

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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Write out the form given below on any kind of paper that may be at hand. A sheet of foolscap or even note paper opened out will do.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners 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.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

It is, however, highly desirable that women householders should sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of

SH EWETH,

That your petitioners possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary suffrage.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and signatures must be on the same piece of paper. If more room is required more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions prepared during the recess should be carefully preserved until the opening of Parliament, or they may be forwarded to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded at the proper time.

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THE New Year's bells ring out the old dispensation under which marriage deprived a woman of property and personal rights, and ring in the new order of things under which wives become, now and henceforward, in the eye of the law, equal to their husbands as regards property rights, and independent of their husbands in their business relations with the outside world.

Every woman who marries on and after this day is entitled to hold and dispose of all her property in the same manner as if she were a *feme sole*, without the intervention of any trustee.

Every woman married before this day will be entitled to hold and dispose of all property to which she shall become entitled after this day.

Every married woman is now and henceforward rendered capable of entering into legal contracts, of suing and of being sued, in the same manner as if she were an unmarried woman.

No man will henceforward, by the mere fact of marriage with a woman, acquire any proprietary rights over any property which such woman owns at the time of her marriage or which she may subsequently acquire.

These are the salient points of the Act which comes into force to-day. There are many complicated clauses which seem necessary in order to give effect to these main provisions, and to serve other and subsidiary purposes, but which are not easily understood by those who are not lawyers. But the general effect of the law can be comprehended by all, and its working will soon become apparent in the increased security it will give to the position of the most helpless class of wives, the increased dignity which it will give to the personal position of all women, the increased wealth which security of tenure will be likely to bring to women as a class, and in many other modes of influence which it is as yet too early to foresee.

"WITH all my worldly goods I thee endow" is a pledge that will continue to be given by husbands in the marriage

service in spite of the abrogation of the law which has hitherto pointed the words with irony, by not only rendering the woman in that moment legally incapable of holding any worldly goods, but by handing over to the irresponsible control of the man who uttered them everything possessed by the woman to whom they were said.

Hitherto it is the husband who has been able to say to the wife with the knowledge that the law was on his side, "What's yours is mine, and what's mine is my own;" but now the tables are turned with a vengeance. It is the wife who can say, as they leave the church, "What's yours is mine, for you have just endowed me with it; what's mine is my own, for the law secures it for my 'separate use!'"

THE only right that appears now to be left to a husband in regard to the property of his wife is the right of paying her income tax. In every case where a wife living with her husband has separate property, or is earning an income by any trade, occupation, or profession which she carries on separately from him, or by the exercise of any literary, artistic, or scientific skill, her husband is bound by the Income Tax Acts to return such income or profits as if they were part of his own income and to pay the tax on them.

We are sure that no right-minded husband will object to paying the tax on as much income as his wife possesses or earns, first because he gets the benefit of the wife's income while she lives with him, in the same way that a wife gets the benefit of her husband's income while they are living together; next, because he alone possesses the franchise which gives him a voice in determining the impost and disbursement of the income tax, and of all other burdens which the State lays on either of them.

But if he should object, there is a very simple remedy. There appears to be no law which binds a wife to inform her husband of the amount of her income, or a husband to inform his wife of the amount of his income. If he

does not ask, or she does not tell how much she earns, he cannot include the sum in his return; and as, notwithstanding the new Act, a wife is still *feme covert* as regards the tax-gatherer, it is not easy to see how the impost is to be enforced.

THE long-deferred prorogation of Parliament took place last month. According to custom the Speech delivered on behalf of Her Majesty the QUEEN contained a reference to some of the leading features of the legislative work of the session. But among these topics we find no mention of the one measure which has effected so vital a change in the legal status of half of the people of England. The Married Women's Property Act is conspicuous by its absence among the list of measures which the Government takes the credit of having passed during the session.

Yet a line in the Speech from the Throne would have done more to call general attention to the great change in the law than all the newspaper articles, speeches, and legal treatises that have appeared since the Bill became law put together. It would have helped to secure to women the immediate practical recognition of their new rights, and to inaugurate the change of sentiment as regards the true position of woman in the family and in the state which must surely, if slowly, follow the radical change effected in the law. But women are politically non-existent. There is, therefore, no political credit to be obtained by legislating for their enfranchisement from legal disabilities. To them Governments do good by stealth, and if they do not blush, at least they do not appear to care to find it fame.

TWENTY-NINE years ago, in the year 1854, the Hon. Mrs. NORTON, writing on English laws for women in the nineteenth century, said: "Too Utopian would be the dream that instead of retrograding in the degree of protection afforded by the present code, better and juster laws for women might be made in the reign of QUEEN VICTORIA! That in the exercise of the functions of sovereignty, and the fulfilment of Parliamentary forms, HER Royal Assent might be recorded as affixed to those measures of increased protection to the weaker sex, which are the distinctive marks of a progressive civilisation, as the contrary is the recognised feature of barbarism. The same reign, in which the pen of a Macaulay has defended the intelligent capacity of Englishwomen, might surely see changed a treatment based on the ancient laws of *baron* and *feme*. And the QUEEN who has won

England's love in addition to her hereditary right to England's loyalty, and who has shown on more than one occasion that the sagacity of ELIZABETH and the courage of CŒUR DE LION are not incompatible with the most feminine devotion as Wife and Mother, might well resist for her woman subjects that contempt for womanhood which our unequal laws imply, leaving us, in the blessing of better laws on this subject, a brighter track of light than all the boasted progress of the 'Golden Age' of ELIZABETH.

This dream—too Utopian for the hope and faith of Mrs. NORTON, who yet strove so hard for its realisation—has, as she dared not anticipate, found in the Victorian age its embodiment in the substantial facts of life. But yet with a difference from the aspirations of the dreamer. The women of these later days do not put forth their claim as one for "protection," which they know to be but slavery in disguise, whether it takes the form of denial of personal and property rights, or of restrictions on their freedom of labour. They demand equal and complete justice. To this appeal the conscience and heart of men have nobly responded in the passing of the Married Women's Property Act, as they will further respond to further claims based on the same irrefragable principle. W.

IN the same pamphlet Mrs. NORTON muses on that accident of regal birth which has invested Majesty with sacred and irrevocable rights in a country where women have no rights. The one Englishwoman in England whom injury and injustice cannot reach is protected, not as woman, but as Queen.

Political power and political rights are the only sure safeguards of personal rights. Had the constitutional rights of Englishwomen in Parliamentary elections not been arbitrarily set aside in the dawn of Parliamentary institutions, the monstrously unjust legal system whose knell rang out with the last moments of the dying year would never have grown up. Had the political rights of women been recognised and restored in the Reform Bill of 1867, the passing of a just property law for women would have been a task which all members who desired women's votes would have vied with each other to secure, and we should not have had many months to wait for it. Unless women's rights of representation are recognised and secured in the coming Reform Bill, there seems every reason to expect that a season of severe legislation restricting their industrial liberty will set in vigorously—a system based ostensibly on the plea of protection to them-

selves from oppressive hours of labour, but based really on the principle of protecting the wage-earning class of men, who will, in the County Franchise Bill, be constituted the governing class, against the competition of women in the labour market.

THE main provisions contained in the new Married Women's Property Act are just and beneficent in their conception and operation. But there is one clause which appears to us to have an unjust and dangerous tendency, the working of which will need to be carefully watched—the clause, namely, which provides that every contract entered into by a married woman shall bind her separate property *unless the contrary be shown*. Now considering that the vast majority of contracts entered into by married women are contracts entered into in the discharge of their ordinary household duties—when they are ordering goods for the use and maintenance of their husbands' establishments—it seems a flagrant injustice to cast upon them the burden of proving that such contracts are entered into for the purpose of binding their husbands and not their separate property—a burden which has heretofore lain on the persons who contracted with wives.

Hitherto a wife who either wilfully or ignorantly exceeded the power to pledge his credit which her husband allowed her was sheltered from personal liability by her coverture. Now that shelter is withdrawn, and she orders goods under the same personal responsibility as if she were unmarried. But since the exigences of her position require her to enter into contracts for things to be used by her husband, the burden of proving that such contracts were not intended to bind her separate estate should surely not be laid upon her.

Wives who are in the habit of ordering goods from tradespeople for household use would do well to bear in mind the new responsibility laid upon them, and to take care in every case to explain to the tradespeople of whom they order such goods whether they order them on behalf of their husbands or not.

The Act does not relieve a husband from being liable for necessaries supplied to his wife where he has heretofore been liable, it merely renders it necessary for a wife in contracting for the supply of necessaries which her husband is bound to provide to explain to the other party to the contract that it is to her husband and not to herself that he must look for his money.

ON the day when married women all over England and

Ireland are entering on the new era when they shall possess and be responsible for their own property, it is interesting to recall to mind that one of the most important points of the new Act renders universal a right which married women in the City of London have enjoyed, as traders, for centuries.

The new Married Women's Property Act enables a married woman to enter into contracts, to sue and be sued, and renders her separate property liable for the debts of her trade.

An ancient record of the City of London, of the year 1419, the "Liber Albus," etc., published by H. M. Treasury, under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, shows that at that period "a woman under coverture exercising any craft in the said city apart by herself, and in which her husband does not meddle at all, such woman shall be charged as if she were a *feme sole* of all that touches her craft; and if the husband and the wife are impleaded, in such case the wife shall plead as a *feme sole* in the court of record, and have her law and other advantages in pleading as if she were a *feme sole*." If she was condemned she was committed to prison, and her husband's property was not chargeable. Or if she hired a house or shop she should pay the hire and be sued for debt as if she were without a husband; and if the husband and wife were charged with any trespass committed by the wife, she answered for it alone, while, too, she could recover damages for any trespass done against herself.

Surely the law of 1882 does but extend the margin of a right which an ancient custom had established five hundred years ago, before the dawn of a popular franchise. H. B.

THE West of England has been the scene of the principal meetings that have been held during the month. A great meeting was held on December 4th, in the Guildhall, Plymouth. Dr. MERRIFIELD presided, and the meeting was addressed by local speakers and by Mrs. HALLETT, Mrs. BRINE, Miss BECKER, and Mrs. SCATCHERD. A preliminary meeting was held at Devonport. Mrs. HALLETT and Miss C. A. BIGGS addressed a meeting at Swindon, and at Cardiff a meeting took place under the presidency of the Mayor, in which Mrs. BEDDOE, Miss CRAIGEN, Miss JENNER, Miss BLACKBURN, and Miss KENNEDY took part. Mrs. SCATCHERD has given a lecture at Launceston, and Miss BLACKBURN at St. Austell. Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE gave an address at Beckenham, and Miss C. A. BIGGS, Miss BECKER, Miss LILY STACPOOLE, and Mrs.

SHEARER have taken part in various lectures and discussions during the month.

WITHIN the past month there has been celebrated the jubilee of the Parliamentary life of the transcendently eminent statesman who now sways the destinies of this country. In December, 1832, Mr. GLADSTONE, at the age of twenty-three, entered Parliament as the Conservative member for Newark. Since that period he has sat almost continuously as a member of the House of Commons. He has represented several constituencies, and has been twice defeated at the polls, but these defeats did not keep him a day out of the House, for other constituencies were only too proud to return him as their representative by elections simultaneous with those in which his political opponents had triumphed.

Ten years is a long period to look back upon, at the accelerated and rapidly-increasing rate of change in the progress of events and the aspect of public affairs. A period of fifty years seems almost antediluvian to those whose first conscious remembrance of things has arisen since it began. This feeling is brought home to us by a study of the election address which Mr. GLADSTONE fifty years ago presented to the electors of Newark, and which has been reprinted by a contemporary. At that time the question of slavery was agitating the public mind, and Mr. GLADSTONE in dealing with it used some arguments which seem strange now, but which are curiously suggestive of some of the difficulties which many men raise in regard to the emancipation of women.

"I proceed to the momentous question of slavery," says Mr. GLADSTONE, "which I have found entertained among you in that candid and temperate spirit which alone befits its nature, or promises to remove its difficulties." "As regards the abstract lawfulness of slavery, I acknowledge it simply as imparting the right of one man to the labour of another, and I rest it upon the fact that Scripture, the paramount authority upon such a point, gives directions to persons standing in the relation of master to slave for their conduct in that relation, whereas were the matter absolutely and necessarily sinful, it would not regulate the matter." "We are agreed that both the physical and moral bondage of the slave are to be abolished; the question is as to the order only. Now Scripture attacks the moral evil before the temporal one, and the temporal through the moral one, and I am content with the order which Scripture has established." "To this end I desire to see immediately set on foot . . . an universal and

efficient system of Christian instruction." "As regards immediate emancipation, whether with or without compensation, there are several minor reasons against it; but that which weighs with me is that it would, I much fear, exchange the evils now affecting the negro for others which are weightier." "Let fitness be made a condition of emancipation." "Let him enjoy the means of earning his freedom through honest and industrious habits . . . and thus I earnestly trust, without risk of blood, without violation of property, with unimpaired benefit to the negro, and with the utmost speed which prudence will advise, we shall arrive at the exceeding desirable consummation—the utter extinction of slavery."

