

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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The Executive Committee of the above Society desire respectfully to call attention to its object and operations, and to make an appeal for donations and subscriptions in view of the present critical period of the movement.

They estimate that a fund of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS, including the regular subscription list, is necessary to free them from debt and to enable them to carry on their work with effect during the coming year. The ordinary subscriptions may be estimated at about five hundred pounds; the extra five hundred pounds should not be hard to raise if all who approve of the measure would support their approval by assisting the Committee at this juncture.

Two Bills for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women were introduced on the opening of Parliament; there is, therefore, a double chance that, if the action of the leaders be vigorously supported, the measure may become law this year.

The Committee, therefore, earnestly appeal to their friends throughout the country for the assistance that will enable them to take every step that may be necessary in order to give them such support, and they do so with hope and confidence that their appeal will not be in vain.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AT WASHINGTON.

The National Woman Suffrage Association, one of the two societies which lead the movement in the United States, has issued invitations to the council to be held at Washington on March 25th for the discussion of various social questions. Many responses to the call have been received, and a large gathering is expected on the occasion, which is to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the movement for women's suffrage in America. Several English ladies are expected to attend the council; but the English women's suffrage societies will not be officially represented. The proceedings are arranged to last over an entire week, and the programme of questions to be discussed includes education, the women of India, philanthropies, prison reform work of St. Lazare (Paris), Society of the Red Cross, hospitals for women and children, temperance, journalism, legal conditions, political conditions, and a variety of other subjects.

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We have great pleasure in announcing that Baron DIMSDALE, acting in concert with Mr. WOODALL, has obtained a place for the Women's Franchise Bill on Wednesday, June 6th. The Bill is identical in terms with that which passed second reading in February, 1886, and was re-introduced by Mr. WOODALL last Session. The Bill is brought in by Baron DIMSDALE, Mr. WOODALL, Sir ROBERT FOWLER, Sir WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH, Sir ALBERT ROLLIT, Mr. ILLINGWORTH, Mr. MACLURE, Mr. STANSFELD, and Dr. CAMERON. Notice of opposition has been placed on the paper by Mr. EDWIN DE LISLE.

A place on July 4th has been obtained for a Bill of similar purport, brought in by Mr. WALTER M'LAREN, Mr. WOODALL, Sir ALBERT ROLLIT, Dr. CAMERON, Capt. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE, Mr. ARTHUR WILLIAMS, and Mr. HOWORTH. This Bill may be moved in case any unforeseen contingency should arise to prevent a division being taken on Baron DIMSDALE's Bill. But Baron DIMSDALE and his coadjutors are resolved to use every effort to press their Bill forward, and they have confident hopes of being able to bring it to a decisive and favourable division.

MR. RITCHIE on behalf of the Government has given notice of a Bill to provide for the qualification and registration of electors for the new County Boards. Of the provisions of this Bill there can be no knowledge until it appears, but there is a strong impression that the qualification will be on a similar basis to the municipal franchise, which is exercised without distinction of sex, and that thus the existing rights of women ratepayers in elections for all local governing bodies will be respected and preserved.

AMONG the notices of motion which now stand in the order book of the House of Commons there are several Bills which have a direct and special reference to women. The first of these, in order of time, is a Bill to abolish the action for breach of promise of marriage. This appeared on the notice paper for the 29th of February, but in the crowded state of the order book it is not likely

the Bill will have a chance of discussion. Still the very fact that members can be found ready to propose legislation for the purpose of depriving women of redress for what is often a cruel and irremediable wrong, should serve as a warning to be in readiness to resist any proposal which can be shewn to have that tendency, and as an argument for admitting to a share in representation the class whose interests are more especially concerned.

Of a more immediately practical character is the Bill to render legal marriage with a deceased wife's sister, which stands as first order of the day on April 18th, with every probability of coming to a division on the second reading. This Bill proposes to alter the status of the wife's relations to the husband, while leaving the status of the husband's relations to the wife unaltered. It may be desirable to abolish the prohibition against marriages of affinity, but surely if this is done it should be effected in such a manner as to be equal as between husband and wife and their respective relations. But it is a very serious matter to disturb the law of marriage, and we have always maintained the position that this is pre-eminently one of those questions which a Parliament representing men only is not morally competent to deal with, and that the question should be postponed until the members who are to vote upon it have women as well as men among their electors.

