

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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

**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, to be presented during the autumn Session. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

## LOAN EXHIBITION OF WOMEN'S INDUSTRIES.

It is proposed to hold an Exhibition of Women's Industries in Bristol, to open on February 26th, 1885.

The promoters are desirous that its principal feature should be specimens of such works as illustrate the progress made by women in industries demanding special technical and artistic training. To this end samples of work done at technical and industrial schools will be welcomed. Painting, Sculpture, Wood-Engraving, Wood-Carving, Modelling, Designs for, and Articles of, Household Furniture, Designs for Decorative Purposes and for Textile Fabrics, Lace, Specialities in Needlework—all come under this head. It must be understood, however, that only professional not amateur work is desired.

It is also hoped that articles may be contributed representing what are termed the "Minor Food Industries," e.g., Bee-keeping, Gardening, Dairy-Work, &c.

In addition to these, the Loan of Ancient Needlework, or other articles representing the occupations of Women in past times, is invited.

Also it is hoped to form a Loan Collection of Portraits of eminent Women, and Relics of Interest associated with them.  
20, Park-street, Bristol, October, 1884.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secs., Exhibition of Women's Industries, 20, Park-street, Bristol.

Any proceeds derived from the Exhibition will be handed to the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

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## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—

Volume XV. January to December, 1884. With coloured cover, price, post free, Two Shillings.—London: Trübner and Co.; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held in the Town Hall, Manchester, November 12th, 1884. In coloured cover, price 6d., to be had of the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

LECTURES.—Miss JEANNETTE G. WILKINSON is prepared to give any of the following Lectures (free of charge) in connection with the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage:—

- Women and Politics.
- The Social and Political Position of Women.
- Women and Temperance Legislation.
- Women and War.

Secretaries of Clubs, Political Associations, and others invited to apply.—Address: The Secretary, 20, Park-street, Bristol.

A WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CALENDAR for 1885, being a Sheet Almanack giving numerous dates of historical interest, and various information of use to women engaged in social and political work.

Price, on paper, 1d. each, 9d. a dozen.  
on card, 6d. each.

May be had of the Editor, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or of the Publisher, Mr. ARROWSMITH, Quay-street, Bristol.

## THE LAST WORDS of Prof. FAWCETT.

The portion relating to the Franchise for Women of the Address delivered to his Constituents by the late Prof. Fawcett, at the Town Hall, Shoreditch, on October 13th, 1884. Price One Penny, to be had of the Secretary, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 29, Parliament-street, Westminster, London, S.W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Daily Votes and Proceedings.)

- Nov. 3. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Mistresses of Dulwich High School, and Meetings at DINGWALL, LAUNCESTON, and KIRKCALDY; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 6. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meetings at DUNDEE, and BROUGHTY FERRY, and Inhabitants of BRISTOL; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 10. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of persons signing (2); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 11. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of CALNE (3), KETTERING, and DESBOROUGH, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 13. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meetings at EDINBURGH, and DARTFORD, Inhabitants of RATHMINES, LONDON (2), PENRYN (3), and EDINBURGH; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 17. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meetings at DUBLIN, and EDINBURGH, Inhabitants of RYE, RATHMINES, and LONDON (2), and persons signing (4); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 18. Representation of the People Bill, Petitions for amendment of, by extension of the franchise to women, of Inhabitants of LONDON, &c. (4), EDINBURGH (3), DUBLIN, SHREWSBURY, &c., LUCAN, LEEDS (5), STAFFORD, and GLOUCESTER, and persons signing (2); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meetings at TAIN, and DUNKELD, and Inhabitants of DUBLIN; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 20. Representation of the People Bill, Petitions for amendment of, by extension of the franchise to women, of Corporation of NOTTINGHAM, Meeting at EDINBURGH, Inhabitants of LONDON (4), LEEDS (81), LEE, DUMFRIES (3), ABERYSTWYTH, DUBLIN, and REDRUTH, and persons signing (3); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 21. Representation of the People Bill, Petitions for amendment of, by extension of the franchise to women, of Meeting at STANINGLEY, Inhabitants of EDINBURGH (4), LEEDS (75), PUDSEY, MARYBURGH, HARROGATE, RIPON, and BATH, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Meeting at UXBRIDGE, Inhabitants of NOTTINGHAM (2), and PUDSEY, and persons signing (3); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 24. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of LEEDS (6), LONDON, DUBLIN, ELSTREE, and UPPER NORWOOD; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—For Extension to Women.

- Oct. FIRST REPORT, 24—29 October, 1884.
- \* 24 KETTERING, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Spencer) ... .. 13
  - \* 27 BRIDPORT, Inhabitants of, and other places (Mr. Ralli)... 14
  - ⊙ 1 " DUNDEE, in public meeting assembled on Oct. 24, 1884; A. Moncur, chairman (Mr. Henderson) ... .. 1
  - \* 28 ABERYSTWYTH, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Pugh) ... .. 14
  - ⊙ 3 " NOTTINGHAM, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of (Mr. Charles Seely) [APP. 2] ... .. Scal. 1
  - 7 29 DUBLIN, Inhabitants of (Mr. Cowen) ... .. 118
  - \* 8 " BRISTOL, Inhabitants of (Mr. Lewis Fry) ... .. 21
  - \* 9 " CAROLINE HULL and others (Mr. Daniel Grant) ... .. 16
  - \* 10 " UPPER NORWOOD, Female Inhabitants of (Mr. Grantham) 22
  - 11 " CROYDON, Inhabitants of (Mr. Grantham) ... .. 41
  - \* 12 " CHARLTON, WOOLWICH, and PLUMSTEAD (Baron Henry de Worms) ... .. 55
- Total number of Petitions 11—Signatures 316
- The Petitions marked thus (\*) are substantially similar to that from Nottingham [APP. 2].

SECOND REPORT, 30 October—5 November, 1884.

- Brought forward, Petitions 11—Signatures 316
- Oct.
- ⊙ 36 30 BROUGHTY FERRY, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; W. W. Peyton, chairman (Mr. Barclay) [APP. 12.] ... .. 1

- Oct.
- ⊙ 57 30 KIRKCALDY, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; Thomas Black, chairman (Sir George Campbell) ... 1
  - ⊙ \* 58 " TAVISTOCK, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; J. I. Daw, portreeve, chairman (Sir Massey Lopes). 1
  - \* 59 " LONDON, Ethel Coxhead, The Rookery, Chaldon, in the county of Surrey, and other ladies resident in (Mr. William Henry Smith)... .. 7
  - ⊙ \* 60 31 ROCKFIELD, Attendants at a Drawing Room Meeting of Ladies, held at the residence of Mrs. Moncur, Dundee; Eliza Moncur, president (Mr. Henderson). 1
  - \* 61 " LONDON, George Hill and other Inhabitants of (Sir Trevor Lawrence)... .. 20
- Nov.
- 62 3 PENRYN, Inhabitants of (Mr. Brett) ... .. 126
  - \* 63 " LONDON, General Hope Graham, resident at No. 10, Somerset-street, Portman Square, and other Inhabitants of (Sir Charles Dilke) ... .. 16
  - ⊙ 64 " DINGWALL, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; Aeneas Adam, chairman (Mr. Munro-Ferguson) 1
  - ⊙ \* 65 " LAUNCESTON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; James Treleaven, chairman (Sir Hardinge Giffard) ... .. 1
  - \* 66 " LONDON, R. P. Brown, resident at 119, Milkwood Road, S.E., and other Inhabitants of (Lord John Manners) ... .. 19
  - ⊙ 67 4 DUNKELD, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; Thomas Jack, chairman (Sir Donald Currie) ... 1
  - \* 68 " NEW CROSS and district, Inhabitants of (Baron Henry de Worms) ... .. 58
  - ⊙ \* 69 " DARTFORD, Attendants at a Conference of Conservative Working Men held at, on October 30, 1884; J. C. Levy Marsh, chairman (Sir Charles Mills) ... 1
  - ⊙ 70 5 TAIN, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; J. Vass, provost, chairman (Mr. Pender) ... .. 1
- Total number of Petitions 26—Signatures 571

THIRD REPORT, 6—17 November, 1884.

- Brought forward, Petitions 26—Signatures 571
- Nov.
- \* 91 6 ELSTREE, in the county of Hertford, Inhabitants of, and other places (Mr. Halsey) ... .. 17
  - \* 92 " PENRYN, Mary Jane Tamlyn and other Female Householders resident in (Mr. Jenkins) ... .. 27
  - \* 93 " PENRYN, Inhabitants of (Mr. Jenkins) ... .. 38
  - \* 94 " GLOUCESTER, Inhabitants of (Mr. Monk) ... .. 23
  - \* 95 7 DULWICH, Head Mistress and Assistant Mistresses of the High School for Girls (Mr. Grantham) ... .. 24
  - \* 96 " REDRUTH, Inhabitants of (Sir John St. Aubyn) ... 21
  - \* 97 10 STRATHPEPPER, in the county of Ross, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Munro-Ferguson) ... .. 117
  - \* 98 11 HADHAM, in the county of Hertford, Inhabitants of (Mr. Cowper) ... .. 54
  - \* 99 " ISLINGTON, Inhabitants of, and others (Mr. Torrens) ... 4
  - \* 100 " DROMORE, in the county of Down, Agnesa Meyer Sprott, resident at, and others (Mr. Woodall) ... .. 23
  - \* 101 " KENSINGTON, Isabella Gwynne, resident at 36, Brunswick Gardens, and others (Mr. Woodall) ... .. 15
  - ⊙ \* 102 13 STRATHPEPPER, in the county of Ross, N. B., Attendants at a Drawing Room Meeting held in MacGregor's Private Hotel; Sarah N. Forbes, president (Mr. Munro-Ferguson) ... .. 1
  - \* 103 " CALNE, Inhabitants of (Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice) ... 63
  - ⊙ \* 104 " EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Drawing Room Meeting held at 36, Royal Terrace; Sarah N. Forbes, president (Sir Stafford Northcote) ... .. 1
  - ⊙ \* 105 14 EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Drawing Room Meeting held at 39, Mayfield Gardens; Jane M. Stewart, president (Mr. Buchanan) ... .. 1
  - \* 106 " COOMBE IN TEIGNHEAD, in the county of Devon and others, Inhabitants of (Mr. Grantham) ... .. 30
  - \* 07 " PECKHAM and other places, Inhabitants of (Mr. Grantham) ... .. 41
  - \* 08 " HAMPSTEAD, Inhabitants of (Lord George Hamilton) ... 19
  - \* 109 " BRAINTREE and other places, Inhabitants of (Lord George Hamilton) ... .. 13
  - \* 110 " HAMMERSMITH and other places, Inhabitants of (Lord George Hamilton) ... .. 20
- The Petitions marked thus (\*) are similar to that from Broughty Ferry [APP. 12]. The Petitions marked thus (⊙) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

(Third Report of Petitions continued next month.)

