

The demand now made involves the House in the charge of inconsistency—or of using words not bearing their usual meaning; or the interpreters of the Act have seriously misunderstood its application. All that is wanted is a resolution of the House, that now and hereafter, the Household Suffrage Act shall mean that all householders are by law entitled to vote.

Such a resolution would render it impossible for judges to rule that the Act does not include women, and would make it illegal for any of the authorities to leave women off the Register, or refuse to put them on it.

I have purposely omitted to notice the objections commonly urged: that women tend to Conservatism; that they support the Priests; that they are intellectually and bodily less powerful than men; and, finally, that being more numerous, they might outvote the men. None of these questions arise in the United Kingdom at present. Some men tend to Conservatism and support Priests of various orders. Men differ in intellectual capacity and in bodily strength, and sometimes outvote each other—allowing the principle that majorities rule. But none of these facts and circumstances either qualify them or disqualify them for the exercise of the parliamentary franchise or any other franchise, and therefore do not apply to any other householders equally qualified by the law of their common country. Surely enlightened men like those who sit in the people's House of Commons, will not any longer refuse to redress so manifest an injustice as herein described: and if they do, the cause advocated will lose none of its claims to impartial consideration.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

BEACON & NUTT, PUBLISHERS, PERSHORE STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY

FOR

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,

HELD IN

THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE,

5 ST ANDREW SQUARE,

3D MARCH 1881.

EDINBURGH

PRINTING COMPANY, 41 CHAMBERS STREET.

1881.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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

Miss BURTON, Liberton Bank.
Miss CALDWELL, 2 Victoria Terrace, Portobello.
Miss CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street.
Mrs FERGUSON HOME of Bassendean.
Mrs HODGSON, Bonaly.
Mrs HOPE, 11 Polwarth Terrace.
Miss HOPE, 11 Polwarth Terrace.
Miss HUNTER, 5 Great Stuart Street.
Mrs M'QUEEN of Braxfield.
Dr AGNES M'LAREN, 3 Walker Street.
Miss M. MATHESON, 19 Northumberland Street.
Miss MURRAY, 2 Napier Road.
Mrs NICHOL, Huntly Lodge.
Mrs ORD of Muirhouselaw.
Mrs PRYDE, 10 Fettes Row.
Mrs ROBERTSON, 25 Blacket Place.
Miss SIMPSON, Selville, Portobello.
Miss RAMSAY SMITH, 9 Bruntsfield Crescent.
Miss ELIZA STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent.
Miss LOUISA STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent.
Mrs WELLSTOOD, 6 Salisbury Place.
Mrs WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street.

Miss A. CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Miss WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street, } *Hon. Secretaries.*
Mrs MASSON, 6 Minto Street,

Miss E. KIRKLAND, 13 Raeburn Place, *Secretary.*

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



EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of the
EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE was held 3d March 1881, in the
Bible Society House, 5 St Andrew Square, Mrs DUNCAN
M'LAREN presiding. The Meeting was well attended. After
a few brief introductory remarks, the President called on the
Secretary to read the ANNUAL REPORT, as follows:—

' In preparing a Report to lay before our Friends and Subscribers
for the past year, we feel that we have much that is new and im-
portant to communicate with regard to the action taken throughout
the country on the question we are again met to consider; and
while thanking our friends for their past assistance, we ask with
more confidence than ever for their continued support and sympathy,
inasmuch as the claim for the Parliamentary Suffrage, which we have
so persistently urged for the last fourteen years, meets now with
almost no opposition anywhere, and must soon be recognised by the
Legislature.

' Shortly after the issuing of our last Annual Report, the great
political changes and excitement of the General Election swept over
the country. Our Committee, though not deeming it expedient to
take any public action, yet issued an address to the candidates for
election in Scotland, requesting their interest in the promotion of
Women's Suffrage, and inviting an expression of sentiment on the

subject. It is at present not easy to ascertain what is the numerical strength of our friends in the new Parliament, but as regards Scotland we feel satisfied we have not lost ground.

‘Owing to the dissolution, and the time consumed in the re-election and the settling in of the new Parliament, there was no opportunity to introduce a motion on the question in the first session; the subject was not, however, lost sight of. As the question is one of national importance, the friends of Women’s Suffrage in the House deem it right, in connection with any general scheme for the extension of the electoral franchise, that the inclusion of women should be agitated. Accordingly, on the introduction of a Government measure dealing with the borough franchise in Ireland, Mr Blennerhassett, M.P. for Kerry, gave notice on June 11th, that in Committee on the Borough Franchise (Ireland) Bill, he would move that the franchise be given to women householders in Irish boroughs. This amendment, and the measure to which it referred, were crowded out at the end of the session.

‘During the past year, although it was not deemed needful to organise petition work on a large scale, yet petitions have been prepared for the House of Commons from the following places in Scotland, signed by the *inhabitants*:—Birnham, Dunkeld, Callender, Dunoon, Blairgowrie, Cupar-Angus, Grantown, Forres, Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, Girvan, Stranraer, Newton-Stewart, Castle-Douglas, Moffat, Old Meldrum, Perth, Banchory-Ternan, Aberdeen, Kintore, Inverurie, Frazerburgh, Dumfries. From *Women Householders*, petitions are being sent from Perthshire, Dunoon, Morayshire, Nairn, Inverness, Aberdeen, Edinburgh. Petitions have also been procured from heads of trades in Edinburgh, from married ladies, and from lady householders, besides petitions sent from meetings in various parts of Scotland.

