoining parishes, and forward the same to both Houses of Parliament:—Lady Sinclair, of Ulbster, Rev. D. Burn, Mrs. Burn, Bailie Bremner, Bailie Sinclair, Rev. Mr. Wedderburn, J. W. Galloway, Esq., with power to add to their number."

This resolution was seconded by the Rev. Mr. WEDDERBURN.

On the motion being put to the meeting, Mr. W. REID TAIT rose and said that he begged to move an amendment to both resolutions, but the Chairman ruled that as the first resolution had been moved, seconded, and carried, Mr. Tait could not move any amendment to the first resolution. Mr. Tait then addressed the meeting in support of his amendment, and was frequently hissed during its delivery, though on the motion and amendment being put to the meeting Mr. Tait's amendment was carried, the greater portion of those who were in favour of it being a number of young lads who occupied the back seats.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by Bailie Sinclair, and heartily responded to.—*Abridged from John O'Grout's Journal.*

I R E L A N D. P O R T R U S H.

On October 2nd a meeting was held at Portrush to hear a lecture delivered by Miss Robertson, author of "Myself and My Relatives." The audience was fashionable and attentive, testifying its appreciation by occasional bursts of applause. The Rev. Alexander Alcock occupied the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said he had great pleasure in introducing Miss Robertson to the meeting. She had kindly undertaken to explain some points of a subject deeply interesting to thinking persons throughout the kingdom. It was one he (the chairman) deeply sympathised with.

Miss ROBERTSON, who was received with warm applause, then rose to deliver her address. She said it was most gratifying to draw attention to the rapid advance which the question of women's suffrage had made within the last year. About two hundred Members of Parliament, including Mr. Disraeli, have voted in favour of women's suffrage. The people of the

County Antrim will, perhaps, be interested to know that among these Members of Parliament is included a representative of the great and prosperous city which the county boasts as its chief town—I mean Mr. William Johnson, M.P. for Belfast, who, besides voting in favour of the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, has also enrolled his name as a member of the Irish Society for Women's Suffrage. It has been said that Members of Parliament chosen altogether by male electors might remedy all the legal injustices under which women labour; but what guarantee would women possess that succeeding legislators might not bring back the old state of oppression? Until women gain the suffrage themselves they never can be protected against the caprice of the ruling powers. In the history of the world it will be found that privileges have sometimes been granted to women, and sometimes refused, for no justifiable reason. In some countries women can reign, whether as despotic rulers or as constitutional sovereigns; and in others they are excluded from the throne; but no one has ever proved that the nations where male sovereigns only reigned were uniformly better governed or more prosperous than those where women also were allowed to reign. Hanover would not permit Queen Victoria to ascend the throne of that kingdom. Her Majesty might be good enough to be the sovereign of the British Empire, but she was not good enough for Hanover. Now, however, Hanover has lost her King, and the conqueror reigns in his stead. In France no woman could ascend the throne, and, according to its present arrangements, every man in the country, however uneducated, possesses the privilege of the franchise, while no woman in France has any political rights whatever. These arrangements of excluding women from acknowledged political power have not been productive of such beneficial effects as to make France serve as a brilliant example to other lands. To point out further caprice and inconsistency towards women, it may be observed that in the matter of public distinction, women may enjoy it in some instances, consistently with receiving the highest possible respect, while at the same time there is an idea that it is feminine and graceful to like retirement, and to shrink from the notice of the world. For instance, some people think it unfeminine for a young lady to have her name published as having won a prize in any solid branch of learning; but they do not think it unfeminine for her to have her dress described minutely in the public papers when she attends the Court in London or the drawing-rooms at Dublin Castle. When people read in their morning papers that Miss Angelina Blank, of 240, Fitzwilliam Square, wore a train of the richest poul de soie, trimmed with puffings of tulle, with jupe of magnificent lace, and corsage ornamented tastefully, they think this publicity quite right for Miss Angelina Blank; but they would not think it so nice for her to have her name in the papers notifying that she had won a prize in history or mathematics; though I think we must all agree that the young lady who is thus tacitly taught to feel ashamed of intellectual attainments, and proud of wearing the richest lace, will naturally think attending to her dress more important than cultivating her mind. It is also thought quite right for a lady to make a speech to a regiment of soldiers upon the occasion of presenting new colours to the regiment before an assembled multitude; or she may give the name to a ship, likewise in presence of thousands of spectators; or lay the foundation-stone of some public building before all eyes. But nobody thinks her unfeminine for doing these things; on the contrary, it is a proof that she is highly respected that she is asked to do them. She feels it as a compliment, and so does her whole family, that she has been selected for such distinction.

