

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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Debating Societies:—Kensington Parliament, Oxford, Darwen, Shifnal, Leeds, Eccles Baptist Mutual Improvement Society, Liverpool, Notting Dale, Shaldon, Holywell Hill.

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Foreign Notes and News.

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

**WHAT IS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AND WHY DO WOMEN WANT IT?** By VERITAS. Price One Penny. To be had of the Secretary, 29, Parliament-street, London; 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

**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 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; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; or Miss BALGARNIE, 29, Parliament-street, London.

**LOUTH.**—A Public Meeting in support of the Parliamentary Franchise for Women will be held in the Town Hall, Louth, on Wednesday, April 15th. The Chair will be taken at eight o'clock, by the Worshipful the MAYOR (Mr. Alderman Mason), and the meeting will be addressed by Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss Balgarnie as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Admission free.

**BRIGG.**—A Public Meeting will be held in the Corn Exchange, Brigg, on Thursday, April 16th. Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss Balgarnie will attend as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and the Chair will be taken by EDWARD PEACOCK, Esq., F.S.A., J.P., at half-past seven o'clock. Admission free.

**SPALDING.**—A Public Meeting in support of the Franchise for Women will be held on Tuesday, April 14th, in the Corn Exchange, Spalding. The Chair to be taken at eight o'clock, by Dr. MORRIS. Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss Balgarnie will attend as a deputation. Admission free.

**MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.** By VERAX. Reprinted by permission from the *Manchester Weekly Times*. Price One Penny. May be had from the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

**THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND.** By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

**WOMEN AND THE NEW FRANCHISE BILL.** A Letter to an Ulster Member of Parliament, by ISABELLA M. S. TOD. Price One Penny. To be had of the Secretary, 29, Parliament-street, London, and 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

New Edition; price 1s., by post 1s. 1d.

**WOMAN SUFFRAGE: REASONS FOR OPPOSING IT.** By Vice-Admiral MAXSE. London: W. Ridgway, 169, Piccadilly.

**ILFRACOMBE.**—Women and Politics.—Fair play for all! Votes for the 800,000 Women who pay Rates and Taxes.—Under the auspices of the Committee of the Ilfracombe Conservative Club, a Lecture will be delivered at the Oxford Hall, Ilfracombe, on Monday, April 13th, by Miss J. G. WILKINSON, on behalf of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage. Subject, "The social and political position of women." The Chair will be taken at eight o'clock by the chairman, W. HUXTABLE, Esq., supported by numerous gentlemen who, irrespective of politics, advocate the above desirable movement. Admission free.

Conservative Club, March 25th, 1885.

**MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION TRACTS.**—Vol. 1, second edition, containing Tracts 1 to 39; also Historical Preface and Paper read at the Church Congress by the Archdeacon of Middlesex. In cloth, price 2s. 6d., post free 3s., at the Office, 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross, S.W.; Messrs. SMITH AND SON'S Railway Bookstalls; or E. W. ALLEN, 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C.

Just Published.

**SUFFRAGE STORIES.**—MRS. MABURY'S PETITION, JANE CRUMP'S POLITICS, A WOMAN'S DUTY, by the author of "Rachel's Secret," "A Sylvan Queen," etc. To be obtained at the National Society for Women's Suffrage Office, 29, Parliament-street, London, W.; or 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester. 1d. each, or 6d. dozen, post free.

**UGHT WOMEN TO LEARN THE ALPHABET?** By T. W. HIGGINSON. Reprinted from "Atlantic Essays." Price 3d. A. Ireland & Co., Manchester.

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**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.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

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

Write out the form on a sheet of good paper. Foolscap opened out will do.

Write the form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it *on the same piece of paper*. Try to obtain one or more signatures to follow your own. When the original heading has been filled up with names, more paper may be added, if necessary. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise. Make up the petition as a *book-post packet, open at the ends*, write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the peer who has to present it to the House of Lords, or to the member who is to present it at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free. Write, and send along with the petition, a note (post paid) asking the peer or member to present it, and to support its prayer. If preferred the petition may be sent to one of the offices of this society for forwarding, but it has more effect when sent direct from the person who has collected the signatures.

FORMS OF PETITIONS.

The following are forms for general petitions:—

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

*The humble petition of the undersigned*

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who possess the qualification for the Parliamentary suffrage should no longer be denied the right to vote.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will pass a measure to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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

*The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of*

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who possess the qualification for the Parliamentary suffrage should no longer be denied the right to vote.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

FORM FOR WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' PETITION.

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

*The humble petition of women inhabitant householders of*

SHEWETH,

That your petitioners are women inhabitant householders of and as such deem that they have a just claim to be placed on the register of Parliamentary voters.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The first and second volumes of "Women of Europe in the 15th and 16th Centuries," by Mrs. Napier Higgins, have just been published. These volumes are devoted to women of the Scandinavian countries and the North of Europe, and constitute the first instalment of what promises to be not only a learned but an attractive work.

The *Athenæum* says that a sensation has been caused in literary circles in the United States by the discovery that Charles Egbert Craddock, author of "In the Tennessee Mountains," and a frequent contributor to the *Atlantic Monthly*, is a lady. The sex of their contributor was not suspected by the publishers, by Mr. W. D. Howells when he edited the *Atlantic Monthly*, or by his successor, Mr. Aldrich. The real name of the writer is Miss M. Murfree.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

Mar. 2. Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], a Bill intituled "An Act for extending the right of voting at parliamentary elections to women" was presented by the Lord Denman; read 1<sup>st</sup>, and to be printed. (No. 27.)

PETITIONS.

- Feb. 26. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings in NOTTINGHAM and WISBECH; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 27. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of BRISTOL; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Mar. 2. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at CHELTENHAM, BRISTOL, and MILBORNE PORT, and Inhabitants of LEEDS (6), and DUBLIN; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 3. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at LONDON, Inhabitants of LONDON, MONKSTOWN, and LEEDS (4), and persons signing (2); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 5. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of Meeting at SWANSEA; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 6. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of LEEDS, &c. (3), and GLENLUCE, &c., and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 9. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting in LONDON, and Inhabitants of LONDON; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 10. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting in LONDON, and Inhabitants of LEEDS and GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 12. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at THORNTON, and Inhabitants of HASTINGS, BASLOW, BECKENHAM (2), DUNSHAUGHLIN, KILMALLOCK, SKRYNE, and ARMLEY; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 16. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at PLYMOUTH, GAINSBOROUGH (2), and DUNDEE, and Inhabitants of DINAS, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 17. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of HENDON (2), ALDEBURGH, HOLLOWAY, BELFAST, and WY-MONDLEY; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], Petition in favour of, of Inhabitants of LEEDS; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 20. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meeting at ST. LEONARDS, and Inhabitants of LONDON; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Women's Suffrage Bill [H.L.], Petition in favour of, of Inhabitants of LEEDS; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 23. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of Edgware, &c., and Leeds (19); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 26. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at TRURO, CHEDDAR, CAMBORNE, TROWBRIDGE, LISKEARD, and TYWARDREATH, and Inhabitants of LONDON (3), LEEDS (2), DEVIZES, and FRYERNING, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 27. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of SOUTHAMPTON, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PETITIONS, 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 1884—24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 1885.

Subject.	No. of Petitions signed Officially or under Seal.	Total No. of Petitions.	Total No. of Signatures.
Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) (No. 2) Bill—In Favour [2, 12, 40, 74]...	77	216	5,484

A Bill for municipal suffrage for women has been formally introduced in the Michigan Senate by Senator Belknap. It was given a first and second reading by title, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Miss Violet Morgan is acting as temporary Master of the Tredegar Foxhounds, in the absence from home of her father, Colonel Morgan, M.P. The young lady is an excellent rider, and nothing stops her.—*Truth*.

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MR. WOODALL has fixed Wednesday, June 24th, for the second reading of his Bill in the House of Commons, that being the earliest date on which the state of public business seemed to afford a chance for its consideration. It stands as second order of the day, the first order being a Bill introduced by Sir JOHN LUBBOCK for regulating the hours of labour in shops. But though the Shop Hours Bill will no doubt arouse strong opposition, it is scarcely probable that the debate will take up the whole sitting. It is therefore likely that Mr. WOODALL will be able to move the second reading on that day of the Bill which stands in his name.

THE friends of women's suffrage were taken by surprise on the morning of the third of March by the announcement in the papers that Lord DENMAN had presented to the House of Lords a Bill for extending the right of voting at Parliamentary elections to women. This action was entirely spontaneous on the part of his Lordship.

The Bill has since been printed. The preamble recites that it is just that women entitled to vote for school boards and in municipal elections, having the same rights of residence and as freeholders that men possess, should be empowered to vote at all elections for members of Parliament.

The enacting clause runs as follows: "All women, not legally disqualified, who have the same qualifications as the present and future electors for counties and divisions of counties and boroughs, shall be entitled to vote for knights of the shire for counties and divisions of counties and for boroughs, at every election."