The Scriptural authority for the lawfulness of slavery is clear and cogent, as Mr. GLADSTONE shows, but it is now almost universally held that this argument was of temporary and special application only, and that the precepts of Christianity as understood at the present day are wholly opposed to the doctrine that man can lawfully hold his fellow man in bondage. Yet we see that the abstract lawfulness of slavery could be maintained on Scriptural grounds by a living statesman fifty years ago. It is reasonable to expect that in less than fifty years to come the doctrine of the social and political subjection of women will sound as strange in the ears of our successors as that of the social subjection of any class of men sounds in our ears to-day.

THE recent examinations for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the University of London show some remarkable results. There were one hundred and fifteen men candidates, of whom ninety, or forty-two per cent, obtained the degree. There were twenty-two women candidates, of whom sixteen, or seventy-three per cent, obtained the degree. Further, only twenty-seven per cent of the men candidates were placed in the first division, while fifteen out of the twenty-two, or sixty-eight per cent, were placed in the first division. Mr. HENSMAN, from whose letter to the papers we take the above figures, says that the average age of the women was not higher but probably lower than that of the men.

It has been objected against the fairness of judging the comparative intellectual capacities of men and women by such a test as this, that as the numbers were not equal, it may be presumed that picked women are compared with average or ordinary men. If this were so, the figures might still be given as exhibiting at least the equality of women and men in examinations. If the picked

women beat the average men by so large a percentage of passes and places, it might be supposed that competition between picked men and picked women, or ordinary men and ordinary women, would show something like equality in its results.

But the objection is not altogether fair, for unfortunately the process by which the women who are to enter on a university course are picked brings out rather those whose circumstances enable them to cultivate their intellectual tastes, than those who are distinguished by exceptional talents alone. Very few fathers are able or willing to send their daughters to college compared to those who send their sons. The only way in which the picked intellects among the great body of the people can obtain the training necessary to qualify for a university degree is through the system of exhibitions and scholarships, which is as yet almost entirely limited to men. When high school teaching and university training are as easily accessible to girls as to boys, it will be time enough to point comparisons of their intelligence based on supposition as to the nature of the selecting process under which they have respectively entered for their degrees.

THE movement for the advancement of women in France is taking a new departure, under the guidance of that earnest and indefatigable worker in the cause of equal justice for women, M. LEON RICHER, editor of the *Droit des Femmes*.

The November number of that paper contains the programme of "La Ligue Francaise pour le Droit des Femmes," a programme which sets forth as the primary duty of the League "to claim a revision of the law, since law perpetuates evil and makes injustice permanent." Accordingly the principles of the new League may be briefly described as seeking an equal position before the law for women. The League will have its central committee in Paris, with affiliated local organisations and will seek to attain its objects by petitions, lectures, meetings (and here the French programme adopts our English word for that English institution, a *meeting*), and by the publication and dissemination of literature.

But though the principles of the League may be thus simply stated, its programme is extensive. To enumerate leading points set forth—it will seek the raising of the age of protection for young girls, damages for breach of promise of marriage, the equal right of a mother in her children, the right of wives to a voice in the "Conseil de Famille," their right to administer their own property, equal moral

laws, divorce, equal wages for equal work. Such a programme would be overwhelming for one Society to attempt in Great Britain, but things are different in France, since there, as the programme observes, the country is passing through a time of social and political re-organisation, and the present is therefore an opportune time to suggest reforms. The *Droit des Femmes* for December gives the first list of members. The League is open to all who approve its objects, irrespective of domicile or nationality, by payment of an annual subscription of any amount. Communications should be for the present addressed to M. LEON RICHER, 4, Rue des Deux Gares, Paris.

H. B.

YORK WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above Association took place on December 14th at Cherry Hill, by invitation of Mrs. Henry Richardson. Mrs. RICHARDSON, who presided, in her opening remarks dealt with the right and duty of women to take a share in public matters.—Mrs. E. P. WILKINSON, the local secretary, read the annual report, which concluded with an appeal for public support to enable the Association to extend its operations among women of the working classes.—Mrs. EDWARD SMITHSON read a paper on the new Married Women's Property Act, and gave an account of its principal provisions. She referred to the long and wearying struggle both in and out of Parliament to bring about this measure of justice to women, which struggle would have been greatly lightened had women possessed the Parliamentary vote.—Miss LOUISA CARBUTT, member of the Leeds Union Board of Guardians, spoke of the help women may give in that department of public work, and in illustration spoke of her own work on the Board and that of Miss Gertrude Wilson in Leeds.—Mrs. J. EDMUND CLARK made some remarks on the importance of women endeavouring to obtain an intelligent comprehension of the important political and social questions which are being agitated outside; and was followed by Miss SWAINE, who spoke of the need of education for women of all classes in practical business matters, such education being required quite as much for the right administration of the household as for work out of doors.—The following resolution was carried unanimously: "That it is highly desirable that women should give their help in the formation of a sound public opinion on political, moral, and social questions, and that the surest means to this end is to direct their influence to the securing of the best possible representation in local elections for which women already possess the vote, as well as in Parliamentary and other elections where the vote is as yet denied them.—The proceedings closed with votes of thanks to Miss Carbutt, and to Mrs. Richardson for the use of her drawing-room. A letter was read from the Hon. Mrs. George Howard, strongly sympathising with the objects of the association, and one also from Mr. Creyke, M.P.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN.

The following sums, in addition to those previously advertised, have been contributed through Mrs. McLaren towards the expenses of the recent demonstration in Glasgow:—Miss Louisa Stevenson, £15; Miss Ramsay Smith, £5; Miss Hunter, £2; Miss Annie Fraser, £2; Miss Kirkland, £1; Mrs. Matheson, £1; and Mrs. Wellstood, £1. A letter from Miss Taylor, expressing regret at her inability to attend the meeting and hearty good wishes for its success, was received, but owing to an accidental delay in transmission was too late to be included in the list of letters read at the meeting.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

PLYMOUTH.

LETTERS FROM Mr. MACLIVER, M.P., Mr. PULESTON, M.P.,
Sir MASSEY LOPES, M.P.

GREAT MEETING IN THE GUILDHALL.

A public meeting was held on December 4th in the Guildhall, Plymouth, in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who were in possession of the qualifications which enable men to vote. Dr. MERRIFIELD presided, and there were present Sir William and Lady Hamilton, Miss Becker, Manchester; Mrs. Brine, Shaldon; Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Bath; Mrs. Oliver Scatterd, Leeds; Miss Helen Blackburn, Bristol; Miss Latimer, the Misses Radford, Mrs. J. Radford, the Misses Bishop, Miss Rooker, Mrs. Alfred Norman, Miss Borchart, Mrs. Snell, Mrs. Stoll, Miss Stoll, the Misses Bragg, Mrs. Prideaux, Miss Kendall, Mrs. Sharman, Miss James, Miss Rundle, Miss Gardiner, Miss Greenway, the Rev. W. Sharman, the Rev. W. E. Mellone, Dr. A. H. Bampton, Dr. Greenway, Messrs. T. Pitts, jun., W. N. Elliott, T. C. Brian, C. Radford, R. C. Uglov, W. R. Grigg, J. E. Moon, J. A. Page, S. Picken, W. Woods, A. S. Harris, I. Latimer, J. P., H. H. Whipple, E. Roseveare, A. Balkwill, W. J. Square, W. L. Martin, J. P., G. Tippetts, J. Radford, and Bishop. During the evening Mr. A. C. Faull gave recitals on the organ.

The CHAIRMAN said it was with the greatest pleasure that he had complied with the request of the Women's Suffrage Committee to preside that evening. That pleasure was caused by the knowledge that the meeting was not called for any political purpose, and that it was free from any religious bias, for on that platform Churchmen and Dissenters, Conservatives and Liberals, could all unite to endeavour to obtain what they considered was a right and a justice for their sisters. He had, from the time he was qualified to think, been unable to discover why women who fulfilled the duties of citizens should not be allowed also to have a vote for members of Parliament. If that right was given to men by reason of the payment of rates and taxes, why should women, who made similar payments, be treated differently? At the present time women could vote for town councillors, guardians, and members of school boards, but for members of Parliament they could not vote. They had met that evening to endeavour to remove that anomaly, and to say that if the payment of rates entitled men to become voters, then why in the name of justice should it be denied to women who paid equally with them. He had heard it said that women could not understand the questions at issue, and therefore they should exercise no influence regarding subjects before the country. If that were the only reason for denying the privilege of voting for Parliamentary candidates, then he said they would have to remove a great many names of those called the superior sex from the list of voters. (Laughter and applause.) As far as he could learn when women were brought into competition with men they were well able to hold their own, and this had been proved of late to a great extent by the examinations conducted by the University of London. He had been looking over the class lists of the examination, and he found that of the women who went up for examination 73 per cent were successful. But how many men were successful? Why, 27 per cent. Therefore it was shown that nearly three times as many women as men were able to grapple with abstruse questions. Did that at all look like inferiority or an inability to deal with difficult problems. He said it did not look like it, and he believed on all constitutional questions brought before them women would exercise as good as if not a better judgment than men. (Applause.)—He read a telegram from Miss Smith, hon. sec. of the Women's Suffrage Society, sending her good wishes for the success of the meeting, and a letter from the Rev. W. Whitley regretting his unavoidable absence; also the two following letters from Mr. Macliver, M.P., and Mr. Puleston, M.P. :—

"Ardnave, Weston-super-Mare, November 18th.

"Dear Miss Blackburn,—I much regret that I am unable to attend your meeting on the 4th December, having a previous engagement in London that day. I sympathise with the object of the meeting, and wish success to your efforts.—Yours very faithfully,
"P. STEWART MACLIVER.

"Miss Helen Blackburn."

"Dear Miss Blackburn,—I regret very much I cannot comply with your request. It would greatly gratify me to speak in

Plymouth on behalf of a cause which I believe is now making substantial progress—but I cannot be there at the time named.—Yours faithfully,
"J. H. PULESTON.
"November 20th."

The following letter had been received by Mr. T. Pitts, jun. from Sir Massey Lopes, Bart., M.P. The hon. baronet wrote :—
"You are quite correct in stating that I am in favour of extending the franchise to women who possess the qualifications which enable men to vote. I cannot see any difference between the municipal and Parliamentary franchise. Women can act as waywardens, members of school boards, &c., and hold several parish offices, and I cannot see why, if otherwise qualified, she should not exercise the Parliamentary franchise."

Mr. T. PITTS, jun., moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote; and no further measure of Parliamentary reform will be satisfactory that does not contain a provision for such extension." (Applause.) He (Mr. Pitts) might say that he held a sincere conviction that tax-paying and representation should go together. (Applause.) He could not see why a difference should exist in the status of the two sexes if they both belonged to the ratepaying community—(hear, hear)—and, therefore, it was not justice to withhold the Parliamentary franchise from women. He felt sure that if those who attended such meetings as that were not content to come together and pass resolutions, but work to see them enforced hereafter, then an injustice to women would be very soon removed. (Applause.)

Mr. A. P. BALKWILL, in seconding the motion, said he could conceive no subject more interesting or important to the constituencies of the country than the question they had met to discuss that night. The strength of our constitution depended upon the breadth of the constituencies. He rejoiced that the franchise had been, and would still further be given, to the poorest man, and as one of the main principles of the English Constitution was that those who had to be governed by our laws should have a voice in the making of the laws which governed them by means of representation, and that those who paid taxes should be represented, therefore he insisted that the clearest case had been made out for extending the franchise to women. The welfare of women, the property of women, the interests of women in a dozen ways came before the Legislature and demanded that they should be heard through those who represented them. If women were so interested, if ours was a representative Government, and if that representation was the very strength of our constitution, why should they shut out an educated, intellectual, thoughtful, calm, and patient class from the right of choosing those who were to make the laws of the land? They should rather add this class of electors to the constituency. He cared not to inquire whether the result would be beneficial to the Conservatives or Liberals. (Applause.) Women should have the power to vote, and should use that power as their convictions dictated. One likely result of their admission to the franchise would be to do away with the rougher elements of electoral contests, such as canvassing, &c., and make those elections such that women would be able to give their votes without anything of an embarrassing character being feared. (Applause.)

Miss BECKER (Manchester) supported the resolution, and claimed that the Women's Suffrage Society demanded the franchise for women, not because they were women, but because the State recognised them as taxpayers. The resolution before the meeting must, she thought, commend itself to the common sense and common justice of the people of the land. Whenever the spirit and heart of the nation were aroused women joined in those aspirations, they took part in those deliberations, they thought about them, and they had opinions which ought to be as much respected as those of men. (Applause.) Mr. Gilbert's play that was now coming out in London contained the following lines :—

Every little Briton that is born alive
Is a little Liberal or a Conservative.

(Laughter and applause.) She thought that was quite as true of the girl Britons as the boy Britons. (Laughter.) Girl Britons should grow up to their rights of citizenship just the same as boys. (Renewed laughter.) She must admit that it was not always a convenient season to make a demand for a great measure of reform of this kind. The Women's Suffrage Society had been working for fifteen years, and the convenient season had not come yet.