Moreover, there are various positions now filled by women before the eyes of the public, and neither Government nor society in general object to them. For instance, a woman may sit all day at a street corner selling fruit at a stall, under the shelter of a dilapidated umbrella. She may gather cockles on the sea shore, or she may sell fish from door to door; she may be the stewardess of a vessel bound to weather all storms; she may let lodgings, and be liable to the intrusion of anyone who sees her advertisement on her window pane; but nobody has ever said or cared to say, that these employments were unfeminine. The Government has been careful to exclude women from all high, well-paid appointments, except the highest in the country; but as it permits them to engage in any low occupation that poverty may drive them to, the fact is proved that it is quite a delusion to imagine that they are debarred from political privileges in order to preserve their refinement. With reference to public notice, it is precisely the ladies of highest rank that we know most about, and whom we are expected to respect the most; and if women see as they do, photographs of princesses in shop windows, and can ascertain from the public newspapers at what hour the royal ladies attended Divine service on Sunday, and where they drove on Monday, and whom they visited on Tuesday, surely no one could expect women with any reasoning power at all to believe that public notice is in itself so objectionable that women had better give up all idea of voting and securing for their sex the advantage of representation, for fear they would run risk of a little public notice. At the same time it is very complimentary for the opponents of women's suffrage to think women are so perfect now that any alteration in their position must necessarily be for the worse. But in answer to them I may say, that as political power does not make polished gentlemen unmannerly, nor make rough men rougher than they were before getting such power, I trust women may not become less refined, or less gentle than they are now, when other women in this country besides her Majesty the Queen are admitted to some share of political power. (Applause).

Doctor MOORE proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Robertson for her very admirable address.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. DICKSON in a graceful speech. She said she felt that the meeting owed much gratitude to Miss Robertson for her able and instructive lecture, so eloquently delivered.

After a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting separated.—*Northern Whig.*

The annual meeting of the Maguiresbridge Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society was held on the 11th October, in the market-house of that town, Hercules Ellis, Esq., in the chair. Addresses were delivered by the Chairman, Rev. Messrs. Charleton, Orr, J. Calwell, Graham, Rudd, and Douglas. The topics of Home Rule and Women's Rights were referred to in speeches which were of an entertaining and instructive character.—*Impartial Reporter (Enniskillen).*

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mrs. Harriet Martineau	£1 1 0
Mrs. Theodosia Marshall	0 10 0
Mrs. Carroll	1 0 0
Prof F. W. Newman	2 0 0
Mrs. E. P. Nichol	5 0 0
Mr. James Walton	0 5 0
Mrs. Stephenson	1 0 0
	£10 16 0

LYDIA E. BECKER, TREASURER.
28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

A STRIKE AGAINST STRIKERS.

Home from Club meetin', lad? I'd like
To know how long ye'll keep on striks.
Till all the money's fooled away
That ye're a-wastin' every day?
You sits and smokes your pipe all through;
'Tis I's got all the work to do.

Yah, you that leads sitch easy lives!
Suppose there is a strike of wives.
You've struck for your nine hours, no mora.
We works for you nigh twenty-four,
Hard at it mornin', noon, and night;
If we do strike 'twill serve you right.

Don't talk a pack o' stuff to me.
You're Capital, and Labour we.
And as for that, if you don't mind,
And Capital leaves you behind,
Goes off abroad, or quits your trade,
A pretty job then you'll have made.

What's workin' rather more or less
When wages stopped must bring distress?
Look out afore you strikers make
Your wives 'ginst you to strikin' take.
A strike o' wives would be what use?
Why sauce for gander, from the goose.

Paroch.

A MANLY SENTIMENT,

DEDICATED TO THE BRAVE (WIFE BEATING) BRITON.

Suggested by a leading article on a man at Sheffield, who kicked his wife to death, saying as he dragged her along, "You know I can do as I like to you, you are mine! I shall only get a twelvemonth for you."

Only my wife! My chattels and goods,
To do with whatever I will.
Who can stop me from claiming the right of my sex,
To abuse her, or batter, or kill?

To steal or embezzle are serious crimes;
Shop-lifting is not in my line;
For poaching, or picking some sticks from a hedge
Penal servitude might be the fine!!

But to outdo a fiend in a raid on my wife
Is the sport that to me is most dear,
I can kick her, or beat her, or maim her for life,
And "a twelvemonth" is all I need fear.