The practical effect of this Bill is understood to be exactly the same as that of Mr. WOODALL'S Bill. It would enfranchise the same number of persons and the same persons, though the wording employed is somewhat different, and less definite and specific.

It appears certain that this Bill will be moved and pressed to a division in the House of Lords, and under these

circumstances, though they are not responsible for the introduction of the measure, the leaders of the women's suffrage movement are of opinion that earnest efforts should be made to secure, if possible, a good debate and a favourable division on the second reading. They, therefore, earnestly and respectfully ask their friends in the Upper House to consider the Bill on its own merits, and to vote in favour of the second reading, so that the Bill may be carefully considered in Committee, and if found acceptable to their Lordships be sent down to the House of Commons in time for discussion during the present session. Should the House of Commons pass the Bill sent down from the Lords, the women householders would be enfranchised before the general election in which the two millions of men householders enfranchised by the Act of 1884 will for the first time record their votes.

ALTHOUGH the Seats Bill has not yet become law, the provisions relating to the proposed new constituencies have been so generally accepted as settled that the political associations of the new divisions are busy with the selection of candidates for the general election expected to take place in the autumn. The influences that will mould the character of the next Parliament are now at work, and we desire to impress on our friends the extreme importance of pressing the question of the enfranchisement of women on the consideration of the political societies and of the candidates. Every proposed candidate in every constituency should be asked his views on this matter, so that if the effort to obtain the right this session should prove abortive, and women be compelled to await an appeal to the new electorate and the new Parliament for the consideration of their claim, no member of that Parliament should be able to declare that during his election the subject was not presented to his notice. If the question is well brought to the front now the action will not be without its effect even in the present Parliament. The political leaders may seriously consider whether it is not more expedient to deal

at once with every question relating to the suffrage while the Legislature is engaged in amending the representation, and to settle every existing claim, rather than leave an unsettled demand to keep alive the agitation for Parliamentary reform.

WE read in the telegraphic despatches from Canada that the Indians in the district of the Saskatchewan are indignant that their loyalty should be called in question in reference to the recent rising, and that they have requested the Governor of Ottawa to tell their "Great Mother" that they will go out and fight for her.

We believe that among all her subjects of primitive or half civilised races Queen VICTORIA is venerated as their "Great Mother." The visible head of the British Empire is a woman, and perhaps there is something in this tie of affectionate loyalty to a woman of a closer and more endearing character than that which would bind the peoples to the authority of a King or President.

The womanhood of the royal house shares with its manhood the sovereignty of the throne, with beneficent effect. We say that the womanhood of the people is also worthy to share with its manhood the power of the people, and we believe that participation by women in the duties and responsibilities of the counsels of the nations will help the world to better and happier future than has ever been seen in the past.

"By some extraordinary mistake," says the special correspondent of the *Chronicle* at the scene of the military operations near Suakim, "the convoy yesterday took out empty water vessels instead of full ones, and the consequence was the force at the zarebas were on almost starvation rations of water last night."

We wonder what would be said if a woman had made such an extraordinary blunder in providing for those depending on her housekeeping arrangements as to send out empty vessels instead of full ones on such an occasion. The commissariat department of the army is merely housekeeping on a large scale, and we are inclined to believe that if it were placed under the supervision of competent women some of the "extraordinary blunders" of which we hear from time to time would not occur.

WE commend to the consideration of the Parliament of the present day the following extract, stated by the *Shield* to be taken from the proceedings of the House of Commons during the Commonwealth: "The House considered, in

the next place, that divers weak persons have crept into places beyond their abilities; and to the end that men of greater parts may be put into their rooms, they appointed the Lady MIDDLESEX, Mr. DUNCH, the Lady FOSTER, and the Lady ANNE WALLER, by reason of their great experience in soldiery in the kingdom, to be a committee of triers for the business."

We are afraid that the allegation in the first part of this extract describes circumstances not without a parallel in the present day, and we believe that worse counsel might be taken than that of wise and experienced women in devising a remedy for the weakness and incompetence of the arrangements in many departments of the public service.

AN election of great importance to the welfare of the community takes place this month. In Easter week elections for Boards of Guardians are held. Although women are eligible to serve on these boards only about fifty women are candidates for election this year. This is principally owing to the high qualification as a ratepayer required in order to be eligible, which bars out many women whose personal qualifications and experience in subjects which come under the jurisdiction of such boards would render them capable of doing excellent service in this capacity.

As an example of the difficulties which may arise in poor law administration, we may cite a trouble which is now exercising the minds of a certain Board of Guardians. At the last meeting it was announced that four nurses had sent in their resignations, and it was alleged that the nurses did not want to leave their places but that the annoyance they had been put to during a lengthened period had driven them to resign. The difficulty appeared to have been caused by a difference among the officials. The gentlemen who compose the Board appeared to be unable to understand or arrange the difficulty, and the only thing they appeared to be able to think of was to order a return to be made of the money spent in advertising for nurses and servants at the infirmary during the past year.

We cannot help thinking that if there had been on the Board one or two capable women possessed of experience in managing a household, such ladies would have found out some more practical method of setting matters in order, than by perpetually advertising for fresh nurses and servants and counting up the money so expended.

ONE of the most difficult and delicate duties of guardians

is the payment of school fees for persons who, not being paupers, are required by the Education Act to send their children to school, and are too poor to pay the school pence demanded weekly by the school managers. These cases cannot be settled by any hard and fast line: each has to be determined on its own merits, after inquiry into the circumstances of the family. For this work the assistance of women is peculiarly valuable. Their special knowledge, their intelligent sympathy, and their economical instincts make a combination of qualities well suited to deal with questions of giving assistance out of the rates, with due regard, on the one hand, of the circumstances of the applicants, and, on the other, to doing justice to the ratepayers, many of whom are but little removed from the condition of the applicants themselves.

A NEW and important departure in higher education has been made in Wales by the establishment at Cardiff, under the superintendence of the Honourable ISABEL BRUCE, of a Ladies' Hall, to be opened in October, which is to be affiliated to the University College, Cardiff. To all who are interested in the progress of women's education the object of this Hall strongly appeals, and we think this young and flourishing University College of South Wales has done wisely and well in adopting this necessary adjunct to the success of its lady students. It is only just that in the various Colleges of the land the women should enjoy equal residential privileges with the male students. How advantageous these schemes have proved at Oxford and Cambridge is well known, and in Cardiff we have little doubt the result will prove as beneficial as in the older Universities.

As in other provincial Colleges in the different parts and towns of the kingdom, the students at Cardiff are prepared for the various degrees of the London University.

K. V. J.

THE references made by the country press to the presence of women at the demonstrations called forth by the recent reform agitation in rural constituencies have been worth noting: how here seats had been reserved for women for the first time at a political meeting; how there the seats it had been usual to reserve proved quite insufficient, and women mingled everywhere in the audience; how, in other places, speakers commented with satisfaction on the presence of women. Such things are significant; they speak of the permeating of new life into quiet corners where the old tradition against women taking a share in

political interests has naturally lingered longer than in crowded cities. Let public opinion once provide opportunities for any set of persons to share means of political education, and those persons will in their turn require public opinion to allow of their turning that education to practical account. The agitation of 1832 set such education to work here and there in the minds of the elder generation of women—but the agitation of 1884 has done so all the country over for the generation now growing up in the creed that politics form the best education of a people.

H. B.

A MEETING has been held at Gainsborough, addressed by Miss TOD and Miss BALGARNIE. At Bolton a meeting of women householders was convened and presided over by Mrs. THOMASSON, and addressed also by Miss TOD, Mr. W. S. B. M'LAREN, Mrs. JOHN, and Mrs. DICKENSON. At Kettering a meeting was held under the auspices of the Kettering Liberal Association. The chair was occupied by the President, Mr. WICKSTEED, and the resolutions were supported by Mrs. EVA M'LAREN, Miss BALGARNIE, Mrs. D. F. GOTCH, Mrs. COLLYER, and others.

Drawing-room meetings have been held at the house of Mrs. HIGGINSON, Bromley, addressed by Mrs. LYNCH, Miss ORME, Miss HEPPEL, B.A., Miss HARVEY, Mrs. T. WILLIS; at Hastings, by invitation of Mrs. NEVILL, addressed by Miss BIGGS, Mrs. TUBBS, and Mr. EILOART; and at Bonham House, St. Leonards, by invitation of Miss FRICKER HALL, when Dr. ELIZABETH BLACKWELL, Mr. J. R. MARTIN, Miss BIGGS, Mr. and Mrs. EILOART, and others took part in the proceedings.

Lectures have been delivered by Miss WILKINSON, at many places in Cornwall, and the subject has been discussed at many Parliamentary and other debating societies.