When Mr. Disraeli passed his Reform Bill it was pointed out to him that although it was intended to give the franchise to every household in boroughs rated to the relief of the poor, yet that one in six of these householders—women—would not be allowed to vote. The deceased statesman said that it was a great defect in the Bill, and it was a defect which should be remedied at the next opportunity. That opportunity had nearly come now. The present Ministry were pledged that before they appealed to the constituencies they would enlarge those constituencies by the assimilation of the county and borough franchise. That being so, this was the time for making this household suffrage once and for all a reality and not a delusion. Mr. Gladstone had been asked by a meeting at Bradford in his next Reform Bill to enfranchise women. The Premier's secretary replied: "Mr. Gladstone has no doubt that whenever such a measure is under consideration the question raised in the memorial will be carefully weighed." It would, of course, be premature to anticipate the result. When Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues did proceed to carefully weigh the question they would be guided very much by the opinion of the country, as expressed in meetings such as that. Therefore they had come forward, and they asked the people to declare whether they would have that measure of justice or not? She had not the slightest doubt that the verdict of that meeting would go in their favour, and that it would be a powerful element in the weighing of the question by the Ministry when the time came. She regretted that in the Queen's Speech read on Saturday neither her Majesty nor her Ministers had thought it worth while to refer to the Act passed during the past session dealing with women's property, although it was a measure affecting the property of sixteen millions of the inhabitants of the British Islands. The movement was no party one. They appealed to and relied on the support of all parties in conceding this great demand, and they had Sir Stafford Northcote's pledge that when men householders were enfranchised in counties the claim of women should be dealt with too. (Loud applause.)

Mrs. BRINE said that a tradesman with whom she was conversing the other day was amused when she told him that in this fair county of Devon there were no fewer than 487 women farmers and licensed victuallers. Was it not an anomaly, she asked, that the large amount of property thus represented should have no voice in the affairs of the nation? Some men said, "We do not like women meddling in politics; it destroys our ideal of the household angel." There were colder and more mundane things in life than party politics. The degradation of women was more serious than any political difficulty now before the world. She spoke from experience and observation when she said that upon the position of women depended the morality of society, and the present degradation of the sex in old countries was one of the saddest features and the most fruitful sources of sin and misery in the life of to-day. It was contemplated to extend the franchise among men, and yet about one-seventh of the householders of this country fulfilling all the requirements of the law, as regarded voting for members of Parliament were debarred from that privilege simply because they were women. She asked men not to exclude women from elections and yet lay their rates under contributions when they wanted funds to inquire into bribery at elections, or for their wars. She would ask what harm would the enfranchisement of women do? The only harm it would do would be to raise woman to her proper place by man's side, for where man had interests, hopes, and duties, woman had them too. (Applause.) The influence of women in politics was already very great in all countries. The only question in England was whether that influence should be open and legitimate, or, as in Turkey and Egypt, underhand and the fruit of intrigue and corruption. Surely they could not hesitate in deciding this question. There was no safety in any interference without weighty responsibility accompanied it, and she asked the meeting to support the resolution, so that women might be given the responsibility as well as the influence. (Applause.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD supported the resolution.

The resolution was then put, and the Chairman declared it carried unanimously, though there were one or two hands held up against it.

Mr. E. ROSEVEARE moved: "That a petition to the House of Commons based on the foregoing resolution be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting; also that memorials to Mr. Macliver and Mr. Clarke, M.P.'s for Plymouth; Sir Massey Lopes and Mr. Carpenter-Garnier, members for the county; Mr.

Puleston and Captain Price, members for Devonport, be forwarded praying for their support to a measure for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women." As far as his experience went, ladies showed an intelligent appreciation of questions affecting the municipal government of the town, and his impression was that they exercised their votes with the greatest care and discrimination. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that a measure conferring the Parliamentary franchise on women would soon be passed. (Applause.)

Mr. W. N. ELLIOTT seconded the resolution. He was pleased that this subject should have been ventilated in a public meeting of working men—he saw that meeting was composed in the main of the working classes of Plymouth—and he could not help thinking that they came there from a feeling of sympathy and a desire to help those who were placed in a position similar to themselves. (Applause.) He knew it had been urged that there existed a wide difference between the Parliamentary and municipal franchise, and he admitted that, to some extent, there was great force in the statement. The municipal franchise was used simply to carry out legislation which had become the law of the land, while Parliamentary legislation was actually drawing up and passing the law. It might, perhaps, seem bold on his part to say so, but he had met with some men who showed an utter incapacity to understand the public questions of the day, and these men did not occupy low positions in life in all cases, but had received a high education. Not only had he met men exercising a Parliamentary vote who showed that incapacity, but there were some cases, very rare perhaps, in which men of that class managed to creep into the House of Commons itself. (Laughter and applause.) He did not think they would lose anything by admitting their lady friends to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. (Applause.)

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT said she thought that in Devonshire they were particularly rich in members of Parliament who supported this question. She hoped the result of that meeting would be to obtain a decided opinion from Mr. Clarke in reference to the subject, and that they would be able to secure his support when the matter came before Parliament next session. (Applause.) He was one of those members who had never yet had an opportunity of voting on women's suffrage, and it behoved them to urge their members not to give a divided vote for Plymouth when a division was next taken in the House of Commons. It was just twelve years ago that the first meeting was held in Plymouth in reference to the enfranchisement of women, and it was interesting to recollect that that meeting was not only the first in Plymouth but one of the first meetings held in the country on the subject, and that it was addressed by men only. Mr. Walter Morrison, then their member, and Mr. R. Collier made valuable speeches in support of the Bill that year introduced into Parliament for the first time. As recently as 1870 people did not think that women would or could plead their own cause in public, but something like a revolution had taken place in the public mind since that time as to women's powers and women's duties. Ladies now address meetings on all questions of public interest as they arise. Mrs. Hallett then referred to various sentiments which still linger against the change they advocated, and among these the old sentiment of woman's sphere. She said that the Queen—a woman—had that day opened the new Courts of Justice, and the *Times* of Saturday, in referring to the ceremony, said that "the Queen will hold State in the royal courts not only as the fountain of justice, but as manifest head of the judicial system, of the executive force and of the legislative authority of these islands." They might say that high position was now more nominal than real, but look back at another illustrious female sovereign, whose age they were told was the golden age of Devonshire. If Victoria reigned, Elizabeth reigned and governed also. The men of that county were the notables of England in her time. There were Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Humphrey Gilbert—sons by successive marriages of the same mother—Margaret Champernowne. There were the Hawkinses and Drakes of the Armada and the Spanish Main. Did they think it ever occurred to these great men to question the fitness of a woman for political power. They counted it their highest honour to add to the glories of the maiden Queen, and Elizabeth in her appreciation of merit, knowing full well how to employ it, and how to reward it, was wont to say of her men of Devon, that "They were all born courtiers with a becoming confidence." Three hundred years had passed since that time, but she would recall the praise so royally given, and appeal with trust to the men of that county to extend their courtesy to the women of

to-day, and to help them to attain their political enfranchisement. Miss BLACKBURN then moved a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. LATIMER, in seconding the motion, desired to express his hearty concurrence in the movement that had been so well supported that evening. He had the pleasure ten years ago of presiding over a meeting having for its object something similar to that they had met that evening to consider. He had been much gratified in listening to the addresses of the ladies who had spoken, and felt confident that the forcible manner in which they had dealt with the subject proved how well capable they would be to exercise the franchise. He remembered hearing Miss Becker and other ladies address a meeting at Glasgow a few years ago, when the Duke of Argyll complimented the meeting on the clear and lucid manner in which those ladies had expressed their convictions. An opinion similar to that might be expressed that evening. Some years ago he remembered that in the county of Northampton, when party feeling ran very high, and when it was an object that every farm should be represented by a vote, women had to give up farms they could very well have managed through being unable to exercise the franchise. That was a most unfair thing.

The resolution was carried, and the proceedings terminated.

The following replies have been received to the memorials:—

“Ardnave, Weston-super-Mare, Dec. 7.

“Dear Dr. Merrifield,—I have received the petitions and the memorial from the meeting over which you presided. I shall with pleasure give my support “to any measure which may be introduced to the House of Commons for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women.” The petition will be presented when Parliament meets.—Yours very faithfully, (Signed) “Dr. Merrifield.”

“P. STEWART MACLIVER.

“Maristow, Roborough, South Devon, 9th Dec., 1882.

“Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the resolutions that were passed at a public meeting at Plymouth on 4th ult., and in which I cordially concur.—Yours truly, (Signed) “MASSEY LOPES.”

“Rookesbury Park, Wickham, Hants, Dec. 7th, 1882.

“Sir,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the copy of resolutions passed at a public meeting held in the Guildhall, Plymouth, on the 4th inst. Thanking you for your letter, I am, Sir, your obedient servant, (Signed) “John Merrifield, Esq.”

“J. CARPENTER GARNIER.

“Ketteringham Park, Wymondham, Dec. 8th, 1882.

“Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. enclosing a memorial on the subject of my support of the movement in favour of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. In conveying my thanks to you for the same, I have to assure you that my views on the subject have not undergone any change.—I remain, yours very faithfully, (Signed) “GEO. E. PRICE.”

DEVONPORT.

A well attended public meeting in “support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote,” was held at the Temperance Hall, Devonport, on November 30th. Mr. ALFRED NORMAN, J.P., occupied the chair, and was supported by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd (Leeds), Miss H. Blackburn (Secretary to the West of England Society), Rev. W. E. Mellone, Rev. E. Read, Messrs. F. Rowe, J. P., R. B. Welch, C. Radford, and J. S. Pound.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, expressed his full accord with the object they had met to support. He was glad they were met upon a common platform, for the question of woman's suffrage was not a political one; it related to no party exclusively. It appeared to him a most anomalous condition of things that women who were now taking degrees, and were practising in the various professions, were not allowed to exercise the right of voting in Parliamentary elections, which men possessing the proper qualifications enjoyed. That was a very anomalous state of things, and one that, he thought, should be altered. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. W. E. MELLONE then rose to move the following resolution: “That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualification which enables men to vote, and who in any matters of local government have already the right to vote.”

Mr. WELCH seconded the motion.

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCERD, who was well received, supported the motion, and was listened to with marked attention, and frequent applause. On the motion being put to the meeting it was carried unanimously.

The Rev. E. REED moved the adoption of petitions to the House of Commons, and memorials to Mr. Puleston, M.P., and Captain Price, R.N., M.P.

Dr. ROWE seconded the motion.

Miss H. BLACKBURN supported the motion, which was also carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

The following replies have been received by the chairman to memorials sent from the Devonport meeting:—

“Ketteringham Park, Wymondham, Dec. 6, 1882.

“Dear Mr. Norman,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. enclosing a memorial on the subject of the extension of the franchise to women. I beg to say that I shall be happy to support the prayer of the petition you have sent to the House of Commons through my colleague.—I remain, yours very faithfully, (Signed) “GEO. E. PRICE.”

“Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W., Dec. 4, 1882.

“Dear Mr. Norman,—I am obliged by your communication. I had seen a report of your meeting, and I should have been glad had I been able to be with you. I have always taken a deep interest in the question, and I rejoice to think we are making progress in the right direction. Kindly express to the ladies who were present and to the committee my concurrence in the views so well expressed, and believe me, yours faithfully, (Signed) “J. H. PULESTON.”

NEW SWINDON.

A meeting in support of the movement for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women householders and ratepayers took place at the Mechanics' Institution, New Swindon. Owing to the extreme severity of the weather, and probably the fact that at such seasons the public hall of the Institute is a cold, chilly apartment, the attendance was comparatively limited, although enthusiastic and appreciative. The chair was taken by Mr. JAMES SADLER, (Chairman of the Borough and Hundred of Cricklade Liberal Association). On the platform were Mrs. Ashworth-Hallett (Bath), Miss Caroline A. Biggs (London), Miss H. Blackburn (Secretary to the West of England Women's Suffrage Society), the Rev. J. Chew, the Rev. H. Austin, Mr. J. H. Preece, Mrs. Preece, and Mr. J. H. Piper (Editor of the *North Wilts Herald*).

The CHAIRMAN, in commencing the proceedings, read the following letters from gentlemen sympathising with them, but unable to attend, namely, from Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, M.P., from Mr. Fuller, Liberal candidate for the county, from Mr. Michell, Liberal candidate for the borough, and from Mr. W. B. Wearing.

“November 27th, 1882.

“Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice presents his compliments to Miss Helen Blackburn, and, in reply to her letter, is much obliged for the kind invitation it contains to the Female Suffrage meeting at Swindon; but though he is in favour of that movement, he is not able to undertake to appear on the platform in support of it, at a time when he has numerous other calls upon him.”

“Neston Park, Corsham, Wiltshire, Nov. 27th, 1882.

“Madam,—I thank you for your invitation to attend the public meeting proposed to be held at New Swindon, on December 11th next, in support of Women's Parliamentary Suffrage. It so happens that I have an engagement on that day which would prevent my being present; but independently of that, you must excuse me from taking an active part in promoting the object of your Society. I, in common with most others, can have no logical reasons for refusing the suffrage to women; at the same time, circumstanced as I am, it is sufficient for me to impress upon electors my views on the leading points of party politics, and I do not wish to travel out of that beaten track.—Believe me, dear madam, yours faithfully, (Signed) “Miss Helen Blackburn.”

“G. P. FULLER.

“30, Eversfield Place, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Nov. 27th, 1882.

“Madam,—Your letter of the 23rd has reached me here in reference to the proposed meeting at Swindon. I congratulate you on having secured the services of Mr. James Sadler. You could not have a better president. I regret my inability to be present, but this is less a matter of regret, because within the last few weeks I have to

the best of my powers advocated the cause of Women's Suffrage before the Swindon constituency. I need hardly say that if I should become the member for Cricklade your cause will always have my hearty support. As I know that movements of this kind cannot be carried on without funds, I beg herewith to enclose a subscription of one guinea.—I am, madam, faithfully yours, (Signed) “Miss H. Blackburn.”

