

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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MARCH 1, 1889.

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THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL.

A PUBLIC MEETING

In support of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill will be held on
THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH, 1889,

In the WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

The Rt. Hon. LEONARD COURTNEY, M.P., W. S. CAINE, Esq., M.P., Baron DIMSDALE, M.P., R. U. PENROSE FITZGERALD, Esq., M.P., Capt. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE, M.P., Sir R. N. FOWLER, Bt., M.P., Sir W. H. HOULDSWORTH, Bt., M.P., W. JOHNSTON, Esq., M.P., A. LAFONE, Esq., M.P., Sir ROPER LETHBRIDGE, M.P., J. W. MACLURE, Esq., M.P., W. N. M'ARTHUR, Esq., M.P., T. W. RUSSELL, Esq., M.P., The EARL of CAMPERDOWN, Miss BECKER, Miss C. A. BIGGS, Miss BLACKBURN, Miss EMILY DAVIES, Mrs. FAWCETT, Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, Mrs. GARRETT-ANDERSON, M.D., Lady FRANCES BALFOUR, Mrs. S. A. BARNETT, and others are expected to be present.

The Chair will be taken at Eight o'clock, by
Colonel COTTON, M.P.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 10, Great College-street, Westminster.

Doors open at 7-30.

CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Central Committee Office: 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

On THURSDAY, MARCH 21st, THREE MEETINGS will take place in connection with this Society. At 11 a.m. the

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Will be held at the WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL, to Elect the Executive Committee by ballot for the ensuing year. At 11-30 a.m., in the same Hall, the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SUBSCRIBERS

Will be held, presided over by

Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, Bt., G.C.S.I., M.P.,

To receive the Report and Financial Statement, to consider the future work of the Society, and to transact any other business that may arise. In the Evening, at 8 p.m.,

A PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

Will be held in PRINCE'S HALL, PICCADILLY, to be presided over by
W. WOODALL, Esq., M.P.

Sir W. TINDAL ROBERTSON, M.P., the Rt. Hon. JAMES STANSFELD, M.P., Miss JANE COBDEN, Sir R. TEMPLE, Bt., G.C.S.I., M.P., Mrs. WYNFORD PHILIPPS, Sir ALBERT K. ROLLIT, LL.D., M.P., Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT, G. P. BIDDER, Esq., Q.C., and Mrs. BIDDER, W. S. B. M'LAREN, Esq., M.P., Mrs. M. B. LUCAS, the Rev. BROOKE LAMBERT, Mrs. FENWICK MILLER, A. LAFONE, Esq., M.P., Miss F. BUSS, Mrs. CH. M'LAREN, CHAS. H. HOPWOOD, Esq., Q.C., Mrs. SHELDON AMOS, Mrs. BUSK, B.Sc., Mrs. PERCY BUNTING, Mrs. RUSHBROOK, M.D., Mrs. FRANK MORRISON, Mrs. F. PENNINGTON, Mrs. CH. HANCOCK, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, Mrs. JOHN HOLLOND, Mrs. LARKCOM-JACOBS, Mrs. BROADLEY REID, Mrs. JOHN HULLAH, Dr. KATE MITCHELL, Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE (together with the following delegates and friends from a distance), the Rev. H. B. GRAY (Warden of Bradfield College, Berks.), J. P. THOMASSON, Esq. (Bolton), the Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL (Manchester), Mrs. H. B. REID (Birmingham), Mrs. COWEN (Nottingham), Mrs. A. SIDGWICK (Oxford), Mrs. BATESON (Cambridge), the Rev. Canon HADDOCK, Mrs. RANSOM (Bedford), Mrs. SMITHSON (York), Miss EDITH GITTINS (Leicester), Miss CHAPMAN (Winchester), Mrs. STANTON BLATCH (Basingstoke), and Mrs. MASSINGBERD (Great Grimsby) are expected to be present. Doors open at 7-30. Admission Free.

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PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—

Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, in support of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women, introduced by Mr. Woodall this session, the second reading of which is fixed for April 17th. Petitions ready for signature will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; Miss BARGARNE, 29, Parliament-street, London; Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, Dublin; Miss Ton, 40, University Road, Belfast; Mrs. COWEN, 9, Rope-Walk, Nottingham; or Mrs. FAWCETT, 10, Great College-street, Westminster.

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SPECIAL APPEAL.

THE BILL IS COMING ON.

Mr. WOODALL has obtained a place for the Women's Franchise Bill on April 17th, as first order of the day, with every prospect of obtaining a decisive division. The Committee earnestly appeal to the friends of the cause to assist them in their efforts to support the action of the Parliamentary leaders, with a view to carrying the measure to a successful issue during the present session. In view of what they hope may be the final effort to obtain the passing of the Bill. Part of this has been already raised, and they earnestly appeal to their friends to enable them to secure the remainder. The following sums have been already paid and promised:—

Captain Edwards Heathcote	£10 0 0
Mr. H. Lightbown	5 0 0
Mrs. Charles Holland	10 0 0
Miss Mabel Holland	5 0 0
Miss Mordan	3 3 0
Miss Jessie Boucherett	5 0 0

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VOL. XX.—No. 231. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MARCH 1, 1889.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
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At last we seem in sight of land! After the many years during which the Women's Franchise Bill has been tossing on the sea of uncertain chances, there seems now the fairest prospect that the measure may be submitted at an early period for the verdict of the House of Commons.

The fortunes of the ballot for a place for the Bill, on the first day of the session, placed the measure again in the hands of Mr. WOODALL, who succeeded in obtaining a first place on Wednesday, April 17th. The Bill is in precisely the same terms as the Bill which passed second reading in the House of Commons in 1886, and which was introduced last session by Baron DIMSDALE. The same members' names are on the back of it, namely, Mr. WOODALL, Dr. CAMERON, Baron DIMSDALE, Sir ROBERT FOWLER, Sir WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH, Mr. ILLINGWORTH, Mr. MACLURE, Sir ALBERT ROLLIT, and Mr. STANSFELD.

It therefore behoves the friends of the Bill to make the most vigorous efforts in support of the action of the Parliamentary leaders in order to secure the success of the measure during the present session.