THE unprecedented circumstance of having Women's Suffrage Bills presented simultaneously in both Houses of Parliament should be an incentive to arouse redoubled efforts on the part of the friends of the cause, in the way of petitions and other demonstrations of support. For the present moment, petitions to the House of Lords are especially desirable. We ask our friends to make an effort to send as many as possible to be presented immediately after the Easter recess, and to endeavour that the signatures appended should be as numerous and of as influential and representative a character as can be obtained in the time.

## PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *March 2nd.*  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Lord Denman introduced a Bill for extending the Parliamentary suffrage to women, which was read a first time.

*March 3rd.*

## PETITIONS.

Lord Monson presented a petition from Clifton, Bristol, in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

Lord Napier of Magdala presented a petition from Miss Frances Henrietta Muller in favour of extension of the franchise to women.

Viscount Powerscourt presented petitions in favour of the extension of the suffrage to properly qualified women from inhabitants of Monkstown and Kingstown.

*March 5th.*

Lord Aberdare presented a petition from inhabitants of Swansea, in favour of conferring the franchise on duly qualified women.

*March 6th.*

Viscount Templetown presented a petition from teachers of Meanwood Road Workhouse Schools, Henrietta-street Wesleyan Schools, and Holbeck, Castleton, and Lower Wortley Board Schools, Leeds, in favour of Parliamentary franchise to women.

The Earl of Stair presented a petition from Glenluce in favour of woman suffrage.

*March 9th.*

Lord Mount-Temple presented a petition from a meeting in Porchester Terrace, for extending the franchise to women.

*March 11th.*

By Lord Ravensworth, from Gateshead, Whitehall, Armley, Savile Green Board Schools, and British School in Leeds, in favour of the franchise for women.

By Lord Napier of Magdala, from Margaret B. Lucas, on behalf of a meeting of ladies, in favour of franchise for women.

*March 13th.*

Petitions in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary suffrage to women were presented, by Lord Fitzgerald, from Dublin, county Meath, Kent, and other places; by Lord Brabourne, from Leeds; and by Lord Napier of Magdala, from Mrs. F. Cecilia Tubbs, and other ladies and gentlemen.

*March 16th.*

Petitions in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women were presented, by Lord Monson, from workmen employed at the Britannia Works, Gainsborough; by the Earl of Morley, from the Plymouth Women's Liberal Association; by the Earl of Aberdeen, from a meeting at Rockfield, Dundee; and by Lord Aberdare, from Dinas Mowddy.

*March 18th.*

The Earl of Rosebery presented a petition from householders in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

Lord Winmarleigh presented a petition, from Mabel Moultrie and others, in favour of woman suffrage.

*March 20th.*

The Earl of Dalhousie presented a petition from Thomas Sangster and others in favour of extending the Parliamentary suffrage to women who pay rates and taxes.

Viscount Templetown presented a petition, from women residents in Leeds, in favour of Women's Electoral Franchise Bill.

*March 26th.*

The Marquis of Salisbury presented petitions from teachers of Roundhay Road and Beverley-street Board Schools, Leeds, and from Ellen Bowers, Benjamin Press, Thomas Horn, and others, of London, for extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

The Earl of Derby presented a petition from inhabitants of Essex in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women.

Lord Monteaule presented a petition from Devizes in favour of female suffrage.

Lord Robartes presented petitions from Liskeard, Camborne, Truro, and Tywardreath, in favour of woman suffrage.

The Marquis of Bath presented a petition from Trowbridge and Cheddar in favour of woman suffrage.

## TEXT OF LORD DENMAN'S BILL.

## A BILL

Intituled an Act for extending the right of voting at Parliamentary Elections to Women. A.D. 1885.

WHEREAS it is just that women entitled to vote for school boards and in municipal elections, having the same rights of residence and as freeholders that men possess, should be empowered to vote at all elections for members of Parliament for candidates to be elected knights of the shire and burgesses for boroughs:

Be it therefore 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. All women not legally disqualified, who have the same qualification as the present and future electors for counties and divisions of counties and boroughs, shall be entitled to vote for knights of the shire for counties and divisions of counties, and for burgesses for boroughs and groups of boroughs, at every election.

2. This Act shall come into operation in all parts of the United Kingdom and of Ireland as soon as the usual days for registration shall have arrived, and may be cited as the Women's Suffrage Act, 1885.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

## GAINSBOROUGH.

On March 12th, a crowded public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall to hear addresses from Miss Tod and Miss Balgarnie, a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Sir HICKMAN B. BACON, Bart., presided, and there were present on the platform Miss Tylour, Rev. and Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Farmer, Miss Thompson, Mrs. McCormick (Manchester), Rev. and Mrs. Winn Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew, Mr. Enoch Johnson, and others. The following telegram was read: "Edinburgh committee send greeting and hearty wishes for the success of the Gainsborough meeting to-night."

After a few introductory remarks by the Chairman, Miss Tod, who was enthusiastically received, proceeded to address the meeting on "Taxation as it affects women," and "The right of women ratepayers to vote for members of Parliament." She concluded by moving the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act, recently become law, should be supplemented by the passing of a measure during the present session of Parliament for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women." (Enthusiastic applause.)

Mr. ENOCH JOHNSON seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss BALGARNIE, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. H. CLARKE moved "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; and that a memorial to Rowland Winn, Esq., and the Right Hon. James Lowther—(groans and applause)—members for the northern division of Lincolnshire, requesting them to support a Bill entitled 'A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women,' be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him." (Hear, hear.) Mr. Clarke, in support of this resolution, spoke strongly in favour of the principles enunciated by the previous speakers, whom he congratulated on the success of the meeting. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. W. ROBINSON seconded the resolution.

Mrs. ANDREW (Gainsborough), in supporting the resolution, expressed great sympathy with the object of the meeting, and endorsed Mr. Robinson's statement as to the wrongs done to female occupiers of farms. She had read many instances, and felt the womanhood arise within her as she resolved that if ever she could help the sisters

who were trying to get freedom for those insulted women, she would do it. Though it had many bitter opponents, however, let them remember that truth would always prevail. (Applause.)

Both resolutions were carried unanimously, and great enthusiasm prevailed throughout.

The usual votes of thanks concluded the proceedings, three cheers being given for Sir H. B. Bacon.

## MEETING OF WORKING MEN.

On March 13th, Miss Balgarnie addressed a large meeting of the Britannia workmen, in Station Road, at one o'clock. The Rev. W. Winn Robinson presided. After the address, which was received with the greatest enthusiasm, Mr. T. Meggit moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Blossom, and unanimously carried: "We, the workmen of the Britannia Works, Gainsborough, respectfully request the Government to supplement the Representation of the People's Act by the passing of a measure to extend the franchise to women householders at the earliest opportunity." A vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Miss Tylour, and seconded by Mr. Dales, brought the meeting to a close.

## REPLY FROM MR. ROWLAND WINN, M.P.

As chairman of the meeting in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, held at Gainsborough, Sir H. B. Bacon, Bart., has received the following favourable reply from Mr. Rowland Winn, M.P., with respect to the resolutions forwarded to him:—

"11, Grosvenor Gardens,

"March 14th, 1885.

"My dear Bacon,—Many thanks for your letter enclosing the memorial to myself and a petition to the House of Commons in favour of the Bill for Extending the Franchise to Women who are householders. I shall be most glad on Monday to present the petition in the House of Commons, and shall most certainly vote myself in favour of the Bill when it comes on for second reading; in fact I have done so before. I can see no reason why, when such a large number of men are now to be enfranchised, the women who are householders should be any longer excluded.—I am, yours very truly,

"ROW. WINN."

## KETTERING.

On March 5th, a public meeting was held in Toller Chapel Assembly Room, Kettering, under the auspices of the Kettering Liberal Association. The special object of the gathering was to support Mr. Woodall's Bill for the enfranchisement of women householders. The chair was occupied by the PRESIDENT (Mr. C. Wicksteed), who was supported by Mrs. Eva M'Laren, Miss F. Balgarnie, Mrs. Collyer (Geddington), and Mrs. Davis Gotch (Kettering).