‘Our Secretary, Miss KIRKLAND, visited the south and west of Scotland during the summer, holding drawing-room meetings in many places, reviving the interest of workers, and enlisting new adherents. Similar work has been undertaken by others in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, and in other parts of Scotland. Among these may be mentioned meetings held by ladies of our Committee, in which the women members of the Watt Institution, and the employées of various large establishments in the city, were entertained, and they greatly enjoyed addresses given to them on the subject of the political rights of women.

‘Under the auspices of our Committee nine public meetings and a number of drawing-room meetings have been held during the year. One of the latter we owed to the kindness of Bailie Cranston, whose

successful efforts to render the meeting effective we gratefully appreciate. Of the public meetings, we must especially notice the one held in Queen Street Hall, in this city, at the close of the Social Science Congress last autumn, and which in its quality and enthusiasm deserves to be spoken of along with the great English demonstrations. It was presided over by Mr Charles B. M’Laren, M.P., and was addressed by Miss Becker, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Downing, Mrs Duncan M’Laren, Miss Louisa Stevenson, Miss Wigham, and others. Its great success was an indication of progress and appreciation of our cause, especially when we bear in mind that at the same time a large gathering of men was taking place, attended by the most distinguished alumni of the Social Science Congress.

‘Immediately following upon this was a great meeting held in the Queen’s Rooms, Glasgow, presided over by Dr Cameron, M.P. Although other great and important meetings were being held the same evening in that city, none could boast of a more enthusiastic or appreciative audience than that addressed by Miss Downing, Miss Craigen, Miss Wigham, and others, who were advocating the cause of justice to women.

‘We trust it will not be long before we have the same aid towards raising women in Scotland to appreciate their true political status which English women possess. Our true consistent friend Dr Cameron, M.P. for Glasgow, on the opening of Parliament this session, brought forward a motion for the “Amendment of the Municipal Franchise in Scotland.” This bill was read a second time, and passed. It has also passed through Committee, and we earnestly hope it may have a safe passage through the House of Lords, and become law. Women ratepayers may then vote for town councillors, and will secure a point of justice long denied them, and be able to exercise an important citizen right. We gratefully offer to Dr Cameron our warm thanks for his good service, and assure him that this sense of gratitude will deepen as time goes on, while the good results which will afterwards be acknowledged will be associated with his watchful care of human rights. Six Scotch Town Councils petitioned in favour of Dr Cameron’s Bill. The granting of the municipal franchise to women in England has had a very useful bearing on the agitation for the Parliamentary representation, and has been exercised on the side of a higher toned political morality.

‘Leeds has been worked up in a remarkable way by ward meetings, very much through the instrumentality of our friend Mrs O. Scatcherd, and other earnest women. So alive are the women to political work, in four days a meeting of 1800 women was gathered to aid in the last general election, and £100 raised in sums from

less than 1s. upwards to help to defray the Liberal expenses. The women were equally enthusiastic in Herbert Gladstone's election, and we shall much regret if he is not before long able to acknowledge that such political intelligence on their part ought to be rewarded by the Parliamentary vote.

' But the most striking feature of this year's working has been the large demonstrations, five in number, which have been held in England; though two of these have been national in their character. These have been raised by the leverage which the municipal franchise afforded to women, who through the different wards in the different towns raised an enthusiasm in favour of the higher suffrage, which goes on increasing, and will do so until their just rights are gained. The first of these was held in Manchester, on February 3d of last year. It was presided over by our own honoured President, Mrs M'Laren, and many of our members attended as delegates and speakers. The occasion was a grand and most impressive one in every respect; 5000 women were present in the great Free Trade Hall, and an overflow meeting accommodated 700 more. The addresses of the ladies on the platform, and of the working women, of whom some had come many miles to attend the meeting, were most effective. Resolutions, affirmative of the right of women to representation, were passed enthusiastically. A memorial was adopted, addressed to the Earl of Beaconsfield, then First Lord of the Treasury, and a motion carried that he should be asked to receive a deputation to present the memorial. This request was, however, refused, and the memorial was forwarded, and simply acknowledged.

' The next demonstration was held in St James' Hall, London, on the 6th of May. To it also several members of our committee were sent as a deputation; about 4000 women were present, and there was a large overflow meeting besides. The proceedings were of much interest, and were noticed in a leader in the *Times*, and by other influential papers. Next followed a similar monster meeting, held in the Colston Hall, Bristol, 4th November 1880, presided over by Mrs Beddoe.

' From this meeting an address was prepared to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, respectfully shewing, "That there are 500,000 ratepayers in the United Kingdom deprived of the power of voting in the election of Members of Parliament, on the sole ground that they are women," and praying that a measure might be introduced by Her Majesty's Ministers to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women ratepayers and landowners in boroughs and counties.

