

PROOF OF DRAFT REPORT.

*M. Schou*

Please return this proof to Miss Becker on or before Friday, 28th instant.

Queen's Chambers,  
5, John Dalton St., Manchester,  
Oct. 25th, 1887.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
1886-87.

YOUR Committee have to report that in consequence of the great pressure of Parliamentary business, Mr. Woodall was unable to secure a day during the last session for the discussion of the Women's Franchise Bill.

Parliament was opened on January 27th, on which day Mr. Woodall gave notice for leave to bring in the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill. The Bill was brought in by Mr. Woodall, Sir Robert Fowler, Mr. Houldsworth, Mr. H. H. Howorth, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, Mr. J. W. Maclure, and Mr. Stansfeld, and read a first time on January 31st. The second reading was fixed for Wednesday, July 20th, the chances of the ballot having left no earlier date available. The text of the Bill is the same as that of last year.

[50 VICT.] *Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).*

A B I L L  
FOR

Extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. A.D. 1887.

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, 1886.

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

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

As the session wore on, the business of the Government continued to monopolise the time of the House of Commons, and those members who had apparently been more successful than Mr. Woodall in putting down Bills for earlier days were fated to see these days, week by week, continually appropriated by the Government. In fact, as was stated recently by Mr. Akers Douglas, only three days of the entire session were given to private members' motions.

As the twentieth of July approached, an effort was made to save the day for the Bill. On the fourth of July, Mr. Woodall asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he would exempt the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill, which was down for Wednesday, the 20th inst., from the operation of the motion for giving precedence to Government orders. Mr. W. H. Smith said that he feared that if he were to make an exception in favour of the Bill referred to he would at once be met by other demands for exemption from the operation of the rule. He knew the importance which was attached by many members to the subject in which the hon. member was so deeply interested, and if the progress of public business should at some later date render possible the discussion of the measure he should be very glad.

On the 11th of August, Mr. Woodall stated, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, that as he had been informed by the First Lord of the Treasury that there was little chance of his being able to give an opportunity for the discussion of the Women's Franchise Bill this session, the convenience of the House would be best consulted by the withdrawal of the measure. In accordance with this notification, Mr. Woodall next day moved that the order for the second reading of the Bill be discharged. This formal step was not taken until it had become abundantly clear that there was no chance for the Bill to be discussed during the remainder of the session.

In the month of May, your Committee passed a resolution in the following terms: "That the members of this Com-

mittee, who are members of Parliament, be invited to form a Parliamentary Committee in connection with the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, with power to add to their number." Pursuant to this resolution a meeting of members of Parliament connected with the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons on June 15th, Mr. Woodall presiding. At that meeting it was resolved that it was desirable to form a general Parliamentary Committee of friends of the Bill, and a meeting of such members was directed to be convened. At this meeting, which was held on June 27th, under the presidency of Mr. Woodall, the Committee was formally organised. Mr. Walter M'Laren was appointed secretary. It was further resolved to promote a memorial to the First Lord of the Treasury, expressing the desire that the 20th of July should be left free for the discussion of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill.

The Memorial was presented to Mr. Smith on Monday, July 4th. The names comprise members of all shades of political opinion, and include seventeen not previously recognised as friends of the measure. Other signatures were added at a subsequent period. The total number of signatures to Memorials asking the Government to afford an opportunity for the discussion of the Bill was 152.

TO THE RIGHT HON. W. H. SMITH, M.P., FIRST LORD OF  
THE TREASURY, &c., &c.

The undersigned members of Parliament desire respectfully to express their hope that Her Majesty's Government may find it practicable, in arranging the business of the House of Commons, to leave Wednesday, July 20th, free for the discussion of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill, which stands as the first order of the day.

W. ABRAHAM (Rhondda)	L. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.)
J. T. AGG-GARDNER (Cheltenham)	H. J. ATKINSON (Boston)
WILLIAM G. AINSLIE (Lancashire N., Lonsdale)	JOHN AUSTIN (York W.R., Osgoldcross)