THE Central Committee as reconstructed under the old rules and the associated Societies which have ranged themselves under the old flag will set vigorously to work in support of the Bill. A public meeting is announced to take place in the Westminster Town Hall on Thursday evening next, which should be largely attended by those interested in the measure. In order to enable the Committees to rise to the exigencies of the situation, it is necessary that support of all kinds should be forthcoming, and more especially financial support. We trust that the members and friends of the Societies which are associated together for the purpose of supporting the particular Bill which was introduced last year by Baron DIMSDALE, and this year by Mr. WOODALL, will come forward with no grudging hand and place the Committees in a position to discharge adequately the duty that lies before them.

PETITIONS in support of the Bill should now begin to be sent continuously for presentation to the House of Com-

mons. Every member who receives a petition from his constituents will have his attention called to the Bill, and will receive a proof that some, at least, of those whose interests he represents, care for the measure and desire that it should become law. Letters should also be written to members of Parliament, urging them to vote for the Bill. Public meetings and drawing-room meetings are also most useful, and resolutions in support of the Bill should be proposed in all political associations and clubs where the members are likely to take an interest in the question.

AMONG the list of Bills introduced this session there are many which more or less directly specially affect women. Mr. M'LAREN will re-introduce his Franchise Extension Bill in the same form as last year. The wording of this Bill differs from that of Mr. WOODALL's Bill, but the practical effect is understood to be precisely the same.

Mr. ARTHUR ELLIOTT introduces a Bill to alter the law in Scotland as to marriages with a deceased wife's sister. Other Bills with this object are introduced for the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

Mr. W. A. HUNTER introduces a measure to assimilate the law of divorce in England and Scotland.

Mr. MACNEILL brings forward a Bill to amend the law relating to municipal franchise in Ireland.

Mr. STANSFELD brings in a Bill to amend the law with respect to the qualification and registration of electors in Parliamentary, Municipal, and County Council elections in England and Wales.

Mr. ESSLEMONT brings in a Bill to provide for the payment of expenses incurred in returning officers at Parliamentary elections, the effect of which would apparently be to throw on women ratepayers and taxpayers the burden of the returning officers' expenses at elections where they are not permitted to vote.

Mr. CONYBEARE proposes a Bill for the extension of the franchise to all adult citizens, male and female, and for other purposes.

Mr. AMBROSE introduces a Bill to make better provision

for widows of certain intestates in the distribution of such intestates' property.

It is no part of our province to comment on the provisions of these various measures, nor to express any opinion as to their merits. But we desire to call the special attention of women to these Bills, which if passed will affect them in purse and person, and to impress on them the need for representation in the Legislature in order that all such questions may be considered with due regard to the wishes of women as well as of men.

EVEN more remarkable as a test of public opinion than the election of the ladies to seats on the London County Council has been the selection by the Council itself of Miss CONS as County Alderman. A few years ago the notion of a lady becoming an Alderman would have been regarded as a huge joke, and now the joke has become grave earnest. Miss CONS appears to be a lady whose services to the public of London amply merit the distinction conferred upon her. She has been, we understand, an active coadjutor with Miss OCTAVIA HILL in efforts to improve the dwellings of the people, and has also exerted herself in the movement for the preservation of open spaces. It is said that she was a leading spirit in the efforts which have resulted in the transformation of the Victoria Music Hall into a coffee palace and place for recreation and instruction. In her new sphere, should the law permit her to continue in the office to which she has been appointed, her energies will doubtless be employed in kindred efforts for the improvement of the conditions of life among the thronging multitudes of London, as well as in the more general work of the Council.

BUT neither the vote of the Council nor the verdict of the constituency can override the law, and it is still in the highest degree uncertain whether the ladies will be allowed to retain their seats. It has been suggested that should the judges decide against Lady SANDHURST, that judgment will not necessarily exclude Miss CONS. It is, however, laid down that an Alderman must be either a Councillor or a person qualified to be a Councillor, and if Lady SANDHURST be adjudged to be disqualified on the ground of being a woman, it is hard to see how any other woman can legally retain her seat. Nothing, however, can undo the moral effect of the elections and appointment of ladies to these responsible offices. They remain as landmarks to show the rapid and enormous advance

that has taken place of late years in the popular ideas in regard to the duties of women to the State.

As the time is approaching for the annual election of poor-law guardians, it is worth while to examine one of the objections which are sometimes made to the admission of women as members of the Boards. In districts where the business of the Board is being conducted in a satisfactory manner, it would seem at first sight not unreasonable if the electors were to say, "Our Board is so good; we have no need of the addition of ladies."

Now with regard to this objection, it must not be imagined that the efforts to elect women as poor-law guardians implies any censure of, or antagonism to, the existing members. Not a few of them are gentlemen who take a sincere interest in their work, and bring to it a fund of business experience and a self-sacrificing willingness to give up valuable time to it. But it is certainly reasonable to assume that the duty to look after little children and babies, growing girls and querulous invalids, and feeble old women is an occupation that in every household falls naturally into the hands of women; and if a woman's sympathy and practical knowledge of domestic detail is desirable in the simple area of family life, it is probably not less so where the recipients are counted by hundreds. The more truly educated and humane a Board of gentlemen is, the readier it is to admit that there are portions of its work in which it would gladly welcome the aid of suitable women as colleagues. C. A. B.

WE are gratified to observe that there are many cases this year of ladies coming forward for election in districts where hitherto there has been no woman guardian. In Manchester, Southport, Liverpool, Leicester, Gateshead, Hastings, and other towns there is a prospect of lady candidates; but, were the present number of women candidates and guardians trebled, they would still be but a handful among the 20,000 guardians in the 647 unions in England and Wales. The latest day on which a candidate can be nominated is March 26th, and we trust our friends will leave no effort untried before that time to persuade some suitable woman in their own locality to undertake this work, which is twice blessed, "blessing him that gives and him that takes." C. A. B.

THE efforts of those who are endeavouring to secure the election of ladies as poor-law guardians should receive

great impetus and encouragement from the utterances of Mr. RITCHIE on the opening day of the session. In reply to a question from Mr. PICKERSGILL, in which he called attention to the recommendation in the report of the Select Committee on Poor-law Relief, that the system of lady inspectors should be further extended so as to secure the more complete inspection of boarded-out children.

Mr. RITCHIE did not give any hopes that the existing staff of inspectors would be supplemented by the creation of an additional class, but he said the object of such proposed inspection would be better attained by the election of lady guardians. It is to be hoped that ladies throughout the country will take these words to heart, and that such of them as are qualified by inclination and experience and—which, alas, is not always the case—also with the necessary rateable qualification, will be willing to come forward and fulfil the duty thus plainly set forth for them by the words of the President of the Local Government Board.