“RICHARD MICHELL.

“Gloucester Villas, Swindon, Wilts, 9th Dec., 1882.

“My Dear Sir,—I am sorry I shall not be able to fulfil my engagement to be present at the meeting on Monday. The object has my warm support.—Yours truly, (Signed) “W. B. WEARING.”

Continuing, he said that after reading those letters he need hardly say that the object of their meeting there was to promote the cause of women, who were ratepayers and householders, to the franchise. Some might be in favour of that movement, others might not; he knew there was one gentleman present who was not in favour, because he had sent him (the chairman) an intimation of his intention to propose an amendment to the first resolution. Women already voted for school boards, boards of guardians, and municipal representatives, and he believed were considered to have exercised the trust with wisdom and discrimination, and he really did not see why they should not vote for members of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Her Majesty the Queen exercised the highest political functions, and discharged the same with a great deal of ability and judgment. (Applause.) Were all other women so incompetent that they were unfitted to vote for members of the legislature? One of our oldest political maxims was that taxation and representation should go together; was this principle to cease entirely when the interests of women were concerned? The next argument commonly advanced was that woman had her domestic duty to attend to, and if she discharged this properly it would occupy the whole of her time, and she had no business to wish to enter the arena of politics. This, however, would not affect single women, who generally had a certain amount of leisure, and much harm could not result. But he could not in any case see how the feeling of an interest in the topics of the day should interfere with a woman discharging her domestic duties in a satisfactory way; on the contrary, he thought it would be likely to open and expand her mind, and make her perform them better. The man who took an interest in public affairs wanted a helpmeet, a companion, a wife capable of sympathising in those matters, as well as in the common cares and every-day anxieties of life, only not merely drudge of the household, capable of administering to his animal appetite. (Applause.) What was now asked for was just principle, and sooner or later it would be obtained. (Applause.) He might point out to them one instance of the injustice of the present state of things. They knew what took place at Gloucester, Macclesfield, and other places not noted for electoral purity, at the last general election. The petitions in these places cost some thousands of pounds, which had to be met by rates levied on property. Now, in common justice, women ratepayers in these towns—of whom no doubt there were a goodly number—ought to have been exempted from the payment of these rates. Yet such was not the case, and they had to pay their quota for illegal practices of which they, of course, had been totally ignorant. (Hear, hear.) As measures to amend laws relating to the representation of the people would shortly be introduced into the House of Commons, it seemed a peculiarly fitting time to urge on the Government the justice of the claim of women to the franchise. (Hear, hear.) Although the advance of public opinion on questions affecting women had proceeded of late with leaps and bounds, they could scarcely expect a government to take the initiative in this matter; they must receive an intimation from their supporters that such a course was desirable, and the chief object for which they were assembled that night, he took it, was to come to a decision on that question, and then to point out plainly to their representatives what they wished them to do. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gladstone had said there was a side of politics that belonged to women, and that an alteration in the law regarding the political powers which affected them was a matter of immediate importance. (Applause.) Mr. Fawcett had spoken out in a very decided way—and he was sure they all regretted at the present time Mr. Fawcett's serious illness, and hoped he would be speedily restored to health. (Applause.) This was not a party question at all—there were on the platform that night gentlemen of different opinions, while it claimed scores of supporters from both sides of the House of Commons. (Applause.)

Mr. J. H. PIPER was called upon by the chairman to move the first resolution, as follows: “That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and no future measure of Parliamentary reform will be satisfactory which does not contain provision for such extension, and this meeting pressed on the local political associations the importance of adopting women's suffrage as part of their programme.” The speaker said the prospect of a large increase in the electoral body had caused more serious attention to be directed to the matter of female suffrage, and there was a general opinion that if, as was likely to be the case, household franchise were to be extended to the rural districts, efforts should also be made to place upon the electoral roll as large a number as possible of those interested in the welfare of the country and capable of intelligently expressing their opinions whenever an appeal was made to the country. He ventured to think that the inclusion of women householders in the electoral body would add to the constituencies a large number of fully-qualified and intelligent persons.

Mr. J. HULME PREECE, in brief terms, seconded the resolution.

Miss CAROLINE BIGGS supported the resolution.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT (of Bath) also supported the resolution. She said it had been suggested that if she spoke first the gentleman might take courage to move his amendment afterwards. (Laughter and applause.) It had always been a satisfaction at their meetings if anyone would speak on the opposite side. They had worked so long on that question that it was very difficult to realise any objections remaining to it in the public mind, and where their arguments sometimes failed, waverers were often convinced by the arguments which their opponents brought forward. (Hear, hear, and applause.) It was several years since she had the pleasure of attending a meeting held in Swindon for the discussion of this question. It was an enthusiastic meeting, and she would like to recollect that at that meeting the gentleman who presided was a name honoured in Swindon and elsewhere—the name of Major Prower. (Applause.) Among the many services he did his country, one was the kindly sympathy and support he gave to help that question when it was in a very different position to what it occupied to-day. (Applause.) Mrs. Hallett referred to the efforts women had made, and which had never been relaxed, on behalf of their claim, and now the time was at hand when a new Reform Bill would be framed. She said that during the last session one of the leading London newspapers had an article discussing the question, and it said that the suffrage would be extended to women when they had given proof of their capacity to exercise the franchise, their need to possess it, and their resolution to have it. She thought women would most cheerfully accept that challenge. (Applause.) Women had shown their capacity to exercise it by taking part in local elections throughout the country. (Applause.) Then, again, they had shown their capacity for the administration of the law, and that capacity had been most conclusively recognised in the manner in which constituencies had received them when they stood for any of the local boards. A woman had only to stand now to be elected. It had been acknowledged that women understood the needs of the poor better than anyone; this had always been acknowledged by the Church. Lately a strong and determined effort had been made to place women on boards of guardians, and they had been elected by large majorities. In Bristol they had three ladies serving on the Board. (Applause.) Then, again, it was always acknowledged that women understood children, and if ladies were willing to come forward and stand for the school board they found the constituencies almost certain to elect them. (Applause.) We had recently seen a very warmly contested election in London; a number of ladies stood, and one of the papers said that the most successful speeches were made by lady candidates and their lady supporters. The result had been that all ladies who stood were elected. (Applause.) There was another and more striking way in which the capacity of women for the suffrage was tested. During the last few years, side by side with the claim for women's suffrage, had grown up the demand for the higher education of women. (Hear, hear.) We had seen high schools grow up in various towns—there was one in Bath—where a thorough education was given, and the scholars were fitted for the Universities, and the Universities in turn had opened their long-shut door to women. (Applause.) At Cambridge every examination was open to women as well as men, although, as yet, men kept the degrees to themselves and ladies only got the certificates. But at the University of London

the students all take degrees alike. (Applause.) And further than that, the lady graduates of the University were admitted as members of Convocation, and members of Convocation take part in the government of the University. She saw it stated a day or two ago, that at the recent examination of the London University the women who were admitted to the examination for B.A. had done far better in comparison to their numbers than the men. (Applause.) Two days ago the class list of the University of London had been issued, and among the names on that list was one of the ladies of the Madras Medical College, who gained a scholarship and gold medal in one branch of medicine, and was first class in medical jurisprudence—(applause)—while another lady was first class in mathematics. (Applause.) It used to be said a short time ago, "What will become of women when they are allowed to compete side by side with men at the universities," but so remarkable was the position taken by women at these examinations that astonished tremblers now wondered, "What will become of men?" (Laughter and applause.) Well, those who had helped to bring about a newer conception of the relative position of men and women, ventured to predict a higher and happier future in store for both. They might leave to others to decide the vexed question of the difference of structure of the brains of men and women, but no longer could it be dogmatically said that one was intellectually inferior to the other. That point had become an unsettled question, and the intellects of women must be given at least the benefit of the doubt. (Laughter and applause.) They could, she thought, assert without fear of contradiction that their lady graduates had shown a capacity for exercising the franchise equal to our labourers in the counties, and even to the artisans in the towns. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Then they were asked to show their need of the franchise; the chairman had told them of the old maxim that those who paid the taxes should have something to say in regard to the use made of the money. (Hear, hear.) The Government had just concluded a war with Egypt, and now there was the bill of costs to pay. Mr. Gladstone estimated the cost of that war at something between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000, and this was to be raised by means of a heavy increase in the income tax. Now, how many men enfranchised by the last Reform Bill would contribute to the expenses of that war? Very few. How many men whom the Government profess now to be anxious to enfranchise would contribute anything? Perhaps none at all. (Applause.) But women would be called on by thousands throughout the country to pay for the expenses of that war. (Hear, hear.) She would point out that an increase of twopence in the pound in the income tax was a very heavy increase, and pressed with especial hardship on small fixed incomes, and women very largely swell the class of people in this country who live on small fixed incomes. (Hear, hear.) Having to pay twopence in the pound would make a difference to a very large class between ease and difficulty. (Applause.) She did not speak against the income tax as such, but she said that when women helped to contribute to war taxes at least they should be consulted as to whether a war should be undertaken. (Applause.) This fact ought to be "carefully weighed" when Mr. Gladstone frames his new Reform Bill. Another point of immediate public interest to which she might refer as showing the need of the franchise for women, was the Bill before Parliament last session to limit the hours of labour of people employed in shops—in fact to limit the numbers of hours during which shops might be open. Most people who heard this discussed thought the proposal was to apply to men and women alike, but as a matter of fact there had been no measure passed through Parliament to limit the labour of men. Men were electors, and knew full well the enormous value of having their labour freely to dispose of, but the measure she had alluded to was proposed on behalf of women, and they had to ask themselves whether the passing of such a measure was likely to throw a woman out of employment. (Hear, hear.) Lord Brabazon in his article in the *Nineteenth Century* hoped that before this Bill passed time would be given to gauge the opinion of those classes directly interested, but how could the opinion of classes affected by this legislation be ascertained when they had no political representation. If unaided by the knowledge of women, such efforts at legislation might partake of the nature of philanthropic despotism. It was said that if the advances made in the position of women during the last few years could be known, much prejudice would be removed from the minds of those who still feared serious consequences if women were allowed to vote at Parliamentary elections. (Applause.) It was a constant mental effort to

realise the changes passing around us—they who had been working on that question so many years found it difficult to realise the changes taking place. Only the other day the most bitter opposition was made to women entering the medical profession; it was thought that the education was beyond the physical powers of women, let alone the mental, and it was predicted that the most serious consequences would ensue if women were allowed to follow such a scientific calling. What had been the sequel to this opposition? At the last Church Congress it was stated, and she believed the statement met with universal approval, that thoroughly trained medical women were of the greatest importance in the future of India—(applause)—that through women could the gospel truths be carried to the homes of India, and that through their agency alone could the physical sufferings of our Indian sisters be alleviated. (Applause.) As the condition of things around us changed, the sphere of women's usefulness must change also;

For I doubt not through the ages one increasing purpose runs
And the thoughts of men are widen'd with the process of the suns.

She was wandering about amongst the Cotswold hills recently, and found in an old deserted manor house an old oak spinning wheel; she brought it away, but could find no lady who could teach her how to use it, but the sphere of our great grandmothers was to spin that wheel. The machine had also to a great extent taken the place of the needle, and now we were told our sewing would shortly be done by means of electricity. (Laughter and applause.) It was necessary then for women to adapt themselves to the altered times, and to cultivate new and varied powers in order that they might face successfully the battle of life. (Applause.) Their sphere was not a fixed one, and could not be fixed, but was an ever-widening one. Combating the fear which prevailed as to which side of politics women would espouse if intrusted with the franchise, Mrs. Hallett pointed out that the great masculine mind had not been at all steadfast in regard to its support of any especial political party, as was proved by the results of elections. No doubt adequate reasons could be given for these changes of opinion, and they might even be proved to be useful changes. Shakspeare, who was an authority on all things, had written:

Sigh no more, ladies; sigh no more.
Men were deceivers ever—
One foot on sea and one on shore—
To one thing constant never.

(Laughter and applause.) If hereafter the votes of women were found to be of an uncertain quantity, it could not be fairly said that inconstancy was a specially feminine characteristic. (Applause.) But in the good time coming they might find the votes of women less given to mere struggles for party supremacy, and given far more in support of those social questions which were too much overlooked and forgotten at present. (Applause.) As a proof of women's desire for enfranchisement, she mentioned that a petition in favour of the Parliamentary suffrage for women had been signed by 176 women-farmers in remote districts in the West of England, who probably had never seen such petitions before. This showed a real and substantial interest in the question. Many of these farmers wrote letters saying how thankful they should be if such a measure passed; one remarked that several women in her neighbourhood had been turned out of their farms because they did not possess the franchise. (Hear, hear.) The petition from the women farmers was presented to the House of Commons by Sir Stafford Northcote, who wrote saying that he considered the case of these women should certainly be dealt with in any future measure of reform. (Applause.) An objection was urged that many women would not care to use the franchise, and Mrs. Hallett pointed out, by reference to recent elections at Edinbro' and Liverpool, that a large number of men also did not care to exercise the privilege. But because only 36,000 men took the trouble to vote, out of the 62,000 on the register at Liverpool, it would be considered a very great hardship if Liverpool was to be disfranchised, because all the men who had votes did not care to exercise the power. (Applause.) On the same ground it would be a great injustice to withhold the franchise from women. Dealing with the capacity of women for the additional responsibility asked for, and referring to the fact that there still lingered a sentiment that politics were not within the sphere of women, Mrs. Hallett observed that women had always filled important offices in the State. Among the abbesses who, by reason of their great territorial importance, had been summoned to attend the King's Parliament, was the Abbess of Wilton in that county.