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THE Bill introduced by Mr. WOODALL for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was read a first time on November 19th, and the second reading fixed for Tuesday, November 25th. But owing to the adjournment of the House, and the probable occupation of the attention of Parliament during the succeeding week by the Redistribution Bill and the Egyptian question, Mr. WOODALL has put down the Bill for Tuesday, December the 9th.

The Bill, as it now stands, differs slightly in the wording, but not as regards scope and intention, from the Bill as originally proposed. This difference was the occasion of a technical difficulty, which obliged Mr. WOODALL to withdraw the notice relating to Bill No. 1 and reintroduce the measure under the designation Bill No. 2. The necessity was caused by some doubts which had been expressed as to the effect of the proposed Bill with regard to the inclusion of married women. In order to set all such doubts at rest, Mr. WOODALL was advised that it was necessary to state distinctly whether the Bill was intended to extend to wives or to enfranchise only women who were heads of households. As no Bill that has ever been introduced in the House of Commons has been supposed to include married women, but only such women as are now by law entitled to vote in municipal and other local elections, Mr. WOODALL, in order to make the meaning of his Bill perfectly clear, added words to the effect that nothing in the Act should enable women under coverture to vote in Parliamentary elections. As married women cannot now by law vote in local elections, Mr. WOODALL'S Bill will simply extend to women in Parliamentary elections the same voting rights, under the same conditions as to legal capacity, which they exercise in every other form of representative government in which women's suffrage is recognised by law.

THE circumstances attending the withdrawal and re-introduction of the Bill seem to have produced in some

minds the impression that there was a real difference in the proposed effect of the two Bills. This is a complete misapprehension. The words added are held to be not a limitation, but a mere definition of the effect of the original Bill. In other words, the two Bills would enfranchise the same number of persons, and the same persons. The only difference is that the first Bill did not attempt to remove the bar which the common law places against the exercise of the franchise by married women, and the second Bill plainly states that no such attempt is made.

IN explaining the effect of the original Bill in his speech in the House of Commons, in 1872, Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, in reply to an objection that his Bill would give votes to married women, having cited a decision in the Court of Queen's Bench against the right of married women to vote in municipal elections, said: "That being so, this objection to my Bill, that it would give married women votes, is set at rest. But there remains the counter charge. There are some who complain that the Bill does not enfranchise married women, but I believe only the opponents of the Bill make that complaint." "In bringing in this Bill I am standing on the ancient lines of the constitution. I am asking that those who have the local vote should have the Parliamentary vote also. The common law prevents a married woman from voting." "Surely it is not for me in my endeavours to enfranchise the owners and occupiers of property to run my head against the common law in regard to the changes which come about in the case of a woman who marries. It is enough for me to assert that every house shall have a vote, in accordance with the principle laid down in that great Act of 1867, the Household Suffrage Act."

There may be some among the more Radical advocates of the women's suffrage cause who would have had Mr. WOODALL run his head against the common law, but we believe that the vast majority of the supporters of the

question, who are anxious to see women householders enfranchised at the same time as the others, will be satisfied that he has exercised a wise discretion in declining to do so, and will support him in his efforts to place upon the statute book the Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women.

THE annual general meeting of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Town Hall, on November 12th. The MAYOR of MANCHESTER (Mr. Alderman Harwood) presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. WOODALL, M.P., Mrs. LOUISA HERFORD, Miss BECKER, Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD, Mrs. ABEL HEYWOOD, and others.

An influential meeting has been held at Cambridge, under the presidency of the MAYOR, at which it was resolved to form a local Association for Women's Suffrage. Mrs. BATESON was appointed hon. secretary.

Meetings have been held at Trowbridge, Tewkesbury, and Chippenham, addressed by Miss BLACKBURN and Miss J. G. WILKINSON.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE has given a lecture to the South-wark Liberal Association, and Miss C. A. BIGGS has delivered an address to the conference of Conservative working men at Dartford.

Resolutions in favour of the principle have been adopted by Conservative Associations at Doncaster, Broadstairs, Sidcup, Rothwell, Ipswich, and Southampton, and by the Liberal Associations of Kettering and Torpoint.

THE Bill to amend the law relating to the custody and guardianship of infants, brought forward by Lord FITZGERALD, has been read a second time in the House of Lords, and referred to a select committee. The Bill passed the House of Commons last session, but went up to the House of Lords so late that their Lordships held that there was no time to consider it with sufficient attention, so it was postponed. The Bill will now receive careful consideration by the House of Lords, and more especially by the law Lords. The result of their labours cannot fail to produce a considerable amelioration of the present intolerable hardship summed up in the words of a judge, "A mother's rights are *nil*." To whatever degree the House of Lords may see fit to recognise and establish the rights of mothers, the House of Commons will, doubtless, be willing to assent. There is, therefore, some reasonable hope that a Bill for the amendment of the law on

this subject may receive the assent of the legislature during the present session.

AN act of heroism in a woman is reported from Aberdour in connection with the loss of the steamship *William Hope*, of Dundee. The heroine is Mrs. WHYTE, wife of a farm servant, who lives in a small cottage on Aberdour beach. During the height of the gale on the 28th of October, between the blinding showers of wind and sleet, Mrs. WHYTE saw the vessel in imminent danger of coming on shore in Aberdour bay. Proceeding from her cottage she noted the spot where the vessel would come on shore, and was ready to receive the rope thrown to her by one of the crew. In doing so she exposed herself to no little danger in securing the end of the rope, by passing it round her body and planting her feet firmly on the beach, while the waves were washing round her, and so securing communication with the shore, so that the crew were able to land. During all this time she was wholly unaided. Having got the crew on shore she attended to their wants and comforts, giving them accommodation and food as far as her means would admit.

Had the rescuer been a man, in all probability his exertions would have been ended when he had helped the men to land. He would then have probably had his own wants and comforts attended to by some woman. But Mrs. WHYTE not only performed the manly part of the rescue, by the exercise of courage and strength in holding the rope, but the womanly part also by the care with which she ministered to the needs of the men whom she had rescued. This is a type of what often occurs when a woman has to fight the battle of life unaided for herself or for those dependent on her. The widowed mother of a helpless family has not only to go out and work for their bread, but to mind the house and attend to their wants and comforts as well. Surely the head of a family who is thus called upon to bear the double duty of breadwinner and housekeeper is as fairly entitled to be considered worthy of a vote as the householder who has but one of these duties and responsibilities to discharge.

SINCE our last issue a great calamity has befallen the friends of women's suffrage in the sudden and premature death of the late Postmaster-General, the Right Hon. HENRY FAWCETT. No public man has ever endeared himself more closely and universally amongst all classes of his countrymen of all shades of opinion, and it may be said of him what perhaps could not be said of any other

politician in any degree of prominence that no one had an unkind word or an unsympathetic thought for him. The courage and cheerfulness with which he bore the terrible misfortune that darkened the world for him at the outset of his career naturally attracted to him the good feeling of others, but this regard and affection, though attracted in the first instance, could not be retained by mere misfortune, however courageously borne. They were strengthened and made lifelong by his sterling qualities, and the never-failing charm of his genial and kindly presence.

Mr. FAWCETT first was returned to Parliament in 1865 for Brighton, at the age of thirty-three. In 1867 he spoke and voted in favour of Mr. MILL's amendment to the Franchise Bill of that year. He lost his seat for Brighton in 1874, but was soon afterwards returned for Hackney, which constituency he represented up to the time of his death. He supported the enfranchisement of women on every occasion when it was brought forward in the House of Commons except in the division on Mr. WOODALL'S clause, when the exigencies of his position precluded him from voting, but he resolutely refused to yield to the pressure put on all official members to support the Government by voting against the clause. In the last speech he ever made in public, when addressing his constituents at Hackney, on the 13th of October last, Mr. FAWCETT devoted a considerable portion of his speech to pressing the claim of women to be enfranchised, and to the expression of his conviction that the addition of the clause providing for giving votes to women could not possibly have imperilled the Franchise Bill.

Besides the suffrage, Mr. FAWCETT was earnest in promoting the welfare of women in other ways. He helped in the movement to open the university examinations and other educational advantages to women, and was especially active in promoting their employment. It was owing to his influence that the great development of the scheme for employing women in the postal and telegraph service took place, and it is to him that we owe the appointment of women medical officers for the women so employed. One of his last official acts was to sign the appointment of a lady as medical officer for the women in the postal service at Manchester.

Women have lost a true friend who would have been a tower of strength to the franchise cause at the present crisis, but even the sense of the magnitude of this loss fades before the feeling of personal sorrow for the loss of such a man, and of deep sympathy with his mourning family.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

## HACKNEY.

The vacancy in the representation of Hackney, caused by the lamented death of the late Postmaster General, has been filled by the return of Professor Stuart, of Cambridge. The friends of women's suffrage may be congratulated on the result of the election, for Professor Stuart has been an indefatigable labourer for the advancement of the interests of women. A curious incident at the election is recorded in the public prints. We read that at one of the polling booths a lady of stalwart proportions, having upon her arm a large basket, and in her hand a stout umbrella, presented herself and asked for a voting paper. The returning officer blandly explained that the Women's Suffrage Bill had not yet become law. "Then," said the fair partizan of Professor Stuart, dashing her umbrella upon the table to the discomfiture of the papers, "the sooner that Bill becomes law the better." She swept angrily into and down the street, protesting that she paid £37 a year rent, and yet was refused a vote.

## PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

## HOUSE OF LORDS, Monday, November 3rd.

## PETITIONS.

Lord Reay presented a petition from the head mistress and assistant mistresses of the Dulwich High School in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

Lord Robartes presented a petition from Launceston in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

## November 6th.

The Earl of Dalhousie presented a petition from inhabitants of Broughty Ferry and Dundee in favour of woman suffrage.

## November 10th.

The Earl of Dalhousie presented a petition from Strathpeffer, in favour of woman suffrage.

## November 11th.

The Earl of Rosebery presented petitions from inhabitants of Calne; also from Miss Ferall, and others, in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

Lord Lyveden presented petitions from Kettering, Northamptonshire, and Desborough, in favour of extending the franchise to women.

## November 13th.

Viscount Powerscourt presented a petition from inhabitants of Rathmines, in favour of women who pay rates and taxes having a share in Parliamentary representation.

Lord Reay presented a petition from a meeting held at 36, Royal Terrace, Edinburgh, in favour of the exercise of the franchise by duly qualified women.