' The next meeting was held at Nottingham, with the like brilliant success; and the last took place in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on

the 22d of February of the present year. The great hall was crowded to excess, and, as usual, an overflow meeting was held in another large building. It was well that the great arena of political liberty, which has so often echoed to the noble words of John Bright, should re-echo to the true and earnest strains of those who carry out the principles to completeness which he has advocated. Many very able, eloquent, and convincing speeches were made on the occasion, and a proposition was carried that a deputation should wait on the Prime Minister to lay before him a memorial adopted by the meeting.

' Although our Association claims principally to work in Scotland, we have been privileged to take part in these great English meetings, and to rejoice in their marvellous success. The enthusiasm was so great, that on every occasion hundreds went away unable to obtain admittance.

' In addition to these very interesting details of progress, we have to record one other very important step which fully recognises the claims of women to the Parliamentary Franchise, gained by the energy of the Manchester Committee. The Government of the Isle of Man had been revising the basis of representation of the Island, and an effort was made to secure that women be admitted to the same electoral privileges as men, on the same qualification. The Bill was brought before the House of Keys, which is equivalent to our House of Commons, with the limitation of the franchise to "male persons," but an amendment to omit the word *male* was carried by a majority of 16 to 3. The Bill was next taken to the "Council," which answers to our House of Lords, but it was rejected, though with an expression of regret, and sent back. Concessions were made by the House of Keys rather than lose the amendment, and the Bill was passed to confer the electoral franchise on the female owners of real estate, though not on women occupiers. The Bill thus amended, which embodies the principle, and may hereafter be extended, received the Queen's sanction, by her royal assent, on the 6th of January, and the Bill became law in the Isle of Man by the final step of Proclamation from the Tynwald Hill on the 31st of January 1881. Thus the principle of the representation of women has been acknowledged in one portion of the British Dominions, and affords a stepping-stone for further recognition of this justice.

' In the month of December last we were informed that Mr Leonard Courtney, our excellent leader in the House of Commons, had been invited by Mr Gladstone to become a member of the Government. In accepting office he was obliged to give up the leadership of our question. While we regretted the loss in that

capacity of one so able and courageous, we felt glad that his great talents were thus recognised by the Premier, and that another warm advocate of our cause had been raised to the Treasury Bench, to give us his sympathy and aid in that higher sphere.

' This change necessitated the selection of a new leader in the House, and at the suggestion of Mr Courtney, and with the approval of our long-tried friend Mr Jacob Bright, a deputation of a highly representative character waited, on the 20th of January, on Mr Hugh Mason, Member for Ashton-under-Lyne. He received the deputation most cordially, and heard attentively the addresses of the various delegates, among whom, as representing our Society, our President took a prominent part. He replied in the most friendly manner, acceding to the wishes of the various associations as represented by the delegates, adding: "I esteem it a great honour to have been asked to undertake the duty, and to have been waited on by a deputation so large, influential, and representative; and if anything could encourage me in the work, it is the fact that so many ladies, in this inclement weather, have travelled so long a distance to ask me earnestly to perform this duty." Mr Mason then read the resolution which he has since laid before the House: "That in the opinion of this House the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." He concluded by saying: "I will do my best with this resolution, and if I fail in persuading the new House of Commons to accept it (thought I do not think that the House is going against us at all,—I have great confidence in it), it will not be for want of earnest devotion to the duty I have undertaken. I feel the great responsibility of it, and will do my best to bring the work to a successful issue." While we cannot but regret losing the services of Mr Courtney, for which our gratitude is ever due, we have cause for great satisfaction that so excellent a leader has been found as Mr Hugh Mason.

' Another Parliamentary change has taken place, within the last few weeks, which greatly affects our interests, we allude to the withdrawal from Parliament of our beloved and revered senior member for Edinburgh, Mr Duncan M'Laren. We deeply regret that we shall no longer have his faithful services in the House, where, ever since the first presentation of the Bill for the Removal of the Electoral Disabilities of Women by John Stuart Mill in 1867, he has voted in its favour on every occasion, and has supported every measure having for its object the advancement and elevation of the position of women. He is entitled to our warmest thanks and acknowledgments for his constant aid and sympathy and counsel.

' He is succeeded in the representation of Edinburgh by his son, the Lord Advocate for Scotland, whose influence, so far as he is at liberty to exercise it, will, we feel confident, be given on our side. And in his younger son, Charles B. M'Laren, M.P. for Stafford, we have a sincerely consistent and courageous friend.

' In thus briefly reviewing the tokens of progress in the year just passed, we feel them as incentives to press to complete success. Very shortly the electoral system of Great Britain must engage the attention of Government, and then the claims for the inclusion of women must be pressed most earnestly and persistently. The need for this representation becomes more and more evident as it is examined. Sixteen millions of the people are unrecognised in the legislation of the nation; although it is true that only 500,000 would be entitled to the actual vote, yet these would represent the interests of the sixteen millions, and an improvement would take place in the administration of law regarding so large a number of constituents. We claim then the sympathy of all our friends in our struggle, the help of men and women, so that the justice we demand may be accorded, and be found to exercise its beneficent influence on every portion of the kingdom of Queen Victoria.