But one of the most interesting characters among the famous ladies of the county was that of Ela, Countess of Salisbury. She married William Longspee, who was equally noted in his time. After his death Ela reigned alone in her castle of old Sarum, filled the office of high-sheriff, and, in fact, ruled the county for some years. At last, tired of worldly power, she retired to the monastery of Lacock, where, as abbess, she lived to nearly the age of a hundred. When we read and recall the great and important positions of women in the past, filling as they did nearly every position of power, it seemed a small thing which they were now asking, to take their place in the electorate of the country. In conclusion, Mrs. Hallett dwelt upon the part played by women in securing reforms agitated for by men in former years. So early as 1819 women came forward and formed a political association to help men to obtain the franchise, and it was recorded that at a meeting in Lancashire a deputation from that women's association came on the platform and presented a cap of liberty and an address. The first time women were directly disfranchised by Act of Parliament was by the Reform Act of 1832, in which the words "male person" were used. She asked the men of Swindon and other parts of the country in their turn to present women with a cap of liberty, and help them to obtain the removal of their political disabilities. (Loud applause.)

The resolution was unanimously carried. The Rev. J. CHEW had much pleasure in proposing the following resolution:—"That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the previous resolution, be adopted by the meeting and signed by the chairman on its behalf; also memorials to Sir Daniel Gooch and Mr. Story-Maskelyne, M.P.'s for this borough, and to Mr. W. H. Long and Mr. Sotheron Estcourt, M.P.'s for North Wilts, praying them to support a measure to remove the electoral disabilities of women." As a Congregational minister he was bound to support the resolution, if only for the sake of establishing his claim to be consistent. The Congregationalists, as a body, allowed all members of their churches, whether male or female, to vote upon matters affecting the welfare of the religious community with which they were connected, and he was bound to say that the best men in his church were women. (Laughter and applause.) Those who had studied history would agree with him in saying that the position of women had increased and developed just in proportion as the Christian religion had spread and advanced; and therefore it was not unreasonable to argue that any movement that had for its object the advancement of the influence of women in society was in accordance with the principles of the New Testament. (Applause.)

The Rev. H. AUSTIN (of Cirencester) seconded the motion. Miss BLACKBURN supported the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN briefly, and in suitable terms, acknowledged the vote of thanks.

At the close of the meeting several persons signed the papers for petition.

CARDIFF.

The Mayor of Cardiff (Mr. G. A. Stone) presided on December 20th over a large meeting in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Cardiff, at which the extension to women of the Parliamentary franchise was advocated. There were upon the platform Mr. Lewis Williams, Mr. Daniel Lewis, the Rev. A. Tilly, Mr. R. Cory, Mr. Alfred Lusty, Miss Jenner, and the deputation—Mrs. Beddoe (Clifton), Miss Craigen (London), Miss Blackburn (Bristol), and Miss Kennedy (Bristol).

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, urged that ladies who were qualified in every respect by having their names on the register for municipal, school board, and board of guardians elections, ought to be allowed to vote for members of Parliament. (Applause.)

The Rev. A. TILLY moved the first resolution, which was to the following effect:—"That in the opinion of this meeting no future measure of Parliamentary reform will be satisfactory which does not contain provision for the extension of the franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and this meeting would press upon the political associations of South Wales the importance of adopting women's suffrage on their programme." In advocating the resolution, Mr. Tilly said the proposed extension

was just, and whatever was just would prove to be expedient. As an ardent Liberal, he had a very strong conviction that at first the party to which he had the honour to belong politically would suffer from the adoption of this measure. His idea was that the ladies were to a very much larger extent Conservative than they were Liberal. (Applause.) But at the same time he never had, that he knew of, voluntarily withheld from promoting an act of justice, because it might be attended with some unpleasant consequences for a time. He believed this to be a simple act of justice. (Applause.)

Mr. LEWIS WILLIAMS seconded the motion. He said he was convinced that it would be for the interest of England that this measure should be added to the statute book. Whenever the history of the nineteenth century came to be written, one of the most interesting chapters in the book would be that of the recognition of women's rights. We had recognised that women had brains as well as hearts—(applause)—and it would be for the interests of the country that we should recognise this still more fully.

Mrs. BEDDOE, in supporting the resolution, spoke of the social objections against women's suffrage. She said that those who had thrown ridicule on the movement might come to be ashamed of themselves when they considered that the proposal was originated by John Stuart Mill, was brought into notice by Lord Beaconsfield, and approved of by that idol of the English people, Mr. Gladstone. (Applause.) She denied that the extension of the franchise they proposed would lift women out of their proper sphere, and pointed out that they were not asking for the suffrage for married women, and neither were they seeking to thrust women into Parliament. (Applause.)

Miss JENNER, in speaking to the motion, said that the women advocates of this extension of the franchise did not intend to be put down, and the greater the effort made to stifle the movement the greater would be the efforts of its supporters to bring it to the front. (Applause.)

Miss BLACKBURN also supported the resolution, and said it was very unsatisfactory that so many women ratepayers should be disfranchised. The object of law was not coercion, but protection, and if we were to have equal education for women with men, there must be an extension of the franchise. She spoke of educational endowments intended for girls which had been diverted from their original purpose, and expressed a hope that the subject of female education would be brought into prominence at the meetings of the next National Eisteddfod, to be held at Cardiff, for she had observed that there was a good deal of discussion going on just now in reference to educational facilities in the Principality. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried. Alderman LEWIS proposed the next resolution—"That a petition to the House of Commons, praying for the extension of the franchise to women who fulfil the statutory conditions, be adopted by this meeting, and signed by the chairman on its behalf." In doing so, he urged that unmarried women ratepayers, at all events, ought to be placed on the same footing as males.

Mr. RICHARD CORY seconded the motion.

Miss CRAIGEN supported the motion. She said that the law should hold all equal—rather protecting the weak than assisting the strong—and all the supporters of this movement asked for was that unmarried women ratepayers should be put on the same footing as regards the Parliamentary franchise as men. The sphere of a woman was the same as the sphere of a man—that was to do their duty before God; and the claim of political liberty came within this category. She claimed the vote on principle, and she asserted that women had been ill-governed because they had been governed by a class who did not know how to do women justice. Laws that were unjust toward women were on the statute book, and at present women found that their efforts to get their wrongs redressed were in vain. Had women the Parliamentary franchise, they would have greater influence on the legislation of the country, and that such influence was required, she instanced cases showing the necessity for the greater protection of women. They wanted liberty, for from liberty was derived all the beauty and vigour of individual life. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried. A vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding terminated the proceedings.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

LEICESTER.

By the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Livens a drawing-room meeting was summoned on November 14th, at Brynmair, Stonygate Road, Leicester. Only ladies were present. Mrs. Livens herself occupied the chair, and there was a numerous gathering. Mrs. Shearer and Miss Biggs explained the objects of the movement, and at the close a petition to the House of Commons was unanimously voted.

BECKENHAM.

On November the 18th, Mrs. Alliston received a large number of friends at The Ferns, Beckenham, to hear Miss F. P. Cobbe and others advocate the claim of women to the suffrage. Miss Cobbe, in an eloquent and persuasive address, dwelt on the duty of women to try to secure, by all constitutional means, their fair share of influence in politics. She gave a most interesting sketch of her own life, to prove that the need of a vote is a great hindrance to a woman engaged in philanthropic work. Mr. John Macdonell, who followed Miss Cobbe, made a fresh and clever speech. Mrs. S. Chater moved the adoption of a petition to the House of Lords, and one to the House of Commons, in favour of women's suffrage, and gave a sketch of the recent Glasgow meeting. The Rev. C. Green, in seconding this motion in an able speech, lamented the rarely-broken silence of opponents, and the intangibility of the objections raised to women's suffrage. Miss C. A. Biggs proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Alliston, and Miss L. Stacpoole seconded Miss Biggs' proposal. The Chairman, who had opened the proceedings by a capital speech, now closed the meeting by a few happy remarks, asking to be allowed to transfer the thanks which were voted to him to one who had made the success of the meeting, namely, Miss Cobbe. There were between sixty and seventy guests in the billiard-room, where the meeting was held, and others in the adjoining room.

LAUNCESTON.

By the kindness of Mrs. Bunbury, Mrs. Scatterd gave an address at Edymead House, Launceston, on December 1st. The meeting was composed of ladies, and much interest was manifested in the subject.

LECTURES.

ST. AUSTELL.

In connection with the St. Austell Reading Rooms and Literary Institute Debating Society a lecture was delivered in the Town Hall, St. Austell, on Wednesday evening, December 6th, by Miss Helen Blackburn, of the West of England Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, on "What the Reform Act has done for Women." The chair was taken by Mr. F. R. Ray, and there was a large audience. At the conclusion of Miss Blackburn's very interesting address the Chairman in a few apt remarks moved "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have already the right of voting; and that a petition to the House of Commons be adopted by this meeting, and be signed by the chairman on its behalf." This was seconded by Mr. John Stephens, who spoke of the great pleasure he had in supporting the women's suffrage movement. Discussion was invited, but Mr. B. Andrew, jun., was the only one who raised a discordant note, and he thought women should not be busybodies and that they should remain at home; but Mr. George Thomas satisfactorily replied thereto. The resolution was carried by a large majority, only eight hands being held up against. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

LINDLEY.

In November last Miss Becker gave a lecture at Lindley, near Huddersfield, on behalf of the National Reform Union. The chair was occupied by Dr. Wormald, and the lecture was listened to with applause. Resolutions in favour of the principle of women's suffrage were adopted, and the meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

FOREST HILL.

A lecture was given on Oct. 23rd, in the Schoolroom adjoining the Baptist Chapel, Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill, by Mr. Jeffrey. The paper was excellent. An animated discussion followed, in which Mrs. Southey, the Rev. C. Anson, and others took part.

CAMDEN TOWN.

A discussion took place in the Athenæum, Camden Town, in November, on women's suffrage. It was opened by Miss C. A. Biggs, and carried on with great liveliness by Miss Babb, Mr. Paice, Mr. Wilkins, Mrs. Hosken Woodward, Mr. Wright, Miss Stacpoole, and others. A petition to the House of Commons was numerously signed after the meeting, which was almost unanimously in favour of Mr. Mason's resolution.

HIGHGATE.

A discussion in the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution was opened by Mr. F. Askey on Nov. 10th, in favour of extending the Parliamentary suffrage to women. In the debate which followed, Mrs. Chant made a very impressive and thoughtful speech.

NOTTING HILL.

On December 11th there was a discussion on women's suffrage at the Mall Hall, in connection with the West End Debating Society. Miss Becker opened the debate. There were several speakers on both sides. When the vote was taken the resolution was lost by a large majority.

DAVENTRY.

On Nov. 16th, a discussion meeting was held in the Daventry Liberal Club Room, to consider the question of women's suffrage. The chair was taken by Mr. Berry. Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss Eliza Sturge attended as a deputation from the National Society. The discussion was carried on by Mr. E. Ashworth Briggs, Mr. Allen, and others, and terminated in a petition to the House of Commons for the removal of the disabilities of women being unanimously carried.

STRATFORD, ESSEX.

Congregational Church Literary Society.—A meeting of the above society was held on Oct. 31st, L. W. Spratt, Esq., presiding. Mr. H. B. Bartram opened the debate and moved the following resolution: "That women, possessing the same qualifications as are necessary in the case of men, ought to be admitted to the Parliamentary franchise." In supporting this resolution he said that one of the vital principles of the British constitution is that taxation and representation go hand in hand, and seeing that women are freeholders, ratepayers, and possess all the necessary qualifications, he could not understand why they should not have a voice in the choice of Parliamentary representatives. Mr. A. Gray, in opposing the resolution, said that most women themselves were against it, and were unwilling to be drawn from home-life into the political arena. After the following had taken part in the discussion, viz., Messrs. Thomas, J. J. Pitman, Wilson, Hollingsworth, Abrahams, and Miss Bailey, the resolution was put and carried by a large majority.

ST. AUSTELL.

At the St. Austell Reading Room and Literary Institute Debating Society, on Oct. 24th, Mr. F. R. Ray opened the discussion in the affirmative on the motion that "This society is of opinion that women should be subject to no legal incapacity whatever, on account of sex alone." A somewhat strong opposition was shewn in the discussion, which resulted in carrying the motion by a majority of one.

PLYMOUTH.

The Plymouth Debating Society, on Oct. 27th, took the "Disabilities of Women" for their subject, Mr. Jeffery moving "That this society is of opinion that most of the social and political disabilities of women in this country are detrimental to the welfare of the community, and that it is desirable—first, that unmarried women should be admitted to the full franchise if otherwise qualified; second, that many occupations and professions from which at present women are excluded should be thrown open to them equally with men." After a brisk discussion, the motion was

carried in the affirmative by a considerable majority—members only voting. A number of ladies were present, the society having on that occasion invited their attendance for the first time.

HECKMONDWIKE.