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, said the women's suffrage movement, which had engaged his sympathy for twenty-five years, had during the last ten years made rapid progress, and they met that night hoping that in a short time the greatest triumph of all would be achieved—the removal of the disabilities of women to the suffrage. (Applause.) He felt sure that all Liberals who had been so recently enfranchised would give their hearty sympathy and support to the movement. He then referred to the objections to the enfranchisement of women, especially those concerning their home duties, but he contended that the women it was proposed to enfranchise had as much opportunity to exercise political privileges as the men, who also had private engagements. (Hear, hear.) Some said, "Well, but the women will vote the same way as the men." If that were so, he asked what more they desired? (Laughter.) The fact of the matter was that in general subjects they might perhaps do that, but when it came to a matter of legislation particularly affecting women, and which did grievous wrong, depriving them, the weaker sex, who ought to be protected from the protection and rights that the stronger sex provided for themselves, when it came to the outraging of their own sex, as had been the case in recent legislation, if women had the vote he felt confident they would dare the men, and rightly so. (Applause and laughter.) To his mind, laws, the particulars of which were not fit to be discussed before women, were not fit to be discussed at all. He considered they wanted far more of that purer and softer influence which women would introduce into politics, and that they as a politic body could no more afford to lose the influence of

womanhood than in private life. (Cheers.) Whenever he saw people oppressed, especially the weaker, he was moved instinctively to believe they were doing something right. Women had suffered insult upon insult, and had had to endure the worst of social ostracism and derision wherever they went. The heroic stand made by the leaders of the movement during the first fifteen years of the agitation was such that not one man in a thousand would have braved it. (Hear, hear.) Turning from the woman suffrage question, the chairman said they were met that night in what he considered a crisis of Liberalism in this country; when Liberalism was receiving the severest shocks that it had ever received since he had had anything to do with politics. The action of the Government, influenced by forces dark and unseen, that they could not fathom or grasp, had in his opinion betrayed Liberalism, and if they came out of this a whole party, all he could say was that it would be a lasting disgrace to the cause of Liberalism. It ought to rend them in twain, and separate those who were Liberal in principle from those who were only Liberal in name. (Cheers.) It would therefore be a pleasure to them to have their minds diverted from the absorbing topic of the day, and hear ladies speak to them in furtherance of the cause for which an act would shortly be introduced, giving the franchise to women householders. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. EVA M'LAREN, who was most cordially received, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act, recently become law, should be supplemented by the passing of a measure during the present session of Parliament for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women."

Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE supported the resolution.

Mrs. D. F. GOTCH, who was cordially received, supported the resolution in an admirable address. She commenced by referring to a remark made by Mr. Gladstone in the debate on Mr. Woodall's amendment to the Franchise Bill, to the effect that the enfranchisement of women was a question which required cool and deliberate attention, inasmuch as it affected the social status of women. That was one reason why she wanted women to have the suffrage. She was aware that woman's social position was a fairly good one, but at the same time it was more so in seeming than in reality. (Hear, hear.) In this respect it was like the cottage of the agricultural labourer. (A laugh.) In the home woman's influence was good, but at the same time it was largely hampered by old-fashioned notions and prejudices and restrictions. Again, she claimed the vote for women who had to work hard for a living, and then proceeded to speak of the tyranny of the marriage laws by which the heart was crushed out of so many of her sex. After a reference to the crowds of houseless women, Mrs. Gotch said there were many men not only amongst the rich, but amongst the poor as well, who treated their wives with chivalrous attention and honour, but in a vast number of cases the wife was a mere servant or housekeeper, while in many other instances she was but a plaything. (Cheers and laughter.) She did not altogether blame the men for this state of things—it was the fault and result of their early training—for the boys in a family were too often taught to look upon their sisters with indifference, and expect them to do all the dirty work of the household. She did not wish men to look upon women as angels but as sisters—(hear, hear)—they did not wish for worship but for simple justice. (Applause.) The speaker next said that she was anxious to obtain the suffrage for women on account of our foreign policy. Some might say what did women know about that matter? She asked in return, did men understand it? Could they tell her why our Government had interfered with the affairs of Egypt or the Soudan? It was objected that women individualised, where men would generalise, and she admitted that was so. But they wanted both; otherwise laws would be made which would press very heavily in particular cases. Again, woman's voice was for peace, although at the same time she loved national honour, and would be willing to sacrifice her dearest and best, should occasion arise, for a good cause, but never for more extension of empire, or for what was called national prestige. In conclusion, she hoped that right, not might, and love, not force, should govern. (Applause.)

The chairman then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mrs. COLLYER moved a vote of thanks to the ladies who had addressed them that evening.

Mr. JOHN WALLIS seconded the proposition, which was heartily endorsed by the audience.

Mrs. M'LAREN replied, and proposed a similar compliment to the chairman, not only for his services that evening, but for all along sticking to principle, and not giving way to expediency. (Cheers.)

Miss BALGARNIE seconded the proposition, which was carried by acclamation, and the meeting broke up.—Abridged from *Kettering News*.

## BOLTON.

On March 10th, the lecture hall of the Mechanics' Institution was well filled with an assembly composed entirely of women, called by Mrs. Thomasson, wife of the junior M.P. for the borough, in reference to the enfranchisement of women.

Mrs. THOMASSON, who presided, said that she had been deeply interested for many years in all subjects which in any way relate to the improvement of the condition of women. Every woman must be aware that her position might be improved, except those women who were sheltered from every storm, who lived in luxury, and did not comprehend the sufferings of their poorer neighbours. But it was just those happy women who ought to feel it their duty to take the lead in assisting and protecting those who could not work or speak for themselves. Those women who already possessed the municipal vote had already a considerable amount of responsibility, but a much larger responsibility was certainly coming, and they must be prepared for it. There was nothing of a party character in the meeting. Both political parties had passed laws which had injuriously affected the welfare of women, and if women had the power of voting for members of Parliament they might reasonably expect that women voters would choose representatives who would see that equal justice was dealt out to them, whichever party might be in power. Many men objected to women having votes because they alleged that women were more open to receive bribes; but, asked Mrs. Thomasson, who is it that gives the bribes? Not women, but men. (Hear, hear.) Surely men had not been so pure in the past that they could afford to throw stones at women. The punishment for both the bribers and the bribed was now very severe, and we must hope that constituencies generally would turn over a new leaf. Whatever might be the customs or laws of a country, the women decided its morals. Man could not degrade women without himself falling into degradation. He could not raise them without himself becoming better. Women's cause was man's. They must rise or sink together. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WALTER M'LAREN, candidate for one of the divisions of Glasgow, who attended in the unavoidable absence of his wife, moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act, recently become law, should be supplemented by the passing of a measure, during the present session of Parliament, for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women." He then proceeded to give an exhaustive review of the progress the question of women's suffrage had made since it was first mooted, when it was treated with ridicule. Now, prominent members of both political parties had expressed themselves in favour of it. Referring to his wife's connection with the Bradford Board of Guardians, Mr. M'Laren strongly recommended the meeting to try and get two ladies upon the Bolton Board of Guardians or the School Board at the next election. After referring to the public work done by women with respect to temperance and other social questions, he contended that women's suffrage ought to be discussed on its merits, and not as to whether the enfranchisement of women would be for the advantage of the Liberals or the Tories. The presence of women in public life would be of incalculable benefit to men as well as to women.

Miss TOD, of Belfast, who seconded the resolution, in an eloquent speech argued that a woman had a public as well as a private duty to perform with reference to temperance work, social purity, the protection of young women and children, and every question that comes before Parliament. Men were apt to forget the interests of women, and no class would be more emphatically benefited by women's suffrage than members of Parliament, who were now entirely ignorant of the wants and wishes of women on questions that materially affected their interests. Women must take the burden on their own shoulders, and they ought to join the ordinary political associations and take part in ordinary political work. She expected women's suffrage next year, and she hoped at her next visit to find the Bolton women not only members of the political associations, but members of the Council of those associations. (Applause.)

On the motion of Mrs. JOHN, seconded by Mrs. DICKENSON, it was decided that a petition in favour of women's suffrage should be forwarded to Parliament, and the meeting then terminated.

## DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

## BROMLEY.

A drawing-room meeting was held on Feb. 20th, by the kindness of Mrs. Higginson, at Thornton House, Bromley, Kent, for the discussion of the women's suffrage question. Mrs. E. Lynch presided. Miss Orme moved the first resolution in an able and persuasive speech. Miss Heppel, B.A., seconded it. A resolution in favour of petitioning was moved by Miss Harvey in a thoughtful speech of much power. In the absence of Miss Marshall, B.A., Miss T. Willis seconded this resolution. Mr. Crowther said ladies were too modest in their demands; he would give to women the right to do all they have the capacity for doing, and would willingly throw open his own (the legal) profession to them. The Rev. E. Barker, vicar of St. John's, Bromley, said he wished to state the reasons that had made him a convert to women's suffrage. He failed to find any of the objections to this measure reasonable, and he heartily agreed with Miss Orme in thinking that if women generally took an interest in politics social intercourse would become pleasanter and brighter. Mrs. Higginson proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Orme for her address, and to Mrs. Lynch for presiding, and the meeting terminated.

## HASTINGS.

On the afternoon of March 18th a drawing-room meeting in support of women's suffrage was held at Mrs. Nevill's, No. 30, Wellington Square. There was a good attendance, chiefly ladies. Those present included Miss Biggs (deputation from London), Miss Fricker Hall (the local hon. sec.), Mrs. Tubbs, Mr. T. H. Cole, M.A., Mr. and Mrs. Nevill, Mr. Eiloart, Mr. J. Fearn, Miss Dunk, and others.