' We cannot close this brief narrative of our position without alluding to the death of Professor Hodgson, which has left a painful blank among our most faithful and valued friends. Since the first organisation of our Society, he was ever ready to help; but at no period were we more sensible of his value to us than just when he was removed from us. We look back to one of the latest occasions, in which he presided at a Woman's Suffrage meeting in the drawing-room of Mr and Mrs Dick Peddie, and we well remember his straightforward and helpful utterance on that occasion. We would here record our sense of all he was to our cause, and how much we lose in his removal, and of our deep and affectionate sympathy with Mrs Hodgson. And we would also add our earnest wish, that as some friends are gathered from the field of service here, others may be raised up to fill the vacant post of usefulness, and that we may all be found working while the day lasts, striving to advance the cause of truth and righteousness, and seeking that we may be conscientiously and religiously prepared to take our part in the moral and political and religious path which may open before us; for surely a matter which concerns the well-being of the nation, is one which—we speak it reverently—is not unworthy to be undertaken as for the glory of God.'

The PRESIDENT said: 'In rising to move the adoption of the Report, I fear to break the spell which especially its solemn and deeply

touching conclusion has cast over the meeting. I do so, however, full of the recollection of the true and dear friend we and every good cause have lost. It comes vividly over me how, last year, he seemed to respond with eager gladness to every call made upon him to speak on questions which appealed to his higher moral nature. It was his religion to do good, and all who had the privilege of knowing him, can in truth bless his memory.

'No year has passed since this agitation for Women's Suffrage commenced when we felt that the question had made such immense progress. I am sure some of you must have heard of this progress with surprise, because there is one mark of success to which we have not yet attained,—we have not yet sufficiently gained the attention of the press. This cannot be because our efforts and our position do not deserve it; there must be some other cause for it. I do not believe, when these great demonstrations have taken place, which we have seen in England, when so many thousands of women have gathered together to be addressed by women of great intellectual power; when halls which formerly required the highest oratorical talents of which our country can boast to fill them,—when these great halls have been filled to overflowing, and second halls have had to be engaged for the still advancing crowd, and even then hundreds of women had to be turned away unable to gain admittance, I do not believe the silence of the press could be accidental. The history of every struggle for freedom and justice has to be repeated. In my own day I have seen more than once the press silenced when those in power have feared the rising influence of other agitations; but it may be the appointed means for success, as it stimulates resolve and effort, and widens the area of agitation. I ask you, when women gather together in these large numbers to ask for political justice, to ask for that which is given to even the most illiterate and worst of men, is it all of so little moment that it should not be considered worth while for the electric wires to convey the eloquent fact beyond the towns where these demonstrations are held? (Cheers.) It seems to me that there are readers of newspapers, who would feel quite as much interested in such details as in following a woman, even though that woman be an Empress, on the hunting field, whose movements it is thought worth while to keep daily before us. However, we have owed a good deal to some of our newspapers, and I would especially thank the *Daily Review* of this city—(cheers)—who has nobly argued our cause from time to time. I will not deny that the Empress of Austria may be fulfilling her mission in following the hounds, by showing that neither taste, power, nor intellect is dependent upon sex. (Applause.)

'Let me here remark, that if you wish to be kept up with our question, or the causes *why* we promote it, you must take in the "Woman's Suffrage Journal," edited by Miss Becker, of Manchester. You would see in that Journal some of the reasons why women desire to bring their influence to bear upon our Parliamentary representation. You would see injustice exposed under which women suffer, both rich and poor, of which two notable examples are given in this month's Journal. Already fruit is ripening, the seeds of which have been sown by this and kindred societies which have sprung from ours.

'There is a committee sitting now in the House of Commons, for the purpose of putting the property of married women on a more just basis, which will, I trust, prevent the repetition of such wrongdoing as you will read of in the Birchall case given in the Journal. We feel deeply grateful to those men, whose number is increasing in Parliament, as well as to those throughout the country who are desirous of raising the position of women,—(cheers)—to such as recognise the logic of that poor brutal husband, who had some undefined sense of having been under the education of bad laws, when he said on his trial for illusing his wife, "When you make her my equal, I'll treat her as such." Little of this equality is recognised by our laws, and never will be without the influence of women to make it otherwise. I am sorry to dwell on this part of our subject. Some one must do it, and if I am disagreeable, you must forgive me. There is a little paper which comes out in this city called the *Evening News*. It seems to me assiduously to collect painful criminal cases. I sometimes feel in reading it as though I was going through the "Chamber of Horrors;" but unfortunately the persons exhibited are still acting agents, or will be so again when their short terms of imprisonment are over.