A debate took place at the Heckmondwike Mechanics' Institute and Club in connection with the Debating Society on Nov. 27th.—Mr. F. Sheard, of Batley, led the debate, reading an able paper in support of the extension of the suffrage to women householders. The debate was sustained by Mr. T. Bickerton, Mr. S. Wood, Mr. Holdershaw, Mrs. Ellis (Batley), Mr. and Mrs. Vero (Batley), all of whom spoke more or less in a similar strain to Mr. Sheard.—At the close a petition in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women householders was signed, and a vote of thanks passed to Mr. Sheard for his paper. Mr. John Stansfield presided.

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM ON THE MINISTRATION OF WOMEN.

On December 14th, the Bishop of Durham (Dr. Lightfoot) delivered his first triennial charge to the clergy of his diocese in Durham Cathedral. In the course of his address his lordship said: Another subject on which I feel strongly, and which I commend to your earnest attention, is the ministration of women. It has always been a matter of deep regret to me that in the received English version of the Bible (which provisionally I will call authorised) the female diaconate has been obliterated. As I read my New Testament, the female diaconate is as definite an institution in the Apostolic Church as the male diaconate. Phoebe is as much a deacon as Stephen or Philip is a deacon. Yet in the former of the two passages to which I have alluded (1 Tim. iii. 13), the deaconesses are transformed into deacons' wives, in defiance alike of the natural interpretation of the words and of the suggestions of the context; while in the latter (Rom. xvi. 1) the colourless word "servant" is substituted for the more precise term "deacon" or "minister." Until this female ministry is restored the Church of England in this diocese will remain one-handed. Feeling this strongly, I laid the subject before the meeting of archdeacons and rural deans in September, 1880. The result was the appointment of a Committee on "Woman's Work," which reported early in the following year. This report recommended the introduction of the office of "deaconess" in the diocese in accordance with rules approved by the two Archbishops and most of the Bishops some years ago; and it still further expressed the opinion that "an Institution for the training of Deaconesses in the diocese of Durham is in every way desirable." Our hands have been so full of late that the working out of this scheme has been delayed hitherto; but I trust that it will occupy the serious attention of the diocese forthwith, and that at the next visitation satisfactory progress will be reported. In no direction can the resources of the Church be developed with the hope of more immediate and abundant fruit. We may find some difficulty in defining the precise line where St. Paul's prohibition (1 Cor. xiv. 34), as interpreted in the light of other passages (1 Cor. xi. 5), fixes the limits of the woman's function as a religious teacher; but in the philanthropic and charitable work of the Church, which is her proper sphere, her capabilities are inexhaustible. To utilise this great resource, hitherto undeveloped, to include within the organisation and to endow with the blessing of the Church the latent potentialities of self-denying sympathy and love with which woman is so richly endowed—this will be a truly noble aim to set before our eyes. No witness of men will plead so eloquently for Christ as this silence of woman's inobtrusive but boundless charity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT, 1882.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—Amongst your numerous readers, I think there must be many like myself who would be glad if you could inform them on a point relating to the position of women married long ago, whose property was then transferred to the hands of trustees under a marriage settlement. This had to be done simply because women were by marriage disqualified from continuing to hold their own property (in Railway Stock, &c.), but when the admirable Married

Women's Property Act, 1882, comes into operation, the very *raison d'être* of such settlements will pass away, as all women will be legally qualified to hold property. In many cases it would be far more convenient if these married women could resume the possession of the property which they held before marriage; and the trustees of their marriage settlements would be most happy to relinquish the trust and the trouble together. Will there be any legal impediment to such marriage settlements being cancelled (of course with the full consent of all concerned in them), and such married women being reinstated in possession of their own property after the new Act comes into operation on 1st January next? If such a course is open to them, I think very many people will be glad to know it, and to release their trustees.—I am, Madam, yours truly,
Dec. 14th, 1882. AN OLD MARRIED WOMAN.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY AND THE INCOME TAX.

The following letter appeared in the *Schoolmaster* :—

Sir,—I have read with great interest your correspondents' remarks about the paying of the income tax. I appealed three years ago, but it was of no use. I gave notice of appeal this year, but could not attend, so I showed the correspondence of Mr. James Ashworth, which appeared in your issue of November 25th, to our deputy clerk. He writes me: "I enclose you an extract from an Act of Parliament which is still in force, and under which you are assessed in respect of your wife's salary, and so far as I can see, there is no alternative but to pay the money when the time arrives. . . . The Act referred to in the letter to the *Schoolmaster* merely says that the earnings of any married woman from any employment separate from her husband shall be her separate property independently of her husband, and that her receipt alone shall be a sufficient discharge for such earnings. It says nothing about such income not being taxed on to her husband's."

That's where the rub is!

The following is the extract from the Act of Parliament still in force:—"Provided always that the profits of any married woman living with her husband shall be deemed the profits of the husband, and the same shall be charged in the name of her husband."

This is law. I hope the Act of 1882, which becomes law on January next, will be more explicit on the subject.—Yours obediently,
ALFRED E. BENDING.

[The Act, which becomes law this day, does not alter the above provision of the Income Tax Acts.—Ed. W. S. J.]

MEDICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN RUSSIA.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—In your note, "Female Physicians Abroad," in the *Journal* for October, 1882, the state of things in Russia appears in a more favourable light than it is in reality just now. I should be glad if you would allow me to explain the present state of our medical education of women, which may perhaps be not without interest to your readers.—I am, Madam, yours faithfully,
Kharkow, Russia, Dec. 15, 1882. A.

The following is the communication referred to:—

The politics of police regulation extended over all spheres of social life, and the system of repression directed on putting obstacles to every free movement of thought, and on preventing the feeblest protest against the pressure of the actual state of things, have a most unfavourable influence on the higher education of women. The single institution for medical education of women (medical courses) at St. Petersburg, which has subsisted ten years (1872-1882) by its own means with but little material help from society, is stopped, by order of the Emperor, since August this year, under the pretext of insufficient means for its further maintenance, and at the same time it was deprived of the buildings it occupied. As soon as this news spread over the country there came from all parts of it the most considerable money contributions; in a short time there were collected several hundred thousands of roubles. No part whatever in the subscription was taken by persons of high social position, for the question of the higher education of women is not

popular with them. What position do Government and Metropolitan Administration take then towards the so unanimously expressed public opinion (take into consideration what a notorious fact is this unanimity in a country where the public dares not have competency in social matters)? Not only do they not assist society in its exertions, on the contrary they restrain evidently the freedom of its movements by putting obstacles to the collection of money contributions. The repeated requests of society to form a committee with full power of accepting contributions remain ungranted. The governors of the provinces, in case of application to them, answer that they are not authorised to allow any kind of collective contributions, and leave freedom to everybody to address himself separately to the St. Petersburg Municipal Administration. No one meanwhile is authorised to accept contributions, which are received only by the offices of some periodicals, or come into private hands in the hope of better times. . . . Thousands of women wait anxiously for the decision of this question concerning the fate of medical courses for women, and one trembles involuntarily for the near future of this institution in a country where the energetic protest of society and the experiment which has shown how many women may be most capable and efficient doctors of medicine appears to be intentionally ignored.

HISTORY OF THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY LEGISLATION.

(Concluded from page 174.)

The following particulars are taken, with abridgments and slight alterations, from the final report of the Married Women's Property Committee:—

After the loss of the Married Women's Property Acts Consolidation Bill in two successive sessions, by the tactics of two obstructionists, and in view of the fact that the time of the House of Commons was expected to be fully occupied, during the earlier part of the session of 1882, with the consideration of the proposed new Rules of Procedure—the exclusion of all other business—the Committee felt that it would be unwise to attempt the re-introduction of the measure in the House of Commons, until some security was gained that the policy of obstruction might not again defeat its progress. In order to save the time which must inevitably have been lost by the introduction of the Bill in the first instance in the House of Commons, it was resolved to seek its introduction at the beginning of the session in the House of Lords.

At the request of the Committee, Mr. Hinde Palmer entered into communication with the Lord Chancellor (Lord Selborne) before the beginning of the session of 1882, in the hope that his Lordship, who had successfully piloted the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill through the House of Lords in the previous session, might be induced to extend the same help to the measure which applied to England and Ireland. In this application Mr. Hinde Palmer was successful. The Married Women's Property Acts Consolidation Bill, 1882, was introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor on February, was read a second time on Tuesday, the 7th of March, without a division, passed through Committee on Tuesday, March 28th, was reported on May 9th, and finally read a third time and passed on May 22nd. The Bill was before the House of Lords for nearly three months, and received consideration and valuable amendment at each successive stage—yet during its progress through the House of Lords, no opposition whatever was offered to its central and vital principle. The very few hostile amendments proposed concerned only the points of detail of a trivial character, these were at once negatived without a division. The only amendments that were made were of a friendly character, and designed to give full practical effect to its essential principle.

The Bill, on coming down from the Lords, was introduced in the House of Commons on behalf of the Government by the Right Hon. G. Osborne Morgan, M.P., on the 2nd of June, and read a second time without a division on Thursday, the 8th of June, The Bill would probably have become law during that month but for the opposition of the two gentlemen—Mr. Warton and Sir George Campbell—who had delayed its progress in the two previous sessions.

The same tactics of obstruction would, no doubt, have succeeded for the third time had not the Government and the House been roused to the conviction that it was nothing less than a public

scandal that the opposition of two men should be permitted any longer to stand in the way of a great social reform, for which the action of both Houses of Parliament and the expressed voice of the country had shown that public opinion was fully ripe.

It was accordingly arranged that the Bill should be taken on Friday, the 11th of August, at a time to which the 12-30 rule did not apply. In Committee, Mr. Warton proposed an amendment, the effect of which, with its consequential amendments, would have been to deprive women already married of their share in the advantages of the Act. The amendment was negatived, and the Bill passed through Committee.

Upon consideration of the Bill (Tuesday, August 15th) as amended, Mr. Warton renewed his attempt, and insisted upon a division, with the result that only six members, besides tellers, voted for his amendment, and 79, besides tellers, against it.

A number of verbal amendments were then inserted on the motion of Mr. Osborne Morgan, and by leave of the House the Bill was then read a third time amid cheers.

On the next day, Wednesday, August 16th, the Lords agreed to the Commons' amendments; and on Friday, August 18th, the Married Women's Property Acts Consolidation Act Bill received the Royal Assent.

WOMAN IN SERVIA.

Servia having been so many centuries under the Turk did not fail to adopt, as indeed was natural, many of his customs and habits. One finds in the Servian language many Turkish words, and the Servian national costume includes the fez. But Turkish influence did not exhaust itself on the language and costume of the Rajah, it extended itself to the status of their wives and daughters; and in the last liberated provinces (Nisch, Vranja, Pirot, Prokouplie,) it is scarcely three years since one could remark in the conduct of the women distinct evidences of Turkish influence—e.g., if a man happened to pass a little assembly of women sitting, as was the custom, on the ground spinning and discussing local events, the whole assembly rose to testify its respect for the superior sex, or if the assembly consisted of unmarried girls they all ran away, or at least hid their faces.

Every one knows that the Turk is the absolute master of the person of his wife, but few are aware that he cannot touch her property: if he choose to give her a bill of divorce and send her away, he can do so, but he must send her property with her. She is also entitled to a separate house equal to her rank, and into which no jealous rival is entitled to intrude. It is this law which keeps down the number of Turkish divorces and which restricts Turkish indulgence in polygamy—so far as legal wives are concerned. The religion of the Rajah, as also his poverty, protected him from the danger of falling into polygamous habits, but it did not prevent him from adopting the notions of his master as to the inferiority of the gentler sex and its right to retain its property. Hence we find that so long as the Turk retained a hold on Servian administration the status of Servian women was (except as to property) a very inferior one; they had their share, and more than their share of the work (chiefly field-work, for over 90 per cent of the Servian population consists of peasant proprietors), but they were seldom admitted to gatherings of the nobler sex, and when they were they were relegated to the back seats or told off to wait on the men, whose hands they kissed instead of shaking. A married couple arm-in-arm was then a thing never seen and never thought of, and marriages were arranged by the parents of the parties from motives of convenience. It was then not infrequent to see a sickly husband of 13 married to a bonny lass of 17, whose ability to work had made her a desirable acquisition to the house-communion of which her "lord and master" was a member. As the three "R's" are not absolutely necessary to one whose occupation is to hoe maize fields and vineyards, girls'-schools were then unknown luxuries; but it must *per contra* be admitted that even boys'-schools were rare. This was quite to be expected considering the scarcity of education amongst the dominant race. The Turkish language is exceedingly difficult to write, and those who take the trouble to learn to read and write it are looked upon as marvels of learning and become *ipso facto* a sort of nobility—i.e. *efendis*. The Rajah, observing this, thought it superfluous to learn to read and write the Servian, although that language being phonetic is one of the easiest in the

world to read and write. (Its difficulties consist in its infinity of terminations—e.g., the adjective has 42 terminations!)

But now all trace of Turkish influence is fast disappearing: the Servian woman is assuming her proper "sphere" (i.e., of equality), the wife presumes to go out walking with her husband, the daughter goes as regularly to school as the son, marriages are arranged amongst the young people, lady doctors are beginning to be known and appreciated, and female influence in politics has already succeeded in making itself directly felt—e.g., the wife of a Servian Minister recently accompanied her husband to Paris, to assist him in negotiations of the highest importance to the State.