On the motion of Mr. NEVILL, seconded by Miss HALL, Mr. T. H. Cole, M.A., was voted to the chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Councillor Bray, expressing his entire sympathy with the women's suffrage movement, and regretting that he was unable to attend the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said their object was to help that which they thought was right, that women ratepayers should have the same vote for members of Parliament as were possessed by other ratepayers. The women's suffrage question was one of those plain and simple things in favour of which it was difficult to say anything, because everything seemed to speak in its favour.

Miss BIGGS then moved a resolution that a petition to both Houses of Parliament should be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting. She said it was now nineteen years since she first took up the work by putting her signature to a petition in favour of women's suffrage. If they looked back twenty years she thought they would agree with her that no other question had made such a great advance in such a short space of time. Twenty years ago none of the higher colleges and universities were open to women, and a woman could not be treated medically by another woman. Twenty years ago women did not take part in the public questions of the day, and did not hold seats on school boards and boards of guardians. Under the present changed condition of the franchise she considered it was more important than ever that women householders should have votes. The vote had ceased to be a privilege and was now extended to the lowest, and if women wished to be at all safe they must have a share in the franchise.

Mrs. TUBBS seconded the resolution. She submitted that women were "capable citizens," and that they were entitled to vote as householders. She denied that women were likely to be bribed by the gift of a new bonnet, and suggested that a Women's Ratepayers' Association should be formed for Hastings and St. Leonards. She endorsed the remarks of Miss Biggs in reference to women as guardians, and mentioned how deeply females were interested in domestic legislation. She most heartily seconded the resolution. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. EILOART moved a vote of thanks to Miss Biggs for her interesting and able address. He observed that the local association were in want of funds, and that Miss F. Hall, the hon. sec., would

be glad to receive subscriptions. He thought Mr. Gladstone was wrong when he said the women's suffrage clause would overload the franchise ship. He (Mr. Eiloart) thought that it would have been an additional sail to have brought it safe into the harbour. (Applause.)

Miss DUNK had great pleasure in seconding. Carried.

Miss BIGGS briefly returned thanks.

On the motion of Mr. FEARN a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Cole for presiding, and to Mr. and Mrs. Nevill for the kind use of their drawing-room.

## ST. LEONARDS.

On the evening of March 18th a drawing-room meeting was held at Miss F. Hall's residence, Bonham House. There was a full and representative meeting. Miss HALL presided, supported by Miss Biggs, Mr. A. W. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Eiloart, Mrs. Tubbs, Miss Dunk, Mr. J. R. Martin, Mr. Muller, &c.

Miss HALL briefly opened the meeting, and read letters of apology from the Rev. Forbes E. Winslow, Mr. Councillor Bray, and Dr. Humphreys. She called upon Dr. Blackwell to move the first resolution. (Applause.)

Dr. ELIZABETH BLACKWELL moved the resolution, which was as follows: "That the function of Government tends increasingly to control the details of private as well as public life, thereby influencing education, industry, morality, and sobriety, it becomes the duty of women as Christians and citizens to exercise those votes which they already possess and to claim the extension of the franchise in order to maintain a due influence on social and political action." The resolution was seconded by Miss C. A. Biggs, and unanimously adopted.

Mr. A. W. ELLIOTT expressed his regret that his friend Mr. Councillor Bray was unable to be present, and then moved "That petitions to both Houses to pass the Bill now before Parliament to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting." He said the object of the movement was to strike away fetters which had long existed. They said that the mere accident of sex ought no longer to be a bar to the Parliamentary franchise. The movement was in the best sense Liberal, and in the truest sense Conservative. If there was any argument in favour of men having the franchise, which did not equally apply to women, he had yet to learn it. Woman had to pay taxes just as much as man, and if the war policy was continued women would have to pay extra income tax as well as men. They had recently had a great extension of the franchise, and the power had passed into the hands of those who were called capable citizens. He thought it was an insult to draw the distinction against women. Tens of thousands of labourers and others who had been given votes could neither read nor write, and yet they shut out the good women, many of whom were foremost in literature and leaders in some of the best moral and social movements of the age. To say that the agricultural labourers and the denizens of the back slums were capable citizens, and that ladies who passed through the colleges and one of the universities with high honours were not capable citizens was the very height of absurdity. It had been said that education should precede enfranchisement, and he agreed with Carlyle that the capable should rule. He believed that women as a class were about on the same level as men. He spoke of some of the advantages which were likely to follow the enfranchisement of women, and said that the present political organisation tended to crush out individualism, which was once a great element amongst Liberal, and men were made to act more like machines. He had always had the privilege of acting with a particular political party, but he was never a strong party man, and now he felt more and more grieved at the position to which politics were sinking and the wretched stuff that passed under the name of politics. He had much pleasure in moving the resolution. (Applause.)

Mr. J. R. MARTIN made an able speech in seconding, and explained how he had upon reflection formed an opinion in favour of women's suffrage. He considered that if women were enfranchised they would be valuable in adjusting the balance in favour of civilisation, religion, and everything that was noble in human nature.

Mrs. EILOART made a vigorous speech in support of the resolution, and spoke strongly of Mr. Gladstone's treatment of the women's suffrage movement. Women worked hard for Mr. Gladstone at the last election, and at Leeds they subscribed towards the return of Mr. Herbert Gladstone; but they would not work on the

same side at the next election. (Hear, hear.) If they did not work for the Conservatives they would be neutral. She remarked that "lips though rosy must be fed," and appealed for subscriptions for the local association.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

Votes of thanks to Miss Biggs, Dr. Blackwell, and Miss Hall closed a most successful meeting.

## REPLIES TO THE MEMORIAL.

The following replies to the memorial have been received from Sir Thomas Brassey, M.P., and Mr. Montagu Scott, M.P.:

"Admiralty, S.W., 18th March, 1885.

"Dear Mrs. Tubbs,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution you have forwarded, and can promise that it shall not be without due weight.—Yours sincerely,  
"T. BRASSEY."

"House of Commons Library, S.W., 12th March, 1885.

"Madam,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial and your letter. On the last occasion I voted in favour of the enfranchisement of women, and it is my intention to support the Bill before Parliament for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women.—I have the honour to remain, madam, your faithful servant,  
"MONTAGU SCOTT."

## LECTURES.

## MILBORNE PORT.

Miss Wilkinson addressed the members and friends of the Milborne Port Liberal Association on February 20th; Mr. S. Smith, chairman of the Association, presiding. A resolution in favour of extending the franchise to women and adopting petitions was heartily carried.

## POOLE.

Miss Wilkinson gave a lecture to the members and friends of the Poole Temperance Society on February 23rd, the subject being the connection of women with temperance legislation. After the lecture a resolution in favour of Parliamentary representation for women was passed by a large majority, four only voting against it.

## EXETER.

On February 24th Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Oddfellows' Hall, Exeter, under the auspices of the Exeter Radical Association. There was a good attendance, including many women who evidently took great interest in the subject. A resolution in favour of conferring the franchise on those women who fulfil the same conditions as men, moved by Mr. A. E. Dunn, seconded by Mr. J. R. Balkwill, was passed unanimously. After the meeting many of the ladies present gave in their names as being desirous of joining the association when the rules would allow them to do so.

## PLYMOUTH.

At a meeting held at the Borough Arms Coffee Tavern, Plymouth, March 2nd, in connection with the Three Towns Women's Liberal Association, Mrs. Barons (president) in the chair, a lecture was given by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, of Bristol, on "The social and political condition of women." At the close the lecturer moved—"That this meeting is of opinion that the Franchise Bill, happily become law, should be supplemented by a law extending the suffrage to householders, without distinction of sex, and adopts petitions to both Houses of Parliament, to be signed by the chairman, and forwarded by him." This was seconded by Mr. Edyvean, and carried. Various questions were asked of the lecturer, and the usual votes of thanks followed.

## ST. AUSTELL.

Under the auspices of the St. Austell Liberal Association, a lecture in aid of the extension of the franchise to women was delivered in the Town Hall, St. Austell, on March 4th, by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage. Mr. F. R. Ray presided. The lecture was of a very interesting character and was well delivered. At the close the lady moved a resolution in favour of a petition being signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting urging the Legislature to extend the franchise to women. This was seconded by Mr. George Thomas. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Robert Bishop to

the effect that it was inexpedient to make any alteration in the franchise at present. This was seconded by Mr. W. J. Nicholls. The resolution was, however, carried by a large majority.

#### TYWARDREATH.

On March 5th, Miss Wilkinson lectured to the friends and members of the Tywardreath Liberal Association, the Rev. S. V. Baker presiding. After the lecture a resolution was carried adopting petitions on the motion of Mr. Josiah Thomas.