'An old custom is preserved in some of our small towns and villages in England. The curfew bell still tolls to tell that eight o'clock is the old hour, perhaps God's appointed hour, for going to rest. This little *Evening News* sometimes seems to me to come like a very solemn warning, calling to a feeling of *unrest*, as it announces every evening the last twenty-four hours of crime in this city,—crime followed by punishment, which produces no reform. It comes like a voice to our churches, saying, Ye are found wanting: look at the crimes committed under your very spires and church-towers, and how unequally are men and women dealt with in much of this wrongdoing. Is there no one to "cry aloud and spare not?" I look often for some indication of disapproval of this routine of injustice. But though there is a general appearance of contentment,

I speak the growing sentiment of women, when I say there is a very growing feeling of discontent amongst them. (Applause.) Therefore you must allow a woman to speak, for it seems laid upon me to do so. I know there are many men who mourn over much of the evils that exist. I am reminded of one who has shown great faithfulness in going against accustomed thought when it was opposed to morality. When the dreadful revelations were made, showing how British girls were decoyed to the Continent, and found themselves, instead of meeting with honourable service, doomed to the worst kind of slavery, this good man wrote me, saying, he had long been aware of such nefarious practices, and now he thanked God for having given women the courage to expose it. I confess I was surprised, as my friend was not lacking in courage. I could only account for it in him by remembering what a great American divine once said, that "God was keeping men back in order to bring women forward."

'Can you wonder that thoughtful and intelligent women are roused to a feeling of rebellion against the way educated magistrates dispense the law under the name of justice, when they read such cases as the few to which I venture to call your attention?

'A poor girl or woman at Durham, who had just been liberated from jail, was condemned to *three months hard labour*, for taking as she left the prison a pair of what are called "Queen's stockings," which she had been knitting, worth 2s. 6d. Perhaps the woman had not a penny with which to buy bread or lodging, and justice might have been better served had there been, as in Edinburgh, a "Released Prisoners' Aid Society" to have helped her.

'On the same day at Hull, a man was sentenced to *six months* with hard labour, and two months in addition in case he could not find two sureties in £10 each—for what? He had committed an aggravated assault on a woman who had lived with him. He had asked the poor woman for 10s., which she gave him; he then dragged her by her hair into another room, locked the door, stripped her, kicked her all over with his heavy boots, then dragging her to the fire, lifted her up and dashed her against the hot bars. Her shrieks for mercy then brought assistance to her. We may well pity the poor woman, upon whom he would be let loose again in six or eight months.

'The next and last case among many I could cite, was in Edinburgh. A man and woman entered the house of a woman, I believe a widow, in the Lawnmarket; they knocked her down, trampled upon her and kicked her; then placed a pillow over her mouth, whilst the man atrociously used her; and afterwards threw a quantity of cold

water over her. And what do you think was the punishment given? *Five months* imprisonment! two months more than for stealing a pair of stockings worth 2s. 6d. I think you will agree with me that a sentence which showed so little appreciation of a woman's honour and a woman's rights, was not calculated to make brutal men regard women of much value in the eye of the law. I am sorry to have asked you to listen to these horrid details, but I cannot help sometimes exclaiming,—

"Alas that flesh and blood should be so cheap!"

when that flesh and blood is woman.

'Our magistrates and judges need not longer take refuge under the plea, that the law only allows them to give certain sentences, since the Home Secretary was reported to have said the other night in the House of Commons, when questioned on that dreadful Beckett case, when a man had murdered his wife and received no punishment, which you will see in Miss Becker's journal, that "he knew no reason why juries should be compelled to deliver verdicts, or judges sentences, otherwise than in accordance with the dictates of their own judgment."

'Perhaps some of you may ask, What has all this to do with seeking to obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women? My answer is, that if women were raised to the same political position which men enjoy, they would be regarded with much more consideration, and the laws under which they suffer would be improved through their influence upon the minds of our legislators.

'It will be an immense boon to Scotland, as regards all social questions, if women get the municipal franchise; and their minds will become far more alive to the benefits which would accrue, both to themselves and the nation, by the possession of the higher parliamentary franchise.

'Since much that I have said has been connected with the question of justice, I feel it would be unjust not to add, that though crime abounds, so also do good deeds. It would be a beautiful and touching page which would record the daily twenty-four hours of good done in our city, and would reveal much noble self-sacrifice and devotion to duty. But George Eliot has said, "It behoves us to learn how our miseries are wrought." If more pains were taken to do this, and to teach that morality which is in accordance with the principles of the New Testament, whose code is the same for both men and women, much of the efforts of the benevolent would be saved. Although we shall always have the poor amongst us, yet, when the upper classes acknowledge and practise a higher morality we should not see in our streets so many who cannot be included amongst the *virtuous* poor.

'It is as much to the credit of man as to woman, that opinion has advanced as it has done on every question which we have agitated. We have much to encourage us on every hand. That splendid vote of 396 against 32, in favour of granting honours examinations to women at Cambridge,—(cheers)—although it still keeps back an act of justice, confers a great good; and it was with no ordinary feeling of pleasure we read what an excitement of gladness it had caused in the lobby of the House of Commons. Perhaps some noble student may carry this act of justice to its legitimate end, by one day declining the position of honour given to him if he knew that a lady deserved it before him. He would, by such an act, leave the university crowned by a laurel such as neither Cambridge nor any other university has the power to bestow. (Applause.)

'The Report refers to the principle our Society has so long worked for, having been now recognised in the Isle of Man. Although that victory was not complete, "it was a glorious victory," in that little island in the middle of the sea. We read in the history of that island, of women having more than once played a heroic part in that path which some of our opponents have thought women ought to tread ere they could prove themselves worthy of being accepted as political entities. The warfare in which they engaged was suited to the times in which they lived. We wage a higher warfare, and we have, by our courage and the brightness of our weapons, carried captive most of the thinking portion of the nation.