Sir JOHN LUBBOCK has secured the second of May for his Bill to provide for the compulsory closing of all shops, except those for the supply of refreshment, intoxicating drink, and tobacco, at eight o'clock on five days of the week, and at ten o'clock on Saturday. This Bill if carried will deprive very poor women who have to be at work during the day of their evening hours for shopping, and will greatly increase the number of those legal "crimes" which in themselves are acts morally innocent, of which so many are on the statute book.

More than one Bill deals with the question of imposing the burden of the returning officers' expenses at Parliamentary elections upon the rates. If the ratepayers were the Parliamentary electors there would appear to be no

injustice in requiring them to defray the expenses of elections. But so long as one-seventh of the ratepayers are denied the Parliamentary franchise allowed to the others, it would be a grievous injustice to burden them with the cost of an election in which they had neither part nor share.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, President of the British National Association of Nurses, in speaking at a meeting at St. George's Hall, on February 13th, after explaining the specific objects of the society, went on to say that the organisation had a deeper, wider, and grander meaning. It would, said the Princess, perhaps be the means of showing women in other walks of life that they too can combine successfully, to the manifest advantage of themselves, their fellow-workers, and society in general, in unitedly striving after higher things.

In these few words, Her Royal Highness has struck the key-note of all the existing movements for improving the social and political position of women. Not for selfish advantage, not for good to be obtained at the expense of others, do women desire admission to the higher education and to political rights, but in order that they may unitedly strive, with the increased power conferred by these privileges, in effective co-operation with all who are endeavouring to remove the causes of misery and wrong, and to carry the light of love and hope into the darkest places of the earth.

WE desire once more to call the attention of our friends to the importance of the elections of Poor Law Guardians. The last day for nomination of candidates is on the 26th of this month, and the time, therefore, left us for looking round for suitable candidates is very short. It appears too obvious to need argument that as every board of this kind has to deal with paupers of whom four-fifths are women and children, there should be a proportion of women members; yet even this understates the necessity of the case as the larger part of the remaining fifth are sick or old people, who emphatically require the ministrations and superintendence of women.

While London and the southern counties appear to appreciate better each year the services that lady guardians can render in their unions, it is a little mortifying to reflect that in the great cities of Cheshire and Lancashire there is not one woman yet chosen to fill this important post, and only three in the whole of Yorkshire. Yet the teeming pauper population of Newcastle and Leeds,

Bradford, Sheffield, Liverpool, and Manchester need the aid of womanly experience and sympathy to assist in the management of the agency for their relief, and we cannot doubt that there are enough ladies in these huge centres of population interested in the condition of the poor to find candidates suitable for the purpose even at the present late hour with a determined search. C. A. B.

IT is necessary that every Poor Law Guardian should be a ratepayer, and this condition offers a serious impediment in the way of suitable women candidates. Nevertheless the number of women householders in our large towns is so large (in Manchester about 9,000, Salford 4,000, Liverpool 9,000, Newcastle 4,000, Sheffield 6,000) that even supposing a large proportion of these are not rated to the requisite amount (from £15 to £40), there must be many who are fully qualified. A guardian may be rated for offices as well as for a private dwelling-house, or for her place of business if she be a shopkeeper (one of the most active women guardians we know is a shopkeeper), or she may be a joint occupier of a house, provided her ratable covers the required amount; or she may have more than one little property whose combined ratables come to the necessary amount. We hope our friends will not be discouraged at these difficulties, but will still look out for suitable women candidates, remembering that there is no public duty that any class of citizen can undertake that offers a larger field for charitable and philanthropic work than the economical administration of the rates which press so hardly on the struggling poor, for the relief of those yet poorer who are unable to maintain themselves. C. A. B.

