

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIX.—No. 220. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

APRIL 2, 1888.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

Leading Articles:—Women's Suffrage and the Local Government Bill; Powers of County Councils; The Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Conscience of Women; The approaching Election of Poor Law Guardians; Report of the Council of the Senate of Cambridge against Degrees for Women; "Hard upon the Wife;" The Death of the German Emperor.
Parliamentary Intelligence.
Public Meetings:—Nottingham, Maidstone, Folkestone, Banbury.
Political Societies:—National Union of Conservative Associations, Cirencester Constitutional Club, Ret-

ford Conservative Club, Chorlton-cum-Hardy Primrose League, Hyde Women's Liberal Association, South Highgate Liberal and Radical Club, Plowden Lodge of Liberal League, Garston Liberal Club, North Meols Women's Liberal Association, Brixton Liberal Alliance, Women's Liberal Unionist Association, Women's Committee—Chelsea Liberal Association.
Debating Societies:—Exeter Literary Society, Huntingdon, Brixton Congregational Church, Deritend, Aldersgate Debating Society, Wolverhampton, Cheltenham.

Scotland:—Edinburgh Literary Association, Election of Ladies on Parochial Boards.
University Intelligence.
The Condition of Women in India.
Sketches from the Past, No. 4.
Parliamentary Petitions.
Treasurers' Reports:—Manchester National Society; Central Committee; Bristol and West of England Society.
The Late Dr. Anna Kingsford.
Directions for Preparing Petitions.
The German Empress on the Social Position of Women.
Reply of Mrs. Fawcett to Mr. Goldwin Smith.

To Secure
Reckitt's
Blue
genuine, always see
the name on the wrapper.

NEAVE'S { FOR INFANTS, INVALIDS, AND } FOOD.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, in support of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. Petitions ready for signature will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; Miss BALGARNIE, 29, Parliament-street, London; or Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, Dublin.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| An Appeal from the Women of England on the Threatened Change in the Law | 1d. |
| The Woman's View of the Question. By some Middle-class Wives and Sisters... | 1d. |
| Marriage as affected by the Proposed Change in the Marriage Laws—A Letter to English Wives. By Edith Mary Shaw | 6d. |
| A Lady's Letter to a Friend, on behalf of those who do not wish to Marry their Brothers; and pointing to Germany as a Warning | ½d. |
| What Miss Lydia Becker says, on the Social Disadvantages of the Change apparent to an Advocate of Women's Rights | ½d. |
| A Sister-in-Law's Plea for Mercy | per doz. 2d. |
| A Woman's Opinion on the Wife's Sister Bill. By an Elderly Married Lady | ½d. |

These publications on this question may be had at 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross, S.W.

HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.
Vol. III. Edited by ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, and MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE. Paris: G. Fischbacher, 33, Rue de Seine.

MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION TRACTS.—Vol. 1, third edition, containing Tracts 1 to 43; also Historical Preface. Cloth, 2s. 6d., post free 3s., at the Office, 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross, S.W.; Messrs. SMITH AND SON'S Railway Bookstalls; or E. W. ALLEN, 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED
INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH EXHIBITION
BENGER'S
FOOD
TINS, 1/6, 2/6 & 5/-
For Children and Invalids.

"Retained after every other food has been rejected."
London Medical Record.

Of Chemists, &c., everywhere, or free by parcels post from the manufacturers,
MOTTERSHEAD & CO., 7, Exchange-street, Manchester.

THE RATIONAL DRESS SOCIETY'S GAZETTE. Published quarterly. Price 3d.; by post 3½d., or 1s. 2d. per annum. Contains suggestions for the reform of women's dress.—HATCHARDS, 187, Piccadilly.

NEW SOMERVILLE CLUB FOR LADIES, 231, Oxford-street (opposite Peter Robinson's). A Reading-room supplied with papers and magazines. A Lecture-room for debates and social meetings. Light refreshments.—For particulars, apply to the Hon. Sec., Mrs. FLEMING BAXTER, 55, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co.

MADAME BROWNJOHN, Court Dress-maker, of 48, Elizabeth-street, Chester Square, Belgravia, S.W., guarantees to give a Course of LESSONS in thorough practical High-class DRESSMAKING. Each lady is allowed to make a dress for herself, and is presented with her own pattern. Terms very moderate. No agents.

TOWLE'S 1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d.
4s. 6d. & 11s.
CHLORODYNE

Invaluable for Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Consumption, Spasms, &c. One Dose speedily relieves. TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE LOZENGES AND JUBUBES. 6d. and 1s. per box. A. P. TOWLE, Chemist, 75, Back Piccadilly, Manchester, and of Chemists.—Post free 13½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. If desired, petitions ready for signature will be forwarded on application to the office of this *Journal*; but it is better that friends should prepare their own petitions according to the following directions:—

Write out the form given below on a sheet of foolscap or other large paper.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes should have the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament. Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified 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.

Women householders may sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

FORM FOR QUALIFIED WOMEN ONLY.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of

SHEWETH,

That your petitioners possess qualifications which would entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions to the House of Lords should run as follows:—

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes ought to have votes for members of Parliament. Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure which may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

This form to be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

FORM FOR QUALIFIED WOMEN ONLY.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That your petitioners possess qualifications which would entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. Wherefore your petitioners pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure that may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and some signatures must be on the same piece of paper as the heading. If more room is required, more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions should be forwarded with a letter to the member who is to present it, addressed to him at the House of Commons, London, S.W., or they may be sent to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded.

FORMS FOR USE IN THE COLONIES.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women in the United Kingdom would be an incentive to similar legislation in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, and would tend to raise the position of women throughout the civilised world. Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions from the Colonies should be sent for presentation to the Commons to the Right Hon. Edward Stanhope, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, House of Commons, London, S.W. Petitions for the Lords should be sent to the Right Hon. the Earl of Dunraven, House of Lords, London, S.W.

THE GERMAN EMPRESS ON THE SOCIAL POSITION OF WOMEN.

The Berlin *National Zeitung* states that the Empress Victoria received deputations on March 26th from seventeen institutes and associations of which she became patroness when Crown Princess. Replying to their addresses, her Majesty said that she considered her foremost and most sacred duty to be the care of a wife for her suffering husband. In addition to that, she had since the 9th inst. undertaken the beautiful but difficult duty which the Queen of a country ever faithfully fulfilled. She was to the fullest degree conscious of the task devolving upon her as Queen and Empress, and would accomplish it to the best of her ability. There were other duties of a social character, moreover, such as the moral and intellectual education of women. Care for the people's health, and the improvement of the facilities for women to earn their own livelihood were by preference constantly before her eyes, for the noblest vocation of a princess was unremitting activity in ameliorating the lot of all suffering classes. But, because this task was one of great difficulty, it must remain doubtful whether she would succeed in carrying out her undertaking as well as her heart desired.