WE have the more pleasure in recording Mr. RITCHIE'S words, because it appears to us to foreshadow the course he may adopt in framing the Bill for the formation of District Councils, which is announced as supplemental to the Local Government Act of last session. Whatever may be thought as to the desirability of the presence of women on County Councils and Municipal Councils, there will probably be no difference of opinion as to the desirability of their election on District Councils. These bodies will in all probability exercise functions now devolving on School Boards and Boards of Guardians, and it would be a distinctly retrograde step if the bodies which may at some future day absorb all these boards with specialised or distinctive duties, should be debarred from the co-operation and assistance of the persons who have up to the present time done such good service as guardians and members of School Boards.

THE publication of the Court Leet Records of the Manor of Manchester brings to light many interesting details respecting the customs of our forefathers. Among other items, it is noted that in 1803 Mrs. ALICE ROWBOTHAM was appointed one of the officers for corn weights and measures, and was re-appointed in 1804 and 1805. She was a "joiner," and lived in the Apple Market. We have no doubt that the weights and measures were carefully looked to by this worthy dame, and we believe that many

most efficient successors, in similar duties, might be found among capable business women at the present day.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH should beware how he commits himself to rash assertions respecting women's suffrage. In his letter of warning to a Conservative M.P., he took upon himself to state that "female suffrage was tried in Nebraska and given up."

It will be seen from the letter of Mrs. FAWCETT, in another column, that this assertion is absolutely untrue. Mrs. FAWCETT wrote for information to Mr. LAWS, the Secretary of State for Nebraska, and has received from that gentleman a courteous reply, in which he says that the right to vote has never been extended to the women of Nebraska, except for school meetings and officers. No attempt has ever been made to deprive women of that right, and a Bill is now pending in the Legislature to extend the right to municipal suffrage. Mr. LAWS also states that women are not allowed to vote in any State in the American Union, but they are allowed to vote in the Territory of Wyoming, and all are very well satisfied with the result.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *February 22nd.*

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL.

Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).—Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Woodall, Dr. Cameron, Baron Dinasdale, Sir Robert Fowler, Sir William Houldsworth, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Maclure, Sir Albert Rollit, and Mr. Stansfeld.

Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill,—“to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 10.]

THE POOR LAW AND LADY INSPECTORS.

Mr. PICKERSGILL asked the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention had been given to the following passage from the report of the Select Committee on Poor Law Relief: "We recommend that the system of lady inspectors should be further extended so as to secure the more complete inspection of boarded-out children, and also the inspection of the female and children's wards in workhouses, and of the staff of nurses and other female officers;" and whether any steps had been or were about to be taken to carry out this recommendation of the Select Committee.

Mr. RITCHIE: With regard to children boarded out beyond the union to which they are chargeable, the Board have had the services of a lady inspector, and there has been an inspection of the children boarded out under the several boarding-out committees. These committees consist either exclusively or for the most part of ladies, and it is upon these committees that the responsibility for the supervision of the children must devolve. The inspection undertaken by the Board had not been so much with the view of ascertaining the condition of each individual child as of learning by means of an inspection of the children and the foster parents' homes how the duties which devolve on the boarding-out committees are discharged. The arrangements for inspection by lady inspectors of the female and children's wards, and of the staff of nurses and other female officers in workhouses in England and Wales,

which number between 700 and 800, would involve the employment of a considerable addition to the Board's staff of inspectors, and the Government do not contemplate making such appointments. It is to be borne in mind that the workhouses are also visited by general inspectors, school inspectors, and Commissioners of Lunacy, and I should be very reluctant to propose a system of inspection by an additional class of inspectors. I do not in the least underestimate the advantages which might result from ladies assisting in the administration of workhouses, but in my opinion this assistance can best be secured by the election of lady guardians.

Mr. PICKERSGILL gave notice that in Committee of Supply he should call attention to this subject.

TEXT OF THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL.

A BILL

TO

Extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. A.D. 1889.

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Representation of the People (Extension to Women) Act, 1888.

2. For all purposes of and incidental to the voting for members to serve in Parliament, women shall have the same rights as men, and all enactments relating to or concerned in such elections shall be construed accordingly.

Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall enable women under coverture to be registered or to vote at such elections. [Bill 11.]

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

GOVAN.

LETTER FROM MR. JOHN WILSON, M.P.

The vacancy in the representation of the Govan division of Lanarkshire, caused by the death of Sir William Pearce, has been filled by the election of the Liberal candidate, Mr. John Wilson. The following letter from Mr. Wilson has been received by Miss Kirkland, secretary to the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage:—

"Hillhead House, Glasgow, 5th Feb., 1889.

"Dear Madam,—Referring to yours of the 1st inst., I am in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women householders, and will have pleasure in voting for the Bill in the House of Commons.—Yours faithfully,

"Miss Eliza Scott Kirkland, Edinburgh." JOHN WILSON.

As the late Sir W. Pearce was a supporter of women's suffrage the strength of the Parliamentary party remains unchanged.

EAST PERTHSHIRE.

LETTER FROM SIR JOHN KINLOCH.

The death of Mr. Stewart Menzies, which occurred last month, has caused an election for East Perthshire. The following letter from Sir John Kinloch, the Gladstonian candidate, has been received by Miss Kirkland:—

"Kinloch, Meigle, Feb. 9th, 1889.

"Madam,—In reply to yours of Feb. 6th, I beg to say that I am in favour of the Parliamentary franchise being given to unmarried women having property qualifications.—Yours faithfully,

"Miss E. Scott Kirkland." JOHN E. S. KINLOCH.

MR. BOASE'S CANDIDATURE.

At a meeting in support of Mr. Boase, the Unionist candidate for East Perthshire, held on February 6th, at Longforan, questions having been invited, Mr. Wm. Henderson, Lochton, asked if Mr. Boase was prepared to give women suffrage?

Mr. BOASE thought every woman who was a householder and paid taxes, and therefore stood on the same footing as a man under the household franchise, should also have a vote. (Cheers.)

The late member, Mr. Stewart Menzies, was not known to be a friend to women's suffrage, and as both the candidates for East

Perthshire have pronounced in favour of the principle, the election would, in any event, cause a gain of one to the list of Parliamentary friends.