## November 17th.

Petitions in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women were presented, by Lord Jersey, from members of the Hammersmith Conservative Club and the Conservative Association; by the Duke of St. Albans, from inhabitants of Nottingham; by the Earl of Camperdown, from a meeting at 1, Ventnor Terrace, Edinburgh; by the Marquis of Headfort, from Mary Greville, householders, and others at Rathmines; by the Earl of Cadogan (for the Earl of Rosslyn), from the inhabitants and visitors at Strathpeffer; by Lord Brabourne, from inhabitants of Rye; and by Viscount Powerscourt, from the Committee of the Dublin Women's Suffrage Association.

## November 18th.

Petitions in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women were presented by the Earl of Ducie, from Gloucester; by the Earl of Roden, from inhabitants of Lucan and neighbourhood; by the Earl of Dalhousie, from Emily Hill and others, inhabitants of Wandsworth, also from William Jennings

and others, inhabitants of Bristol; by the Earl of Fife, from visitors and inhabitants of Strathpeffer; by the Earl of Dunraven, from women in Dublin; by Lord Vernon, from the North Derby Liberal Association; by Lord Watson, from a drawing-room meeting at 21, Windsor-street, Edinburgh; and by the Earl of Lathom, from inhabitants of Edinburgh.

November 20th.

Petitions in favour of the franchise being extended to duly qualified women were presented by the Duke of St. Albans, from the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Nottingham; by Lord Fitzgerald (14), from ladies at Leeds; by the Marquis of Lothian, from a meeting of ladies held in Edinburgh; by the Duke of Abercorn, from inhabitants of New-cross and neighbourhood; by Lord Dynevor, from inhabitants of Aberystwith; by Lord Robartes, from Redruth; by the Earl of Dalhousie, from Edward Miall Pulsford and others; by Lord Bramwell, from inhabitants of Leeds; and by the Earl of Courtown, from young men of Dawson-street, Dublin.

November 21st.

Petitions for extension of the franchise to duly qualified women were presented, by the Marquis of Salisbury, from inhabitants of Bath, women of Nottingham (2), inhabitants of Londonderry, and Uxbridge Branch of the Middlesex Conservative Association; by Lord Fitzgerald (15), from ladies duly qualified; by the Earl of Arran, from several ladies of the county of Dublin; by the Duke of Buccleuch, from ladies in Edinburgh, and from a meeting in Heriot Row, and two from inhabitants of Edinburgh, and also from inhabitants of Maryburgh; by Lord Mount-Temple (21), from Leeds and Ripon; and by Lord Waveney, from Leeds (21), Harrogate (2), and Stanningley (2).

November 24th.

Petitions praying that the Parliamentary franchise be conferred on duly qualified women were presented by the Duke of Abercorn, from S. J. Richardson and others; by Lord Montague, from inhabitants of Hampstead; by Lord Bramwell (6), from inhabitants of Leeds; and by Lord Mount-Temple, from Upper Norwood and Elstree.

November 25th.

The Earl of Kimberley presented a petition from the Town Council of Penryn in favour of granting the franchise to women. Viscount Barrington (for the Earl of Ravensworth) presented a petition from various inhabitants of Leeds in favour of the enfranchisement of women who pay rates; also from inhabitants of Yeaton with similar prayer.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Wednesday, Nov. 19th.  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Mr. WOODALL asked leave to introduce a Bill to extend the Parliamentary Suffrage to Women.

Mr. WARTON asked what the Bill really was. A rumour had got about that the Bill only represented one set of the agitators, of which there were two sets, one in favour of women as women, and the other in favour of single women, widows, and improper characters. If he understood the matter rightly, the Bill brought forward by the hon. member and withdrawn was a Bill to include all women, while the Bill which the hon. member now asked leave to introduce only included the other classes to whom he had referred. He asked the House if that was so.

The motion for leave to bring in the Bill having been put from the Chair, Mr. Warton challenged a division. The House having been cleared, the Speaker asked Mr. Warton to name his co-teller. Mr. Kenny, amid cries of "Oh" from the Irish members, intimated that he was prepared to act in that capacity.

The House divided, and the numbers were—  
Ayes ... .. 29  
Noes ... .. 8  
Majority ... .. 21

As the tellers for the "Noes" returned to their seats they were met by the cries of "Shame."

The SPEAKER called upon Mr. Woodall to bring in the Bill.

Mr. WARTON: I beg pardon, sir. When the division shows there is not a quorum present the recognised way is to adjourn. ("Oh.")

The SPEAKER: The division shows that, including the four tellers and myself, there are forty members present. (Hear, hear.)

The Bill was then brought in and read a first time, Tuesday, the 25th of November, being fixed for the second reading.

DIVISION LIST.

Numb. 19.

Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) (No. 2).—Motion made, and Question put, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women:—(Mr. Woodall):—The House divided; Ayes 29, Noes 8.

AYES.

Armitage, Benjamin	Leatham, W. H. (York, W. R. S. D.)
Arnold, Arthur	M'Carthy, Justin (Longford)
Burt, Thomas	M'Coan, James Carlile
Buxton, Sydney C. (Peterborough)	Molloy, Bernard C.
Callan, Philip	Monk, Charles James
Campbell, James A. (Glas. Univ.)	Morley, Samuel (Bristol)
Clarke, J. Cremer (Abingdon)	Nolan, Colonel
Courtney, Leonard Henry	O'Sullivan, William Henry
Dickson, Thomas A. (Tyrone)	Parker, Charles Stuart
Fry, Theodore (Darlington)	Richard, Henry
Grant, Andrew (Leith)	Richardson, Thos. (Hartlepool)
Hill, Thomas Rowley (Worcester)	Sexton, Thomas
Jones-Parry, Love	Stebble, Lieut.-Col. Richard Fell
Kinnear, John	Wilson, Sir Mathew (York, W. R.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid	

Tellers for the Ayes, Mr. Woodall and Mr. Roe.

NOES.

Acland, C. T. Dyke (Cornw. E.)	Fairbairn, Sir Andrew
Acland, Rt. Hon. Sir T. Dyke (Dev.)	Ferguson, R. C. Munro- Ross
Digby, Col. Hon. E.	Hayter, Sir Arthur Divett
Elliot, Hn. Art. R. D. (Roxburgsh.)	Smith, Lt.-Col. G. (Wycombe)

Tellers for the Noes, Mr. Warton and Mr. Kenny.

Monday, November 24th.

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BILL AND THE MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

On the motion of Mr. GLADSTONE, that the House should adjourn until Monday, the 1st of December,

Mr. WOODALL said: I am not at all disposed to deny that the proposal of the Prime Minister, for the adjournment of the House for the remainder of the week, is consistent with the general convenience of hon. members; but inasmuch as I have obtained a very favourable place on the paper for to-morrow, for the second reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill, and as I shall be deprived by this arrangement of the opportunity of taking the opinion of the House upon the measure of which I am in charge, it will hardly be expected that I am prepared to receive the proposal of the right hon. gentleman with perfect equanimity. Very recently, in reply to a question from an hon. gentleman opposite, the Prime Minister was good enough to say that I had manifested my sincerity upon this question by having pressed forward on a former occasion the right of women householders to vote, even to the inconvenience of the Government and of the Liberal party. I have no desire, now, to put either the one or the other to further inconvenience, by pressing my claim to bring forward the measure to-morrow. The Franchise Bill may now be supposed to be resting in tranquil security in another place; and we have been assured, under the most promising circumstances, that we shall have an early opportunity of discussing the Bill for the Redistribution of Seats. It does, however, appear to me to be extremely important that before a complete and comprehensive scheme of Reform in connection with the Representation of the People is concluded, we should have, at any rate, an opportunity of discussing the important question of women's suffrage—the charge of which has been entrusted to me. It may, of course, be possible that when the question shall have been debated, the provision which I am anxious to introduce may be negatived; but, on the other hand, it may, as I hope, receive so large an amount of support that we may fairly and reasonably allow the claim put forward by women—that they should be afforded the opportunity

of exercising the franchise concurrently with the other electors of the three kingdoms. The Prime Minister, a few months ago, declared his desire that this question should be submitted to and determined by the House as an open question—that it should be submitted on its own merits to the free, impartial, and dispassionate judgment of Parliament. I sincerely desire that the opportunity may be found for enabling the House to address itself to a question of so much importance in the manner suggested by the Prime Minister. A Bill, which has been most carefully drawn, is now in the hands of hon. members. It is supported by a large number of members sitting on that (the Opposition) side of the House; and I think I have a right to claim for those who sit on this side that they have loyally accepted the decision arrived at in June, as to the fitness of the opportunity then selected for bringing forward the question, and that they have refrained from impeding the progress of the Franchise Bill while it has been passing through this House. I hope that this mild protest against the decision to which the House is about to come will be received as an evidence of my desire to propitiate the general feeling of the House and to facilitate the carrying out of the proposals of the Government; but with a distinct understanding that it is my intention to bring forward this measure under more convenient circumstances. I sincerely trust that an opportunity will be given for discussing the question at as early a period as may be practicable.

Mr. SCLATER-BOOTH, in supporting the motion for adjournment, said the question proposed to be discussed by the hon. member for Stoke (Mr. Woodall) to-morrow, and that of proportional representation which stood on the paper for Friday in the name of the hon. baronet the member for the University of London (Sir J. Lubbock), were both of them questions of very great importance, and it was most desirable that they should be discussed at an early date, but at the same time he did not believe that either of them would be placed at a disadvantage by being deferred until another opportunity.

TEXT OF THE BILL.

[48 VICT.] Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) (No. 2).

A BILL FOR

Extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. A.D. 1884.

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 Short title. People (Extension to Women) Act, 1884.

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

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 Mr. Woodall, Mr. Hingworth, Mr. Coleridge Kennard, Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Yorke, and Baron Henry de Worms.)

[Bill 39.] Sess. 2.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

Morning Post, Nov. 20th.

But in any case the advocates of female suffrage can look with confidence to receive the support of an influential, if not a dominating, section of the House of Commons, and can count upon finding many supporters in the Second Chamber. There can be little doubt as to the nature of the consideration which has turned so much influential opinion in favour of the principle which animates Mr. Woodall's proposal. It was impossible for people not to

reflect upon the anomaly of giving votes to peasantry which, especially in the case of the Irish, is devoid of the merest rudiments of knowledge of public affairs, and at the same time withholding all voice in the Government of the country from a body of women, well educated for the most part, and all bearing a share in the pecuniary responsibilities of citizenship. Sir Stafford Northcote put this point with perfect clearness last June, when declaring his intention of supporting the amendment before the House. We are asked to admit some five hundred thousand Irish peasants to the enjoyment of the franchise, but we are told that it will be a dangerous innovation to admit the same number of English women, who are the heads of households and the owners of property. The comparison is, indeed, one which ought to carry conviction to every mind. To give adequate representation to property is a cardinal point in the Conservative political creed, and it needs special advocacy now that the tendencies in the opposite direction are becoming so marked. As to the alarming nature of the experiment which will be tried if Mr. Woodall's Bill passes, we must confess to entire scepticism. Lord John Manners is not a statesman likely to err on the side of Constitutional innovation. When the question was last before the House of Commons, he summed up the problem in words which deserve to be recalled to-day. "The point to be decided," he said, "is simply whether they would grant the Parliamentary franchise to a class of Her Majesty's subjects who for many years past have blamelessly, and with great advantage to the State, exercised the franchise with respect to municipal, poor-law, and school board elections." The House of Commons decided that it would not accede to the demand thus preferred; but considering the curious and unexpected forces which influenced its decision, it requires no great prescience to see that the chances are largely in favour of that decision being shortly reversed.