REPLY OF MRS. FAWCETT TO MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.

In the March number of the *National Review*, Mrs. Fawcett replies to the diatribe against women's franchise which was contributed by Professor Goldwin Smith to the February number of that periodical. From reading Mr. Goldwin Smith's article we were impressed with the feeling that it would tend rather in the direction of making converts to than against women's suffrage, and now we can only say that if there remain any doubters unconvinced by the publishing of the arguments brought against the cause by Mr. Goldwin Smith, such doubters could hardly withstand the force of the masterly refutation of the allegation in the article contained in the reply of Mrs. Fawcett.

ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum.

CONTENTS FOR MARCH 15TH, 1888.

1. Our Thirtieth Anniversary.
2. Temperance and Women's Suffrage.
3. The Approaching Poor Law Guardian Elections.

Correspondence:—Feminine Brains.

Passing Notes:—Women in Science, Conscience Money.

Record of Events:—Cambridge: Memorials on Women's Degrees—

Oxford: Lady Margaret Hall—Women as Poor Law Guardians: Meetings at Richmond, Bromley, Westminster—Election

of Ladies on Parochial Boards, Scotland—Political Associations: Ladies' Auxiliary Council of Midland Union of Conservative Associations; Liberal Associations—Suffrage Meetings—Edinburgh

School of Medicine for Women—Bombay—Nursing—Obituary: Lady Marion Alford, Dr. Anna Kingsford, Miss Louisa Alcott,

Mrs. Procter—Coal Mines Regulation Bill—Lectures: Women and

Temperance—Miscellaneous.

Preparations for the Women's International Council.

Women Clerks in France.

Foreign Notes and News. Paragraphs.

Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street,

London, W.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIX.—No. 220. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

APRIL 2, 1888.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

ALTHOUGH it seemed impossible that the Government could do otherwise than recognise the existing right of women ratepayers to vote in local government in connection with the election of the new County Councils to be formed under the new scheme, the announcement that women are to vote in the election of these Councils marks a distinct step in advance towards the recognition of the same right in Parliamentary elections.

In explaining the provisions of the Bill for the qualification and registration of electors for the County Councils, Mr. RITCHIE said they proposed to extend the Municipal Corporations Act to the whole of the counties. The Act thus extended would give a qualification to all ratepayers throughout the country. Afterwards, speaking of Local Boards which are at present elected by the plural vote, Mr. RITCHIE said that they proposed that these boards should be elected on the same principle as the municipal boards. Sir ALGERNON BORTHWICK asked "Will there be the women's franchise?" and Mr. RITCHIE's emphatic reply "Yes, certainly," was received with cheers and sensation that for a minute or two prevented his going on with his speech.

Looking down upon the scene, it appeared as if the demonstration of feeling was in excess of what might have been expected from the simple announcement of the recognition of an existing right; it seemed rather as if the fact that women's suffrage was already an established principle was by this announcement so fully brought home to the consciousness of the House, that its extension to the Parliamentary franchise might be expected to follow as a natural conclusion.

SHOULD the proposals of the Government become law, the County Councils created by the Bill will be by far the most important bodies for which women have as yet the right to vote. It is proposed to transfer to the new bodies all the existing administrative powers of the justices in respect of county rates and financial business, the granting of licences for intoxicating liquors, the division of the county into polling districts for Parliamentary

elections, power for executing various Acts of Parliament, and certain powers now possessed by various public departments. Therefore, although no new principle as regards women's franchise is embodied in the Government Bill, the extension of the operation of the existing principle to the election of County Councils will enlarge the sphere within which women have recognised rights in determining social and political issues.

IN his speech at the Mansion House on March 7th the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made an observation reflecting on the political honesty of women in regard to taxation, all the more remarkable because from the exactly same premises he deduced exactly opposite conclusions in applying his arguments to men and to women. In speaking of and to the men before him, Mr. GOSCHEN said: "I do not believe I see before me a single person present who has ever paid conscience money into the public exchequer, because the consciences of the citizens of London are such that I believe there is no community in the world which will more fairly and squarely pay the taxes imposed on them by Parliament." And then he went on immediately to say, "It is, however, a curious psychological fact, to the curiosity of which I will bear absolute testimony, that no conscience money as regards the revenue has ever been paid by a woman. Virtuous in every other respect, women are not virtuous as regards the public revenue."

We have always understood that the stings of conscience, which induce men to send to the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER those halves of bank notes which he so frequently acknowledges in the newspapers, are awakened by gentle hints from the Income-tax Commissioners that the revenue may have been defrauded, and a suggestion that unpleasant consequences might follow if conscience were to continue to slumber. There is no reason to suppose that the income tax due from women is less diligently collected than that due from men, or that the method of expostulation would not be as rigidly applied to women defaulters as to men. We, therefore, accept the indubit-

able testimony of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER as to the fact that no conscience money has ever been paid by a woman as a presumption in favour of the superior virtue of women in regard to the public revenue, and we regret that he did not give his argument a turn which would have been at once more just and more gracious than that which he actually pursued.

WITH regard to conscience money and women we think the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER might feel some twinges on account of the sums which, by reason of the machinery employed, he collects from women of small incomes, who are by law exempted from the payment of the tax. It is true he is quite willing to return the overpaid income tax, and the process of recovery is simple and easy when once it is known, but we believe that great numbers of women with small incomes from money invested in Government and other securities, where the tax is deducted in paying the dividends, are unaware of their right to a return of the tax, or of the means of obtaining it. Persons whose total income does not exceed £150 a year are totally exempted from income tax. Persons whose income is over £150 and less than £400, are entitled to an abatement on £120 of income. Persons thus situated, whose income is wholly or partly derived from investments in which the income tax is deducted in paying the dividends, should apply to the Income Tax Office of their district, where they will obtain instructions how to obtain the return of the tax on the sum for which they claim abatement. The process is extremely easy, it consists merely in filling up the entries on a printed form and sending it by post as directed. The overpaid tax is returned by post office order without expense or trouble to the recipient.

THE new conversion scheme of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER will press hardly on many persons who are living on small incomes derived from Government securities, as they will suffer a loss of five shillings yearly on every hundred pounds invested in Consols. As usual, the pinch will come the hardest on women, but in this case though there is hardship there is no actual injustice. While, however, fully recognising the righteousness of relieving the national burden of taxation, it is permissible to regret that this relief must be given at the expense of so many small holders of Consols, numbers of whom will be poor women, who can ill afford to lose even quarter per cent of their dividends.