BURNLEY.

A vacancy was caused in the representation of Burnley by the retirement of Mr. John Slagg. The election has resulted in the unopposed return of Mr. J. Spencer Balfour. Mr. Balfour represented Tamworth in the Parliament of 1874, and paired for Mr. Mason's resolution in 1883.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

NOTTINGHAM.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Notts. Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on February 5th, in the Castlegate Schoolroom, Nottingham. The chair was taken by Councillor BROWNSWORD, and he was supported by Mrs. Ormiston Chant, Mrs. Cowen, Miss Wright (Mansfield), Mrs. T. Bayley, Miss Woods, Mrs. W. H. Farmer, Miss Guilford, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Atkey, Miss Coleman, Miss A. Cooke, Miss Simpson, Miss Sunter, Mr. A. Cooke, the Rev. J. Harwood, the Rev. J. H. Hollowell, and Councillor Cowen.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, read a letter of regret for non-attendance from Ald. Gripper.

Mrs. COWEN (the hon. sec.) then read the report for 1888, which stated that the Parliamentary Committee had done their best to get an opportunity to bring forward a Bill for conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon duly qualified women, but without attaining their object. The number of members in favour of such a Bill was, however, steadily increasing. The committee recorded with satisfaction the inclusion of women in the Local Government Act, and the election of two lady county councillors. Adverting to a recent decision on the Central Committee of the Women's Suffrage Society, the committee stated that they had not decided to join either side at present. The balance sheet showed that during the year £19.5s. had been received in subscriptions, and that 11s. 5d. was due to the treasurer.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report. He said the question they had met to support was not a party one, and Liberals and Conservatives could join on a common platform. If one side had taken it up, perhaps more progress would have been made with the movement. Nevertheless, at the present time there was a clear majority of members in the House of Commons pledged to support a measure giving the Parliamentary franchise to women, and it was only by the intervention of other circumstances that the matter had not received attention. Continuing, he said women were a great factor in electioneering, and a great step had been made in the Local Government Act. He was in favour not only of giving women the right to vote, but the right to sit even in the House of Commons itself. (Applause.) Taxation and representation went together, and that principle of the Constitution, carried out to its logical conclusion, would cause no woman to be unqualified by reason of her sex.

Miss WRIGHT seconded the adoption of the report. She observed that the question was a simple measure of justice, and any part of the community suffering injustice had a right to be heard. When the franchise was extended to any class of men it was not asked how they would vote, and in the same way the vote should be given to women.—The report was adopted.

Mrs. SIMPSON moved and Mrs. HUTCHINSON seconded the appointment of the following committee, which was agreed to: Mrs. Atkey, Miss A. Cooke, Mrs. Cowen, Mr. H. S. Cropper, Mr. Dowse, Miss Guilford, Mrs. Jesse Hind, Mr. Jesse Hind, Miss R. P. Hutchinson, the Rev. E. Rattenbury Hodges, Miss A. Smith, Miss Sunter, Mr. Warren, Miss Wright (Mansfield), Councillor Brownsword; treasurer, Mrs. Jesse Hind; hon. secretary, Mrs. Cowen.

Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT, in the course of her address, urged patience on her hearers in the attainment of the object they sought. The fight was itself an education. The shackles of tradition needed shaking off, so that they might be willing to give to every human being, not according to their sex or class, but according to their capacity. Under the education of the struggle many women, before strait-laced in body and in soul, had grown

capable, tender-hearted creatures, such as God meant them to be. Ridicule had failed to kill them, though of it they had received no lack. The greater part of their work now lay, she thought, amongst women, and if they were determined they would carry their point. Many years of labour in hospitals, lunatic asylums, in the study of medicine, and in sorrowful visits amongst the tide of darkness upon our streets, told her unmistakably that woman was needed in the legislative and administrative work of the country. The womanhood of the country, fast asleep in its luxurious silence, had not for one thing taken its part in the management of the workhouses of the land. Continuing, she said the principle of women's suffrage was now admitted, and it was therefore easy to shelve the practical realisation of the question. This must not be, for great social questions were coming on for consideration in which they ought to have a voice. We were on the eve of a most remarkable revolution. There were no swords drawn and no Red Cross society called out to attend the wounded, but nevertheless there was a revolution coming for England on the peaceful wings of the County Council Bill. That Bill was the result of progress, and was a crystallisation of the spirit now in the midst of us. It was not compatible with the spirit of the nineteenth century to send shiploads upon shiploads of our best and most capable men and women out of the country; that notwithstanding all the wealth of England and her marvellous power, we should send shiploads of our own people away to make room for the failures of Germany and Italy. Men who lost their situations through illness had them filled up by Germans, and they could not fall out of work without the trouble falling deeply on their wives and families. How could they dare to sit still and see the home lives of the poor wrecked beneath the car of Juggernaut when they could do something to prevent it. They could do a great deal of good by setting up a proper standard of home life; but, whilst many lived up to their income, there were others who had no income to live up to. If something was not done we should sink back, and not in a noble way, but in a most ignoble way. Nothing spoiled the character so much as looking on quietly at other people's misery and acquiescing in it. Then there was the terrible evil of the sweating system, in which some of them might have participated owing to their keenness over bargains. As employers of labour they had no right to employ labour unless they could afford to pay for it properly. In the future legislation would deal more and more with social questions, but the great question of peace and war still hung over our heads, like the sword of Damocles, and women needed to have a voice in the decision of that question. Then she was strongly opposed to canvassing at elections. In conclusion, she said that the reason why we saw the miseries of the day so plainly was that the light had never shone so brightly before, and urged them to continue in their good work, ever remembering that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Mr. A. COOKE proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Chant, and this was seconded by the Rev. J. H. Hollowell, who said that the address they had listened to showed how spiritual passion and religious conviction ought to be carried into politics, and he wished it could be re-delivered before the leading active Liberals and Conservatives in Nottingham. The vote having been carried, Mrs. Chant replied, and the meeting closed in the usual way.

BRISTOL.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Bristol and West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on February 18th, at the offices, 69, Park-street, Bristol. Mrs. BEDDOE presided over a good attendance.