Evening News (London), November 20th.

Yet on grounds of reason and justice Mr. Woodall and his friends have an extremely strong case. Fitness to exercise political privileges cannot be denied in the case of women who, when householders, are usually law-abiding, well-to-do people, when it is conceded to the "residuum" in town and country. Indeed, when the experiment of enfranchising what Lord Lytton once called poverty and passion is being carried out, we see great advantages in having property and sentiment as a make-weight in political life.

Bristol Times, November 24th.

When, for instance, it is proposed to enfranchise a vast number of uncultured men, of all of whom it cannot be predicted with certainty that they will use political privileges wisely, or even intelligently, the claims of educated and intelligent women, who pay rates and understand thoroughly the duties of citizenship, become strong by contrast. Moreover, many of the 80,000 unenfranchised women are payers of income-tax. On some of these this impost comes as a cruel hardship, for although they have incomes exceeding £150 a year they are obliged, by circumstances which cannot be evaded, to maintain the position of ladies, and with this obligation they are often hard put to it to make both ends meet, and are in reality little better off than peasants. Is it just that these women should be obliged to pay income-tax and yet have no chance of protesting against national extravagance by their votes? Even if the income-tax were not treated as a war-tax, this question would be pertinent; but Mr. Gladstone has opportunely mulcted of a portion of their incomes the women whom he declines to enfranchise for fear of overburdening his Franchise Bill.

THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN VICTORIA.

On September 9th, we learn from the Melbourne Argus, a meeting was held in the Public Hall, Prahran, in support of the franchise for women, the Rev. H. Tucker in the chair. Mrs. Sarah Parker moved the first resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Legislature of Victoria should pass without delay an Act legalising women's suffrage." The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Charles Rennick and carried unanimously. Mr. G. B. B. Elliott moved that the resolution should be forwarded to the Premier and the local members of Parliament. Miss Simpson seconded and Mrs. Lowe supported the proposal, which was carried unanimously. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

## MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of this Society was held on November 12th, at the Town Hall, Manchester; the MAYOR (Mr. Alderman Harwood) presiding. There were also present Mr. W. Woodall, M.P., Mr. Alderman Heywood, Mrs. Heywood, Miss Becker, Mrs. Louisa Herford, Mrs. H. J. Roby, Mrs. Pankhurst, the Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Mr. Alderman Booth, Dr. Watts, Mr. W. T. Windson, Mr. W. A. Nicholls, Mr. H. H. Howorth, Miss Backhouse, Mrs. M'Cormick, Dr. Whittle, Mr. J. Milling, and others.

The SECRETARY (Miss Becker) read a number of letters of apology for non-attendance. The first was from Sir John Macdonald, Premier of Canada, who has on two occasions introduced into the Dominion Parliament an electoral bill containing provisions for enabling women to exercise the franchise. Sir John, writing from London, said he should continue his best endeavours to procure the electoral franchise for women holding the necessary qualification. Letters had also been received from Mr. Thomasson, M.P., Mr. Walter M'Laren, Mr. J. Slagg, M.P., Mr. W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., and Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P.

Dr. Pankhurst wrote: "The demand of the extension of the Parliamentary suffrage to women on the same terms and qualification as those on which that suffrage is granted to men, is in right and justice so absolutely clear that no answer either has or can be made to the claim. For women the franchise will be, what it is for men, a just and necessary instrument at once of self-defence and of political and social service. Neither the appeals of opportunism nor the exigencies of party ought for one moment to induce the Society to relax its determination to press the question with persistent urgency both upon the constituencies and upon Parliament."

The annual report, which has been published separately, having been read by Miss Becker,

The Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL, the treasurer, presented the financial statement, which showed that the year was commenced with a balance in hand of £205. Subscriptions during the year amounted to £1,470, and receipts on the *Journal* account to £438, other small items bringing up the total receipts to £2,120. The expenditure side of the account showed salaries and office expenditure £570, cost of public meetings £273, publications purchased £262, *Journal* account £735. The payment of these sums, together with other incidental expenses, left a balance in hand of £25. There were in addition liabilities due by the Society amounting to a little over £70.

The MAYOR said there could be no two opinions, as it seemed to him, that the question was almost getting beyond the range of discussion. Everybody that he had ever heard speak upon it admitted at once that taxation and representation were inseparable—(hear, hear)—and admitting that, it became simply a question of detail and arrangement as to how the matter should be carried out. They were all agreed—at least he thought a very large proportion of the people of Manchester were agreed—that the time had passed when such a great injustice should be done as that those who had to pay the taxes should have no voice in the expenditure of that taxation. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WOODALL, M.P., who was warmly received, moved the adoption of the report. He said Manchester had been the home and centre of great movements, and he desired to acknowledge the fact that, chief among the provincial centres, it had given a continued and steady support to this movement. Under the difficult circumstances in which the vote was taken last June, the vote of Manchester was solidly given for the resolution he had proposed. (Applause.) Perhaps he ought to have expected nothing less of his friend and colleague in another work, Mr. Slagg. (Applause.) Mr. Jacob Bright, perhaps more than any other man—(applause)—had rendered to this as to many other causes an unswerving and invaluable support; and the Conservative member for Manchester, it might be acknowledged, did a good deal to influence the vote given so largely and generously by the members on his own side of the House. He thought they had very rightly been told that the country had arrived pretty conclusively at a decision with regard to the general arguments for and against this proposal, and as a great many people would agree that the common sense, the logic of the matter had been established beyond all question, it would become

him ill to speak in vindication of the movement. It was interesting to take a glance back on its fluctuating fortunes since the proposal was first submitted to Parliament by that illustrious man, Mr. Stuart Mill. Mr. Mill received on that occasion the support of 81 members of the House of Commons. The swing of the pendulum had gone on since then, but still it was a little remarkable that while divisions were taken pretty steadily, he thought annually, from 1871 to 1879, the range of voting in favour of the proposal was between the lowest figure of 134, and the highest attained in 1873 of 172 votes. The report had naturally referred to the experience of the last session. No one could question that had they abstained from pressing their question on the House when Parliament was engaged in extending the franchise to every householder, however humble, in any part of the three kingdoms, they would have been reproached alike by friend and foe. (Hear, hear.) He had never questioned the right of those responsible for the conduct of public business in Parliament to lay down rules, and insist on their recognition by their followers; but he knew the loyalty of the following of Mr. Gladstone was very severely tried during the discussions in June last. Yet there was a vote, notwithstanding that pressure, of 137 for the right of women to vote; but there was this remarkable fact, that whereas twelve months before there had been a total Conservative vote of 19 in favour of the motion, this year no less than 96 went into the lobby. (Applause.) He thought that was a very important circumstance, and worthy of their special consideration at this moment. (Hear, hear.) We heard a good deal at the present juncture with regard to the seriousness and trustworthiness of sudden conversions. He was there in the main to vindicate the perfect genuineness and sincerity of the Conservative vote on this question, and he was sorry he was not supported that day by Mr. Coleridge Kennard, to whom he was under obligation for the great aid he had rendered. He had taken the trouble to ascertain seriously and earnestly the views held by serious politicians on the other side of the House with regard to the probabilities of the position. The Conservative view, as he was told, was a very simple one. They were contented to leave the franchise as it was before the present proposal, but since it was proposed to extend the right of voting to the humblest occupiers in Ireland, as in the rural districts of Great Britain, and that the humblest serving-man who occupied a cottage as part of his weekly wages was to have this right, there was no reason they saw why the vote should be withheld from the woman who was often the employer and director of the man. (Hear.) Some members, he admitted, spoke on this question before giving their votes in a way which a little disparaged the value of them. Nevertheless, their argument, as he maintained, was true. "If," said Lord Folkestone, "this extension of the franchise is carried, with it ought to go the women's vote. If it is not carried, we have a right to reconsider our position." Now, we had arrived at a position when both sides of the House were agreed, and joined in protestations that they desired the Franchise Bill to become law. It had passed the Lower House—(applause)—and we were now waiting for the decision of the Upper House. He thought he could not be wrong in assuming that the vote given for the women's suffrage would not be diminished but rather increased in the future. (Applause.) The report stated that if the members of the House of Commons were left to vote upon the issue without any kind of pressure there was reason to believe it would be carried by a majority of that House. It was easy to prophesy too confidently, but Mr. Hugh Mason—(applause)—secured in 1882 a vote in favour of his resolution of 137. If there were added to that the increased number of Conservatives, the number was increased to 214, and he was sceptical whether a larger number than that could be found to vote against the proposal. To take another illustration, if 70 out of the number voting against his motion—and very nearly that number had actually signed the memorial to the Prime Minister urging the importance of including women's suffrage in the measure—were to vote freely in favour of it, and in accordance with their expressed convictions, there would be an actual majority for the Bill. (Applause.) These were circumstances which warranted them in speaking confidently with regard to the progress of opinion respecting this proposal. It had been remarked this year and last year that there had been a manifest change in the tone in which this subject was discussed, and those who had most strongly opposed it now felt it was entitled to most serious and respectful consideration. Parliament had made a