WE desire to call attention to the elections of Poor Law Guardians, which will take place in the second week of this month. The voting papers will be left at the door of every ratepayer on Saturday, April 7th, and collected by a constable or other officer on Monday, April 9th. Sometimes one-half of the votes are rendered invalid by inattention to the following simple rules: No one but the ratepayer himself (or herself) must sign the paper; the full Christian and surname must be signed at the foot of the paper, and only the initials at the side against the names of those candidates for whom the vote is given; nothing else must be written, and the paper must be ready for the policeman when he calls, for he cannot wait while it is filled up. The immense importance of having ladies on these boards, to look after the welfare, especially of the women and children paupers, will so commend itself to all, that we need hardly urge ratepayers to vote for the women candidates whose names are on the papers. Ladies are coming forward again in every union where they were elected last year, and in some new places, such as Greenwich, Deptford, Southwark, Chichester, Hyde, and Richmond. We recommend our friends to be watchful for any new women candidates, and to work for their election as the surest means of introducing economy, order, and painstaking vigilance into the affairs of these boards.

C. A. B.

THE Council of the Senate of the University of Cambridge have declined to take any action on the memorials respecting the admission of women to degrees, and as without their sanction no grace can be submitted to the Senate nothing further can be done in the matter. The report in which the Council embody their decision will not convince those women who have passed the examinations which qualify a man for a degree that it is right to withhold from them the reward of their successful studies any more than it seems to have convinced some of the best friends of women's education whose names are happily conspicuous by their absence from the list of those who have signed the report. But though postponed for a time, we believe that ultimately it will be found an untenable position for any university to grant the instruction and the examination and refuse the corresponding degrees to any class of persons in Her MAJESTY'S dominions, and we are also of opinion that this refusal could not be maintained against the claim of persons who were not under political disabilities.

THE hardship of unjust laws relating to women is very

apt to remain after the actual laws have been amended, owing to the slowness of judicial tribunals to give effect to the amended laws. A case of this kind occurred last month at the Hammersmith Police Court, as appears from the following paragraph, which appeared in the *Daily News* of March 28th.

HARD ON THE WIFE.—An application was made to the magistrate by a married woman, who said she wished to protect her goods from her husband.—The applicant said he left her a fortnight ago. The few things she wished to protect she purchased out of her own earnings. She wanted protection to prevent her husband from returning and selling up her goods. She was a waitress in the cookery department at the Colonial Exhibition, receiving 15s. per week.—Mr. PAGET: Did you put the money in your own pocket? Applicant: No; my husband was in debt, and the money went for rent. She further stated that on the tables at the exhibition boxes were placed for "tips," as they were not allowed to receive money. At the close of the exhibition the tips were divided, and £10 came to her share. With that money she bought the home, and she wanted protection for it.—Mr. PAGET: Did your husband live with you at the time? Applicant: Yes; we were living together.—Mr. PAGET then told her that he could not give her protection.

So far as we can judge from this report the apparent hardship was caused by the wife not being aware of the provisions of the Married Women's Property Act of 1882, by which goods purchased with her own earnings were absolutely secured to her without the necessity for special "protection." Mr. PAGET was doubtless correct in stating that he could not give her such protection, but it seems to us that he might have explained to the applicant that her goods were quite safe without it, and that her husband could not sell them against her will, whether he were living with her or had left her.

THE death of the German Emperor has moved the feelings of the whole civilised world, which has watched with sympathy and admiration the peaceful close of the long life of the hero sovereign in whom was embodied the realisation of German aspirations for the unity of the Fatherland. The pathetic conditions under which the Emperor FREDERICK ascends the throne have intensified this feeling of sympathy. Everyone must hope that the shadow may be lifted from the head of the Imperial house, and all Englishwomen will hail with satisfaction the accession of the Empress VICTORIA to that supreme

position in which she will be able to give effective help to those movements for the improvement of the educational and social position of women which lie so near to her heart.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Monday, March 19th, 1888.*

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

Mr. RITCHIE rose to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the laws relating to local government in England and Wales, and was received with loud cheers. In the course of his address he said, in reference to the duties of the County Councils, we propose to transfer to the new bodies all the existing administrative powers of the justices in respect of county rates and financial business, county buildings, county bridges, the provision and the management of the county lunatic asylums, the establishment and maintenance of reformatory and industrial schools, the granting of licences for music and dancing, the granting of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors—which I shall deal with separately—the division of the county into polling districts for Parliamentary elections, the cost of the registration of voters, power for executing the Acts relating to explosives, the execution of the Acts relating to the contagious diseases of animals, the adulteration of foods and drugs, weights and measures, and various other matters. We propose also to transfer certain powers possessed by public departments to the new county authorities. It now devolves upon the Board of Trade to make all provisional orders under the Pier and Harbour Acts, the Tramways Act, the Electric Lighting Act, and the Gas and Waterworks Facilities Acts as regards companies. All the powers of the Board of Trade with respect to the making of provisional orders under these several Acts will be transferred to the County Councils. As regards the Local Government Board, it is proposed to vest in the County Councils the powers of that Board with regard to the making of provisional orders as to schemes of local authorities under the Gas and Waterworks Facilities Acts. At present, the Local Government Board in the case of complaint of default on the part of a sanitary authority in providing their district with sewerage or water supply, or other matters, are empowered to direct inquiry, and, if they are satisfied that the complaint has been established, to issue an order directing the authority to discharge their duty as regards the complaint within a limited time. If the authority fail to comply with the order the Local Government Board are empowered either to enforce the order by *mandamus* or themselves to execute the work at the cost of the authority. These powers of the Local Government Board it is proposed should be vested in the County Councils. These powers of the Local Government Board as regards sanctioning market tolls, fixing the scale of charges in respect of water supply, the investment of a rural authority with the powers of an urban sanitary authority, the settlement of disputes as to boundaries and other matters under the Public Health Act, the Public Health (Water) Act, the Artisans' Dwellings Acts, the Valuation (Metropolis) Act, the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and certain other duties are transferred to the County Councils. I have stated now the main powers which are proposed to be conferred at present on the County Councils; but we anticipate at some future time it may be desirable to cast even more extensive powers than these upon them. With reference to the electors, Mr. Ritchie said they proposed to extend the Municipal Corporations Act to the whole of the counties. That Act, thus extended, would give a qualification to all ratepayers throughout the county. The local board districts have been elected on the plural vote. It is obviously impossible that we could have a County Council, and the local boards elected on more restricted franchise. We propose that the councils and the local boards embraced shall be elected upon the same principle as the municipal boards.

Sir A. BORTHWICK: Will there be the women's franchise?
Mr. RITCHIE: Yes, certainly. (Cheers.) It will be as now.
Afterwards, in the course of the debate, Mr. T. M. Healy took occasion to comment on the women's franchise, and expressed the strong opinion that it ought to be extended to Parliamentary elections.

TEXT OF THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL.

[51 VICT.] *Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).*A BILL
TO

Extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women.

A.D. 1888.

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

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

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

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

(Prepared and brought in by Baron Dimsdale, Mr. Woodall, Sir Robert Fowler, Sir William Houldsworth, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Maclure, Mr. Stansfeld, and Dr. Cameron.)