WM. B. BARBOUR (Paisley)  
 JOHN BARRY (Wexford, S.)  
 HAMAR BASS (Staffordsh., W.)  
 JOSEPH E. BIGGAR (Cavan, W.)  
 ALGERNON BORTHWICK  
 (Kennington, S.)  
 CH. BRADLAUGH (Northampton)  
 F. BRIDGEMAN (Bolton)  
 JACOB BRIGHT (M'chester, S.W.)  
 WILLIAM C. BROOKS  
 (Cheshire, Altrincham)  
 ALEX. L. BROWN (Hawick, &c.)  
 THOS. BURT (Morpeth)  
 W. S. CAINE (Barrow)  
 CHAS. CAMERON (Glasg. College)  
 J. M'DONALD CAMERON  
 (Wick City)  
 P. S. CHANCE (Kilkenny, S.)  
 SPENCER CHARRINGTON  
 (Tower Hamlets, Mile End)  
 J. J. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.)  
 G. B. CLARK (Caithness)  
 E. DE COBAIN (Belfast, E.)  
 HENRY P. COBB  
 (Warwicksh., Rugby)  
 DOUGLAS H. COGHILL  
 (Newcastle-under-Lyme)  
 BERNARD COLERIDGE  
 (Sheffield, Attercliffe)  
 FRANCIS COMPTON  
 (Hants, New Forest)  
 C. A. V. CONYBEARE  
 (Cornwall, Camborne)  
 E. T. D. COTTON  
 (Cheshire, Wirral)  
 LEONARD COURTNEY  
 (Cornwall, Bodmin)  
 JOSEPH CRAVEN  
 (York W.R., Shipley)  
 WM. CRAWFORD (Durham, Mid)  
 W. CROSSMAN (Portsmouth)  
 DIMSDALE (Herts., Hitchin)  
 JOHN S. DUGDALE  
 (Warwickshire, Nuneaton)  
 F. DUNCAN (Finsbury, Holborn)  
 ARTHUR DUNCOMBE  
 (York E.R., Howdenshire)  
 J. H. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE  
 (Staffordshire, N. West)  
 THOS. E. ELLIS (Merionethshire)  
 SYDNEY EVERSHERD  
 (Staffordshire, Burton)  
 HENRY EYRE  
 (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough)  
 R. FARQUHARSON  
 (Aberdeenshire, W.)  
 C. FENWICK  
 (Northumberland, Wansbeck)  
 R. U. P. FITZGERALD (Cambdg.)  
 FRED. FITZWYGRAM  
 (Hants, Fareham)  
 ROBT. N. FOWLER (London)  
 LEWIS FRY (Bristol, N.)  
 THEODORE FRY (Darlington)  
 SYDNEY GEDGE (Stockport)  
 EDW. T. GOURLEY (Sunderland)  
 FRED. B. GROTRIAN (Hull, East)  
 R. B. HALDANE (Haddington)  
 T. HUGHES HALLETT (Rochester)  
 T. F. HALSEY (Herts, Watford)  
 ERNEST HAMILTON (Tyrone, N.)  
 F. D. DIXON HARTLAND  
 (Middlesex, Uxbridge)  
 C. SEALE HAYNE  
 (Devon, Ashburton)  
 M. HEALY (Cork)  
 A. STAVELEY HILL  
 (Staffordshire, Kingswinford)  
 EDWARD S. HILL (Bristol, S.)  
 B. HINGLEY (Worcester N.)  
 ISAAC HOLDEN  
 (York W.R., Keighley)  
 GEO. HOLLOWAY  
 (Gloucestershire, Stroud)  
 W. H. HOULDSWORTH  
 (Manchester, N.W.)  
 H. H. HOWORTH (Salford, S.)  
 JAMES HOZIER (Lanarkshire, S.)  
 E. HUGHES (Woolwich)  
 A. ILLINGWORTH (Bradford, W.)  
 LEWIS ISAACS  
 (Newington, Walworth)  
 J. A. JACOBY (Derbysh., Mid.)  
 L. J. JENNINGS (Stockport)

W. JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.)  
 JEREMIAH JORDAN (Clare, W.)  
 H. SETON KARR (St. Helens)  
 COURTNEY KENNY  
 (York W.R., Barnsley)  
 H. KIMBER (Wandsworth)  
 H. S. KING (Hull, Central)  
 ALFRED LAFONE  
 (Southwark, Bermondsey)  
 R. P. LAURIE (Bath)  
 H. L. LAWSON (St. Pancras, W.)  
 WILFRID LAWSON  
 (Cumb., Cockermouth)  
 ROBERT LEAKE  
 (Lanc. S.E., Radcliffe)  
 C. E. LEWIS (Antrim, N.)  
 THOMAS LEWIS (Anglesey)  
 FRANK LOCKWOOD (York)  
 W. LOWTHER (Westm., Appleby)  
 LEONARD LYELL  
 (Orkney and Shetland)  
 CHAS. FRASER MACKINTOSH  
 (Inverness)  
 JNO. W. MACLURE  
 (Lanc. S.E., Stretford)  
 A. M'ARTHUR (Leicester)  
 W. A. M'ARTHUR  
 (Cornwall, St. Austell)  
 JUSTIN M'CARHY (Londonderry)  
 JUSTIN HUNTLY M'CARHY  
 (Newry)  
 JOSEPH M'KENNA (Monaghan, S.)  
 PETER M'LAGAN (Linlithgow)  
 W. S. B. M'LAREN  
 (Cheshire, Crewe)  
 SAMUEL MONTAGU  
 (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel)  
 F. C. MORGAN (Monmouthsh., S.)  
 C. T. MURDOCH (Reading)  
 JOHN P. NOLAN (Galway, N.)  
 R. PEACOCK (Lanc. S.E., Gorton)  
 WM. PEARCE (Lanark, Govan)  
 H. FELL PEASE  
 (York N.R., Cleveland)  
 W. C. PLOWDEN  
 (Wolverhampton, W.)  
 W. POMFRET POMFRET  
 (Kent, Ashford)  
 W. R. H. POWELL  
 (Carmarthenshire, W.)  
 GEO. P. PRICE (Devonport)  
 T. P. PRICE (Monmouthsh., N.)  
 J. H. PULESTON (Devonport)  
 JAMES RANKIN  
 (Herefordshire, Leominster)  
 J. C. RASCH (Essex, S.E.)  
 H. BYRON REED (Bradford, E.)  
 HENRY RICHARD (Merthyr)  
 W. TINDAL ROBERTSON  
 (Brighton)  
 THOS. ROE (Derby)  
 ALBT. J. ROLLIT (Islington, S.)  
 J. ROUND (Essex, N.E., Harwich)  
 J. ROWNTREE (Scarborough)  
 EDWARD R. RUSSELL  
 (Glasgow, Bridgetown)  
 GEORGE RUSSELL  
 (Berks., Wokingham)  
 T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.)  
 THOS. SHAW (Halifax)  
 WALTER S. SHIRLEY  
 (York W.R., Doncaster)  
 JOHN SIMON (Dewsbury)  
 JOHN SLAGG (Burnley)  
 ERNEST SPENCER (W. Bromwich)  
 J. STANSFELD (Halifax)  
 A. COWELL STEPNEY  
 (Carmarthen, &c.)  
 J. STUART (Shoreditch, Hoxton)  
 ANGUS SUTHERLAND (Sutherld.)  
 EDMUND SWETENHAM  
 (Carnarvon, &c.)  
 JOHN SWINBURNE  
 (Staffordshire, Lichfield)  
 C. R. M. TALBOT  
 (Glamorganshire, Mid)  
 THOS K. TAPLING  
 (Leicestershire, Harbro')  
 R. TEMPLE (Worcester, Evesham)  
 ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorgan, E.)  
 WALTER THORBURN  
 (Peebles and Selkirk)  
 F. TOWNSEND (Warwickshire,  
 Stratford-on-Avon)  
 THOS. WARING (Down, N.)

E. W. WATKIN (Hythe)	H. J. WILSON
THOMAS WAYMAN	(York W.R., Holmfirth)
(York W.R., Elland)	WM. WOODALL (Hanley)
J. BAZLEY WHITE (Gravesend)	CALEB WRIGHT
A. J. WILLIAMS (Glamorgan, S.)	(Lanc. S.W., Leigh)
CHAS. H. WILSON (Hull, West)	H. S. WRIGHT (Nottingham, S.)

A meeting of the Parliamentary Committee was held in the Conference Room, in the House of Commons, on August 16th, Mr. Woodall presiding. Mr. Woodall reported that he had had an interview with Mr. W. H. Smith, who had informed him that the state of public business rendered him unable to hold out any hope of the Women's Franchise Bill coming on during the present session. The Bill had, therefore, been withdrawn. Captain Edwards Heathcote was appointed co-secretary with Mr. M'Laren. It was arranged that the Committee should meet immediately on the opening of the next session of Parliament.