In conclusion, one should add a word on divorce. A petition for divorce may be presented by either party, and the infidelity of either is a sufficient ground for such a petition, though in civilised England an injured wife must prove more than an injured husband in order to obtain a divorce (i.e., as distinguished from a judicial separation). The petition is considered by the ecclesiastical *consistorium*, which at first endeavours to reconcile the parties; failing that, it proceeds to give its decision on the merits of the petition. If it find one of the parties guilty it dissolves the marriage, and gives the innocent party, *whether husband or wife*, the right to re-marry; but the guilty party cannot re-marry without the consent of the *consistorium*, which is difficult to obtain, and which is never given without the consent of the innocent party to the dissolved marriage. This regulation is of course open to serious objection, but it has the merit of being *equal* with regard to its treatment of the two sexes.

A. BAKER,
Major, late Servian Field Hospital Staff.

YORKSHIRE COLLEGE BUILDING FUND.
CONTRIBUTION BY LADIES OF YORKSHIRE.

Some ladies of Yorkshire recently contributed one thousand guineas to the Yorkshire College Building Fund. The following letter from Sir Edward Baines in acknowledging the gift will be read with interest. It was postponed from our last issue through pressure on our space.

SIR EDWARD BAINES TO MRS. HEATON AND OTHER YORKSHIRE LADIES.

Leeds, November 9th, 1882.

To Mrs. Heaton, Mrs. Scatcherd, Mrs. Byles, Mrs. Marriott, and Mrs. Edward Crossley.

Dear Ladies,—The large and generous subscription raised by yourselves, and other Yorkshire ladies through you, in aid of the New Buildings of the "Yorkshire College," has laid all the friends of that institution and of higher education in our county under great obligations.

With characteristic modesty, you give to your benevolence the form of paying a debt of gratitude to the first College which opened its doors wide to your sex; and you ascribe to our example, in some degree, the other openings which have been made in our day for the higher education of women. If we are entitled to any credit on that score, it was really only for our recognition of the services which the fair sex were already rendering to education, to literature, to art, and to industry, as well as to the refinement and elegance, and the humanity, virtue, and goodness of social life. It was we, not you, who owed and were paying debts.

However this may be, you and all our fair friends will be glad to hear that the action of the Yorkshire College has been abundantly justified by the attendance of women at our lectures and classes, both in science and literature,—that in the last session one hundred and eighty were entered on our books as "registered," "occasional," and "evening students,"—that during the last two years two ladies took College scholarships, in competition with men, for attainments in science, each of them of the value of £30 a year, tenable for two years,—and that those ladies have been appointed as science teachers, one in the Girls' High School of Leeds, and the other in that of Bradford.

The competition of the sexes in intellectual work is manifestly an advantage to both; and we receive your students with as much satisfaction as your pecuniary help.

Will you permit me, however, to assure you that the bounty of the ladies is a most welcome relief to our funds, and a valuable addition to the amount previously received from our fellow-Yorkshiremen. And as we are engaged in a great work, both architectural and educational, we hope that the gentlemen who may not

already have subscribed may be stimulated by the example and influence of the ladies to assist in an undertaking which will tend to restore prosperity to our trade, and remain as a blessing to future generations.

On behalf of the Council of our College, I have the pleasure of transmitting to you, as below, the Resolution of grateful acknowledgment which they have entered on their books; and I have the honour to be, dear Ladies, your faithful and obedient servant,
EDWD. BAINES, Chairman of Council.

The following Resolution was, on the motion of Sir Edward Baines, Chairman of Council, seconded by Mr. F. Lupton, Chairman of the Finance Committee, unanimously passed at a meeting of the Council of the Yorkshire College on the 9th of November:—

"The Council gratefully acknowledge the receipt by the Treasurer of the sum of One Thousand Guineas, being a munificent contribution from Ladies of Yorkshire to the Building Fund.

"This appreciation of the recognition by the College of the equal rights of women to enter its class-rooms is most gratifying to the Council. The lists of students have, for several years, included many women; and it is most satisfactory that not only is the number of these students an increasing one, but that women have obtained in competition both scholarships and numerous class-prizes.

"The Council tender their hearty thanks to all donors to the ladies' contribution, and especially to those ladies who have so zealously worked for its success."

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, DECEMBER, 1882.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomasson .. £230 0 0	Miss Ellis £0 4 0
Sympathiser 150 0 0	Mad. E. Lohner 0 3 0
Mr. A. Pease, M.P. 10 0 0	Mr. Patterson 0 2 6
Miss Sargent 1 11 6	Mrs. Moses 0 2 0
Mrs. Sheffield 1 1 0	Mrs. Gooch 0 2 0
Mrs. C. H. Firth 1 0 0	A Friend 0 1 6
Mr. W. Price 1 0 0	Mrs. Burton 0 1 6
Mrs. Cooper 0 10 0	DERBY.
Mrs. Dixon 0 10 0	Miss Lamplough 0 5 0
Miss Shackleton 0 10 0	Mrs. Massey 0 5 0
Rev. Thos. Crow 0 10 0	Miss Carter 0 2 6
Mrs. Whitehead 0 5 0	Mrs. Johnson 0 2 6
Miss. M. Durham 0 5 0	Mrs. Norton 0 2 6
Mrs. Braithwaite 0 5 0	
Mr. E. T. Evans 0 5 0	£399 6 6

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 28, JACKSON'S ROW, MANCHESTER.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from NOV. 28 to DEC. 28, 1882.

Mrs. F. W. Chesson £1 1 0	Mrs. Hume Fry £0 4 0
Miss Mordan 1 1 0	Miss Van Sutton 0 2 6
Mr. Meryon White 1 1 0	Mrs. W. H. Lawrence 0 2 6
Mrs. Savile 1 0 0	Mrs. Somers Help 0 2 6
Mrs. Hullah 1 0 0	Miss Heblithwaite 0 2 6
Miss Turnbull 0 10 0	Mrs. Chesterman 0 2 0
Miss Reid 0 5 0	£7 4 0

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 64, BERNERS-STREET, W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from NOV. 23 to DEC. 20.

Mrs. Beddoe £5 0 0	Mrs. N. Williams £0 2 6
Mrs. Marsh (Yeovil) 5 0 0	Miss C. Colby (donation) 0 2 0
Mrs. W. H. Budgett 1 1 0	Mrs. Cordes 0 1 6
Mrs. Sparks Evans 1 1 0	Miss Pease 0 1 6
Mr. Richard Michell 1 1 0	Mr. W. W. Grant 0 1 0
Mrs. Arthur Tanner 1 1 0	A Friend (Devonport) 0 1 0
Miss Tribe 1 1 0	Mr. G. Bartlett 0 0 6
Mrs. Gen. Colby (donation) 0 14 0	Mr. Hawkins 0 0 6
Mr. Bartlett 0 10 6	PLYMOUTH.
Mrs. Bunbury 0 10 0	The Misses Bragg 2 0 0
Mrs. Miller (Galway) 0 10 0	Mr. Charles Radford 1 0 0
Mrs. Sadler 0 10 0	Miss Latimer 0 5 0
Mr. C. W. A. Tait 0 10 0	Mrs. A. Latimer 0 2 6
Miss Lillie Thomas 0 10 0	D. Merrifield 0 2 6
Mrs. Brine 0 5 0	Mr. Griffin 0 2 6
Miss Cocks 0 5 0	Mr. Brufford 0 1 0
Mrs. Hargrave 0 5 0	Mr. Hunnack 0 1 0
Mr. F. Tribe 0 5 0	Mr. Moon 0 1 0
Mrs. Watson 0 5 0	Mr. Pease 0 1 0
Miss Ball 0 2 6	Miss Rowe 0 1 0
Mrs. Barlow 0 2 6	Mr. Webb 0 1 0
Mrs. E. M. Field 0 2 6	Mr. Edgcombe 0 0 6
Miss Roberts 0 2 6	Mrs. Withcombe 0 0 3
Mrs. Stone 0 2 6	
Mrs. Waring 0 2 6	£25 14 3

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 1, CECIL ROAD, CLIFTON.

TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE ACTS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

AN ACT

[45 & 46 VICT.]

CHAPTER 75.

[18th August, 1882.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the Act of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth Victoria, chapter ninety-three, intituled "The Married Women's Property Act, 1870," and the Act of the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth Victoria, chapter fifty, intituled "An Act to amend the Married Women's Property Act (1870)";

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. (1.) A married woman shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, be capable of acquiring, holding, and disposing by will or otherwise, of any real or personal property as her separate property, in the same manner as if she were a feme sole, without the intervention of any trustee. (2.) A married woman shall be capable of entering into and rendering herself liable in respect of and to the extent of her separate property on any contract, and of suing and being sued, either in contract or in tort, or otherwise, in all respects as if she were a feme sole, and her husband need not be joined with her as plaintiff or defendant, or be made a party to any action or other legal proceeding brought by or taken against her; and any damages or costs recovered by her in any such action or proceeding shall be her separate property; and any damages or costs recovered against her in any such action or proceeding shall be payable out of her separate property, and not otherwise. (3.) Every contract entered into by a married woman shall be deemed to be a contract entered into by her with respect to and to bind her separate property, unless the contrary be shown. (4.) Every contract entered into by a married woman with respect to and to bind her separate property shall bind not only the separate property which she is possessed of or entitled to at the date of the contract, but also all separate property which she may thereafter acquire. (5.) Every married woman carrying on a trade separately from her husband shall, in respect of her separate property, be subject to the bankruptcy laws in the same way as if she were a feme sole.

2. Every woman who marries after the commencement of this Act shall be entitled to have and to hold as her separate property and to dispose of in manner aforesaid all real and personal property which shall belong to her at the time of marriage, or shall be acquired by or devolve upon her after marriage, including any wages, earnings, money, and property gained or acquired by her in any employment, trade, or occupation, in which she is engaged, or which she carries on separately from her husband, or by the exercise of any literary, artistic, or scientific skill.

3. Any money or other estate of the wife lent or entrusted by her to her husband for the purpose of any trade or business carried on by him, or otherwise, shall be treated as assets of her husband's estate in case of his bankruptcy, under reservation of the wife's claim to a dividend as a creditor for the amount or value of such money or other estate after, but not before, all claims of the other creditors of the husband for valuable consideration in money or money's worth have been satisfied.

4. The execution of a general power by will, by a married woman, shall have the effect of making the property appointed liable for her debts and other liabilities in the same manner as her separate estate is made liable under this Act.

5. Every woman married before the commencement of this Act shall be entitled to have and to hold and to dispose of in manner aforesaid as her separate property all real and personal property, her title to which, whether vested or contingent, and whether in possession, reversion, or remainder, shall accrue after the commencement of this Act, including any wages, earnings, money, and property so gained or acquired by her as aforesaid.

6. All deposits in any post office or other savings bank, or in any other bank, all annuities granted by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt or by any other person, and all sums forming part of the public stocks or funds, or of any other stocks or funds transferable in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, or of any other bank, which at the commencement of this Act are standing in the sole name of a married woman, and all shares, stock, debentures, debenture stock, or other interests of or in any corporation, company, or public body, municipal, commercial, or otherwise, or of or in any industrial, provident, friendly, building, or loan society, which at the commencement of this Act are standing in her name, shall be deemed, unless and until the contrary be shown, to be the separate property of such married woman; and the fact that any such deposit, annuity, sum forming part of the public stocks or funds, or of any other stocks or funds transferable in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England or of any other bank, share, stock, debenture, debenture stock, or other interest as aforesaid, is standing in the sole name of a married woman, shall be sufficient prima facie evidence that she is beneficially entitled thereto for her separate use, so as to authorise and empower her to receive or transfer the same and to receive the dividends, interest, and profits thereof, without the concurrence of her husband, and to indemnify the Postmaster General, the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland, and all directors, managers, and trustees of every such bank, corporation, company, public body, or society as aforesaid, in respect thereof.

7. All sums forming part of the public stocks or funds, or of any other stocks or funds transferable in the books of the Bank of England or of any other bank, and all such deposits and annuities respectively as are mentioned in the last preceding section, and all shares, stock, debentures, debenture stock, and other interests of or in any such corporation, company, public body, or society as aforesaid, which after the commencement of this Act shall be allotted to or placed, registered, or transferred in or into or made to stand in the sole name of any married woman shall be deemed, unless and until the contrary be shown, to be her separate property, in respect of which so far as any liability may be incident thereto her separate estate shall alone be liable, whether the same shall be so expressed in the document whereby her title to the same is created or certified, or in the books or register wherein her title is entered or recorded, or not.

Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall require or authorise any corporation or joint stock company to admit any married woman to be a holder of any shares or stock therein to which any liability may be incident, contrary to the provisions of any Act of Parliament, charter, bylaw, articles of association, or deed of settlement regulating such corporation or company.

8. All the provisions herein-before contained as to deposits in any post office or other savings bank, or in any other bank, annuities granted by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt or by any other person, sums forming part of the public stocks or funds, or of any other stocks or funds transferable in the books of the Bank of England or of any other bank, shares, stock, debentures, debenture stock, or other interests of or in any such corporation, company, public body, or society as aforesaid respectively, which at the commencement of this Act shall be standing in the sole name of a married woman, or which, after that time, shall be allotted to, or placed, registered, or transferred to or into, or made to stand in, the sole name of a married woman, shall respectively extend and apply, so far as relates to the estate, right, title, or interest of the married woman, to any or the particulars aforesaid which, at the commencement of this Act, or at any time, afterwards shall be standing in, or shall be allotted to, placed, registered, or transferred to or into, or made to stand in, the name of any married woman jointly with any persons or person other than her husband.