#### ST. IVES.

In support of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women householders, Miss Wilkinson, of Clifton, delivered an eloquent lecture in the Public Hall, St. Ives, on March 11th. The lecture, which abounded with facts and arguments in favour of the proposed extension, was listened to with great attention, and was frequently applauded. Mr. E. Hain, Mayor, occupied the chair, and at the close of Miss Wilkinson's address the following resolution, on the motion of Mr. J. Ninness, jun., and Mr. John Stevens, was unanimously adopted: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act, recently become law, should be supplemented by the passing of a measure during the present session of Parliament for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women, and that the chairman of the meeting be empowered to sign a petition to both Houses of Parliament in favour of such extension." Miss Wilkinson having been thanked for her interesting lecture, and the Mayor for presiding, the meeting terminated.

#### CAMBORNE.

Miss Wilkinson gave a lecture on March 13th in the Camborne Assembly Rooms. Mr. John Vivian occupied the chair, and the hall was crowded. At the conclusion an animated discussion took place, and a resolution in favour of giving the vote to women was carried by a large majority.

#### TRURO.

On 17th March Miss Wilkinson lectured in connection with the Liberal Association of Truro in the Corn Exchange, Mr. Hearn in the chair. There was a full meeting. A resolution in support of the extension of the franchise to women was moved by Mr. Knowles, seconded by a gentleman in the audience, and carried unanimously.

#### REDRUTH.

Miss Wilkinson visited Redruth on 20th March, and lectured at the Druids' Hall on "Women and Politics." Mr. George Chellow was voted to the chair, and he was supported on the platform by the Rev. T. Clarke and Mr. T. Moore. There was a good attendance. Mr. T. Moore thought ratepaying and representation should go together, and that it was an injustice to those who paid rates not to be allowed a voice in the spending of the money. He proposed a resolution in favour of the Franchise Act being supplemented by a measure extending the suffrage to all householders without distinction of sex, and to adopt petitions to both Houses of Parliament on the subject. The Rev. A. R. Eagar seconded. He thought everything the lecturer had said was fully justified. The law pressed just as hard on women as on men, and they were taxed as well as men. We wronged our nation as well as women by not giving them the vote. Mr. R. Davey, Mr. W. T. Hosking, and Mr. Roskrow asked questions and made remarks on what Mr. Eagar had stated in his speech. Mr. James Wickett asked whether if ladies had the power of voting it would not lead to the creation of a number of faggot votes, as business men might register their offices, &c., in their own names and their houses in those of their wives. Miss Wilkinson replied that in municipal elections women living with their husbands were not qualified to vote, and the common law would have to be altered before they could do so. The resolution was unanimously carried, and votes of thanks were passed to the lecturer and chairman.

#### BODMIN.

On 23rd March, Miss Wilkinson lectured in the Guildhall, Bodmin, Mr. Cardell, J. P., in the chair, when a resolution in support of women's suffrage was carried.

#### PADSTOW.

Miss Wilkinson lectured on March 26th in the Public Rooms, Padstow, to a crowded audience, the various points in the lecture, which was on "Women and Politics," being taken up in an appre-

ciative manner. A resolution in favour of conferring the franchise upon women possessing the qualifications was passed unanimously.

#### ST. BLAZEY.

Miss Wilkinson concluded her tour in Cornwall by a lecture at St. Blaze, in the Town Hall. The chair was taken by Mr. Joseph Turner, and the resolution adopting petitions to both Houses of Parliament carried.

Referring to these lectures, the *Cornish Telegraph* says:—"The women's suffrage movement has made great headway of late years, owing principally to the energy, no less than the ability, of the gallant ladies who have espoused the cause of their sex. The meetings at Camborne and St. Ives last week were largely attended and admirably conducted, and Miss Wilkinson's addresses were listened to with much attention. Most of the leading men in each place supported the cause by their presence on the platform in the Hall, and Miss Wilkinson must have derived much encouragement from her visit to Cornwall."

#### LAMBETH CARLTON CLUB.

A lecture on women's suffrage was delivered at the Lambeth Carlton Club on January 30th, by Miss Harvey. The chair was taken by Mr. Ernest Baggallay; and among the audience (in which was a large proportion of ladies) were Messrs. Man, Albert, Acres, Kidson, Cole, Vesey Fitzgerald, and Turlie Lee. A resolution in favour of women's suffrage and a memorial to Parliament were passed.

#### DEBATING SOCIETIES.

##### KENSINGTON PARLIAMENT.

On March 2nd the twelfth meeting of the fourth session of the Kensington Parliament was held at the Horbury Schoolrooms, Notting Hill Gate. The business included the Committee on the Representation Bill, and among the notices of amendment was one in the name of Mr. Cecil Bovill (Carnarvon Borough, C), to leave out the word "man" in order to substitute "person." In the absence of Mr. Bovill the amendment was moved by Mr. J. F. Torr (Hereford City, L). Mr. C. H. Batchelor (Blackburn, C) opposed the proposal, as did also Mr. T. Boyd Brown. The amendment was supported by Mr. Dale Hart (Wallingford, L) and Mr. Lewis Emanuel (Glasgow, L). The debate was adjourned. On March 9th, the debate was resumed by Mr. Kirkpatrick (Kildare, C), who said he took what might at the present time be called the unpopular view of the subject. He opposed the proposal. The following gentlemen also spoke against it: Mr. P. E. Clunn (Newcastle-under-Lyme, C), Mr. Gore Brown (Greenwich, C), and Mr. Germaine (Eye, C). The amendment was supported by Mr. G. F. Chambers and Mr. Cecil Bovill, the original proposer, who said that in the event of the amendment being carried he should give notice to further add the words "not being a married woman," so that the clause would then read, "Every person not being a married woman, &c." Mr. Horne Payne (C), First Lord of the Treasury, Mr. W. A. MacArthur (North Leicestershire, L), Mr. T. Melladew (Oldham, L), Mr. J. Batten (Shrewsbury, L), and Mr. Buckingham (Truro, C). On the final division being taken there voted for the amendment 40, against 23, majority 15. The majority in favour of giving the suffrage to women ratepayers 42, including tellers, consisted of 20 Liberals, 19 Conservatives, and 3 Independents. The minority 27, including tellers, of 17 Conservatives and 10 Liberals.

Debates on women's suffrage have also taken place in the Sydenham Parliament and the Hackney Parliamentary Debating Society, complete reports of which have not reached us.

#### OXFORD.

Under the auspices of the Russell Club, a meeting was held on March 3rd, at the Clarendon Hotel, for the purpose of hearing addresses from Mrs. Charles Maclaren and Mrs. Ashton Dilke in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. Mr. A. Sidgwick proposed a vote of thanks to the two ladies, which was carried unanimously.

#### DARWEN.

On February 6th the question, "Ought our Parliamentary franchise to be extended to women," was debated by the members of

#### SHALDON.

On February 14th, the Shaldon Debating Society passed, with only one dissident, a resolution in favour of the Parliamentary franchise being extended to all single women possessing the legal qualification.

#### HOLYWELL HILL.

At a meeting held February 27th at the St. Albans Club a debate took place, Mr. Bartrum advocating the principle that all those who are amenable to the laws should have a voice in the government of the country. Mr. Preece took the negative side. Among other speakers were Rev. H. W. Taylor, Captain Franklin Fox, Messrs. Hurlock, Westell, Slade, Thirkell, Symington, Fisher, Wilton, Tomlin, W. Gudgeon, and F. J. Smith. The voting resulted in favour of the negative by two votes.

#### LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

##### ERITH AND BELVEDERE LIBERAL CLUB.

The executive committee of the Erith and Belvedere Liberal Club met on the 3rd of February. The report of the committee, which was submitted and adopted, contained a record of a public meeting in Erith Public Hall in favour of women's suffrage; speaker, Mrs. Ashton Dilke. It was also reported that petitions had been signed and forwarded to both Houses of Parliament in favour of women's suffrage and the reform of the English law of mother and child. The committee further notified that their "No. 1" object, "the assimilation of the Parliamentary franchise for county and borough constituencies," had now been attained, and they suggest that "manhood suffrage" should now be their "No. 1" object.

[We fear that the manner in which the Erith Liberal Club deal with the question of the suffrage is typical of the attitude of many other Liberal associations and politicians towards the question of extending representation to women. They are ready enough to adopt petitions and pass abstract resolutions, but the moment they are asked to take practical action they push the proposal contemptuously aside, or vote dead against it lest it should interfere with some project for extending the representation of men. As soon as the men's Franchise Bill, supposed to be endangered, is safe, instead of taking up the question they had set aside, they ignore it as a political object, and recommend a further measure of representation for men.]