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

NOTTINGHAM.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NOTTS. BRANCH.

On February 28th the seventh annual meeting of the Notts. Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held at the Exchange, Nottingham. In the absence of the Worshipful the Mayor, the Rev. J. HIRST HOLLOWELL presided. Amongst those present were Mrs. Cowen, Mrs. T. Bayley, Miss Simpson, Mrs. Jesse Hind, Miss Renals, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Marshall, Miss Gilbert, Alderman Gripper, J.P., Councillor Cowen, Mr. W. H. Farmer, the Rev. E. Rattenbury Hodges, and Mr. Shillito.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that they were within measureable distance of obtaining women's suffrage. Both political parties, he believed, were agreed that it should be granted.

Mrs. COWEN (hon. secretary) read the annual report. She also presented the annual balance sheet, which showed that the subscriptions had amounted to £20. 7s. 6d. and the donations to £4. 16s. After payment of expenses there remained a balance due to the treasurer of £4. 15s. 8½d. At the close of the previous year the balance due to the treasurer was £9. 8s. 7½d.

Mr. SHILLITO moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet. He thought that on the whole it was very satisfactory, and that members of the association would be surprised that so much had been done during the last twelve months. He hoped that the next report of the society would contain a clause announcing that the measure which they had so long anticipated had become the law of the land. (Applause.)

Miss COLEMAN seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Mrs. SIMPSON moved that the following be appointed as the committee for the ensuing year: Mrs. Atkey, Miss Agnes Cooke, Mrs. Cowen, Mr. H. S. Cropper, Mr. Douse, Miss R. P. Hutchinson, Miss Guilford, Mrs. Jesse Hind, Rev. E. Rattenbury Hodges, Mr. Shillito, Miss A. Smith, Miss Sunter, Mr. Warren, Miss Wright (Mansfield); also that Mrs. Jesse Hind be treasurer, and Mrs. Cowen hon. secretary for the ensuing year.

Miss SIMPSON seconded the motion, which was accepted.

Mrs. COWEN moved the following resolution: "That this meeting considers that the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women should no longer be delayed, and authorises the chairman to sign petitions to both Houses of Parliament in support of this resolution." She said she believed that the majority of the House of Commons was favourable to the movement. It was illogical that women might vote in Local Board and School Board elections and not in Parliamentary elections. She referred to the great progress which their movement had made, and confidently hoped that they would soon be rewarded with success.

Miss HUTCHINSON seconded the resolution. She thought that no party objected to women canvassing for votes; and if there was

no objection to that she did not see why there should be any objection to their voting. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. H. FARMER supported the resolution, expressing his belief that their political associations would be purer for the intervention of women in politics.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought Miss Hutchinson had made a strong point when she said that all were glad to have the services of lady canvassers. If there was no objection to ladies influencing the minds of electors in canvassing there could be no reasonable objection to their having the vote.

Mr. SHILLITO also supported the motion, which was adopted.

Mrs. COWEN then read the following letters: "28th February, 1888. Dear madam,—I regret that it will be quite impossible for me to attend the annual meeting of the Notts. Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage to-morrow. I think you are aware that I have always been strongly in favour of the movement, and even if it should be impossible to get the Bill through this session, I feel confident that it will be passed before another General Election.—Yours faithfully, H. SMITH WRIGHT."—Mr. H. Broadhurst, M.P., had written as follows: "London, Feb. 27, 1888. Dear Mrs. Hind,—I am much obliged for the invitation to your meeting to-morrow, but I have to move the rejection of a private Bill to-morrow afternoon, and must therefore be at the House of Commons for that purpose. I am much indebted for the good work you are doing in political matters in Nottingham, and especially in my division.—I am, yours very truly, HENRY BROADHURST."

On the motion of the Rev. E. R. HODGES, seconded by Mrs. T. BAYLEY, a vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, and the proceedings then closed.

The terms of the petition to the Houses of Parliament were as follows: "That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes should have the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament. Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass a measure to extend to the duly qualified women." This petition was signed by the chairman.

MAIDSTONE.

On March 23rd a meeting in support of women's suffrage was held at the Concert Hall, Maidstone. The MAYOR (Richard Waterman, Esq.) occupied the chair, and among those present were Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss Florence Baggallie, Miss Pope, Miss Ellis, the Rev. E. F. Dyke, Councillor J. Clifford, Mr. A. J. Ellis, Mr. S. Harman, the Rev. H. M. Spooner, Mr. W. Haynes, J.P., Mr. R. T. Tatham, Mr. A. E. Rowcroft, Councillor J. T. Crouch, and others.

The MAYOR read the following letter from Mr. Alexander Ross, M.P. for the borough:—

"Hotel Mont Fleury, Cannes, March 12th, 1888.

"Dear madam,—I regret that, owing to my unavoidable absence on the Continent, I cannot attend your meeting at Maidstone in favour of female suffrage on the 23rd inst., and there express the interest I take in the subject. I have supported similar Bills to the one under discussion, and have always considered that, as long as a property qualification was the reason of having a vote, whether that qualification existed in the male or female portion of the community, the right should in both cases be recognised. Wishing you a successful meeting.—I remain, madam, yours faithfully,

"ALEX. H. ROSS.

"Mrs. M. Bateson, Organising Sec. Women's Suffrage Soc."

The Rev. E. F. DYKE (vicar of Maidstone) moved the following resolution: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary representation 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."

Mr. A. E. ROWCROFT seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mrs. FENWICK MILLER, and adopted.

The Rev. H. MAXWELL SPOONER (vicar of Holy Trinity) moved: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting and sent to a member of Parliament for presentation in the House of Commons."—Mr. R. T. TATHAM (acting chairman of the Conservative party in Maidstone) seconded the motion, which was supported by Miss BALGARNIE and carried.

Miss POPE moved a vote of thanks to the lady speakers, and a similar compliment to the Mayor brought the proceedings to a close.

FOLKESTONE.

A public meeting in connection with the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held at the Town Hall, Folkestone, on March 23rd. The chair was taken by his Worship the MAYOR (J. Pledge, Esq.), and there were also on the platform the Mayoress, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss Florence Baggallie, and the following gentlemen: Rev. R. Foster Jeffrey, Rev. A. J. Palmer, Major Penfold, Mr. W. J. Jeaffreson, and Mr. A. H. Gardner.

The first resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications that entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government had the right of voting," was moved by Mr. W. J. JEAFFRESON, who read a letter he had received from Sir Edward Watkin in favour of the movement.

The resolution was seconded by Major PENFOLD, who expressed himself as being strongly in favour of the movement, and upon being put to the meeting it was carried, with only one or two dissentient voices.