The following members form, up to the present time, the Parliamentary Committee:—Mr. Addison, Q.C. (Ashton-under-Lyne), Mr. J. A. Agg-Gardner (Cheltenham), Mr. H. J. Atkinson (Boston), Mr. Bradlaugh (Northampton), Col. the Hon. F. Bridgeman (Bolton), Mr. W. S. Caine (Barrow), Dr. G. B. Clark (Caithness), Captain Cotton (Chester, Wirral), Mr. Courtney (Cornwall, Bodmin), Mr. Craven (Yorks. W.R., Shipley), Baron Dimsdale (Herts, Hitchin), Mr. A. Duncombe (Yorks. E.R., Howdenshire), Col. Eyre (Lincolnsh., Gainsborough), Mr. R. U. Penrose Fitzgerald (Cambridge), Gen. Sir Fred. Fitzwygram (Hants, Fareham), Sir R. N. Fowler, Bt. (City of London), Mr. Gedge (Stockport), Mr. Seale Hayne (Devon, Ashburton), Capt. Edwards Heathcote (Staffordsh., N.W.), Mr. A. Staveley Hill, Q.C. (Staffordsh., Kingswinford), Sir W. H. Houldsworth, Bt. (Manchester, N.W.), Mr. H. H. Howorth (Salford, S.), Col. Edwin Hughes (Woolwich), Mr. Illingworth (Bradford, W.), Hon. Geo. T. Kenyon (Denbigh, &c.), Sir Rainald Knightley, Bt. (Northants, S.), Mr. Lafone (Southwark, Bermondsey), Mr. H. L. W. Lawson (S. Pancras, W.), Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bt. (Cumb.,

Cockermouth), Hon. W. Lowther (Westmorland, Appleby), Mr. A. M'Arthur (Leicester), Mr. Justin M'Carthy (Londonderry), Mr. W. M'Laren (Crewe), Mr. J. W. Maclure (Lanc. S.E., Stretford), Mr. Murdoch (Reading), Mr. R. Peacock (Lanc. S.E., Gorton), Sir W. Plowden, Bt. (Wolverhampton, W.), Mr. W. R. H. Powell (Carmarthen, W.), Sir J. H. Puleston (Devonport), Major Rasch (Essex, S.E.), Mr. H. Byron Reed (Bradford, E.), Mr. J. Round (Essex N.E., Harwich), Sir Geo. Russell, Bt. (Berks, Wokingham), Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.), Mr. Shaw (Halifax), Mr. W. S. Shirley (Yorks. W.R., Doncaster), Major W. Sidebottom (Derbysh., High Peak), Rt. Hon. J. Stansfeld (Halifax), Prof. Stuart (Shoreditch, Hoxton), Mr. W. Summers (Huddersfield), Sir R. Temple, Bt. (Worcester, Evesham), Sir E. W. Watkin, Bt. (Hythe), Mr. A. J. Williams (Glamorgan, S.), Mr. Henry J. Wilson (Yorks. W.R., Holmfirth), Mr. W. Woodall (Hanley), Mr. Caleb Wright (Lanc. S.W., Leigh).

On the twentieth of June, Her Majesty the Queen completed the fiftieth year of her happy reign. Your Committee prepared an address of congratulation, in which they invited the co-operation of the various Committees of the National Society for Women's Suffrage in other districts. The address was in the following form:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.  
Madam,

May it please Your Majesty, we, the undersigned, being official representatives of Committees of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, desire humbly to approach Your Majesty with the expression of our affection and loyalty to Your Majesty's person and government, and our heartfelt congratulations on the completion of the fiftieth year of Your Majesty's happy reign.

We desire humbly to thank Your Majesty for having been graciously pleased to accord Your Royal Assent to many measures for the amelioration of the condition of the women of these realms.

During the period of Your Majesty's reign the law has been

amended as to the property and maintainance of married women; as to the custody and guardianship of infants; as to the admission of women to the benefits of university training and degrees, and to the practice of the medical profession, the last named privilege being fraught with incalculable blessings to many millions of women subjects of Your Majesty's Indian Empire. Other advances in law and custom have been made whereby the labour of women, which has been displaced from many great domestic industries by the introduction of machinery and the spread of the factory system, has found profitable occupation in other directions.

Your Majesty has at various times given Your Royal Assent to measures relating to Local Government whereby the ancient rights of women in Local Elections, which have from time immemorial been equal and similar to those of men, have been carefully preserved and extended coeval with the extension of local voting among the people.