##### LIBERALISM AT CHARLTON KINGS.

A meeting of Liberals took place at the Vestry Hall, Charlton Kings, last month, under the presidency of the Rev. J. ROBERTS. After an address by Mr. Lehmann, who is proposed as Liberal candidate for the borough of Cheltenham;

The CHAIRMAN asked Mr. Lehmann if he was in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

In reply to the chairman, Mr. LEHMANN said with regard to extending the suffrage to women the matter did not seem entirely clear, for although they might argue that some women had to bear burdens in the same way as men, the fact remained that men were men, and women were women. (Laughter.) Men might be called on not only to spend their money for their country, but to spend their blood and fight for their country. He would not attach so much importance to this but for another point which occurred to him, and in which he had the support of a Radical as eminent as Admiral Maxse. The present arrangement of the franchise, although it had extended the privileges considerably, could not be considered as a final arrangement—(hear, hear)—and he thought that as consistent Liberals they must look forward to the time when every man in this country, so long as he was properly qualified, should have the right to record his vote at Parliamentary elections. (Hear, hear.) When that time came, it seemed to him they would be in a difficult position if they were to keep up in relation to women a fancy franchise which they abolished in relation to men. (Hear, hear.) There was another proposition, viz., to enfranchise single women or widows. That seemed to him to rather put matrimony in the cold shade—(laughter)—because if a woman whilst single or a householder was to have the privilege of recording a vote she would be more chary of entering into the bonds of matrimony than at the present time. (Laughter.) He regretted that he should differ from many of those who were ornaments to

the Mutual Improvement Societies of Hollins Grove and Duckworth-street Congregational Chapels. The speakers were Mr. J. W. Bury, Mr. J. P. Halliwell, and others. No division was taken on the question.

#### SHIFNAL.

A meeting of the Parnassus Debating Society was held on Feb. 19th, Mr. James Price in the chair, to discuss the question, "Ought the Parliamentary franchise to be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote?" Mr. Copeland affirmative, Mr. Whitfield negative. Messrs. Owen, Leake, Guy, White, and others took part. Twelve voted in the affirmative and two in the negative.

#### LEEDS.

At the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Class, on March 9th, a paper was read by Mrs. Agnes Sunley on the Parliamentary vote for women, and the following resolution was passed with only one dissident: "That the time has come when all women who pay rates and taxes (whether married or unmarried) should exercise the Parliamentary franchise, and all other local franchises, equally with men."

Mrs. Sunley delivered a lecture on Feb. 25th to a large meeting of women in the New Watley Liberal Club rooms, when a similar resolution was unanimously adopted.

On Feb. 28th, Mrs. Sunley gave an address to the members and friends of the East Ward Liberal Reform Club. At the close of the lecture Mr. Hainswith moved and Mr. Maundril seconded a similar resolution, which was carried.

##### ECCLES BAPTIST MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

On March 6th, the question of women's suffrage was brought forward at a meeting of this society, Mr. Ward presiding. Mr. F. Cowley read a paper supporting the claim of women householders to vote in Parliamentary elections. He concluded by moving the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Eccles: "That this meeting, being of opinion that the claim of women householders to be admitted to the Parliamentary franchise is just and reasonable, trusts that they will be speedily allowed that share of political power of which they have so long been unjustly deprived." The discussion was continued by Messrs. Buckley, F. Clarke, W. Cowley, T. McCabe, and the Chairman, this last speaker being of opinion that the interests of women were safe in the hands of men. The essayist, in his reply, referred to this, and gave several instances of laws which were unjust to women. On a division being taken, the resolution was lost by the casting-vote of the chairman, showing that the cause had gained ground since a meeting of this society held two years ago, when a similar resolution was rejected by a large majority.

#### LIVERPOOL.

On February 7th the large hall of the Liverpool Young Men's Christian Association Literary Society was crowded with an audience called together to discuss the question, "Should the Parliamentary franchise be extended to women?" Mr. John Currie occupied the chair. The affirmative was moved by Mr. Leon A. Gabriel; Mr. G. E. Young replied on the negative side. The affirmative was supported by Messrs. Richmond Quail and L. W. Zimmermann; the negative by Messrs. Sugden, Fraser, and G. H. Barker. Mr. Young and Mr. Gabriel having replied, the Chairman, after complimenting the openers of the debate on their excellent speeches and the fairness of the debate, put the question to the meeting, and, having counted the votes, announced the numbers to be 224 against and 221 in favour of women's right to vote; majority against, 3. The result was received with cheers and counter cheers, the supporters of the question claiming it as a virtual victory in favour of women's rights. A vote of thanks to the chairman and the openers of the debate, Messrs. Gabriel and Young, concluded the public business of the meeting.

#### NOTTING DALE.

At the Notting Dale Hall, on March 16th, Miss Baggallay delivered a lecture on "Why women want the franchise." There was a large attendance of working men and women. A resolution was adopted and petitions signed by the chairman, Mrs. Attenborough, addressed to both Houses of Parliament. At the close of the meeting discussion was invited, in which several took part. After Miss Baggallay had replied, the meeting terminated.

the Liberal party on this point, but at present, and as far as his enquiries took him on the subject, he was not prepared to give a pledge for the enfranchisement of women. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN said that as the present principle of voting was by the household, when a woman married the household was represented by the husband, but the wife might be said to be included in that household. He thought that women who were the heads of households should have the power to vote.

[The Conservative candidate and ex-member for Cheltenham, Mr. Agg-Gardner, supported the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women in every division while he was in the House of Commons.]

#### STANNINGLEY LIBERAL CLUB.

At a public meeting held at the Stanningley Liberal Club, on February 7th, to inaugurate the admission of ladies as members of the club, the following resolution was submitted and carried: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Franchise Bill, now happily become law, should be supplemented by a measure for extending the suffrage to all householders without distinction of sex." The club is situated just within the borough of Leeds. It has five lady members.

#### WIMBLEDON AND MERTON RADICAL ASSOCIATION.

The eleventh meeting of the second session of this association was held at the Bay Tree, on March 16th, when Mr. Spencer Holland presided, there being also present Mrs. Fenwick Miller (who gave a lecture on "A Reform Bill for Women wanted"), Job Crouch, Marshall, W. Smith, Hawtin, Hewitt, Henden, Baines, C. Fenton, J. Triggs (treasurer), Copus and Peck (joint secretaries), &c., &c. After the lecture a discussion followed, in which the Chairman, Messrs. Triggs, Crouch, Bennett Williams and two socialistic friends took part, but the various speakers were all in favour, and a motion for the extension of the franchise to women, as well as a vote of thanks to Mrs. Miller were unanimously carried.

#### HAMPSTEAD LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

At the inaugural public meeting of the new borough of Hampstead Liberal Association, after addresses from the Marquis of Lorne and Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P., the meeting proceeded to elect the council, which was to choose the candidate for the new borough. It was proposed by W. Blake Odgers, LL.D., F.S.S., secretary of the new association, and seconded by Mr. E. K. Blyth, vice-president, that ladies should be elected members of the council. Ladies had formerly been admitted as members of the Hampstead Liberal Associations, but had never before been placed on the council. The meeting approving of this innovation, Mrs. Maitland, Miss Davenport Hill, Miss F. Davenport Hill, Miss Reid, Miss Rees, and Miss Orme were elected members of council.

#### PADDINGTON.

Miss Cobden has been elected a member of the Liberal Association of Paddington. She will sit for the Central Ward of the proposed constituency. There is a prospect of the election of other ladies as members of the same association.

#### TEIGNMOUTH DISTRICT LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. Brine, of the Ness, has been requested to become a delegate for the parish of St. Nicholas, Shaldon, to the Teignbridge Division of the county, from the Teignmouth Liberal Association, of which her husband, Colonel Brine, is vice-chairman.

### SCOTLAND.

#### CANDIDATES IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. EDINBURGH.

##### CANDIDATURE OF MR. THOS. RALEIGH.

Mr. Thomas Raleigh, M.A., barrister-at-law, London, a prospective candidate for the representation of the Southern Division of the city, which includes Newington, St. Cuthbert's, and St. George's Wards, attended a meeting of several hundred electors in the hall of Dalry Free Church, on March 21st, and expressed his views on a variety of topics, local and imperial. Mr. Raleigh, in reply to a question, said: I am in favour of extending the franchise to all women who are ratepayers.

#### EAST FIFESHIRE.

##### MR. BOYD KINNEAR'S CANDIDATURE.

A crowded meeting of the inhabitants of Auchtermuchty and district was held on March 21st, in connection with the first formal appearance of Mr. J. Boyd Kinnear as a candidate. In reply to Mr. Bell, Mr. Kinnear said he had always been in favour of the extension of the franchise to women. They had souls as well as men. (Cheers.)

#### DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS. EDINBURGH.

A large influential drawing-room meeting was held on March 19th, at the residence of Mrs. Pringle, to consider the question of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women. The meeting was addressed by Mrs. Waddie, Mrs. Morrison Miller, Mrs. Wellstood, Miss Wigham, Miss Burton, and others. Resolutions in favour of the principle were unanimously adopted, and also petitions to Parliament.