Perchance if the Judge is to mercy inclined
I'll be let off this time, with a fine,
And as soon as I'm back to my house and my wife,
I'll serve her far worse, for "she's mine!"

Even when I'm in prison, she's punished, not I.
For she has the burden to bear,
If she starve half the time, she must keep up my house,
While I have warmth, clothes, and good fare.

Then hurrah! for the laws of this glorious land,
Where liberty's all for the strong.
Long, long, may the men make the laws to shield them!
Long flourish oppression and wrong!

M. G. B.

The sculptor of the marble bust of Robert Burns, to be presented to the Ayr Public Library, is Mrs. D. O. Hill, widow of the late D. O. Hill, R.S.A., and sister of Sir Noel Paton.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN FRANCE.

Paris, Office of the Women's Journal, "Le droit des Femmes."

Miss Lydia E. Becker.—Madam,—You pursue, with a diligence worthy of the highest praise, the political enfranchisement of women. Permit me to congratulate you sincerely on the results you have been able to obtain. Having gained the municipal vote, you have now to battle with the parliamentary vote, which I do not doubt you will be able to secure within a not far distant time.

In France, for two and a half years back I have worked as vigorously as I could to obtain the civil emancipation of women. Does this imply that we are less advanced than you? Not at all? Only we take a different ground.

This is only the result of the difference in public opinion in the two countries.

Whereas in England the civil emancipation would be more difficult to obtain than political rights, it is just the contrary in France. To propose here just now political votes for women would meet general disapprobation, but a large extension of their civil rights would be favourably received. I argue here from a result which must strike you, viz.: That a close solidarity joins your efforts to ours. For if you in England obtain political freedom, while we reach civil enfranchisement, the whole question will be thereby solved, at least in principle.

Let us therefore help each other. In any case the woman's question as a whole is neither English, French, German, nor American, it is *universal*. Every progress made in any part of the civilised world is so much gained to the other countries. Your successes reflect on us; ours will be useful and necessary to you.

I do not therefore hesitate to apply to you. In so doing, I do not speak in my own name alone. I also act on the hint of M. Arlès-Dufour, to whom you wrote recently, and with whom I have had frequent interviews during his short stay in Paris.

M. Arlès-Dufour feels assured that numerous English ladies will answer to a call from us. Greatly weakened by the immense sacrifices which our recent misfortunes brought on us, we are not in a position to do battle unless earnest help comes to our support. Our journal costs us dear. New shares have been issued, the price of each is 100f. (£4). We must cover 150 of these shares. Dare we hope that the English ladies who so generously furnished us with provisions after the siege, will now sustain a work of regeneration and progress.

I depend, madam, on your appeal to their devotion to the cause, and to entreat the readers of your interesting and useful paper to support the only paper which propagates in France the same principles as the *Women's Suffrage Journal*.

Throughout two years we have constantly drawn attention in the "Droit des Femmes" to the progress of our cause in England; we published *in toto* a speech of Jacob Bright, M.P. The "Droit des Femmes" has always advocated the same principles as your paper, and it works to the same end. Whilst supporting us, remember that you are almost creating a second journal in France.

The "Droit des Femmes" is about to change its name; it will henceforth be called *L'Avenir des Femmes*, but its programme remains exactly the same. We trust not to recede, but on the contrary to continue our progress.

For many English ladies the price of our shares is a mere trifle, and I therefore hope that we shall not fail to receive the desired help. I am surrounded here by poor people who can only offer me devotion and good wishes; unfortunately that does not suffice.

I therefore frankly, loyally, and publicly address myself to

the ladies of England, and beg that you will be kind enough to receive the subscriptions. I will also be greatly obliged by your publishing this letter in your earliest paper, so that it may reach all your readers.

Receive, Madam, the assurance of my distinguished consideration,
LEON RICHER,
Director of the journal "Le Droit des Femmes,"
4, Rue des Deux-gares, Paris.

We have much pleasure in publishing the above letter and we will gladly receive and transmit to M. Richer any subscriptions to his paper—the price of which is twelve shillings and sixpence per annum, or money for shares, that may be entrusted to us.—*Ed. W. S. Journal.*

WOMEN STUDENTS AT MOSCOW AND EDINBURGH.

WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS.—It is officially stated that the Faculty of Medicine of Moscow, with the full concurrence of the Council of the University of Moscow, have decided to grant to women the right of being present at the educational courses and lectures of the faculty, and to follow all the labours of the Medico-Chirurgical Academy. The tests of capacity will be precisely the same as for male students. The Emperor has issued an order enlarging the existing institutions for instructing women in midwifery, and authorising them to act as surgeons, to vaccinate, and to be employed as chemists.—*British Medical Journal.*

THE LADY STUDENTS AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—At a meeting, on Saturday, October 21st, a letter was laid before the Senatus of the University from the Executive Committee for securing a complete medical education to women in Edinburgh and with it a memorial which they had submitted to counsel, with the opinion obtained thereon from the Lord Advocate and Sheriff Frazer. There was also a letter from the ladies whose right to attend the professional examination had been challenged. We understand that after a prolonged discussion it was decided by the Senatus that no further difficulties were to be placed in the way of the ladies as regards either matriculation or preliminary examination, both these points having been definitely settled in their favour two years ago. It appears also to have been decided that the ladies who are now ready to proceed to their first professional examination are to be allowed to do so, and they will consequently be examined in due course. We understand that at a meeting of the University Court on Friday last, the question of the lady students came up for discussion. After careful consideration of the legal opinions given in July last by the Solicitor-General and Mr. Watson, and of that lately given by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Fraser, it was decided that the court would refrain from taking any steps in the matter, at least for the present. Notwithstanding the great public interest of the subject discussed, reporters were excluded.—*Scotsman.*

STOKE-UPON-TRENT.

A committee in connection with the London National Society for Women Suffrage has been formed at Stoke-upon-Trent consisting of the following ladies and gentlemen:—

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. AMBROSE BEVINGTON. | Mr. WILLIAM WOOD. |
| Mr. JAMES WOOD. | Mrs. WILLIAM WOOD. |
| Miss MARY WOOD. | Mr. JAMES BEBBINGTON. |
| Mr. RICHARD STEVENTON. | Mr. WILLIAM OWEN. |
| Mr. BENJAMIN WELLS. | |

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. AMBROSE BEVINGTON, Windsor Street, Hanley.

A GRAVE QUESTION FOR ENGLISHWOMEN.

The Committee for amending the law in points wherein it is injurious to women beg to call attention to the following article which appeared in the *Lancet* of September 30, 1871. They desire earnestly to press on the attention of their countrywomen the serious constitutional perils which would be incurred by a general acquiescence in an illegal outrage upon any one of their sex, since such acquiescence may make possible the gradual subversion of their liberties, and the acceptance of a new and dangerous theory of jurisprudence regarding them. The Committee appeal to their friends and to the public for funds to aid in carrying this, and any future cases, before the law courts or the Legislature, as circumstances may determine, in order that such insidious attempts at the destruction of English liberty may be made henceforward impossible.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
JOSEPHINE E. BUTLER,
ELIZABETH C. WOLSTENHOLME, } Hon. Secs.
280, South Hill, Park Road, Liverpool.
LYDIA E. BECKER, Treasurer,
28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

MEDICO-LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY.

From the "Lancet," September 30, 1871.

An article in this journal of the 2nd inst. on a question of Medico-Legal Responsibility in connection with a recent case, brought forth a reply from the surgeons engaged in it, which we published on the 16th with a note; and, after a careful examination of the legal bearings of the subject, we reiterated our opinion that there was no legal justification for the conduct pursued by the medical men under the direction of the coroner. Since that date we have received a letter from a correspondent blaming us for "advising the profession to disregard a coroner's order." As the question at issue is obviously one of the deepest interest to every medical practitioner, we have placed the whole case before the legal adviser of the *Lancet*, and append his opinion, upon which we believe our readers may with confidence rely.

"After diligent search on the subject of a coroner's authority, I entertain no doubt that an order for the physical examination of a woman, in case of suspected infanticide and concealment of birth, is grossly illegal. Such a method of obtaining evidence is completely at variance with our principles of justice; and I can find no authority for it anywhere.

"The practice of searching persons in custody is simply a police regulation for purposes of safety, to prevent suicide, and for the discovery of stolen property, and has no analogy to searching a woman's person in order to obtain evidence of concealment of birth.

"The coroner issuing such an order, and the medical man acting under it, would alike be liable to heavy damages in an action; and every surgeon acting under the orders of the police or any other authority, is bound to see that the order is not in excess of their jurisdiction.

"Whether any, and if so what, change in the law on the present subject is desirable, is a matter not now in debate; but the question, whenever opened, will prove to be a very wide one."