Your Majesty has also been graciously pleased to assent to Acts which have restored and confirmed to women ratepayers the exercise of the Municipal Franchise in England and Scotland, and to the Elementary Education Acts, which extend the benefits of education to girls equally with boys, and secure the rights of women both as electors and members of School Boards.

Your Majesty has given Your Royal Assent to an Act of Tynwald whereby the full Parliamentary suffrage in the election of the House of Keys, the representative branch of the Legislature of the Isle of Man, has been extended to women who are owners of qualifying property.

During Your Majesty's reign two measures have been passed relating to the Representation of the People, whereby the controlling power in the election of the House of Commons has been transferred from a comparatively small class to the masses of the people; but in these measures the precedent of the co-equal electoral rights of men and women when similarly qualified, which is the rule in every other form of representative government in Great Britain, has not been

followed, and Your Majesty's subjects of Your Majesty's own sex are still denied the rights of citizenship and the privileges of free and constitutional government.

In the Royal House political power is exercised without restriction of sex, and we recognise with joy and gratitude the principle exemplified in the person of Your Majesty, that a Princess who stands in the legal order of Succession to the Throne is not passed over or disabled by reason of being a woman, but ascends the Throne and exercises the full powers of Sovereignty.

The bright example of Your Majesty in the discharge of the highest political function known to the State is an irrefragable proof that the most arduous political functions are not incompatible with the happiness of domestic life and the highest graces of womanly character. The constant presentation by Your Majesty of the union of political and domestic duties has been a potent factor in the growth of public feeling in favour of the admission of the women of the people, as well as the women of the Royal family, to share the political rights and duties of the men of the class to which they belong.

We pray that Your Majesty may long be spared to reign in prosperity and happiness over the great Empire which owns Your beneficent sway, and that in all the cares incident to this exalted position Your Majesty may be sustained and comforted by the consciousness of the loyalty and love of Your people.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage,

ROBERT ADAMSON,

*Chairman of Executive Committee.*

LYDIA E. BECKER, *Hon. Secretary.*

The Address was also signed by representatives of the Central, Bristol, Birmingham, Notts, Hyde, Leicester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, and North of Ireland Committees.

The following letter was received by Miss Becker from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:—

“Whitehall, July 2, 1887.

“Madam,—I have had the honour to lay before the Queen the loyal and dutiful address of the National Society for Women’s Suffrage on the occasion of Her Majesty attaining the fiftieth year of her reign. And I have to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the same very graciously. I have the honour to be, Madam, your obedient servant,

“(Signed) HENRY MATTHEWS.

“The Hon. Secretary,  
National Society for Women’s Suffrage,  
29, Parliament-street, S.W.”

Although no Parliamentary action has been possible this session, your Committee are satisfied that substantial progress has been made during the year. A comparison of the number of Parliamentary friends at the close of the session, with the list as it stood at the same period last year, affords the measure of a very satisfactory advance. Last year the number of known friends was 341; an actual majority of twelve in the whole House. During the year the total number of avowed supporters has increased from 341 to 355, consequently the actual majority in the whole House has increased from twelve to forty.

The supporters of women’s suffrage comprise members of every shade of politics. Of the 354 friends 176 are Conservatives, 108 Liberals, 27 Liberal-Unionists, and 44 Irish Nationalists. All these political parties are represented on the Parliamentary Committee. Nothing could show more clearly than these figures that the women’s franchise question is not in any sense a party one, but one which appeals to the sense of justice that underlies all party divisions.

In the extreme uncertainty of the prospect that the Bill might come on, your Committee did not deem it necessary to make any special effort to promote petitions. Nevertheless there were during the session 210 petitions, with 7,312 signatures, presented in favour of the Bill.

Members of debating societies in the following places have

applied for and received packets of pamphlets, &c.: Tunstall, Portmadoc (2), Hanley (4), Kidderminster, Liverpool (3), Oldham, Forfar, Keswick (2), Otley, Taunton, Great Yarmouth, Manchester (3), London (3), Kendal, Gorton, Leeds, Epping, Llanbedr, Annan, Ruthin, Towyn, Paisley, Derby, Greenwich, Bolton, Hull, Galashiels, Sydenham, Dumfries, Rhyl, Glasgow, Preston, Longsight, Exeter, Devonport, Accrington, Forres.