Mrs. FENWICK MILLER then addressed the meeting, after which the Rev. A. J. PALMER moved, and the Rev. R. F. JEFFREY seconded, a second resolution to the effect that a petition should be signed by the chairman of that meeting and sent to Sir Edward Watkin for presentation to the House of Commons, which was supported by Miss BALGARNIE, and adopted. The meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

BANBURY.

At the Town Hall, Banbury, on March 1st, Miss Florence Baggallie delivered a lecture on the question: "Shall women have the Parliamentary vote?" There were a goodly number present, most of whom appeared to be in sympathy with the subject under discussion. Mr. R. EDMUNDS, Deputy-Mayor, presided, and there were also on the platform, the Rev. G. H. Birch, Mr. J. Harlock, J.P., Councillor R. Gibbs, and Mr. P. S. Edmunds.

The lecture was received with applause. The Rev. G. H. BIRCH, after speaking in favour of the women's vote, moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications to vote at municipal elections."

Mr. Councillor R. GIBBS seconded the motion. The CHAIRMAN declared the motion carried by a large majority.

Mr. J. HARLOCK, J.P., moved that a petition be presented to Parliament in favour of the terms of the preceding resolution, and that it be signed by the Chairman, on behalf of the meeting, and forwarded to Sir Bernard Samuelson, M.P. for the Division, for presentation to the House of Commons, and said his entire sympathy was with the tenor of Miss Baggallie's address. He believed he was connected with the movement ten or twelve years ago, and had never since regretted that position. They found that the enfranchisement of women for municipal purposes worked well, and if they took their own town, they would find that they had a large number of intelligent ladies occupying houses and who were rated to the expenditure of the town, and were under all circumstances qualified to give as sound and good judgment as the gentlemen as to who should be sent to the municipal chamber of the town to carry on the business.—Mr. CUBITT seconded the motion. The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

POLITICAL SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

CONFERENCE OF THE WELSH DIVISION AT SWANSEA.

RESOLUTION IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ADOPTED.

A conference of the South Wales Division of the National Union of Conservative Associations was held at the Minor Drill Hall, Swansea, on February 24th. Viscount Emlyn presided. In the course of the proceedings Mr. T. P. Martin moved: "That in the opinion of this conference the time has come when the principle of suffrage for women ratepayers in their own right should be recognised." He contended that women were as qualified to vote as many among the masses of this country, but because they were women they were refused. (Applause.) Mr. Albert Mason seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. Roger Beck, and carried with only two dissentients.

CIRENCESTER CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB.

At the monthly meeting of this club on March 14th, Mr. H. Matthews introduced the subject of women's suffrage, and after considerable discussion the following resolution was adopted: "That this club views with much satisfaction the progress which has been made in the cause of women's suffrage, and hopes shortly to see an Act passed giving Parliamentary franchise to women, and upon the same qualification as is now required of men.

RETFORD CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

Mr. J. A. H. HIRST, J.P., presiding at a meeting of the Retford Conservative Club, spoke of the excellent political influence of the ladies of the Primrose League, and expressed the hope that the time was not far distant when they would be admitted to the privileges of the franchise. He believed their votes would be given with a greater amount of intelligence than was shown by the voters in some constituencies.

CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

The Chorlton-cum-Hardy branch of the Primrose League Habitation No. 347, held in the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, a "special meeting" for the dames of the Habitation, who do not attend the usual monthly meetings. There was a large attendance of dames, knights, and associates. Mr. W. B. Adams, ruling councillor, presided. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. James Arthur Birch said that last year was Jubilee year, and during those fifty years they had lived under petticoat government. However, considering the progress of the nation, and the freedom enjoyed during that time, he thought the system of government we had was the best. (Hear, hear.) Certainly the member for Stretford thought so, for he had backed a Bill to give women's suffrage. (Hear, hear.) Women had votes in municipal elections; under the Local Government Bill they would have a vote for the County Councils, and it was difficult to adduce any logical reason, having these votes, why they should not have votes for Parliamentary elections.

HYDE WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The last monthly tea party and meeting of the season promoted by the above association was held on March 8th in Union-street Schools, and was very well attended. Mrs. Dowson presided. Miss Baggallie gave a lecture on "Why should women be enfranchised?" Miss Ellen Hibbert, Mrs. Bevington, Mrs. A. T. Hibbert, Mrs. Jos. Hibbert, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. John Oldham, Mrs. J. C. Hibbert, and Miss Morton were present. After some remarks from the president there were some musical pieces, including "Hark, the sound of myriad voices." Miss Baggallie then delivered her address. Mrs. Bevington moved a resolution in support of the franchise for women, which was seconded by Mrs. Moss, supported by Miss Ellen Hibbert, and carried unanimously. Miss A. A. Schofield gave the song "The morn of victory," and the proceedings concluded with the customary votes of thanks.

SOUTH HIGHGATE LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB.

A lecture was recently delivered at the above club by Mr. C. W. Hartung, which was followed by a discussion. The following resolution was carried by a majority of one: "That it is desirable that the Parliamentary vote should be extended to widows and spinsters having the necessary property qualification."

PLOWDEN LODGE OF LIBERAL LEAGUE.

On March 7th, a meeting of members and friends of the Plowden Lodge of the Liberal League was held at the "Welcome," Beechcroft Road, Upper Tooting, to hear Miss Baggallie deliver a lecture upon the question of women's suffrage. The lecture was heartily applauded. A debate followed in which Messrs. Sandy and Frankling opposed, while Mrs. Wise and Mr. Beal supported the lecturer. The chairman was empowered to sign a petition on behalf of the meeting in favour of women's suffrage. The petition was presented to the House of Commons on Monday last by Mr. Kimber, M.P. for Wandsworth.

GARSTON LIBERAL CLUB.

The third of the series of lectures arranged by the Committee of the Garston Liberal Club was given in the lecture room on February 16th by the Rev. R. A. Armstrong, of Liverpool, on "Woman's claim to the franchise." There was a large audience.

The chair was occupied by Mr. R. R. Rathbone. The Lecturer, after a brief introduction by the Chairman, delivered his address. At the conclusion of the lecture, which was listened to with the greatest attention, discussion was invited as usual. Mr. Bowring said he was disposed at first to disagree with some of the lecturer's propositions, but he found that Mr. Armstrong's arguments were so strong that he was bound to agree with them. Mr. Craig also discussed the claims of women to the franchise, and supported them strongly. A vote of thanks was then accorded to the lecturer, on the motion of Messrs. Rathbone and Bowring; and to the chairman, on the motion of the lecturer and Mr. Smedley; and subsequently the Rev. H. Jones, Mr. J. M'iver, and Captain Brown spoke in favour of women being allowed to vote.