'When the Birmingham papers say, that "no new reform bill can be considered complete which excludes women's suffrage to the extent which is asked for"; when Mr Gladstone, amongst whose rare and unequalled talents is the power to prepare the people for coming events, has told us that there is a side of politics which belongs to women; when his call to them to perform their duty in it is being answered by one demonstration after another of thousands of women eager for political justice and for higher work,—the hour of victory cannot be far off.' (Applause.)

Miss FLORA STEVENSON seconded the motion, and expressed the gratitude of all present to those ladies who were giving so much valuable thought, time, and attention for the benefit of their whole sex. She believed that if ever there was a time in the history of their movement when they had encouragements to go on earnestly and hopefully, it was the present. (Applause.)

Miss MAITLAND, in supporting the motion, remarked that the President had referred to the inequality of laws as regarded women. She remembered some years ago having visited Calton Jail, and been told the number of prisoners there at that time. The number of

women was more than double that of men, but she pointed out that there were certain offences for which women were imprisoned and men were left unpunished. When the new Edinburgh Police Bill was being prepared, it had been suggested that in a certain clause the word 'women' should be altered to 'persons,' but when the Bill came down from London it came with another word, which meant only women—'prostitutes,' and in that no attempt had been made to remove the injustice.

The motion was adopted.

Miss LOUISA STEVENSON moved,—'That this meeting is of opinion that the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right to vote; and that a petition to this import, in support of Mr Hugh Mason's resolution, be forwarded to the House of Commons, and entrusted to the Lord Advocate.' (Applause.)

Mr GEORGE TAIT seconded, and Miss BURTON supported, the motion.

The motion was adopted, and Miss Wigham read the petition, which was approved.

Miss SIMPSON moved a vote of thanks to Messrs Jacob Bright, M.P., Leonard Courtney, M.P., Hugh Mason, M.P., and others, who had spoken in favour of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. (Applause.)

The motion was adopted; and the Executive Committee having been reappointed, with Mrs D. M'Laren as president, a vote of thanks, on the motion of Miss Flora Mason, was heartily given to Mrs M'Laren for presiding, and the proceedings terminated.

In reporting the proceedings of our meeting the following editorial remarks were inserted in the *Edinburgh Daily Review*:—
'The report submitted, and the speeches delivered, afford abundant evidence of the resolution and ability with which the lady advocates of equal political, educational, and social rights and privileges regardless of sex, are promoting the work of reform they have on hand. Mrs M'Laren's exposure of the injustice suffered by women under many of our existing laws, and the mode in which they are administered, was both timely and effective.'

'It is as much to the credit of man as to woman, that opinion has advanced as it has done on every question which we have agitated. We have much to encourage us on every hand. That splendid vote of 396 against 32, in favour of granting honours examinations to women at Cambridge,—(cheers)—although it still keeps back an act of justice, confers a great good; and it was with no ordinary feeling of pleasure we read what an excitement of gladness it had caused in the lobby of the House of Commons. Perhaps some noble student may carry this act of justice to its legitimate end, by one day declining the position of honour given to him if he knew that a lady deserved it before him. He would, by such an act, leave the university crowned by a laurel such as neither Cambridge nor any other university has the power to bestow. (Applause.)

'The Report refers to the principle our Society has so long worked for, having been now recognised in the Isle of Man. Although that victory was not complete, "it was a glorious victory," in that little island in the middle of the sea. We read in the history of that island, of women having more than once played a heroic part in that path which some of our opponents have thought women ought to tread ere they could prove themselves worthy of being accepted as political entities. The warfare in which they engaged was suited to the times in which they lived. We wage a higher warfare, and we have, by our courage and the brightness of our weapons, carried captive most of the thinking portion of the nation.

'When the Birmingham papers say, that "no new reform bill can be considered complete which excludes women's suffrage to the extent which is asked for"; when Mr Gladstone, amongst whose rare and unequalled talents is the power to prepare the people for coming events, has told us that there is a side of politics which belongs to women; when his call to them to perform their duty in it is being answered by one demonstration after another of thousands of women eager for political justice and for higher work,—the hour of victory cannot be far off.' (Applause.)

Miss FLORA STEVENSON seconded the motion, and expressed the gratitude of all present to those ladies who were giving so much valuable thought, time, and attention for the benefit of their whole sex. She believed that if ever there was a time in the history of their movement when they had encouragements to go on earnestly and hopefully, it was the present. (Applause.)

Miss MAITLAND, in supporting the motion, remarked that the President had referred to the inequality of laws as regarded women. She remembered some years ago having visited Calton Jail, and been told the number of prisoners there at that time. The number of

women was more than double that of men, but she pointed out that there were certain offences for which women were imprisoned and men were left unpunished. When the new Edinburgh Police Bill was being prepared, it had been suggested that in a certain clause the word 'women' should be altered to 'persons,' but when the Bill came down from London it came with another word, which meant only women—'prostitutes,' and in that no attempt had been made to remove the injustice.

The motion was adopted.