9. It shall not be necessary for the husband of any married woman, in respect of her interest, to join in the transfer of any such annuity or deposit as aforesaid, or any sum forming part of the public stocks or funds, or of any other stocks or funds transferable as aforesaid, or any share, stock, debenture, debenture stock, or other benefit, right, claim, or other interest of or in any such corporation, company, public body, or society as aforesaid, which is now or shall at any time hereafter be standing in the sole name of any married woman, or in the joint names of such married woman and any other person or persons not being her husband.

10. If any investment in any such deposit or annuity as aforesaid, or in any of the public stocks or funds, or in any other stocks or funds, transferable as aforesaid, or in any share, stock, debenture, or debenture stock of any corporation, company, or public body, municipal, commercial, or otherwise, or in any share, debenture, benefit, right, or claim whatsoever in, to, or upon the funds of any industrial, provident, friendly, benefit, building, or loan society, shall have been made by a married woman by means of moneys of her husband, without his consent, the Court may, upon an application under section seventeen of this Act, order such investment, and the dividends thereof, or any part thereof, to be transferred and paid respectively to the husband; and nothing in this Act contained shall give validity as against creditors of the husband to any gift, by a husband to his wife, of any property, which after such gift, shall continue to be in the order and disposition or reputed ownership of the husband, or to any deposit or other investment of moneys of the husband made by or in the name of his wife in fraud of his creditors; but any moneys so deposited or invested may be followed as if this Act had not passed.

11. A married woman may by virtue of the power of making contracts herein-before contained effect a policy upon her own life or the life of her husband for her separate use; and the same and all benefit thereof shall enure accordingly.

A policy of assurance effected by any man on his own life, and expressed to be for the benefit of his wife or of his children, or of his wife and children, or any of them, or by any woman on her own life, and expressed to be for the benefit of her husband, or of her children, or of her husband and children or any of them, shall create a trust in favour of the objects therein named, and the moneys payable under any such policy shall not, so long as any object of the trust remains unperformed, form part of the estate of the insured, or be subject to his or her debts; Provided, that if it shall be proved that the policy was effected and the premiums paid with intent to defraud the creditors of the insured, they shall be entitled to receive, out of the moneys payable under the policy, a sum equal to the premiums so paid. The insured may by the policy, or by any memorandum under his or her hand, appoint a trustee or trustees of the moneys payable under the policy, and from time to time appoint a new trustee or new trustees thereof, and may make provision for the appointment of a new trustee or new trustees thereof, and for the investment of the moneys payable under any such policy. In default of any such appointment of a trustee, such policy, immediately on its being effected, shall vest in the insured and his or her legal personal representatives, in trust for the purposes aforesaid. If, at the time of the death of the insured, or at any time afterwards, there shall be

Married woman to be capable of holding property and of contracting as a feme sole.

Property of a woman married after the Act to be held by her as a feme sole.

Loans by wife to husband.

Execution of general power.

Property acquired after the Act by a woman married before the Act to be held by her as a feme sole.

As to stock, &c. to which a married woman is entitled.

As to stock, &c. to be transferred, &c. to a married woman.

Investments in joint names of married women and others.

As to stock, &c. standing in the joint names of a married woman and others.

Fraudulent investments with money of husband.

Moneys payable under policy of assurance not to form part of estate of the insured.

no trustee, or it shall be expedient to appoint a new trustee or new trustees, a trustee or trustees or a new trustee or new trustees may be appointed by any court having jurisdiction under the provisions of the Trustee Act, 1850, or the Acts amending and extending the same. The receipt of a trustee or trustees duly appointed, or, in default of any such appointment, or in default of notice to the insurance office, the receipt of the legal personal representative of the insured shall be a discharge to the office for the sum secured by the policy, or for the value thereof, in whole or in part.

12. Every woman, whether married before or after this Act, shall have in her own name against all persons whomsoever, including her husband, the same civil remedies, and also (subject, as regards her husband, to the proviso herein-after contained) the same remedies and redress by way of criminal proceedings, for the protection and security of her own separate property, as if such property belonged to her as a feme sole, but, except as aforesaid, no husband or wife shall be entitled to sue the other for a tort. In any indictment or other proceeding under this section it shall be sufficient to allege such property to be her property; and in any proceeding under this section a husband or wife shall be competent to give evidence against each other, any statute or rule of law to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always that no criminal proceeding shall be taken by any wife against her husband by virtue of this Act while they are living together, as to or concerning any property claimed by her, nor while they are living apart, as to or concerning any act done by the husband while they were living together, concerning property claimed by the wife, unless such property shall have been wrongfully taken by the husband when leaving or deserting, or about to leave or desert, his wife.

13. A woman after her marriage shall continue to be liable in respect and to the extent of her separate property for all debts contracted, and all contracts entered into or wrongs committed by her before her marriage, including any sums for which she may be liable as a contributory, either before or after she has been placed on the list of contributories, under and by virtue of the Acts relating to joint-stock companies; and she may be sued for her in respect thereof, or for any costs relating thereto, shall be payable out of her separate property; and as between her and her husband, unless there be any contract between them to the contrary, her separate property shall be deemed to be primarily liable for all such debts, contracts, or wrongs, and for all damages or costs recovered in respect thereof: Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall operate to increase or diminish the liability of any woman married before the commencement of this Act, for any such debt, contract, or wrong, as aforesaid, except as to any separate property to which she may become entitled by virtue of this Act, and to which she would not have been entitled for her separate use under the Acts hereby repealed or otherwise, if this Act had not passed.

14. A husband shall be liable for the debts of his wife contracted, and for all contracts entered into and wrongs committed by her, before marriage, including any liabilities to which she may be so subject under the Acts relating to joint stock companies as aforesaid, to the extent of all property whatsoever belonging to his wife which she shall have acquired or become entitled to from or through his wife, after deducting therefrom any payments made by him, and any sums for which judgment may have been bonâ fide recovered against him in any proceeding at law, in respect of any such debts, contracts, or wrongs for or in respect of which his wife was liable before her marriage as aforesaid; but he shall not be liable for the same any further than he is liable in respect of such debts, contracts, or wrongs, or otherwise; and any court in which a husband shall be sued for any such debt shall have power to direct any inquiry or proceedings which it may think proper for the purpose of ascertaining the nature, amount, or value of such property: Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall operate to increase or diminish the liability of any husband married before the commencement of this Act for or in respect of any such debt or other liability of his wife as aforesaid.

15. A husband and wife may be jointly sued in respect of any such debt or other liability (whether by contract or for any wrong) contracted or incurred by the wife before marriage as aforesaid, if the plaintiff in the action shall seek to establish his claim, either wholly or in part, against both of them; and if in any such action, or in any action brought in respect of any such debt or liability against the husband alone, it is not found that the husband is liable in respect of any property of the wife so acquired by him or to which he shall have become so entitled as aforesaid, he shall have judgment for his costs of defence, whatever may be the result of the action against the wife if jointly sued with him; and in any such action against the husband and wife jointly, if it appears that the husband is liable for the debt or damages recovered, or any part thereof, the judgment to the extent of and as to the residue, if any, of such debt and damages, the judgment shall be a separate judgment against the wife as to her separate property; and as to the residue, if any, of such debt and damages, the judgment shall be a separate judgment against the wife as to her separate property only.

16. A wife doing any act with respect to any property of her husband, which, if done by the husband with respect to property of the wife, would make the husband liable to criminal proceedings by the wife under this Act, shall in like manner be liable to criminal proceedings by her husband.

17. In any question between husband and wife as to the title to or possession of property, either party, or any such bank, corporation, company, public body, or society as aforesaid in whose books any stocks, funds, or shares of either party are standing, may apply by summons or otherwise in a summary way to any judge of the High Court of Justice in England or in Ireland, according as such property is in England or Ireland, or (at the option of the applicant irrespectively of the value of the property in dispute) in England to the judge of the county court of the district, or in Ireland, to the chairman of the civil bill court of the division in which either party resides, and the judge of the High Court of Justice or of the county court, or the chairman of the civil bill court (as the case may be) may make such order with respect to the property in dispute, and as to the costs of and consequent upon the application as he thinks fit, or may direct such application to stand over from time to time, and any inquiry touching the matters in question to be made in such manner as he shall think fit: Provided always, that any order of a judge of the High Court of Justice to be made under the provisions of this section shall be subject to appeal in the same way as an order made by the same judge in a suit pending or on an equitable plaint in the said court would be; and any order of a county or civil bill court under the provisions of this section shall be subject to appeal in the same way as any other order made by the same court would be, and all proceedings in a county court or civil bill court under this section in which, by reason of the value of the property in dispute, such court would not have had jurisdiction if this Act or the Married Women's Property Act, 1870, had not passed, may, at the option of the defendant or respondent to such proceedings, be removed as of right into the High Court of Justice in England or Ireland (as the case may be), by writ of certiorari or otherwise as may be prescribed by any rule of such High Court; but any order made or act done in the course of such proceedings prior to such removal shall be valid, unless order shall be made to the contrary by such High Court: Provided also, that the application of the High Court of Justice or of the county court, or the chairman of the civil bill court, if either party so require, may hear any such application in his private room: Provided also, that any such bank, corporation, company, public body, or society as aforesaid, shall, in the matter of any such application, for the purposes of costs or otherwise, be treated as a stakeholder only.

18. A married woman who is an executrix or administratrix alone or jointly with any other person or persons of the estate of any deceased person, or a trustee alone or jointly as aforesaid of property subject to any trust, may sue or be sued, and may transfer or join in transferring any such annuity or deposit as aforesaid, or any sum forming part of the public stocks or funds, or of any other stocks or funds transferable as aforesaid, or any share, stock, debenture, debenture stock, or other benefit, right, claim, or other interest of or in any such corporation, company, public body, or society in that character, without her husband, as if she were a feme sole.

19. Nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with or affect any settlement or agreement for a settlement made or to be made, whether before or after marriage, respecting the property of any married woman, or shall interfere with or render inoperative any restriction against anticipation at present attached or to be hereafter attached to the enjoyment of any property or income by a woman under any settlement, agreement for a settlement, will, or other instrument; but no restriction against anticipation contained in any settlement or agreement for a settlement of a woman's own property to be made or entered into by herself shall have any validity against debts contracted by her before marriage, and no settlement or agreement for a settlement shall have any greater force or validity against creditors of such woman than a like settlement or agreement for a settlement made or entered into by a man would have against his creditors.

20. Where in England the husband of any woman having separate property becomes chargeable to any union or parish, the justices having jurisdiction in such union or parish may, in petty sessions assembled, upon application of the guardians of the poor, issue a summons against the wife, and make and enforce such order against her for the maintenance of her husband out of such separate property as by the thirty-third section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1868, they may now make and enforce against a husband for the maintenance of his wife if she becomes chargeable to any union or parish. Where in Ireland relief is given under the provisions of the Acts relating to the relief of the destitute poor to the husband of any woman having separate property, the cost price of such relief is hereby declared to be a loan from the guardians of the union in which the same shall be given, and shall be recoverable from such woman as if she were a feme sole by the same actions and proceedings as money lent.

21. A married woman having separate property shall be subject to all such liability for the maintenance of her children and grandchildren as the husband is now by law subject to for the maintenance of her children and grandchildren: Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall relieve her husband from any liability imposed upon him by law to maintain her children or grandchildren.

22. The Married Women's Property Act, 1870, and the Married Women's Property Act, 1874, Amendment Act, 1874, are hereby repealed: Provided that such repeal shall not affect any act done or right acquired while either of such Acts was in force, or any right or liability of any husband or wife, married before the commencement of this Act, to sue or be sued under the provisions of the said repealed Acts or either of them, for or in respect of any debt, contract, wrong, or other matter or thing whatsoever, for or in respect of which any such right or liability shall have accrued to or against such husband or wife before the commencement of this Act.

23. For the purposes of this Act the legal personal representative of any married woman shall in respect of her separate estate have the same rights and liabilities and be subject to the same jurisdiction as she would be if she were living.

24. The word "contract" in this Act shall include the acceptance of any trust, or of the office of executrix or administratrix, and the provisions of this Act as to liabilities of married women shall extend to all liabilities by reason of any breach of trust or devotavit committed by any married woman being a trustee or executrix or administratrix either before or after her marriage, and her husband shall not be subject to such liabilities unless he has acted or intermeddled in the trust or administration. The word "property" in this Act includes a thing in action.

25. The date of the commencement of this Act shall be the first of January one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

26. This Act shall not extend to Scotland.

27. This Act may be cited as the Married Women's Property Act, 1882.

Remedies of married woman for protection and security of separate property.

Wife's ante-nuptial debts and liabilities.

Husband to be liable for his wife's debts contracted before marriage to a certain extent.

Suits for ante-nuptial liabilities.

Act of wife liable to criminal proceedings.

Questions between husband and wife as to property to be decided in a summary way.

Married woman as an executrix or trustee.

Saving of existing settlements, and the power to make future settlements.

Married woman to be liable to the parish for the maintenance of her husband.

81 & 82 Vict. c. 122.

Married woman to be liable to the parish for the maintenance of her children.

Repeal of 23 & 24 Vict. c. 88; 27 & 28 Vict. c. 50.

Legal representative of married woman.

Interpretation of terms.

Commencement of Act. Extent of Act.

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