During the past year your Committee’s Assistant Secretary, Miss Backhouse, has visited the following places: Grimsby, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Derby, Southport, Accrington, Crewe, Macclesfield, Leek, Wigan, Blackburn, Burnley, Liverpool, in addition to office and other work in Manchester and district.

Your Committee have to record with deep regret the loss by death of their valued colleague, Miss Maria Atkinson, whose able and conscientious attendance to the work had been continued for many years. They have also to deplore the loss of Dr. John Watts and Mr. Joseph Phythian, who had given valued and efficient help to their work; and of Mrs. Abel Heywood, who had, from the beginning of the Society, been a constant and faithful supporter, and whose public spirit has enriched the city of Manchester with many munificent gifts.

Early in the year the sudden and tragical death of Lord Iddesleigh sent a shock of grief and lamentation throughout the length and breadth of the land, and deprived the cause of women’s suffrage of a powerful friend. Sir Stafford Northcote, while a member of the House of Commons, continually supported the enfranchisement of women, and Lord Iddesleigh, in his place in the House of Peers, raised his voice to testify to the same effect. Not only by his public speeches did the deceased statesman give help to the cause. He was ever accessible and ready to assist the workers in the cause who sought his counsel, and, even in the midst of official work and anxieties, he found time to receive and advise those who came to him to consult with reference to the movement.

In reviewing the events of the session, your Committee desire especially to express their satisfaction at the formation of the Parliamentary Committee. Such an organisation has long been needed, for no question in or out of Parliament can be effectively pressed without combination among those who support it. As the period of action approaches, the organisation of the party of Parliamentary friends of women's suffrage cannot fail to have a material influence in securing a good debate and division.

In concluding their report, your Committee would urge their friends to make a special effort to strengthen their hands at this critical period of the movement. The list of friendly members would seem to show that the Parliamentary leaders are in possession of a good working majority, and, should fortune favour them in the ballot for a place for the Bill, there is a reasonable prospect of a substantial advance next session. But in order to secure this, it is necessary to keep up the movement with undiminished vigour; and your Committee appeal with confidence and hope to their friends throughout the country for the assistance that will enable them to take every step that may be necessary in support of the action of their Parliamentary leaders, and to appear before you at the next annual meeting with a record of good work done and substantial progress achieved.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

### A RECORD OF PARLIAMENTARY PROGRESS

FROM 1866 TO NOVEMBER, 1887.

**1866.** The first Petition was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. John Stuart Mill, signed by 1,500 women, including many distinguished names.

**1867.** On May 4th Mr. John Stuart Mill moved his amendment to the Representation of the People Act of that year, "to leave out *man* and substitute *person*." This was lost by 196 to 83.

**1868.** Many women householders in many places applied to have their names entered on the Parliamentary Register, on the ground that "Man is held to include woman in all statutes where the contrary is not expressed." The Revising Barrister in some cases allowed, in some disallowed, the claim. In Manchester the claims of 5,475 women were disallowed, and an appeal was carried to the Court of Common Pleas. The Court of Common Pleas ruled the claim illegal.

**1870.** Mr. Jacob Bright introduced the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. This passed second reading, but was lost in Committee.

**1871 to 1883.** The Bill was introduced year after year, but thrown out by varying majorities.

**1884.** Mr. Woodall moved to add a clause to the Representation of the People Bill of that year, which should enable women to be placed on the Parliamentary Register. This was lost, not on the question of the merits of the clause, but of the expediency of the occasion.

**1885.** Mr. Woodall gave notice to introduce the Parliamentary Franchise Extension to Women Bill, which was set down on three different occasions for second reading, but Government business absorbed each date in succession.

**1886.** The Bill passed second reading without a division. The dissolution of Parliament, however, followed before the stage of going into Committee was reached.

At the General Election in November the number of Members returned, who had expressed approval of Women's Suffrage, for the first time formed a majority of the whole House.

**1887.** The Bill was again introduced, and set down for second reading on July 20th; but this, like all other private Members' nights at that period of the Session, was absorbed by the Government.

A Parliamentary Committee, including Members of all shades of politics, was formed to watch and promote the interests of the Bill in 1888.

The number of Members of Parliament who have, up to the present time (November, 1887), expressed approval of Women's Suffrage is 355—being a majority of 40 in the whole House; viz., 176 Conservatives, 108 Liberals, 27 Liberal Unionists, 44 Irish Nationalists.

The number of Women who would be enfranchised by the Bill is reckoned at about 900,000