Miss LOUISA STEVENSON moved,—'That this meeting is of opinion that the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in all matters of local government, have the right to vote; and that a petition to this import, in support of Mr Hugh Mason's resolution, be forwarded to the House of Commons, and entrusted to the Lord Advocate.' (Applause.)

Mr GEORGE TAIT seconded, and Miss BURTON supported, the motion.

The motion was adopted, and Miss Wigham read the petition, which was approved.

Miss SIMPSON moved a vote of thanks to Messrs Jacob Bright, M.P., Leonard Courtney, M.P., Hugh Mason, M.P., and others, who had spoken in favour of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. (Applause.)

The motion was adopted; and the Executive Committee having been reappointed, with Mrs D. M'Laren as president, a vote of thanks, on the motion of Miss Flora Mason, was heartily given to Mrs M'Laren for presiding, and the proceedings terminated.

In reporting the proceedings of our meeting the following editorial remarks were inserted in the *Edinburgh Daily Review*:—
'The report submitted, and the speeches delivered, afford abundant evidence of the resolution and ability with which the lady advocates of equal political, educational, and social rights and privileges regardless of sex, are promoting the work of reform they have on hand. Mrs M'Laren's exposure of the injustice suffered by women under many of our existing laws, and the mode in which they are administered, was both timely and effective.'

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Anderson, Miss, 8 Dryden Pl.	£0 2 6	Flint, Mr, Montgomery Ter., Ayr	£0 10 0
Anderson, Mrs, per Miss Caldwell	0 5 0	Fraser, Miss, 6 N. Charlotte St.	1 0 0
Bartholomew, Misses	1 0 0	Do. for <i>Journal</i>	0 1 6
Bayne, Mrs, Craigview, Murrayfield	0 5 0	Fraser, Mrs, U. P. Manse, Dalkeith	0 1 6
Do. for <i>Journal</i>	0 3 0	Gibson, Mr Thos., Princes St.	0 2 6
Birrell, Miss, Cupar	0 6 6	Gibson, Miss, 4 Merchiston Pl.	1 0 0
Blackie, Mrs J. Stuart, 24 Hill Street	1 0 0	Gordon, Miss, per Mrs Robert- son, 25 Blacket Place	0 10 0
Black, Miss, Howe Street	0 2 6	Grieve, Mr and Mrs, (2 years)	1 0 0
Blair, Mrs, Burnbank, Girvan	0 2 6	Greenock, Miss	0 5 0
Boyd, Mrs, Oriel Cottage, Eskbank	0 1 6	Hay, Miss, Wellington Sq., Ayr	0 2 6
Brown, Mrs M., Girvan	0 2 6	Hodgson, Mrs, Bonally	2 0 0
Burton, Mrs Hill	1 0 0	Hope, John, Esq., 31 Moray Pl.	5 0 0
Burton, Miss, Liberton Bank	0 5 0	Hope, Mrs, 11 Polwarth Ter.	1 0 0
Caldwell, Mr S. and Miss, Portobello	0 10 0	Hope, Miss, do.	3 0 0
Caldwell Brothers, Messrs, Waterloo Place	1 0 0	Hope, Miss Mary, do.	1 0 0
Caldwell, Mr S.	0 2 6	Hope, Mrs, Elphinston, East Lothian	0 2 6
Caldwell, Miss	0 2 6	Hunter, Miss, 5 Gt. Stuart St.	5 0 0
Clacker, Miss E., Girvan	0 2 6	Hope, Mrs, Portobello	0 2 6
Craig, Misses, 6 Carlton Street	5 0 0	Innes, John, Esq.	0 10 0
Cranstoun, Mrs, 16 Glen- orchy Terrace	0 2 6	Jex-Blake, Dr Sophia	2 0 0
Cruickshank, Mr G., Aberdeen	0 2 6	Kippen, Misses	7 10 0
Co-operative Printing Coy.	0 2 6	Kemp, Mrs	0 2 0
Daniel, Mrs, Scotland Street	0 10 0	Lamb, Miss, 17 S. Guildry Street, Elgin	0 10 0
Daniell, Mrs, St Andrews	0 10 0	Lauder, Miss Dick, Melville Crescent	2 0 0
Dawson, Mrs, Glenesk, Esk- bank	0 1 6	Lees, Miss, 8 Annandale St.	0 1 6
Dennis, Mrs, Ellenville, Esk- bank	0 1 6	Lewis, Mrs D., Findhorn Pl.	0 1 6
Dick, Miss Coventry, 8 Strath- earn Place	0 5 0	Livingstone, Josiah, Esq.	0 10 0
Dods, Mrs, Parkend House, Eskbank	0 1 6	Low, Mrs, Aberdeen	0 2 6
Duncan, Miss M., Foxhall, Kirkliston	0 5 0	Low, Miss, Minto Street	0 5 0
Dunlop, Mrs, Robstone, Dailly	0 2 6	M'Culloch, Mrs, Dumfries	1 1 0
Dunn, Mrs, 5 Alford Place, Aberdeen	0 2 6	Macfie, R. A., Esq., Dreg- horn, Colinton	1 1 0
Duthie, Mrs, Aberdeen	0 5 0	M'Intosh, Mrs, U.P. Manse, Dalkeith	0 1 6
Edington, Miss, 2 Grosvenor Crescent	1 1 0	M'Kinnel, Mrs, 47 Castle St., Dumfries	1 1 0
Fergusson, Mrs	0 2 6	M'Laren, Mrs, Newington House	10 0 0
Forbes, Miss, 4 Rothesay Pl.	0 2 6	M'Laren, Dr Agnes, Walker Street	5 0 0
		M'Laren, Duncan, Esq., jun.	2 2 0