NORTH MEOLS WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

Under the auspices of the North Meols Women's Liberal Association, a non-political meeting was held on March 26th to hear addresses in support of the women's suffrage movement by Mrs. John Phillips, of Liverpool, and Mrs. Sherbrooke, of the Guild of the Unrepresented. Mrs. Sherbrooke said that already 1,000 of the 1,559 women householders of Southport and Birkdale had signed a petition in favour of being granted the Parliamentary franchise.

BRIXTON LIBERAL ALLIANCE.

On March 17th, Mrs. Fenwick Miller lectured on women's suffrage before the members of the Brixton Liberal Alliance. Mr. E. Ravenstein presided, and among those present were Mrs. Ravenstein, Mrs. Leftwich, Mrs. Walker, Dr. Harris, and Mr. J. S. Bartlett. After the lecture, Mrs. Ravenstein moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by Mr. Bartlett, and at the instance of Dr. Harris, the chairman signed a memorial on behalf of the meeting, in favour of the question to which they had just been listening.

WOMEN'S LIBERAL UNIONIST ASSOCIATION.

Every party in turn finds the necessity for interesting women in its politics. A Women's Liberal Unionist Association is already in process of formation. Miss Tod, of Belfast, is very energetically promoting it. It will unite the Liberal Unionists of Ulster with the Liberal Unionists of Great Britain. Its necessity was learnt by the party at Doncaster. Mrs. Henry Wilson's speeches in that town, and among the agriculturists of the division, went very near to producing Mr. Fitzwilliam's defeat. The Liberal Unionist members of the Women's Suffrage Association, Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Courtney among them, will form the nucleus of the new society, and it will set to work before the summer is over.—*Western Morning News* (Plymouth).

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE—CHELSEA LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held on March 6th, the following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Bellot, seconded by Mrs. Chickens, and carried by 13 votes to 7: "That this committee make the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women one of its primary objects."

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

EXETER LITERARY SOCIETY.

A debate on the subject of "Women's Rights" took place at the Athenaeum, under the auspices of the above society, on March 8th. There was a large attendance. The debate was opened by Mr. G. E. Fyson, of Exeter, who moved the following resolution: "That women should be admitted to equal rights with men in political, social, and educational relations." After a discussion, in which Mr. A. J. Martin, Mr. Pitkin, Mrs. Radford, Mr. Baker, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Austin took part, the motion was lost. It was decided to resume the debate on a future occasion.

HUNTINGDON.

On February 23rd the members of the Huntingdon Young Men's Christian Association and of the Huntingdon and Godmanchester Church of England Young Men's Society held a joint debate in Parliamentary form in the Grammar School. Mr. G. J. Rust, J.P., occupied the speaker's chair, and a resolution in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to properly qualified unmarried women was moved by the Rev. Miles Atkinson. The other speakers in favour of the resolution were Mr. H. T. Smith and Mr. Skinner,

while it was opposed by Mr. C. H. Ross and Mr. A. Ridgley. Mr. T. Coote, jun., who neither absolutely approved of nor condemned the resolution, pointed out that the question was by no means a party one, it having almost an equal number of supporters on the Conservative and Liberal benches in the House of Commons. He, however, agreed with Mr. Hodgson that there was really no conclusive evidence to show that the possession of the Parliamentary franchise was actually desired by the great body of women householders. The Rev. Miles Atkinson moved the adjournment of the House *sine die*.

BRIXTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

On February 17th, Mrs. Fenwick Miller delivered an address on "Women and their Vote" to the Brixton Congregational Church Debating Society. A lively discussion followed, and on the question being put to the vote the resolution moved by the lecturer in favour of the enfranchisement of women was carried by an overwhelming majority.

DERITEND.

An inter-association debate between the members of St. John's Mutual Improvement Association and St. Matthew's Mental Recreation Society was held in St. John's Schools, Deritend, on March 22nd, the subject being "That the Parliamentary franchise should be conferred on women." There were over 100 persons present. Councillor F. W. Lowe occupied the chair. The affirmative was taken by the St. John's Society and the negative by St. Matthew's. The debate was of an animated description, and was made especially interesting by the fact of two ladies speaking strongly in favour of the negative. The result of the voting was as follows:—Members only: Affirmative, 19; negative, 24. Members and friends: Affirmative, 31; negative, 37; whilst a special vote of the ladies only was taken, the result being that the negative was carried by 16 votes to 12.

ALDERSGATE DEBATING SOCIETY.

The above society met in the Lecture Hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, 186, Aldersgate-street, on March 7th, when Mr. Lindsay opened a debate on women's suffrage, and moved: "That the extension of the Parliamentary suffrage to women who are householders and ratepayers would be beneficial to women themselves and to the community at large." The following took part in the debate that ensued: Mr. Windsor, Mr. Geeson, Mr. Burton, Mr. Garlick, Mr. E. A. Jones, Mr. Goodfellow, and Mr. A. H. Rowland. Mr. Lindsay having replied, the resolution was rejected by a majority of three.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

The weekly meeting of the St. Jude's Mutual Improvement Society was held on March 13th, and was presided over by Mr. R. A. Willcock, when the subject of debate was "Should the Parliamentary franchise be extended to women householders?" The discussion was opened by Mr. F. H. Walton, who read a paper in favour of its extension, and the question was decided in the affirmative by the casting vote of the chairman.

CHELTHENHAM.

On March 13th, the Cheltenham Debating Society discussed: "That the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary franchise is unjust and inexpedient." Mrs. M'Ilquham opened the affirmative, supported by Mrs. Beard, of Gloucester. The latter lady read a letter, which she had written some years ago to Mr. Gladstone, in reference to the injustice of women burgesses being called upon to pay their share of election inquiry expenses. Not only were women excluded from voting in Parliamentary elections, but they had to help to pay for the abuse of a right by others, which was denied them. The affirmative was carried by five votes. In previous debates at the same society the affirmative has always been rejected.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

The usual meeting the week in March was notable by the presence of ladies, and the discussion on the question "Should women have the Parliamentary franchise?" Mr. T. Y. Bell occupied the chair. The debate was opened by Mr. James Martin, who delivered a well-reasoned speech in favour of the affirmative side of

the question. The discussion was continued by Mr. Alexander, Mr. J. W. Brown, Mr. G. A. Porter, Mr. Hislop, Mr. C. Stedman, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Telfer, Mr. A. Walker. The opener summed up the arguments, after which the vote was given with the result that those in favour of giving the ladies a vote were in the majority of three.

ELECTION OF LADIES ON PAROCHIAL BOARDS.

The election of Parochial Boards, in Scotland, takes place earlier than the Poor Law Guardian elections in England. Ladies are again elected for St. Cuthbert's Parish and for the city in Edinburgh. The polling in the Fifth Ward of St. Cuthbert's took place in the Literary Institute on March 2nd, with the result that Miss Mary Burton headed the poll with 1,109 votes. There was no particular question concerned in the election, and the number of voters was small; out of 3,500 persons entitled to vote, only 569 putting in an appearance at the poll, nearly one-half of these being ladies. There was no contest in the other wards of St. Cuthbert, and Miss Louisa Stevenson, and Mrs. Millar and Mrs. Brown retain their seats, or in the City Parish, where Mrs. Blyth, Mrs. Bow, and Miss Stodart (who takes the place of Mrs. Peterson, retired on account of ill-health), were elected without contest. There are, therefore, seven ladies on these Boards in Edinburgh, as last year.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE, MARCH 6.