The PRESIDENT, in the course of her opening address, said she believed that some of their friends had imagined that they had been more idle than was their wont, and that consequently they had taken to quarrelling amongst themselves. This misconception would, she was persuaded, be removed, if indeed it existed, by the speakers who were about to address them. It would be a suicidal policy were they, at a crisis such as the present, to relax their efforts. There was much careful and important work to be done, but it was not of such an apparent character as it was when, for the purpose of educating the public and removing the many prejudices which existed against their movement, they held meetings all over the country. This part of the work had been successfully carried through, and that such is the case was in great measure

owing to the generous help given to them by the press, here and elsewhere. With regard to the split in the camp, she would only say that she did not think there was much animosity against them, and instead of wondering that a division had taken place, she thought the wonder was that they held together for such a length of time. When a movement like theirs went lingering on over a long series of years, especially when during these years rapid and great changes were taking place, naturally new elements crept into it, and there arose what was called the party of progress. She supposed that those who differed from them, not in the main object, but in matters of detail, would call themselves the party of progress. She did not know what they would be called, but she thought that they were a very consistent and persistent party. (Applause.) Twenty years ago they said it was neither right nor fair that the women ratepayers should be deprived of the privileges which were being so lavishly bestowed on men in circumstances similar to theirs; privileges which were given them the better to secure their special interests, and because of their real or supposed interest in public affairs. Today they said exactly the same. No one then ventured to suggest that the women's interests did not require as much looking after as did those of other people. She made bold to say that no one would venture to suggest this now. If twenty years ago women seemed apathetic and selfishly indifferent to public concerns, at all events that charge could not be brought against them now-a-days, whether the concerns were those of religion or philanthropy, of education or of politics. (Hear, hear, and applause.) In conclusion, she would only assure them that they were as much alive as ever they were—perhaps even more so—but they were tired of this long waiting, and they would be truly thankful to any Government which would help them to the end of it. The Government of Lord Salisbury was the present Government, and therefore to it she trusted their gratitude would fall due. Surely nothing could better show the need of representation than the fact that it had taken all these years to carry a measure which even its opponents admitted to be a just one—a measure, the carrying of which would harm none, unless, as some romantic friends said, it be themselves. They had had ample time to think it over. They took the consequences of their acts in other matters, and they were quite prepared to take them in this one, which, more and more, they believed, would be for their own welfare and for the welfare of the country at large. (Applause.)

Miss BLACKBURN (secretary) stated that letters expressing regret at absence had been received from the Countess of Portsmouth, who wrote wishing a "satisfactory meeting in every respect;" Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., the Right Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P., and the Hon. J. W. Plunkett, M.P., were prevented by press of engagements from being present. Mr. E. H. Llewellyn, M.P., wrote that he "hopes the meeting will be in every way successful, and with the assurance that his vote and general support may always be relied on." Mr. Mark Whitwill, the Rev. Mordaunt Crofton, Mr. J. H. Woodward, Mrs. Dent, of Sudeley Castle, Mrs. Mundy, of Thornbury, and Mrs. Emma Marshall also regretted their absence. Miss Blackburn then read the report for 1888, which stated:—"Your committee have again to chronicle a year without actual progress of the Women's Suffrage Bill in Parliament, although not without a notable advance in the relations of women to the State. The Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill was set down for second reading last session on June 6th, when Baron Dimsdale had secured a place; but it stood sixth on the orders of the day, and was not reached at all. The past year is, however, memorable for the advance which the Local Government Act has given to the citizenship of women. The Local Government Electors' Bill, introduced by Mr. Ritchie on behalf of H.M. Government, fully recognised from the outset the right of women householders to vote in County Council elections throughout the country. This action on the part of the Government is a forcible testimony to the advance in public estimation of the due position of women in the State, and justifies the hope that the day is rapidly approaching when the Parliamentary franchise will be dealt with in a similar spirit of equality. Your committee have to record with sorrow the death of one of their earliest Parliamentary supporters in Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., who had scarcely ever lost an opportunity of recording his vote in favour of women's suffrage since the first introduction of the Women's Electoral Disabilities Removal Bill, in 1870. In November last, some of the members of the Central Committee in London brought

forward proposals for changing the fundamental constitution of that body. The proposed new constitution met with the decided disapproval of your committee, as well as of other country committees. The objections to the new rules are in the main two—first, the comparative disfranchisement which they involve of the local associations for women's suffrage; second, the admission upon the general council of the society of delegates from societies existing for purposes totally different from those of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. The new constitution was, however, carried at a meeting of the subscribers of the Central Committee, from which meeting all subscribers of country associations were excluded. The large minority, chiefly composed of the old workers, at once decided to reconstruct the Central Committee under the old rules. An influential meeting was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, and a committee was formed to carry this resolution into effect, Mrs. Fawcett undertaking the position of hon. secretary and treasurer. Your committee have direct representation on the Central Executive Committee thus formed, and which has offices at 10, Great College-street, Westminster. At the request of the Central Committee, Miss Blackburn has undertaken to temporarily combine the secretaryships of the Central and Bristol societies. In these circumstances, Miss Pease has kindly volunteered to give occasional aid in the Bristol office, during Miss Blackburn's absence in London. The greatest and most important impetus which our cause has yet had is due to the recent speeches of the Prime Minister (Lord Salisbury). In three different speeches he has referred to the importance of conferring the franchise on women. A new session is shortly to be opened, and should the Bill which confers this franchise be again unable to obtain a favourable place for passing into law, your committee see in the recent speeches of the Prime Minister reason for hope that the Government may take some steps to facilitate its progress."

The financial statement showed receipts amounting to £209.6s. 2d. and after meeting expenses, there was a balance of 7s. 9d. due to Treasurer.

The Rev. J. TEMPERLEY GREY moved the adoption, printing, and circulation of the report, and statement of accounts. He said Lord Salisbury, who stood in the very front rank of English statesmen, as everybody, whether Radical or Tory, was bound to recognise, would never have spoken as he had on this question unless he had taken the full measure of their movement, and felt well assured that the time had come when it might safely be taken up by his Government, and carried to a successful termination. He hardly liked to touch upon any of the differences which had arisen in their society, but was glad that they had adhered to their old platform, upon which they knew nothing of party, considering that patriotism was better than party.

Miss PEASE seconded the resolution, and remarked that but for the existence of their society women would never have been given a vote under the Local Government Act.