M'Fadyen, Mrs	£0 5 0	Robertson, Mrs, The Castle	£0 10 0
Macgilvray, Miss	0 2 6	Robertson, Mrs, Blacket Place	0 5 0
Mackenzie, John, Esq., M.D., Eilenach, Inverness, (four years subscription)	4 0 0	Robson, Wm., Esq., Bank St.	1 1 0
M'Leod, Miss, 19 Northum- berland Street	1 0 0	Rose, H., Esq., Hillside Cres.	2 0 0
M'Leod, Miss, 9 W. Maitland Street	0 1 6	Ross, Mrs William, Girvan	0 2 6
Macqueen, Mrs, Lansdowne Crescent	5 0 0	Robertson, Miss, 12 Grosvenor Street	0 2 6
Macrobie, Miss, Bridge of Allan	0 2 6	Renton, Mrs	1 0 0
Marshall, Mrs, Girvan	0 2 6	Simpson, Miss	1 0 0
Masson, Mrs, 6 Minto St.	1 1 0	Simpson, Miss, Portobello	0 5 0
Mathieson, Mrs, 19 Northum- berland Street	1 0 0	Simpson, Miss Margt., Bridge- end, Dalkeith	0 1 6
Meikle, Mrs, Strathearn, Crieff	0 10 0	Smith, Miss C. Ramsay, 9 Bruntsfield Crescent	1 0 0
Melrose, Mr, George Street	0 5 0	Somerville, Mr Robert, Spring Gardens	0 2 6
Mein, Mrs, Kelso	0 2 6	Stephen, Mr Lessel, Aberdeen	0 2 6
Manghan, Mrs	0 2 6	Stevenson, Miss Eliza, 13 Randolph Crescent	12 0 0
Mein, Mrs B., Roxburgh Barnes, Jedburgh	0 10 0	Do. (Donation)	6 0 0
Millar, Mrs, York Place	2 0 0	Stevenson, Miss Flora, do.	1 0 0
Milne, J. D., Esq., Aberdeen	0 5 0	Stevenson, Miss Louisa, do.	5 0 0
Morton, J., Esq., Balclutha, Greenock	1 0 0	Stewart, Miss, Ashcraig, Ayr- shire	0 10 0
Morton, Mrs Wm., Girvan	0 2 6	Stuart, Mr W.	0 10 0
Murray, Miss, Braeside, Mer- chiston	0 10 0	Tait, Geo., Esq., 2 Seafield Villas	0 10 0
Mushet, Mrs, Glenarch, Esk- bank	0 1 6	Taylor, Mrs, Midfield, Dalkeith	0 1 6
Mitchellhill, Mrs	0 2 0	Thom, Mrs, Pinehill Cottage, Banchory	0 2 6
Nairn, Mrs, Hermitage, Murray- field	1 0 0	Thomson, Miss H. B., 98 Lauriston Place	0 3 0
Nelson, Messrs, and Son	1 0 0	Tod, Mrs, Ormesbank, Esk- bank	0 1 6
Nichol, Mrs, Huntly Lodge	5 0 0	Tait, James, Esq., Portobello	0 10 0
Ord, Mrs, Nisbet, by Jedburgh (two years)	1 10 0	Walls, Miss	0 10 0
Paterson, Mrs, 6 Bruntsfield Cres.	0 5 0	Webster, Mrs, Aberdeen	0 2 6
Pringle, Mrs, 8 Strathearn Pl.	0 5 0	Wellstood, Mrs	0 5 0
Ponton, Miss, 4 Eyre Place	0 1 6	Wellstood, Mr S.	0 5 0
Raleigh, S., Esq., Park House	0 10 0	Western, Mr P.	0 5 0
		Wyld, Miss A. G., 11 Lennox Street	0 5 0
		Wigham, Jane, Gray Street	0 10 0
		Wigham, E.	0 5 0

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 3d March 1881.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance last year	-	Expenses of Deputation to Demonstration,	
Subscriptions and Donations	£77 4 11	Manchester	£8 0 0
Interest from Bank	135 14 6	Printing	22 18 0
	0 10 9	Subscription to <i>Women's Suffrage Journal</i>	18 1 3
		Travelling and other Expenses of Secretary	77 0 0
		Travelling and other Expenses connected	
		with Meetings	20 0 0
		Advertisements	2 18 9
		Rents of Halls, Committee Rooms, &c.	7 19 0
		Postages	6 10 9
		Balance	50 2 5
	£213 10 2		£213 10 2

2d March 1881.—I have examined the Books and Vouchers for the past year, and find all correct, leaving balance in the Bank of Scotland of £50, 2s. 5d.

AMY ROBERTSON.