great stride by the concession with regard to the right to their property of married women, and though no Act had actually been passed as to the right of women to have the custody of their children, yet the division on Mr. Bryce's motion was a sign of the progress of the women's cause. With regard to opinion out of doors, it was better that Parliament should rather follow public opinion than precede it, but when it was given Parliament must sooner or later give effect to it. He supposed there were people who still held the Oriental idea, and some in the House of Commons had given expression to views which would almost exclude women from public work of any kind. Few things were more significant than the steady manner in which this obsolete theory was being abandoned. (Hear, hear.) They had great reason to congratulate themselves on the successful manner in which what had threatened to be found a great social difficulty had been met by the approximation to something like practical equality of the sexes in the various trades and professions. He could not let the opportunity pass without acknowledging most gratefully the resolution passed at the last Trades' Union Congress at Aberdeen, where the principle of women's right to the suffrage was carried by a large and decisive majority by those representing the associated trades of the country there. (Hear.) To the late Mr. Fawcett, for what he had done in this direction, women would owe a long and lasting debt of gratitude. His sympathies were all engaged in the work, and it was with very sad feelings indeed that they followed what was left of him to the grave on Monday last, remembering how steadfast, how constant, how encouraging had always been his loyalty to this great question. (Applause.) Mr. Fawcett's death was indeed a serious and irreparable loss to the movement. They knew how he had promoted, in connection with the Post Office, the employment of women; and he (the speaker) was glad to hear that in this city there was soon to be started an enterprise with which the honoured name of Emily Faithfull was associated, giving employment to industrious and artistic women. (Hear, hear.) As to their Bill now before Parliament, what were the chances of getting a second reading next Monday he was not bold enough to speculate upon. They were asked to continue their exertions in every direction, and he was sure they would feel that in the present condition of things it would be extremely culpable on their part were they to relax them. They had now in Parliament arrived at a position which was not without its satisfactory features. The *bona fides* of those who were working in this cause could no longer be called in question. Supporters of the Government could no longer be reproached with doing anything that would have the effect of impeding the progress of the Franchise Bill. They claimed that they had exercised no small amount of self-restraint in having declined to again challenge the opinion of the House during the progress of the Franchise Bill through Committee. (Applause.) Personally he felt that the House having deliberately expressed its opinion upon the subject last year, and having by its vote adopted the view of the Prime Minister, it would not have been right for them, either on the Liberal or Conservative side, to have gone back upon that decision. But all the more, now that that Bill was passed, they felt they had very strong claims upon the consideration of the House of Commons, and of its leader. Mr. Gladstone last year declared that the subject was a proper one for consideration, and pledged himself that it should be treated as an open question, which he hoped would be decided on its social and moral aspects; so that, all the things which he had mentioned considered, they would see that when it was again discussed in Parliament they would approach the subject under conditions infinitely more favourable than they had experienced recently. They believed there was every reason to hope for a majority in the House of Commons, there was equally good reason to hope for a very large and influential, if not absolutely conclusive, vote in the Upper Chamber—(applause)—and they were therefore within measureable distance of victory. That might be the over sanguine view of persons with whom the wish was father to the thought, but he had endeavoured very carefully to measure all the circumstances, and he believed they had a right to appeal to those who had so long and earnestly devoted themselves to this cause to continue their efforts more earnestly and zealously than in the past, encouraged by the assurance of a near and certain victory. (Applause.) They were surprised at the apprehensions, the timid fears, of those who conjured up strange chimeras of difficulties that might be brought about

by the success of a perfectly common sense proposal, justified by experience in so many other directions; and, believing that the proposal was one eminently just, they were sure it could not be other than expedient. (Applause.)

Mrs. LOUISA HERFORD seconded the resolution. She paid a warm tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Fawcett, and urged the great need that exists for more enthusiastic workers in this cause.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Miss BECKER moved: "That this meeting hereby express their cordial satisfaction that Mr. Woodall has introduced in the present session a Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women, and assure him of their hearty support in such action as he may find it desirable to take with a view to bringing the question before Parliament during the discussion on the general question of amending the law relating to the representation of the people." She said it must be a satisfaction to all of them that the action indicated in the resolution had been taken. Whether the circumstances of the session might not be too strong for it, and whether the Bill might not be swept away with a good many others according to the exigencies of the political situation, no one could tell, but if it did so happen, the friends of the movement would not be responsible for the delay. The chances of such a session afforded many opportunities for bringing in a measure, and in the action taken by their Parliamentary leader they had an earnest that no chance would be lost. The Married Women's Property Act was passed through being watched from day to day, and her conviction was that their Bill only wanted similar looking after in order to become law before the present franchise agitation had settled down. She believed that if they once allowed Parliament to pass a Franchise and Redistribution Bill, and so settle the question of reform, it would be extremely difficult to revive it. It would not be impossible, because women did not in such a case know what that meant—(laughter and applause); and she gave fair warning to all politicians that the only way in which to quiet them was to pass their Bill. (Applause.) The introduction of their measure now would not affect the Franchise Bill, and she thought they had now a right to call upon every member of Parliament who was in favour of their claims to follow Mr. Woodall and to make sure that their Bill should come in before Parliament had done with the question of Parliamentary reform. (Hear, hear.) They had many reasons for hope. She thought one reason was to be found in the fact that many members of Parliament might consider the new voters who were looming in the future. The probability of having to face women electors in the immediate future, though not affecting the conduct of upright and conscientious opponents, would, she hoped, with other things, result in their having an increased vote on the occasion of the next division. With regard to the grievous loss which had been sustained by the death of Mr. Fawcett, Miss Becker said she felt as she stood by his grave on Monday, that in that tomb were laid many high hopes. At the same time it was a lesson. She remembered that one of Sir Walter Scott's heroines, after bemoaning the death of her father, said, "He is gone. There is nothing left for me but to act as may best beseech his memory." That was the thought that would console Mr. Fawcett's widow and daughter, and she believed that his example of the courage with which he himself met a crushing calamity would have its influence on all who knew him. (Hear, hear.) In concluding, Miss Becker remarked that she thought it was time they had done with these annual meetings. There was, however, a possibility that the next meeting would be one on which they would meet to congratulate themselves on a substantial victory. (Applause.)

Mr. H. H. HOWORTH, in seconding the proposition, said the question of principle involved in this agitation had been discussed for so many years that every possible aspect of it had been thrashed out, and the resolution before them commended itself to him, because it pointed rather to action than to any exhibition of rhetoric. It seemed to him they had reached a point where the whole campaign must, within a very few months, be concluded either one way or the other. If they gave the vote to women householders they would add about 9,000 names to the register, and the women would form a stable and fixed part of the community, in that respect being in strong contrast to the large migratory element which they found to exist in the present electorate. (Applause.) They would not have failed to notice the

increasing responsibilities of our municipalities, and it seemed to him that if they entrusted women with the right of selecting representatives upon these important local institutions, it was only a natural corollary that they should make them complete citizens by giving them the right to vote for members of Parliament. The Franchise Bill having now passed its third reading in the House of Commons, the ground was perfectly clear in regard to this matter, and every man could vote upon it as his conscience dictated. He believed the success of their measure to be assured in the House of Lords, and the question was only one with respect to the action of the House of Commons. He had no patience whatever with those persons who measured this matter simply by the effect the measure, if passed, might have at the polling booth. It seemed to him that when they admitted a principle they had no business to look beyond or behind it, and, the equity of the movement being conceded, the mere political conjurer's point of view was to him absolutely contemptible. (Applause.)

Mr. H. SLATTER, who supported the proposition, said that, confident in the justice of their cause, they felt they only needed to have it thoroughly discussed and debated to be certain of victory. Recently there had been a great increase in the weight of opinion in favour of doing this simple act of justice to the women, and when that body of opinion made itself felt in the House of Commons they need have no fear of the result. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Alderman BOOTH moved, and Mrs. ABEL HEYWOOD seconded: "That the following persons be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:—Professor Adamson, Mrs. Armstrong, Miss Maria Atkinson, Miss Becker, Mr. Thomas Chorlton, Mrs. Joseph Cross, Mr. Thomas Dale, Mrs. Gell, Mrs. W. H. Herford, Miss Hibbert, Miss Edith Lupton, Mr. Walter McLaren, Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. J. Mills, Dr. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Roby, Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Miss Elizabeth Smith, Rev. S. Alfred Steinthal, Mr. A. G. Symonds, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, M.P., Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Miss Laura Whittle, Mr. W. Woodall, M.P., Mrs. Barton Wright, with power to add to their number."

Mrs. SCATCHERD supported the resolution. She said the work outside Parliament had not been neglected, but had been carried on with increased determination and vigour, and would continue so to be carried on with their assistance. The conditions of the work in which they were engaged were perhaps changed. During the last three or four years they had thought it necessary to answer the statement that women did not want the franchise, and they had held vast meetings, which had proved that the women did want the franchise. During the past twelve months they had endeavoured to approach influential and picked bodies of men all over the North of England, at all events. They had seen the executive and general committees of both political parties, and asked them if they would pass resolutions in their favour and send them to Mr. Gladstone, and petition Parliament in their favour, and they had met with a large measure of success. All the meetings arranged by the Society had been large and enthusiastic. Everywhere they had met with approval, but the approval of a question was very different from caring about it, and they had to translate the approval which men gave them into action. In that they asked for redoubled earnestness just now. They wanted to raise a fund of £5,000 to carry on the work, and asked for support from those in the room. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The MAYOR moved, and the meeting immediately adopted the motion, that Miss Becker be requested to convey the condolence of the meeting with Mrs. Fawcett and her family in the bereavement they have sustained.

Miss BECKER said she would have great pleasure in doing so.

On the motion of the Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL, seconded by Dr. WHITTLE, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor for presiding, and the meeting ended.

#### CAMBRIDGE.

##### FORMATION OF A LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

In consequence of the great interest taken in the question of bestowing the Parliamentary franchise on duly qualified women householders, and in order to concentrate and give effect to the various efforts of those in Cambridge who are favourable to the movement, a meeting was held at the Guildhall on November 11th

for the purpose of forming a local association. The MAYOR (Mr. Ald. Redfern) presided, and among those present were Mrs. Bateson, Miss Clough, the Rev. Dr. Porter, Master of Peterhouse, the Rev. Dr. Phear, the Master of Emmanuel, Professor E. C. Clark, Mr. A. W. W. Dale, Mr. R. D. Roberts, Mr. A. J. Tillyard, Mr. Shuckburgh, Messrs. C. Turner, E. C. Brambley, F. Piggott, Jack French, Rae, and Leonard.

The CHAIRMAN said before the business of the meeting commenced he would like to refer to the loss sustained by the country, and by their town and University, by the death of the late Professor Fawcett, a man holding the high position he did, and having the sympathy—he might say the love of all who knew him. He begged leave to propose that a vote of condolence should be sent from that association, which he took for granted would be forwarded to the widow.

Mr. LEONARD seconded the proposition, remarking that he thought it was a very proper thing to do.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting had been called to consider the desirability of forming an association for promoting the extension of Parliamentary franchise to women duly qualified. As his name appeared on the circular convening the meeting, he might say he was thoroughly in favour of any extension of the franchise to women duly qualified. He did not see why ladies who owned property and had a stake in the country should not have a voice in the management of it. He thought it was a very desirable thing that such an association as was proposed should be formed. He would be pleased to hear any resolution which might be put before the meeting.

Mrs. BATESON, in moving the first resolution, said many true and noble causes had lost a valued friend by the death of Professor Fawcett, and the cause they were present to advance that afternoon had lost one of the ablest and most valued of its supporters. If they could take part in furthering any work in which the deceased gentleman was interested they must feel that his spirit inspired them so to do—for he "being dead yet speaketh;" and as they were united by a common grief they were also that afternoon invited by a common cause, up to a certain point at all events. She believed they all, or nearly all, met upon a basis of common agreement; friends might be with them up to a certain point and yet say, "Why form a Cambridge Association for this purpose?" She thought there were one or two reasons which might be given for the formation of such an association. To begin with, she was informed that a very large proportion of the inhabitants of the town were women householders—the whole number of women who would be enfranchised if the proposals of the association were carried out was something short of half a million, and out of that number Cambridge furnished seven or eight hundred. She considered it was worth while hunting them up and waking the town up on the subject. After alluding to the desirability of an association being formed in a town like Cambridge, the speaker referred to what it was possible to do by collective and organised efforts as compared with individual effort, and concluded by proposing, "It is desirable to form a Cambridge association for promoting the extension of Parliamentary franchise to women duly qualified."