The motion having been adopted,

Mr. ALAN GREENWELL proposed the election of officers and committee, and, referring to the differences which had arisen in their society, he said they had resulted in some good being done. Money was pouring into the new society which would not have been given to their society, and people were coming forward to help it who would not have helped the old organisation.

Mrs. RALPH, in seconding the motion, said she could not pin her faith to Lord Salisbury in the way that some of the previous speakers had done. What political privileges they had won as women they had won by doing the duty which lay next to hand, and it would not be by relying on Lord Salisbury, Mr. Gladstone, or any other statesman that they would obtain increased political privileges, but by following up what they had already done in the way of helping themselves.

General STILL moved, "That the annual meeting of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage desires to record its grateful acknowledgments to Lord Salisbury for his renewed and repeated expression of adherence to the women's suffrage cause, and trusts that the Government may grant facilities for the submission of the 'Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill,' in this session, to the judgment of Parliament."

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT seconded the resolution, and said they should never place too much dependence upon what men in high places said in regard to a question which was not a political question. At the same time they knew that no man in Lord Salisbury's

position would have taken the trouble to bring forward this subject again and again, as he had, unless he had a very strong conviction upon it. She took his utterances to mean that he believed in it, and it was for the country to say whether he should carry it into effect or not. If all the political associations in which women were interested, especially the Primrose League, would press forward the matter, they had Lord Salisbury's assurances that he was in sympathy with them. Another session of Parliament would shortly be opened, and she considered they had one of the first claims upon the House of Commons to pass their Bill. When Lord Salisbury came to Bristol, as he was announced to do at Easter, she trusted he would say something more upon this question, and give them further assurances of success during the present year.

The resolution having been carried unanimously, Mrs. STURGE proposed: "That the Prime Minister be invited to receive an address from the Bristol and West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage during his visit to Bristol at Easter." She remarked that it was very desirable that the address should be presented, and hoped that it would be done.

Mrs. HALE seconded the motion, as she thought they ought to thank Lord Salisbury for what he had done for them.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Beddoe for presiding, which was submitted by Miss Blackburn.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

LONDON.

A well-attended drawing-room meeting in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women took place on February 9th, by invitation of Miss Emily Davies, at Harewood Square, which was addressed by Dr. E. A. Abbott, Miss F. Davenport-Hill, Miss Vernon, and Rev. Llewellyn Davies. Dr. Abbott remarked on the encouraging increase in the number of members of Parliament who now support the measure on both sides of party politics. Miss F. Davenport-Hill said her experience as a poor-law guardian showed that while many things were done well by men on these boards, others were left undone, with grievous consequences, and the same thing applied in the outer world. Miss Emily Davies brought the meeting to a close by urging various ways of helping the movement on those present.

BEDFORD.

A drawing-room meeting was held last month at the residence of Mrs. Edwin Ransom, Bedford. Miss Baggallie delivered an address, and it was resolved to form a committee in Bedford in connection with the Central National Society for Women's Suffrage.

LECTURES.

HASLINGDEN.

On February 18th, a lecture on women's suffrage was given by Miss Becker to the members of the Haslingden Industrial Co-operative Society, in the Co-operative Hall. The chair was occupied by Mr. John Martin, president of the society. There was a very good attendance, and at the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was given to Miss Becker for her lecture.

BRIDLINGTON.

On February 12th, a lecture was delivered in the Temperance Hall, Bridlington, under the auspices of the Women's Liberal Association, by Miss Baggallie, formerly of Scarborough, on "Should women have the vote?" Councillor Pool presided, and at the close of the lecture a resolution was passed to the effect that women ought to have the franchise extended to them on the same conditions that it had been granted to men.

WHITBY.

On February 13th, Miss Florence Baggallie, of London, delivered an address in the Temperance Hall, Whitby, in favour of the political enfranchisement of women. The address was given under the auspices of the Whitby Women's Liberal Association, and Mr. E. F. Sewell presided. At the close of the lecture a resolution in favour of a petition to the House of Commons for the enfranchisement of women was unanimously adopted.

SCARBOROUGH.

Under the auspices of the Scarborough Women's Liberal Union, Miss F. Baggallie delivered an address on February 18th, in the old Town Hall, on the subject, "Why women should have a vote." There was a large attendance. Mr. E. Grubb, M.A., presided. At the conclusion of the lecture a petition to the House of Commons was adopted on the motion of Miss Hopkins, seconded by Mrs. Parnell. A vote of thanks to the lecturer and to the chairman was moved by Mr. A. J. Grant and seconded by Mr. E. R. Cross. Mr. W. Rowntree, J.P., in supporting, alluded to the change that had come over public opinion on that question, and referred to the first meeting held in Scarborough for the promotion of that object, when Miss Becker and Mrs. Lucas failed to obtain a fair hearing. Their meeting that night showed the progress the movement had made. The vote was carried, and Miss Baggallie and the Chairman having responded, the proceedings terminated.

YORK.

On February 19th, under the auspices of the York Women's Liberal Association, Miss Florence Baggallie delivered a lecture on "The duties of women as citizens and voters." Mrs. J. EDMUND CLARK presided, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. H. Richardson, Mrs. E. T. Wilkinson, Mrs. Smithson, Mrs. R. Thompson, Mrs. Gibb, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Ald. Empson, Mr. H. Richardson, Mr. E. T. Wilkinson, Mr. J. E. Clark, Mr. Councillor Seller, and Mr. W. Johnson, B.A. There was a large attendance.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Mr. Alderman EMPSON proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Baggallie, and also moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women on the same conditions as it has been granted to men, and that a petition to this effect be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting and sent to Mr. A. E. Pease, M.P., for presentation in the House of Commons."

The resolution was put to the meeting and declared to be carried unanimously.

Mr. RICHARDSON proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and, after an announcement had been made that a Women's Franchise Association is to be formed in York, the meeting terminated.

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

ASTON WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

On February 12th, at the annual meeting of this association, held in the Upper Thomas-street Board School, Mrs. H. G. Reid (president of the association) being in the chair, it was stated in the report that a petition had been presented in favour of the Parliamentary franchise for women.

BRISTOL WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Bristol Women's Liberal Association was held at the Victoria Rooms on February 2nd, and was well attended. Miss PRIESTMAN presided, and there were present Dr. Kate Mitchell (London), Mrs. Walter Sturge, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. and Miss Hincks, Mr. F. Priestman (Newcastle), Miss Estlin, Mrs. Grenfell, Miss Price, Mrs. Trebilco, Mrs. L. Perry, Miss Quick, Miss M. Priestman, Miss Heaven, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Elkins, Mrs. Swann, Miss Tucker, Miss H. M. Sturge, Mrs. Ralph, Mrs. W. S. Clark (Street), Miss Colby, and Miss Robinson.