The Council of the Senate have issued the following report on the memorials respecting the admission of women to degrees, from which it will be seen that they decline to take action in the matter, and as without their sanction no grace can be offered to the Senate, no further action can be taken. The report says: "The Council have seen with pleasure in several of these memorials a generous recognition of the past action and present practice of the University in connection with the higher education of women. This expression of approval on the part of many persons whose names are honourably associated with the educational progress of the age encourages the Council to hope that the step which the University took seven years ago in opening its Tripos Examinations to women has fulfilled some at least of the expectations of those who advocated it, so far as there has yet been time to judge of its effects. At the time when the request that the University would take that step was brought before the notice of the Council, the Council were made aware of the fact that the examiners for Triposes had for some time informally admitted women to the examinations; and when they came to consider the request they were of opinion that it might be granted without any change in the constitution of the University. This view was disputed, but the Chancellor, on an appeal to his Grace for an interpretation of the statutes, confirmed it. The Council feel that the present request is very different in its character and circumstances. In order to be in a position to grant it the Council believe that the University would have to seek new powers and effect a change in its constitution. This being so, the Council are of opinion that the memorials addressed to the Vice-Chancellor or to the Vice-Chancellor and the Council by persons interested in education who are not members of the Senate, while entitled to the most careful consideration, stand on a different footing from those which proceed from members of the Senate. The Council observe that the memorials against the proposed action are supported by a much larger number of members of the Senate than the memorials in its favour. And when they look further they find that this preponderance of opinion is still more marked among those who are actively engaged in conducting the teaching and business of the University. They see also that many of those who have shown in various ways their sympathy with the efforts which have been made to improve education in general and the education of women in particular are included in the majority. Having given careful consideration to the question, the Council have decided not to propose the appointment of a syndicate to consider a change in the constitution of the University, which the majority of the Council do not believe to be in itself desirable and which must lead to much discussion and controversy, when there is so clear an indication of the balance of opinion among the memorialists who are members of the Senate. One of the memorials expresses the opinion that 'if degrees are granted to women in connection with the examinations of the Universities of

Oxford and Cambridge, they should be conferred by some independent authority in a position to consider the various educational problems which would arise from the point of view of women's education especially.' The Council observe that this is supported by a large number of members of the Senate, and among them a large proportion of those who are engaged in the teaching and business of the University. This fact gives reason to believe that the University would heartily co-operate in such a scheme, if it should seem probable that it could be carried to a successful issue. But the Council do not feel that this object of the memorialists can be properly and effectively forwarded by any present action on their part."

The report is signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Atkinson, Master of Clare; Dr. Searle, Master of Pembroke; Professors Stokes, M.P., Arthur Cayley, G. F. Browne, Dr. Donald Macalister, St. John's; Mr. F. Whitting, King's; Mr. A. Austen Leigh, King's; Mr. E. Hill, St. John's; and Mr. V. H. Stanton, Trinity. The following members of the Council have not signed the report—viz., Dr. Porter, Master of Peterhouse, Dr. Peile, Master of Christ's, Professors Liveing, Foster, Dr. Ferrers, Master of Gonville and Caius, and Mr. Neil, Pembroke.

THE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN INDIA.

On March 3rd the annual meeting of the National Indian Association, in aid of social progress and education in India, was held at Willis's Rooms, St. James's. The chair was taken by Lord Hobhouse. In the course of the proceedings an address was delivered by Sir William Hunter, in the course of which he said the political result of the educational movement had been to make broader the basis of British rule, and its social results were numerous and complex. Conspicuous among the latter was the agitation to improve the position of women in India. He did not join in unreserved condemnation of the restrictions which were found in a woman's life in India, because those restrictions had a protective as well as a restraining end. In all the social relations which could be tested by statistics the position of women in India was exceptionally high. The proportion of female criminals and prisoners to male criminals and prisoners was but a mere fraction of the proportion existing in England. Female drunkenness in India was unknown, and a woman's life was safeguarded from poverty and crime in a manner which some of her English sisters might well envy. But the question has arisen whether Indian women did not purchase their safety at too high a price, and whether security was not compatible with a larger measure of freedom. And this question had presented itself most prominently in the movement against child-marriage and enforced widowhood among the Hindoos. These customs were neither of them practised by the great masses of the people, but only among the great majority of the upper classes—the very people who came most strongly under Western modes of thought. In Bengal, out of every thousand girls between the ages of five and nine, 271 were married and 11 were widows. Among the high caste all girls were either practically wives or widows before they reached their fifteenth year. It was estimated that there were about one million of young widows belonging to the Brahmin and Rajput castes, to whom the system of enforced celibacy must be a cruel infringement of their natural rights. To simply forbid such customs by legislation was difficult, for it was the imperative duty of a Hindoo father of good caste to absolutely secure that no daughter of his house should ever be without a protector; and the re-marriage of widows was closely bound up with the liability of the husband's heirs to provide that no woman of the family should ever be without a home. Native opinion must ultimately decide the question, many of the difficulties of which were already being removed. The leaders of Hindoo thought were beginning to perceive that these restrictions rested upon no injunctions of Holy Veda, but upon mediæval customs and texts; and British legislation had declared the right of Hindoo widows to marry again and to carry their property with them if they had renounced the Hindoo faith and adopted some other religion. A large sect of the Brahmin caste, which supplied the intellectual leaders of the people, was in favour of reform, and they were supported by large numbers in the lower castes. The more conservative castes would yield when they found that the only alternative was a loss of influence with the people.

SKETCHES FROM THE PAST. No. 4.

ÆTHELFLEAD, LADY OF THE MERCIANS (obit. A.D. 919).

The noble lady, the martial lady, the famous Æthelflæd. So historians describe her, by their adjectives, unconsciously probably, at once honouring the powerful nature of Æthelflæd the daughter and the wide-minded nurture of Alfred the father; for history, which continually reveals the greatness of the souls of mothers shining forth in the greatness of the deeds of their sons, repeatedly shows marked power and individuality in daughters reflecting liberal perception and encouragement in fathers. So Æthelflæd Lady of the Mercians witnesses to the breadth of mind of Alfred the King.

That she possessed clear vision and strong mental grasp of the perplexed situation of those troublous days is manifest from the policy of fortress-building which is specially characteristic of her rule, providing enduring bulwarks against the incessantly recurring foe. "This same year (910) Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians, built the fortress at Bramsburg." "This year (912) came also Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians, on the holy eve called the Invention of the Cross to Shergate and built the fortress there, and the same year that at Bridgnorth."