Mr. CHAS. TURNER, in seconding the motion, said he would feel more comfortable when the resolution was carried and the association formed, because it would bring them out of the region of theory into practical politics, using the word in its catholic sense and not in its party sense. They had to deal not with a laxity of feeling with regard to this question in many quarters amongst those who already had the franchise; but they had to deal with the natural bashfulness of the sex to step out of one sphere into a new one.

Prof. CLARK, in supporting the motion, spoke of the necessity for immediate action being taken. The matter was urgent, and one of great importance, and he considered that now was the time to move if they intended to succeed in gaining their object. There was a power of Government on one side, and a divided Opposition on the other, and a great number were known to be in favour of the scheme they were advocating. That, he considered, was one of the strongest reasons why they should take immediate action. Their claims were just and logical, he thought, and would commend themselves to the mind of Mr. Gladstone, whose love of justice was one of his most prominent features. The argument of incapacity, which was brought forward against the extension of

the franchise to the agricultural labourer, could not, he considered, be brought against this class of women, who had been debarred from the franchise so long, and to whom it was proposed to extend it. No doubt their claims had for many years been disregarded, and failed to obtain the attention they would have done if representatives of their own had more directly represented their voices in the field. He thought it was not beyond hope that Mr. Gladstone might be induced to adopt the measure. After alluding to the Franchise Bill and the death of Prof. Fawcett, the speaker concluded by urging upon his hearers the necessity there was for immediate action to be taken.

Mr. SHUCKBURGH also spoke in favour of the motion, remarking that the cause in which they had gathered together had always been to his mind a most important one, and one which tended to reform the greatest injustice known. He agreed with Professor Clark that the present moment was a particularly advantageous one for dealing with the question, and he thought that the great object of the association would be not only to petition Parliament, but to agitate the country upon the question.

Mr. F. PIGGOTT remarked that they had no hostile element to fight against in Cambridge, for a meeting of considerable dimensions had been held in Barnwell in favour of the movement, and the club to which he had the honour of being secretary had more than once passed resolutions in favour of the same thing.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. JACK FRENCH then proposed "That all persons now present, who may be willing to do so, form themselves into a general committee, with power to appoint an executive committee, and to invest it with such functions as may be deemed advisable, including the appointment of officers." He congratulated the chairman upon having been, for the second time, elected to the post of Mayor of the borough, and corroborated what Mr. Piggott had said about the Junior Conservative Club Committee having passed resolutions in support of the measure they were advocating that evening. He characterised the refusal to allow women to vote for representatives in Parliament as one of the greatest anomalies that existed, and he considered it was followed up by a still grosser injustice, inasmuch as women householders were called upon to pay everything a man had to pay in the shape of rates and taxes; but the privileges which a man was entitled to were denied the women.

Mr. R. D. ROBERTS seconded the proposition, observing that the advantages of founding an association of that kind seemed to him exceedingly great. At the present time, all that was wanted was to make the voice of the country upon this question clear and unmistakable. He considered there was a preponderance of feeling in the country in favour of the enfranchisement of women, and he had been much struck with that feeling. As it was one of those questions which did not divide parties, as most political questions did, it was quite clear there must be a large body of feeling in the country in favour of it. Speaking of the advantage that would accrue from the formation of such a society, he said the mere fact that such a society existed would help to keep the question before the public. The association would make its doors as wide as possible, and seek to secure members amongst the great bulk of people; it would not be an association merely of a few of the more well-to-do and influential people in the town, but would include the large body of the poorer class of people.

Mr. BRAMBLEY said with regard to taking immediate action, there were two courses open to the association. Mr. Woodall introduced his Bill in the House of Commons the previous night, and an opportunity was offered to them of bringing pressure to bear in order to get the measure at once put upon the Statute Book. Another method was to send from that meeting a petition to the House of Commons, and also a deputation asking some member of the House to take charge of a clause that should at once put the eight hundred thousand women in the same position parliamentarily considered as the two millions of capable citizens were put by the Bill now before Parliament. These were two points well worthy of their attention that afternoon, and he would suggest that a committee should at once address themselves to the consideration of them.

The CHAIRMAN thought these were matters which the executive committee would consider.

Mr. BRAMBLEY thought it would be well to send a petition from the meeting.

Mrs. BATESON said she had some petitions at her house, but she

had not thought it worth while to bring them with her. If thought desirable she would go and fetch them.

Mr. TURNER said it was only necessary to have two signatures to the petition. Other people wishing to sign it could sign their names on sheets of paper which could be appended to the petition.

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution which had been proposed and seconded, remarking that it would be as well to carry that first. It was agreed to unanimously.

Prof. CLARK thought the immediate support of Mr. Woodall's Bill was the better course of the two suggested by Mr. Brambley.

Dr. PORTER was also in favour of the signing of a petition in support of Mr. Woodall's Bill.

On the motion of Dr. PORTER, seconded by Mr. BRAMBLEY, it was agreed that the executive committee should consist of the following, with power to add to their number:—Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Peile, Mrs. Bateson, Mrs. Dale, Miss H. Johnson, Miss Bateson, Dr. Porter, Dr. Phear, Messrs. Hammond, Rae, Roberts, Turner, Shuckburgh, Piggott, and Brambley.

It was ultimately agreed that a petition in favour of Mr. Woodall's Bill should be signed and forwarded to Parliament.

The usual complimentary vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

#### TROWBRIDGE.

Miss Wilkinson lectured on "Women and Politics" in the Public Hall, Trowbridge, on Monday, November 24th. The hall was fairly well filled, and petitions to both Houses of Parliament adopted.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### KIRKCALDY.

On October 25th a public meeting was held in Kirkcaldy Town Hall in regard to the claims of women householders to have the right to vote in Parliamentary elections. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, the hall being crowded.

Baillie BLACK, who presided, said he was glad to see such a large and respectable gathering to hear the question of female suffrage discussed. The turn-out was much better than might have been expected on a Saturday night, and such an uncomfortable night as it was. It might be a matter of surprise to some that such a question required to be discussed in Radical Kirkcaldy. As a matter of right he thought there could not be two opinions on the question. If the law demanded that ladies should render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, it placed an equal obligation upon Cæsar to render unto ladies the things that are theirs. (Applause.) Professor Stuart, of Cambridge—(applause)—a gentleman well known in this locality, put the question in a very plain form when addressing the Junior Liberal Association of Aberdeen on Tuesday last. His remarks were not intended to apply specially to female representation, but the principle put forth applied with equal force to it. He said, "That when a person has an interest in a thing, he is entitled to have a voice in the settlement of that thing;" and this the professor held to be the first and cardinal principle of democracy.

Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE addressed the meeting on the nature and justice of the claim to extend the franchise to women householders.

Mr. JOHN LOCKHART moved that a petition in favour of the extension of the franchise to women be signed by the chairman and sent to the Houses of Lords and Commons. He said he had always been an advocate of this reform, and he had never been able to understand what could be said against it. He was sure they all rejoiced in the victory achieved in the north by the young Laird of Raith—(applause)—but they should mark that ever since the death of his father, who represented the burghs so long in Parliament, that family had no voice in public affairs, for the head of the family, Mrs. Ferguson, would not be allowed to vote, while any scavenger or rough who had a roof above his head enjoyed the privilege. Mr. Lockhart concluded by moving his resolution.

Mr. R. SINCLAIR seconded the motion, which was supported by Mrs. Scatcherd, and unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies who had addressed the meeting, and after a similar compliment to the chairman the proceedings terminated.

Copies of the proceedings were transmitted to Lord Granville and Sir George Campbell for presentation in the Houses of Lords and Commons, and the following replies have been received:—

"October 29th, 1884.

"Sir,—I am desired by Lord Granville to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday, and to inform you that his lordship will present the petition therein enclosed to the House of Lords.—I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,  
"HENRY HERVEY.  
"Thomas Black, Esq., Kirkcaldy."

"Southwell House, Southwell Gardens, S.W.,  
30th October, 1884.

"Dear sir,—I am not enthusiastic for women's suffrage, but I will readily present the petition you forward.—Your obedient servant,  
"GEORGE CAMPBELL.

"Mr. Black, 80, High-street, Kirkcaldy."

#### DUNKELD.

An enthusiastic public meeting took place in the City Hall, Dunkeld, on October 27th, in favour of women's suffrage. Baron Bailie Jack occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Leeds; Miss Florence Baggallie, Scarborough; Mrs. M'Cormick, Manchester.—Bailie Jack, in introducing the lecturers, said it gave him great pleasure to preside at a meeting held for the purpose of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. Being heartily in favour of that object, he had pleasure in introducing Mrs. Scatcherd to them; and though the meeting was not so large as might have been expected, yet they must remember that a large portion of the community would be at church, it being the Monday after the communion.—Mrs. Scatcherd delivered an address, after which Mr. John Borrie, Birnam, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting heartily approves of Mr. Woodall's resolution in the House of Commons in favour of granting Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle the men to vote, and that this resolution be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to both Houses of Parliament." Mr. Borrie said he had been in favour of women's suffrage for many years, that he never saw any reason to hinder them from voting, that in general they seemed superior to men in intelligence, and he had great pleasure in moving the resolution.—Miss Baggallie supported the resolution, which was carried, and the proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

#### TAIN.

A public meeting on the subject of the Parliamentary franchise for women was held in the Public Hall, Tain, on October 28th. Provost Vass presided, and there was a full audience, largely composed of ladies. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, of Leeds, delivered an address on women's suffrage, and was frequently applauded. Thereafter Mr. Murray, of the Inland Revenue, proposed, and Bailie Wallace seconded, a resolution expressing the satisfaction of the meeting that Mr. Woodall has obtained leave to bring in a Bill on the subject of Parliamentary franchise for women, and authorising the chairman, on behalf of the meeting, to sign and forward to both Houses of Parliament petitions in favour of the Bill. Miss Florence Baggallie, of Scarborough, having spoken in support of the resolution, the chairman put it to the meeting, and it was carried unanimously. Bailie Matheson moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, and Rev. Mr. Macnaughton moved a vote of thanks to the Provost for presiding. He read letters of apology for absence from Mrs. M'Laren, a sister of John Bright, and from her daughter, Dr. Agnes M'Laren. Both votes were heartily accorded.