The PRESIDENT said she would refer to two points only—the one sad and the other hopeful. The hopeful one was the position women had been given in relation to the newly-established councils. There could not possibly have been a more marvellous proof of the rise in public feeling on behalf of political equality between men and women than the quiet, matter-of-fact manner in which the arrangement of these county councils had been accepted.

Mrs. GRENFELL, hon. sec., read the report, which, in the course of a comprehensive review of the year's work, said:—The committee, feeling that it was of the utmost importance to follow up the interest aroused by the Women's Suffrage Conference at Clifton, in February, 1888, with some definite action, formed a "United Women's Liberal Association for the Extension of the Franchise to Women," which had sent speakers to Newport, Hull, Whitby, Stalybridge, and other places, and had since been joined by several women's Liberal associations.

Mrs. W. S. CLARK moved the adoption of the report, which was

seconded by Dr. KATE MITCHELL, who gave an address on women's political influence, at the conclusion of which she said the extension of the suffrage to women should also be earnestly worked for.

HESSLE WORKING MEN'S CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

On February 7th, at a meeting of the Hessle Working Men's Conservative Association, held in the Parish Schoolroom, and presided over by Mr. W. Howell, jun., an address was given by Mr. William Andrews on "Women's Suffrage." Mr. Andrews said that he came amongst them as a Liberal, but it was not his intention to advocate his own party measures. He had selected for his theme a subject which appealed to politicians of all parties, the enfranchisement of women. Mr. Andrews noticed at some length the part women had played in history, and he clearly showed that in the past they had a voice in the representation of the supreme council of the nation. The right fell into disuse in the seventeenth century, but as a matter of fact women were not disfranchised until the Reform Bill of 1832, and then by altering the word person to male person. He next adverted to what had been done by Mill and others interested in this matter. Lord Salisbury, he said, had spoken with no uncertain sound, and doubtless from the Conservatives would be obtained woman suffrage. Parliament, said Mr. Andrews, has 670 members, and of these 350 are known and recognised supporters of the movement. After considering the objections to woman suffrage, which he showed were of a frivolous character, he concluded his address, which was listened to with close attention, by moving the following resolution: "It is the opinion of this meeting of the Hessle Working Men's Conservative Association that women are entitled to the franchise on the same conditions as men, and that it should be given them at once." This was seconded and cordially supported by several speakers, and on being put was unanimously carried. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Andrews brought the meeting to a close.

WOMEN'S LIBERAL UNIONIST ASSOCIATIONS, SCOTLAND. SPEECH BY MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

At a conversation held on February 11, at the Berkly and Kent Hall, Glasgow, addresses of welcome to Mrs. Chamberlain were presented from the Women's Liberal Unionist Association of the West of Scotland, and from the Women's Liberal Unionist Association of the East and North of Scotland. In the course of his reply, in acknowledging the addresses, Mr. Chamberlain said: I noticed in one of the addresses which has just been read that the signatories said "we are now for the first time called into the field of politics." That also recalls to my mind an American analogy. You know, I daresay, that the great city of Boston, like many other great cities in the United States, was some time ago under the control of the Irish party. The Irish party held the balance of power, and the Irish party secured the principal offices in the municipality and important posts upon others of the governing bodies. Well, the Irish party were not satisfied with this predominance, and they grasped at more, and at the instigation of some of their advisers, the clerical advisers I believe, they endeavoured to secure the control of the school board, also with a view to using the school board to destroy the national system of unsectarian education, of which every American is justly proud. Well, in doing this it appears that they went a little too far. They roused the spirit of the American women, and they who, less even than our women, were willing and ready to leave their homes and domestic life in order to take part in the battle and the fray of our political contests, they felt that at last an issue was raised in which they were deeply interested, that their duty required them at all hazards to come forward, and accordingly they registered themselves in great numbers. They formed their organisation, they went to the polls, and they swept the polls. (Laughter.) They swept the polls of the Irish party, and, at the last election, they not only secured the whole of the school board, but also secured their own candidates on the town council, and the Irish mayor had to give place to a mayor of American birth. (Cheers.) Ladies and gentlemen, what these American women did for their national education, surely you may do for your national existence. (Cheers.)

MR. DE LISLE, M.P., AT HATHERN.

On January 26th, Mr. E. de Lisle addressed a meeting of his constituents at Hathern National Schools. In the course of his address the hon. member said, in reference to the election at Govan,

if the electors were going to choose their representatives on merely personal grounds, those were the results that prudent men might expect. It might happen if they had female suffrage—(laughter)—for he did feel that it was within the province of women to vote in accordance with their likes and dislikes. That was why he was an opponent of women's suffrage. He was very sorry to see that Lord Salisbury had expressed himself in favour of female suffrage. He, however, was of opinion that it would tend much rather to the degradation of women than to the elevation of the men, and that it might result in breaking up the happiness of many families, which was more precious to many men than even a political career. (Applause.) Whatever views might be held by members of the House of Commons, and to whatever party they might belong, he pledged himself to oppose to his utmost capacity any attempt to give the franchise to women. He would rather be returned by a majority of Radicals than by a majority of Conservative women. (Laughter.) The order of creation had allotted certain duties to women and other duties to men, and although women might rightly aspire, and in many cases succeed, in becoming angels, if they became men they incurred the gravest suspicion on their part, and lost those charms and graces with which they were usually endowed. (Applause and laughter.)

LUTON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE.

At a recent meeting of the Luton Women's Suffrage Committee, it was unanimously resolved to adhere to the Central Committee as reconstructed under the old rules, and the old plan of work. The subscriptions from the Luton members were consequently forwarded to Mrs. Fawcett, at the offices of the reconstructed Central Committee, at 10, Great College-street, Westminster.

SOUTHPORT GUILD OF THE UNREPRESENTED.

At a meeting of the committee, held last month, the following resolution was passed in connection with the division in the Women's Suffrage Societies of London: "That as the committee are divided, and are most unwilling to break the perfect unity which has so long existed, they have decided to adopt the course followed by the Birmingham Society and remain neutral."

CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE.

The Cambridge Society, following the example of Birmingham, have decided not to affiliate themselves formally to either of the London Societies for Women's Suffrage.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

LONDON.

The Athenæum Debating Society held a debate on January 28th at the Guildhall Tavern, Mr. T. Fry (in the absence of Mr. Munton) in the chair. Mr. Clarence Harcourt, jun., moved, "That it is desirable that Parliamentary suffrage should be given to women," and Mr. J. G. Churcher spoke in opposition to the motion. The discussion was continued by Mr. F. E. Barnes, Mr. S. Gamman, Mr. A. W. Payne, Mr. J. F. Sabine, Mr. W. Hayward, and Mr. J. H. Worsfold. The motion was lost by one vote only.

TYNEMOUTH.

On January 31st, a joint debate on the question "Should the Parliamentary franchise be extended to women," took place in St. Oswin's Hall, Tynemouth. The Rev. Canon Hicks presided. Miss Marshall, B.Sc., of the St. Oswin Literary and Debating Society, led off in the affirmative, and Mr. J. R. Hogg, of the North Shields Literary Society, in the negative. At the conclusion of the debate the vote was taken, with the result that 103 voted for the affirmative, and 105 for the negative.

SANDBACH.

At the weekly meeting of the Sandbach Literary and Debating Society, held on February 1st, Mr. Thomas Marriott presiding, Mr. J. I. Thomas opened a debate on "Women's suffrage," and said that less than a quarter of a century ago it was looked upon as very unbecoming for a woman to be heard advocating political questions, but now the situation had changed, and the result was that their aid both on the platform and in the press was courted and eagerly sought after by the leaders of all political parties. A resolution in favour of women's suffrage was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH'S RANDOM ASSERTIONS; LETTER FROM MRS. FAWCETT.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Dear Madam,—I think your readers will be entertained by the following instance of the wild and random character of Mr. Goldwin Smith's attacks on women's suffrage. In the letter which appeared in the Times in January, he said: "Before you take the plunge, at least make yourselves acquainted with the results of American experience. Female suffrage was tried in Nebraska and given up." It will hardly be credited (especially when it is remembered that Mr. Goldwin Smith lived for many years in America and may therefore be supposed to know something of recent American politics) that this statement is absolutely untrue and that it has not even a remote foundation in fact.

Mr. Bryce's book on the American Constitution says (vol. iii., pp. 293-4): "In no State has the suffrage in elections to the State legislature and State offices been extended to women, and therefore they nowhere enjoy the right of voting in Federal elections." I was not, however, content with this contradiction, as it might very reasonably be supposed that Mr. Goldwin Smith was as likely to be right in making a positive and unqualified assertion as Mr. Bryce. I therefore wrote to the Secretary of State for Nebraska on the subject. I wrote as a perfect stranger, not knowing the least what his views on women's suffrage were, but relying on his courtesy to furnish me with the facts. I yesterday received his reply as follows:—

"State of Nebraska Secretary of State, Lincoln, February 8th, 1889.

"Dear Madam,—The right to vote has never been extended to the women of Nebraska, except for school officers and on questions relating to public school meetings, where they possess property to be taxed, or their children are of the school age, over five and under twenty. No attempt has ever been made to deprive them of this right since granted, and a Bill is now pending in our legislature to extend the right to municipal suffrage.

"Women are not allowed to vote in any State in the American Union, but they are allowed to vote in the Territory of Wyoming, and all are very well satisfied with the result.—I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"H. L. LAWS, Secretary of State, Nebraska, U.S.A."

I would suggest to Mr. Goldwin Smith that attacks of the kind which I have quoted recoil on their author. Their only effect must be to discredit those who use them.—Believe me, dear madam, yours very faithfully, MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT. February 23rd, 1889.

EFFECT OF WOMEN VOTING IN KANSAS.

Woman suffrage obtains to a limited extent in Kansas, women being authorised to vote at municipal elections. Its exercise has resulted very happily for the town of Oskaloosa, on the Santa Fe road, a flourishing place not far from Lawrence, Leavenworth, and Topeka. The town was infested by a corrupt board of aldermen, when, partly in jest and partly in earnest, it was proposed to turn these delinquent and unpleasant officials out and substitute for them a mayor and board of aldermen composed of women. The women were elected. Nearly a year of administration has resulted happily for the town. Order prevails. Jobbery has disappeared. The ordinances are enforced. The taxes are reduced. The women, all matrons, sincere, honest, courageous, and intelligent, have devoted themselves with skill and address to the affairs of the corporation. The one railroad of the town, which used to have its own way, proffered passes to the women authorities, which were rejected with quiet dignity, much to the surprise of its officers, who speedily found themselves compelled to pay close attention to the municipal regulations which they had habitually disregarded. The city treasury, once depleted, has now a balance. In a word, honesty and intelligence have characterised the administration of Oskaloosa under the sway of women. More such petticoat government would be a blessing.—Chicago Times, Sunday, January 13th, 1889.

THE BOARDING-OUT OF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS CHILDREN.

Miss W. L. Brodie-Hall, lady guardian for Eastbourne, attended at the Home Office, last month, by request of the Home Secretary, to give him information as to the boarding-out of industrial schools children in other countries, with a possible view of introducing such clauses into the Industrial Schools Bill now before Parliament, as will permit of similar action in England, should such an alternative be found desirable.

MISS CONS ON WORK FOR THE PEOPLE.

Miss Emma Cons, who has been chosen as an alderman by the London County Council, objects to being known as "the manager of a Mission in South London." She writes as follows:—"I have nothing whatever to do with the management of any 'mission' either there or elsewhere. My work has been essentially practical. It has been to endeavour, by making the housing of the mass of the people more sanitary and comfortable, themselves more provident and temperate, and their recreation more intelligent and healthy, to make their lives more happy and better worth living."—Illustrated London News.

Miss Alexandra Thompson, daughter of the Archbishop of York, is an able musician, and has just completed a choral rendering of the Communion Service. It was sung for the first time on the occasion of the consecration, at York Minster, of Dr. Jayne as Bishop of Chester, on February 24th, the anniversary of the birth of Handel.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

On February 11th, a paper, prepared upon "Women's Suffrage," was read by Miss Mary Lloyd at the ordinary weekly meeting of Market Square Debating Society, Merthyr Tydfil.

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