We find that the medical is not the only world in arms on this question; for, from a document which has reached us, we learn that "a Committee for amending the Law in points wherein it is injurious to Women"—of which ELIZABETH C. WOLSTENHOLME is hon. secretary, and LYDIA E. BECKER hon. treasurer,—has attacked both the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor on the subject, but without getting an opinion from either. The Chancellor very naturally "declines to express an opinion on the legal powers of coroners;" and points out that "the proper and regular mode of determining legal questions is by instituting legal proceedings, and not by private inquiry of a judge." It is evident, therefore, that the "Association" will be prepared to proceed against any medical man who may put himself within the clutches of the law by any unauthorised proceedings in respect of any woman; and the profession must take warning accordingly.

As we have a shrewd suspicion that the action of the Association referred to is mainly directed against the Contagious Diseases Acts, we may remark that the Acts in question expressly authorise and legalise the examination of women with a view to the detection of disease; but that even they do not authorise an enforced examination, though they provide for the punishment of those who do not voluntarily submit.

COMMITTEE FOR AMENDING THE LAW IN POINTS WHEREIN IT IS INJURIOUS TO WOMEN. SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED IN OCTOBER, 1871.

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28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester,
October 25, 1871.

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MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

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Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, and may be sent either direct to him at 107, Upper Brook-street; or to the Secretary, Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester, November 2nd, 1871.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of members and friends of the Society, will be held on Wednesday, November 8, in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Manchester, at twelve o'clock. The MAYOR of MANCHESTER in the chair. Friends invited. Admission free.

A SOIREE will be held on the evening of the same day in the Large Room, Town Hall, Manchester, for social intercourse among the friends of women's suffrage, and for the disposal in aid of the funds of the Society, of articles which have been contributed to the proposed Bazaar. Doors open at Six o'clock.

The following ladies and gentlemen are expected to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Meeting and of the Soirée: Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P., Miss L. S. Ashworth, Rev. George Butler, Mrs. Josephine E. Butler, W. Romaine Callender, Jun., Esq., Dr. Pankhurst, Fred. Pennington, Esq., Mrs. Pennington, Peter Rylands, Esq., M.P., Rev. S. A. Steintal, and others.

A Selection of Music will be performed by the following ladies and gentlemen who with others have kindly given their services for the occasion: Signor Risehari, M. Vieuxtemps, M. Hochstetter, Mr. Arthur Becker, and Mrs. Josephine E. Butler.

Microscopes and other objects of interest will be on view.

Tickets for the Soirée, 1s. each, to be had at Messrs. Palmer and Howe's, Bond-street; Messrs. Hale, Cross-street; Miss Wilson, 24, Cavendish-street; Mr. Abel Heywood, Oldham-street; Mr. J. R. Cooper, Bridge-street; Mr. James Hardy, 249, Chapel-street, Salford; *Salford Weekly News* office; and at the offices of the Society, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester. LYDIA E. BECKER, Secretary.

GLASGOW.—A PUBLIC MEETING in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women will be held in Glasgow, on November 26th. Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, M.P., will be one of the speakers.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Just published, a new set of LEAFLETS, suitable for distribution at Meetings, consisting of short extracts from the speeches of the following members of Parliament:—JACOB BRIGHT, Esq., M.P., Sir CHARLES W. DILKE, Bart., M.P., E. B. EASTWICK, Esq., M.P., Professor FAWCETT, M.P., the Right Hon. GEORGE WARD HUNT, M.P., Sir GEORGE JENKINSON, Bart., M.P., Sir WILFRID LAWSON, Bart., M.P., the Right Hon. Lord JOHN MANNERS, M.P., WALTER MORRISON, Esq., M.P., P. H. MUNTZ, Esq., M.P., Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR, M.P., T. B. POTTER, Esq., M.P., Colonel SYKES, M.P., PETER RYLANDS, Esq., M.P., in favour of Women's Suffrage. Price Three Shillings per Thousand, to be had at the offices of the Society, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

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COMMITTEE FOR AMENDING THE LAW IN POINTS WHEREIN IT IS INJURIOUS TO WOMEN.—A CONFERENCE will be held at Two o'clock, on Tuesday, the 14th of November, in the Queen's Hall, 25, Colquitt Street, Liverpool, with the view of organising on a permanent basis the Society for Vigilance, of which the above Committee is the Executive. The attendance of friends is earnestly requested.

JOSEPHINE E. BUTLER, Hon. Secretary.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL. Edited by LYDIA E. BECKER.—Volume I., 1870.—In coloured cover, price 1s.; post free, 1s. 3d.—London: Trübner and Co., Paternoster Row. Manchester: A. Ireland & Co.

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