This was while Æthered, the ealdorman, her husband, was still living, with whom she shared the government and took part with him in the Witans of the Mercians. The next year Æthered died. King Eadward took Oxford and London to his charge, but all the rest of Mercia he left in the hands of his sister, whose quick decision and organising power promptly asserted themselves. "This year (913) went Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians, with all her Mercians to Tamworth and built the fort there in the fore part of the summer: and before Lammas that at Stafford: and in the next year that at Eddisbury in the beginning of the summer, and the same year late in the autumn that at Warwick. Then in the following year was built after mid-winter that at Cherburg that at Weedsburg and the same year before mid-winter that at Runcorn." But her thoughts were not wholly absorbed by martial cares; she found some intervals for more peaceful interests and founded religious houses as well as fortresses at Bramsburg and at Runcorn; re-edified the religious house of secular canons at Chester, which had been ruined by wars or by injury of time; and at Shrewsbury founded a collegiate church in honour of S. Almund.

Had she in these peaceful works any sympathy from her one child, her daughter Hælfwin? She cannot have shared her mother's capabilities as a ruler, seeing that on her death she was allowed no authority over the Mercians, nor is there any sign that Æthelflæd suffered parental partiality to influence her policy in face of the need of the country for a strong guiding hand.

Truly they were days when the land had scant repose: in 916 her army stormed and took Brecknock and in 918 she conquered Derby "with all that thereto belonged," though with the loss of her four best loved thanes. Her policy was, however, bearing fruit; in 919 she "got into her power with God's assistance, in the early part of the year, without loss, the town of Leicester, and the greater part of the army that belonged thereto submitted." The army at York also made peace with her; but "very soon after this she departed, twelve nights before Midsummer, at Tamworth, the eighth year of her governing Mercia with rightful dominion, and her body lieth at Gloucester in the east aisle of St. Peter's Church."

So the story ends, briefly as it began—yet in the concise records of the old chronicles there is that which tells that in days of critical emergency Æthelflæd brought to the service of her country an unselfish policy and an intelligent generalship, without which strong

sword-arms find their force unavailing. She wielded her power to shield her country and protect its homesteads,—type herein of all women concerning whom deeds of arms stand recorded in British history. H. B.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.—In Favour.

Table of Parliamentary Petitions presented to the House of Commons from Feb. 10 to Mar. 20, 1888. Includes entries for Eastbourne, Thornton Heath, Bury Saint Edmund's, Great Yarmouth, Dean, Lowestoft, Southsea, Hastings, Gloucester, and Portsmouth.

Total number of Petitions 10—Signatures 114

(The Second Report appeared in our last issue.)

THIRD REPORT, 22—28 February, 1888.

Table of Parliamentary Petitions presented to the House of Commons from Feb. 22 to Feb. 28, 1888. Includes entry for Penge and Beckenham Liberal Club.

Total number of Petitions 16—Signatures 392

FOURTH REPORT, 29 February—6 March, 1888.

Table of Parliamentary Petitions presented to the House of Commons from Feb. 29 to Mar. 6, 1888. Includes entries for Brighton, Clapton, and Nottingham.

Total number of Petitions 19—Signatures 395

FIFTH REPORT, 7—12 March, 1888.

Table of Parliamentary Petitions presented to the House of Commons from Mar. 7 to Mar. 12, 1888. Includes entries for Norwich and Upper Tooting.

Total number of Petitions 21—Signatures 397

Summary of Public Petitions presented to the House of Commons from 9th February to 20th March, 1888.

Table with columns: Subject, No. of Petitions signed Officially, Total No. of Petitions, Total No. of Signatures. Includes Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Table of Executive Committee members and Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, and Office/Bankers for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage.

The Executive Committee of the above Society desire respectfully to call attention to its object and operations, and to make an appeal for donations and subscriptions in view of the present critical period of the movement. They estimate that a fund of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS, including the regular subscription list, is necessary to free them from debt and to enable them to carry on their work with effect during the coming year.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Table of Subscriptions and Donations for March 1888, listing names and amounts.

ROBERT ADAMSON, TREASURER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester. £30 9 6

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Table of Subscriptions and Donations for March 1888, listing names and amounts.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

Table of Subscriptions and Donations for March 1888, listing names and amounts.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, TREASURER. Office, 69, Park-street, Bristol. £15 5 6

THE LATE DR. ANNA KINGSFORD.

Our attention has been called to an error in the obituary notice of last month respecting this lady. Mrs. Anna Kingsford's degree of M.D. was granted by the University of Paris, but she was not on the list of registered medical practitioners in the United Kingdom.

CASH'S CAMBRIC FRILLINGS.

Made in the following Patterns, viz.: PLAIN, LACE EDGE, IMPERIAL,
SPIRES, LILY, VIOLET, PLEATINGS, &c.

ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF DESIGNS FREE BY POST.

J. & J. CASH, COVENTRY.

DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE.
Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.
FENNINGS' FEVER GURER.
BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose.
TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses.
DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses.
SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses.
DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses.
Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists.
Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps.

FENNINGS' EVERY MOTHER'S BOOK sent post free on application by letter or post card. Direct Alfred Fennings, West Cowes, I.W.

SORE THROATS CURED.

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE.
FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.
ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.
FENNINGS' Children's Powders.
For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.

EASY TEETHING.

Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.
Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.
Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c. Ask your Chemist for a free copy.

COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS.

FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS.

The Best Remedy to Cure all Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.

Sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., with directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free), contain three times the quantity of small boxes.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

SAFE TEETHING.

BRONCHITIS CURED.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

These excellent FAMILY MEDICINES are invaluable in the treatment of all ailments incidental to every HOUSEHOLD. The PILLS PURIFY, REGULATE and STRENGTHEN the whole System, while the OINTMENT is unequalled for the removal of all muscular and outward complaints. Possessed of these REMEDIES, every Mother has at once the means of curing most complaints to which herself or Family is liable.

N.B.—Advice can be obtained, free of charge, at 78, New Oxford Street, late 533, Oxford Street, London, daily between the hours of 11 and 4, or by letter.



ESTABLISHED 1835.

Proprietors, G. WHELPTON & SON, 3, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

WHELPTON'S PILLS

The Best Family Medicine.

Recommended for disorders of the HEAD, CHEST, BOWELS, LIVER and KIDNEYS; also in RHEUMATISM, ULCERS, SORES, and all SKIN DISEASES, these Pills being a DIRECT PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD.

WHELPTON'S HEALING OINTMENT.

The best remedy for BURNS, SCALDS, ULCERS, and all SKIN DISEASES.

Pills and Ointment in Boxes at 7½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Free by post in the United Kingdom for 8, 14, or 33 stamps.