#### ROTHESAY.

An informal meeting was held in the drawing-room of Glenburn Hydropathic Establishment, Rothestay, on Friday, 27th February. Mrs. Somerville, of Westbourne, Dalkeith, briefly explained what was wanted, and was ably supported by P. Comyn Macgregor, Esq., of Brendelands, Paisley, and Charles Wm. Anderson, Esq., from Edinburgh. A petition to the House of Commons in favour of the franchise for women was signed by the proprietor and visitors.

#### DEBATING SOCIETIES.

##### GLASGOW PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING ASSOCIATION.

This association met on January 30th, when the member for Durham N. (Con.) moved the second reading of a Bill providing for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. The leader of the Opposition (Burnley) supported the motion, and ultimately married women were included in the Bill.

##### GREAT JUNCTION-STREET U.P. CHURCH, LEITH.

At a meeting of this society, held on 5th February, a debate took place on the question, "Should the franchise be extended to women householders?" Mr. John Harrow, affirmative, and Mr. T. C. M'Nab negative. A vote was taken with the following result: Affirmative, 18; negative, 19.

##### ROSEHALL LITERARY (EDINBURGH) ASSOCIATION.

A meeting was held on Feb. 23rd, when the subject of debate was, "Should female suffrage be established?" There was a large attendance. The motion was in favour of the affirmative.

##### LINTRATHEN SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

The Dowager Countess of Airlie has been returned at the head of the poll in the School Board election for the district of Lintrathen, Forfarshire. It is understood that her ladyship will accept the duties of the office.

##### THE APPROACHING ELECTION OF POOR-LAW GUARDIANS.

The idea of an election is so closely connected with the fierce battling of rival parties, that when in its due rotation the time comes round for an election which does not involve any party battle-cries, which promises a good deal of hard work and wearisome attention to details and but little glory, there is scant interest felt in its results; and yet the election for poor-law guardians, which takes place on the 9th of this month, is a matter involving important issues that are not safe to pass over in indifference. There are, in round numbers, about 800,000 paupers in England and Wales alone (including the sister countries, probably over a million), and these have to be fed, clothed, nursed, taught, and disciplined by poor-law guardians.

A small society which has hitherto done its work very quietly and unostentatiously was established three or four years ago in London with the design of inducing educated women to become poor-law guardians. Similar societies now exist in three or four large towns, but hitherto their progress, though sure, has been slow. Unexpected

difficulties have been found in the way of inducing a large number of women to offer themselves for this post. Those prophets of the future who predict that the possession of a vote by women will at once turn all their aspirations into the direction of public office are here singularly at fault, for women possess this vote like all other local franchises, but the number who will confront the publicity of election, or assume the toils of office, is as yet very limited. Nevertheless, we do not hesitate to affirm that a large field is here open to womanly activity—a field where there is ample scope for feminine tact, knowledge, and sympathy.

Let us cast a glance at the duties which necessarily devolve upon the poor-law guardian, duties which we may characterise as "housekeeping upon a large scale." Here the lady is surely in her element. In the first place, by far the larger portion of the paupers are women and little children. These children have to be fed, clothed, educated, and, finally, placed out in the world to gain their own livelihood. A guardian should know whether the food is properly cooked and of sufficient variety so as to ensure health while studying economy; if the sleeping-rooms are properly ventilated; if the clothing is warm and in fitting repair; if the hours of schooling are lightened by a sufficiency of play and physical exercise; and, lastly, whether some kind of industrial training is given to each child to give it a chance of honest independence as soon as the state withdraws its tutelage. There is perhaps hardly any creature in the world so miserably unfitted for the duties she has to perform as the little workhouse girl, who, qualified by no previous industrial training and guarded by no watchful maternal love, is suddenly placed out among the trials and temptations of a little maid-of-all-work's place. But not one of the details we have enumerated can be so efficiently supervised by men as by women. We hear often enough of the limitations of a "woman's sphere;" let us for once vary the phrase, and ask what are the limitations of a man's sphere, and we emphatically answer that to feed, clothe, and teach little children efficiently and economically is more within the scope of the natural duties of women than of men. A Board of Guardians composed of men only makes a poor figure in calculating yards of print and flannel, or testing the thickness of the porridge for breakfast, and must delegate the work to paid officials. Again, there is work that is only fit for a kind-hearted motherly woman in the infirmary and hospitals. True, there are the matron and the nurses, ignorant pauper nurses too frequently. But where is the kindly thought that will or can provide extra comforts for the old people who are passing their dull last years in this common refuge? Where is the cultivated taste which will bring little alleviations to the bed of pain or sorrow, and suggest some distractions to wile away the weary hours of sickness? The matron has not time among her multifarious duties; the nurses probably do not know how; but cultivated refined women can see these things at a glance, and can effect much by a word or a gentle hint if they have the right to interfere, such as being guardians themselves gives them.

Accordingly, what has been the special work that women who have been elected guardians have set themselves to do? We find from various reports which have been presented to us that they have taken naturally to these domestic duties; they have generally given considerable attention to the selection of a better class of nurses and female servants in the infirmaries. In many cases they have obtained a rule that none but trained nurses are employed; in others lectures on nursing have been instituted. They have also been instrumental in placing patients who had not fairly recovered their health in convalescent homes. The ladies have looked after the schools and the girls who were going out to service, and if unable themselves further to befriend them, have placed them in communication with the Girls' Friendly Society or the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants. They have also assisted in obtaining work for the paupers, particularly the women, and thus by degrees helped them to leave the house. They have especially assisted girls who had been led astray for the first time; helped them to retrieve their character or restored them to their friends. They have found plenty to do on the clothing committees, and have, in some cases, introduced a change of diet, which, without being dearer, is more healthful. They have visited and comforted the sick in the infirmary wards, and have even descended to the seemingly trifling detail (but life is made up of details) of providing employment and amusement for the very old people. There is thus hardly a department of workhouse activity in which a lady's

gracious presence may not make itself felt advantageously, and on which she is not welcomed by her brother guardians as soon as the first novelty of her election has worn off and they cease to be perplexed with fear of change.

How comes it, then, that there are as yet so few ladies who have taken up this most Christian and womanly work? Next week the elections will take place, and in how many, we might rather ask in how few cases, will a woman take a place on the newly-elected board? To a great degree the fact that a poor-law guardian (unlike a member of a school board) must be a householder, with a certain rateable qualification, has excluded many of the women who by disposition or experience would be the best fitted for the post; but how many still hang back because the work is wearisome and disagreeable, or because they fear the notoriety of offering to do something which is not quite in the usual groove of a lady's work? We generally hear women called the compassionate, the charitable sex, but with how many does not the charity end as it begins at home? Here is a work of immeasurable national importance, in which a woman's tact and experience are of more avail than many more pretentious agencies; it is work of a kind which every woman who has the love of God and of her neighbour in her heart can aid in, and yet not fifty women this year have been found in a position and ready to aid in it.

Something may still be done if the friends in every city or parish where there is a woman candidate will exert themselves actively to secure her return; but more, much more, needs to be done in the ensuing year to make known the importance of this duty, so that twelve months hence a far larger number of women in crowded city street, or secluded country parish will take counsel, not of their fears and reluctance, but of their courage, and faith, and Christian charity, and offer themselves for this post of public usefulness, thus reaching forth their hands to the poor and needy.

#### EXHIBITION OF WOMEN'S INDUSTRIES, BRISTOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The exhibition of women's industries which was opened in the Queen's Villa, Bristol, on February 26th, has continued throughout the month to attract large numbers of visitors and much favourable comment from the public and from the press. Although not extensive as compared with many other industrial exhibitions, being restricted within the four walls of a (however, comparatively roomy) villa residence, this exhibition possesses an interest peculiar to itself, in that it is the first organised effort to bring together the varied works which women are pursuing as a trade or profession.

Get leave to work,  
In this world: 'tis the best you get at all.

The motto from Mrs. Browning which the committee have chosen expresses the root idea of the undertaking,—the need to work, therefore to work well, and therefore the need of leave to learn how to work well.

In some places we are familiar with the fact that women do this, in another that they do that kind of work; but this exhibition brings many isolated efforts together, each to strengthen and support the claims of the other, and prove that women are truly striving in many directions, some for the arts' sake, some for bread's sake, to create or produce work worthy to be created or produced. Sometimes it is in the revival of an old and almost forgotten art; sometimes in the opening of a quite new idea; oftenest in the perfecting and improving of some time-honoured occupation long counted to be women's, but which has fallen or is threatening to fall behind the demand of the day in technical instruction and skill.

Space will only allow of a glance at the general features of this exhibition, and perhaps the best way is to go seriatim through the villa. Entering at the porch we find the doorway draped and festooned with flags, large and small, British and foreign, from the manufactory of Mrs. Wolff, of Southampton; we then come on beautifully carved brackets, panels and other specimens of wood-carving from the Schools of Art wood-carving, in South Kensington; then come specimens of printing from the Women's Printing Society, and of work in pottery—Staffordshire ware—shown in all the processes wrought by women, from the mere clay to the finished cup or plate; these are displayed by the kindness of a





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