#### DINGWALL.

Mrs. Scatcherd and Miss Baggallie held a meeting in Dingwall on October 29th. Mr. Adam, Humberston, presided on the occasion, and was accompanied to the platform by Mr. Ross, banker, and Mr. Ogilvie, clothier. There was a very large audience, the hall being almost completely filled. Mr. Adam, in introducing the deputation, spoke approvingly of the agitation in favour of extending the franchise to women. After an address by Mrs. Scatcherd, Mr. Ogilvie proposed a resolution pledging the meeting to support Mr. Woodall's Bill to extend the franchise to women. Mr. Ogilvie had no doubt the motion would be carried unanimously. (Applause.) For himself he thoroughly went in for it, and did so for many years. Mr. Ross, banker, seconded the motion. (Applause.) Miss Baggallie, Scarborough, and a member of the school board of that town, supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

#### INVERNESS.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Inverness, on October 31st, in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women. The hall was crowded, a very large proportion of the audience being ladies. Provost MACANDREW occupied the chair, and on the platform were Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Leeds; Miss Baggallie, Scarborough; Miss Kirkland, Edinburgh; Mrs. M'Cormick, Manchester; Rev. Mr. Connell, Mr. D. Reid, solicitor, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the ladies to the meeting, said that, although he did not go so far as was proposed to be done that evening, yet, as Provost of the town, he had pleasure in taking the chair, and he trusted that if there were any present who did not agree with the object of the meeting, they would at least give the speakers a respectful and courteous hearing. (Applause.) He was himself open to conviction, and it was possible that before the meeting was over he might be converted. (Laughter and applause.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD, after an able address, moved: "That all women who pay rates and taxes should have votes for members of Parliament." (Cheers.)

Mr. D. REID, solicitor, seconded the motion. He could not understand why women should not have votes for the election of a member of Parliament. They had votes in school board and municipal elections; and if they were capable of exercising these, he knew no reason why they should be disqualified in exercising the Parliamentary vote. (Cheers.)

The Chairman having put the motion to the meeting it was carried unanimously.

Mr. JOHN MACDONALD, Exchange Place, moved: "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be signed by the chairman, on behalf of the meeting, and forwarded by him."

The motion, after being seconded by Miss Baggallie, was put and carried.

Mrs. SCATCHERD, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said they had double reason to be grateful to Mr. Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P. for Inverness, for he was among the faithful of the faithful ones when the last division was taken in Parliament upon the question. (Cheers.)

Miss Baggallie seconded the motion, and the meeting separated.

#### GLASGOW.

##### CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S UNION.

At the fifth annual conference of the Christian Women's Union, opened at Glasgow on November 11th, Miss Tod read a paper on "Christian Women's Responsibilities in Relation to Parliamentary and Local Franchise." The paper was received with great interest. Mrs. Findlay, Mrs. Haycroft, Mrs. Murray, and Mrs. Meredith spoke in support of the views enunciated in the paper.

#### LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

##### KETERING LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At the annual general meeting of this association held in the Corn Exchange, Kettering, on November 17th,

Mr. WICKSTEED said he could not understand why women and men should not have an equal voice in political affairs, and pointed out that classes who had no direct representation never obtained the same attention from Parliament as those who had. (Hear, hear.) It was an axiom that "representation and taxation" should go together, and that was generally admitted by those outside the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) He referred to measures which deal hardly with women, as, for instance, the law relating to the custody of children. As for the Vaccination Acts, they would not live another day if women had their rights. (Cheers.) He had much pleasure in moving "That this meeting trusts that the Government will see its way clear to facilitate the passing of the Bill (now before Parliament) to confer upon duly qualified women the right to vote in Parliamentary elections. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. P. D. M'GOWAN, who was also cordially received, seconded the resolution, which he regarded as being so just and reasonable that he was surprised anyone should oppose it. Mr. Woodall's Bill was backed by members on both sides of the House, and was receiving the support of Liberal and Conservative Associations alike. There was no argument to support household suffrage to

men which did not equally apply to lady householders. If the nation felt anxious to raise a fitting monument to the memory of the late Postmaster-General, they could not do better than pass a measure giving to women their political freedom, as advocated by Mr. Fawcett during the whole of his public life. (Loud applause.) The resolution was enthusiastically carried.

#### TORPOINT.

By invitation of the Torpoint Liberal Association, Miss Wilkinson gave an address on "Women and Politics" at Torpoint on October 29th. There was a numerous audience, and the following resolution was carried: "That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of duly qualified women from the Parliamentary franchise is unjust to those excluded, and injurious to the welfare of the nation at large."

#### LOSTWITHIEL.

On October 30th Miss Wilkinson also addressed the friends and members of the Lostwithiel Liberal Association, when a similar resolution was unanimously carried.

#### CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

##### ST. PETER'S AND BROADSTAIRS CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The following letter has been received from the Secretary of the St. Peter's and Broadstairs Conservative Association:—

"Hopeville, St. Peter's, Thanet, 1st November, 1884.

Madam,—Your communication respecting the admission of women to the suffrage has been considered by this Association. I am instructed to say that the movement will be cordially supported, and that, if necessary, a petition will be sent to Parliament when the fitting time arrives.—I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

"STANLEY MOCKETT, Hon. Sec.

##### ROTHWELL CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The Secretary of the Rothwell (Kettering) Conservative Association writes that since receiving a communication from the Women's Suffrage Society he has called the members together, and they are unanimous in presenting a petition to Parliament in favour of women's suffrage.

#### SOUTHAMPTON.

##### BERNARD STREET DISTRICT CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

A communication in support of women's suffrage having been brought before the monthly meeting of the above association on the 20th October, it was fully discussed and warmly supported, but as several members were anxious to speak on the subject the debate was adjourned till November 5th. On that date an adjourned meeting took place, when the matter was resumed, and the following resolution unanimously carried: "That in the opinion of this meeting women householders are equally entitled as men to the exercise of the franchise in imperial as well as local matters."

##### ORCHARD LANE DISTRICT CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Orchard Lane District Conservative Association, Mr. Tongs in the chair, on Wednesday, the 5th November, the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That in the opinion of this meeting women householders are as fully entitled as men to the exercise of the franchise in imperial as in local matters."

##### IPSWICH CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The following communication has been received from the hon. secretaries of the above association:—

"6th November, 1884.

Sir,—At a meeting of the committee of the Conservative Association of Ipswich, this evening, we were directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to express their sympathy in the object you are striving to attain.—Yours faithfully,

"HUGH TURNER, J. J. KING, Hon. Secs."

##### SIDCUP AND FOOTSCRAY BRANCH OF THE WEST KENT CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

Resolution passed by the General Committee: "That in view of the proposed extension of the franchise the members of the Sidcup and Footscray branch of the West Kent Conservative Association deem that it will be only just and to the public advantage to extend the Parliamentary vote to duly qualified women."

Signed, G. S. YOUNG, Hon. Sec.

#### DONCASTER CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

At a meeting of the committee of the Doncaster Conservative Club, held on October 3rd, Mr. Richard A. Arundell in the chair, it was unanimously resolved that in the opinion of this committee the exclusion of duly qualified women from the franchise is unjust to them and injurious to the true welfare of the country, and the addition of two millions of men, as now proposed, would immeasurably increase such injustice.

#### CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE AT DARTFORD.

Women's suffrage formed the subject of the third meeting of the conference of Conservative working men, held in Spital-street, Dartford, on October 30th. The upper room of the club-house was well filled by members of the Conservative Working Men's League, and others, including a number of ladies.

Dr. LORY MARSH said he felt it to be a distinguished honour to occupy the chair. He would call upon

Miss BIGGS (from the National Society for Women's Suffrage), who explained the objects of the Society in an exhaustive address, which was received with applause; after which

Mr. HARRIS moved a resolution to the following effect: "That in the opinion of this Conference of Conservative working men it is desirable that in any extension of the franchise duly qualified women should be included, and that the members for West Kent—Sir C. H. Mills, Bart., M.P., and Viscount Lewisham, M.P.—be respectfully requested to support any amendment of the Franchise Bill now before the House of Commons having this object in view."

Mr. RUSSELL (Dartford) appropriately seconded the motion.

After some discussion the motion was carried with acclamation, and a petition to Parliament on behalf of the objects set forth signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting.

Mr. GARNET MAN, in responding to the vote of thanks to himself and Miss Biggs, spoke of the urbanity of the chairman, and proposed a vote of thanks to him and Mr. Hartshaw, and the same was carried. The meeting was then brought to a close.

#### DEBATING SOCIETIES.

##### WELLINGTON.

The subject for debate at the weekly meeting of the Wellington Literary and Debating Club, on October 21st, was a motion by Mr. H. Martin (one of the vice-presidents), who argued "That it is unjust to deny to women householders and to those who possess qualifying property the right of the Parliamentary franchise." The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the president (Rev. F. W. Raban), and a number of ladies were present. The lead of the opposition was taken by Mr. Catford, who was followed by Rev. F. W. Raban, Messrs. J. Batstone, J. S. Haddon, J. Gosnell, H. S. Elworthy, and J. Stark; and upon the question being put to the vote it was answered in the affirmative by thirteen to eight.

##### PETERBOROUGH.

A debate took place on a motion in favour of the enfranchisement of women, moved by Mr. Batten, on November 18th. The proposal was supported by Mr. Rogers, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Goodacre, Mr. Foote, and Mr. Moorcroft, and opposed by Mr. Hartley and Mr. Mason. Mr. Batten, in closing the debate, said he viewed his motion as the greatest barrier to manhood suffrage, which he believed would be a great evil. The motion, on being put, was carried by the large majority of 70 to 9.

#### A GERMAN OPINION ON THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND.

We recently received an article entitled "The Woman's Suffrage Question in England," translated from the German weekly paper, *Die Nation*. It is written by Mr. K. Schrader, of Berlin, member of the German Reichsrath, and gives a very impartial idea of what German people think of our movement:—

Within a short time a great extension of the Parliamentary franchise will take place in England, by which two millions of

county voters will be added to the present electorate. It is true, the House of Lords has opposed the measure temporarily, but nobody can doubt what the final issue will be, for public opinion amongst all political parties is so unanimous as to the necessity of the extension, that even a Conservative government would have to bring in a similar Bill, should it not be passed by the present Liberal one.

The rural population of Great Britain may therefore be sure that it will no longer be neglected as compared with the borough population, and the effects will soon show themselves in legislation in which the interests of the small proprietors and agricultural labourers will be represented.

But another numerous body of persons who had hoped to get the long-wished-for franchise at the present occasion have been bitterly disappointed. Government has not only not found a place for women's suffrage in the present Reform Bill, but has distinctly opposed Mr. Woodall's amendment, which strove to correct the omission; consequently after two days' deliberation the amendment was lost by 271 to 135 votes. The simple fact, however, that the question of women's suffrage has been seriously discussed by English legislators has caused great surprise on the continent, and moreover, on perusing the debates carefully, one cannot help getting the impression that the failure is not final, and that the realisation of the wishes of the friends of women's suffrage is not so utterly hopeless as might appear to us under continental conditions of life.

We must not forget that there is no universal suffrage in England, but that the right to vote depends on ownership of land or payment of a certain amount of rates and taxes. Hereby all the members of a family are excluded except the head of it, and should the franchise be extended to women, married women and unmarried daughters would only get it in exceptional cases and unmarried working women in very small numbers. Besides, the question only extends to the right of voting, nobody thinks of admitting women to Parliament, even if they possessed the vote.

The step of conferring the electoral franchise on women in England would, therefore, not be of nearly the same importance as in a country where there is universal suffrage.

But, keeping this fact in view, we could never understand how such a great number of men holding high positions, great thinkers and politicians, have been in favour of the amendment and have voted for it, if we did not take into consideration the great difference which exists already at the present day in the position of Englishwomen, when compared with that of their continental sisters. Englishwomen have already won for themselves such a high position, not only in private but in public life, that the right to vote for Parliament seems to many of them not only a just but a necessary consequence.

Very much has been done within the last ten years in England to improve the education of women. The elementary schools, Sunday schools, board schools, have improved the lower classes, and the middle classes have benefited by the erection of high schools. The universities have opened their examinations, for which girls get properly prepared, and which they are glad to pass. Even the highest university education is at present open to them, as both Cambridge and Oxford have opened their doors to women students. In both places colleges have been founded for them, and in Cambridge alone there are more than two hundred actually studying now. Women, too, have taken up the study and practice of medicine with the best results, several hospitals have granted them admission, and in London they have already started a school of medicine of their own in connection with a hospital officered by women only.

All these establishments for the higher education of women, which have been founded and are kept up entirely by private means, find the greatest friends and warmest help amongst the most influential and richest classes of English society. The daughter of Mr. Gladstone, for example, is one of the superintendents of Newnham College in Cambridge, and the sister of the Cabinet minister, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, takes an active part at Somerville Hall in Oxford.

It is but natural that in a country politically so highly developed women should not follow exclusively literary and scientific pursuits, but that their interests and their abilities are devoted more and more to public life. They always used to be very active in social matters, and the facilities of getting a higher education have given them a new impetus; their number of earnest workers and their

powers are greatly increased, and many who do not actually co-operate in the work show at least interest in and knowledge of its progress. This has a direct effect on the relations between men and women, especially of the educated classes. They judge things more from the same point of view, share more intimately each other's deeper interests and thoughts, than is the case with us; and, as they are accustomed to think and act in common, their intercourse becomes more earnest and dignified.

This being the case, it seems but natural that men have not refused the co-operation of women in those great reforms which have lately taken place in the national administration. They have received the municipal vote as well as the vote for the School Board and Board of Guardians, under the same conditions as men. As no real reasons could be adduced against their admission as active members, women fill in increasing numbers the office of members of the School Board as well as Poor-law Guardians. They fulfil the duties which these offices involve with praiseworthy conscientiousness, many of them with great distinction; their male colleagues even own this. On the average the work women members do is greater than that of men, as the former, who have the wish to do any public good, can give their whole time and energy.

It strikes a German as very peculiar when, on attending a School Board meeting, he hears a lady give an account in perfectly serious, business-like manner, and hear her take part in the debates just as well and objectively as is done by men. He will be still more struck that ladies put themselves forward for these public offices in the same manner as men do; that they issue their addresses, present themselves to the voters, develop their principles, fight against their opposing candidates in large public meetings, in which all voters, men as well as women, may take an active part. But Englishwomen have been accustomed to act like this for many a year. Those women who take an interest in public life have by means of the many societies which they have founded, or of which they are members, ample opportunity of speaking in public; and men regard and esteem women as real companions and helpmates in these matters, fully entitled to occupy such a place. It is in England a matter of no rare occurrence to hear women belonging to the best society make a good speech in large public meetings, and nobody dares say a word against it. The superiority even of some prominent women gets fully recognised. To cite only one instance which happened quite lately, great indignation has been roused that Miss Octavia Hill has not been nominated a member of the Royal Commission for Housing the Poor, she being recognised by everybody as possessing the greatest knowledge in the matter.

It is evident that the question whether women should have the Parliamentary franchise has quite a different bearing in England than in Germany, where they have not yet any share in public life. Here, men could argue with truth that women had not yet given a proof of their fitness for public offices. In England they have not only shown this by voting for important offices, but they have actually filled those posts efficiently. In England, therefore, the question has reached a different stage altogether, for the question has been solved whether they are fit for public life, it simply consists to settle the particular question whether they shall have the Parliamentary vote, and whether it would be beneficial to the commonwealth to let them exercise such a right.

The question whether women ought to have the franchise in Germany will not occupy us for a long time to come, but already it has for us, as for all modern states, a question of the highest importance, how far women ought to take part in public affairs. It is therefore of great interest to watch the course of events in England and take a lesson therefrom. The one thing seems irrefutable that higher claims on the activity of women in public affairs will be made than is now the case. The community has such a burden of work upon its shoulders that it appears doubtful whether men alone can carry it through, and further there is no doubt that women are fitter than men for a great many things, not alone in subordinate work, which is already granted them, but on equal terms with men. The more women's work comes forward the nearer the question is at hand, whether women should take part in the management of municipal and other affairs. The example of England teaches us that if they want their share in greater things they must show their fitness thereof by the conscientious fulfilment and thorough study of those offices and occupations which are already open to them.

DEATH OF MR. FAWCETT.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of the Right Hon. Henry Fawcett, M.P., late Postmaster-General, which occurred on Thursday, November 6th, at his residence, 18, Brookside, Cambridge. Mr. Fawcett, who took a long ride on the Saturday previous to his death, was seized on the following day with a feverish attack, which had a rapid and fatal termination. The illness was so short that to most of his friends the news of his death came with complete unpreparedness. The funeral took place on Monday, the 10th, at Trumpington Church. A special train left London in the morning, by which a number of members of Parliament and other official persons travelled in order to attend the funeral. Among these were Viscountess Harberton, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Miss Müller, Mrs. Chas. M'Laren, and Miss Becker, who, with Mr. Woodall, M.P., represented the Women's Suffrage Society; Miss E. Shore, medical officer at the Post-office. Girton and Newnham were also represented.

The deceased, who was the son of Mr. W. Fawcett, J.P., of Salisbury, was born on the 26th of August, 1833, so that at the time of his death he was in his 52nd year. Educated first at a local school near Salisbury, Henry Fawcett was sent at the age of fourteen to Queenwood College, Hampshire. In his seventeenth year he entered at King's College, London. In 1852 he proceeded to Trinity Hall, Cambridge. For nearly four years he remained at the University, graduating in 1856 with high mathematical honours, being seventh wrangler, and in the same year he was elected a Fellow of his Hall. On leaving Cambridge, Mr. Fawcett went to London, where he began studying for the Bar.

On the 17th of September, 1858, while out partridge shooting with his father, Mr. Fawcett received two stray shots from the father's gun which struck his face, the sad and singular result being that the centre of each eye was perfectly pierced by the shot. In a moment Mr. Fawcett was rendered quite blind, the eyes being completely destroyed. Most men, in the face of such a calamity, would have been overwhelmed by their feelings and plunged into irremediable despair. With Mr. Fawcett it was quite different. While feeling the deprivation keenly, in a short time he recovered his usual elasticity of spirits, and was far less afflicted by the melancholy event than his sorrowing father. The accident occurred on a spot overlooking Salisbury Cathedral, and the last gleam of nature Mr. Fawcett was able to perceive was thus associated with his native place. Facing the future with a brave heart, in the course of a few weeks he had resolved upon his course of action. His general health was not at all injured by his accident, and he returned to Cambridge University, where he devoted himself to the systematic study of political economy. With the aid of a reader, who now became his constant companion, and subsequently by the aid also of his devoted wife, he was able to minimise the evil effects of the accident.

After one or two unsuccessful election contests, Mr. Fawcett was returned for Brighton in 1865. He lost his election in 1874, but was soon afterwards elected for Hackney, which constituency he represented up to the time of his death.

In April, 1867, Mr. Fawcett married Millicent, daughter of Mr. Newson Garrett, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Mrs. Fawcett is well known as an advocate of the cause of women's suffrage, and she has also, with her husband, taken part in many philanthropic movements. Mr. Fawcett, who was sworn in a member of the Privy Council in May, 1880, had also the same year the honorary degree of D.C.L. conferred upon him by the University of Oxford.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS IN AID OF THE "SPECIAL FUND" FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

On November 5th, at the Public Hall, Beckenham, before a large and appreciative audience, "Uncle's Will" and "Dearest Mamma" were performed by amateurs in aid of the Women's Suffrage Fund. The parts were admirably sustained by Miss D. Tuckey, Miss Whyte, Miss D. Harley, Captain Ricketts, Mr. Reginald Craigie, Mr. D. Lynch, and Mr. R. Pryce. Copies of the *Women's Suffrage Journal* were sold in the hall, and publications of the local branch of the society and other leaflets were placed on each seat. There was a crowded audience. Many who were unable to attend the performance evinced their willingness to help in the work by donations, or offers of speeches at meetings, or of canvassing for signatures to petitions, and the result cannot fail to be of service to the cause.

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Dr. Buchanan . . . . .	5 0 0	Miss Lamplough (Derby) . . . . .	0 5 0
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Mrs. Thomas Taylor . . . . .	3 0 0	Miss Frances Dickenson . . . . .	0 2 0
The Dowager Countess of Buchan . . . . .	2 0 0		
Mr. A. P. Busch . . . . .	0 5 0		
Miss Mary Trice Martin . . . . .	0 5 0		£55 14 6

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM OCT. 24 TO NOV. 22, 1884.

Mrs. Arthur Tanner . . . . .	£1 1 0	Mr. F. Tribe . . . . .	£0 5 0
Miss Tribe . . . . .	1 1 0	Mr. F. N. Tribe . . . . .	0 5 0
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LAURA M'LAREN, Treasurer, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

WOMEN MEMBERS OF POLITICAL CLUBS.—A special general meeting of the members of the Stanningley Liberal Club has been held to discuss the advisability of admitting women as members of the club. Mr. R. V. Bowling presided. Mr. Samuel Laycock argued that as a matter of abstract justice they had equal rights with men to vote; he therefore moved that they be admitted as members of the club. This was seconded by Mr. J. Houghton, and supported by Mr. Henry Smith, who said that twenty years hence the Stanningley Liberal Club would be pointed to as being the first political club in Leeds to acknowledge the rights of women. The resolution, on being submitted, was almost unanimously adopted.



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