AS the season comes round for the appointment of special local secretaries and assistants in the Science and Art Examinations, which are held during May, we desire to call attention to the suitability of these appointments for ladies, and to urge those concerned in the arrangements for the examinations to appoint ladies as assistants. The duty of the assistant examiner is to take charge of the class during the examination, to distribute the papers to the students, to collect them at the expiration of the specified time, and to see that the rules prescribed are duly complied with. The examination usually lasts two hours, and the fee is ten shillings and sixpence for each class. The examinations last during the whole of May, and a lady could take classes many days in succession.

Last year, the clerk of the Manchester School Board,

who is special local secretary of the Science and Art Examinations in the district, being desirous of throwing open these appointments to ladies, made application to the Department to ascertain whether they would recognise women as assistants in the examinations, and received a reply in the affirmative. This reply was acted on at the time, and we understand that ladies will be again appointed this year. There is no reason why the same arrangement should not be made in other localities if the matter were brought to the notice of the special local secretaries. The subject deserves the consideration of all who are interested in extending the field of profitable occupation for women, and as all the appointments for the year are now about to be made, it is just the right time to move in the matter.

A SOMEWHAT remarkable utterance of Mr. Justice DAY is reported in the Yorkshire papers in reference to a case of assault on a wife sent by the Rotherham magistrates for trial at the Yorkshire Winter Assizes. JOHN THOMAS HEFFERNON was charged with wounding his wife with intent to do her grievous bodily harm at Rotherham, on December 24th last. Mr. LAW, who prosecuted, said that the prisoner was angry with his wife for going to a place that he disapproved of,—and he knocked her down with his fist, and struck her a couple of blows with the poker. In the witness-box the prosecutrix gave her evidence reluctantly and said she did not wish to press the case. His Lordship, in addressing the jury, commented very unfavourably on the conduct of the magistrates in sending the case to the Assizes. He said as the affair was merely a personal squabble, and that no substantial injury had been done, it was a question for the jury to decide whether the prisoner had been guilty of a felonious assault, or whether he had been merely exercising that control over his wife which was still sanctioned by the law of England. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged.

Women should note that the verdict of "not guilty" does not mean that the prisoner did not knock his wife down and hit her with the poker, but that in the opinion of a Yorkshire jury these acts do not amount to an assault when the subject of them is a woman and a wife.

THE annual meeting of the Bristol and West of England Society took place in February in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. BEDDOE, and addressed by Mrs. FAWCETT, Mr. LEWIS FRY, M.P.,

Miss AMELIA B. EDWARDS, Miss EMILY STURGE, and others. A meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, Gloucester, in which Mrs. FAWCETT, Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, Mrs. M'ILQUHAM, and others took part. Mrs. FAWCETT has lectured at Portsmouth and Hastings, Miss BALGARNIE at Norwich and other places, and other lectures have been delivered by various persons during the month.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *February 10th, 1888.*

30. Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women),—Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women, ordered to be brought in by Baron Dimsdale, Mr. Woodall, Sir Robert Fowler, Sir William Houldsworth, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Maclure, Mr. Stansfeld, and Dr. Cameron.
58. Franchise Extension,—Bill to amend the Law relating to the Representation of the People, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Walter M'Laren, Mr. Woodall, Sir Albert Rollit, Dr. Cameron, Mr. Edwards-Heathcote, Mr. Arthur Williams, and Mr. Howorth.
124. Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill,—“to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 6th June, and to be printed. [Bill 11.]
151. Franchise Extension Bill,—“to amend the Law relating to the Representation of the people,” presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 4th July, and to be printed. [Bill 38.]

SPEECHES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. HENRY SMITH WRIGHT, M.P., AT NOTTINGHAM.

On January 27th, Mr. Smith Wright, M.P., delivered his annual address to his constituents in the Mechanics' Large Hall, Nottingham.

At the conclusion of the address the CHAIRMAN said that a question had been handed in writing to Mr. Smith Wright, which he would answer before the resolution was put.

Mr. SMITH WRIGHT said the question he had been asked was “Are you in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women?” Most certainly he was, and he always had been. If he had not he thought he could not be otherwise than strongly in favour of that or any other similar measure on looking round at the galaxy of fair ladies on both sides of the gallery. He thought that qualified women should be able to vote, for they had as much common-sense, and frequently a great deal more, than very many of the men. He did not see why when they could be members of School Boards and vote at all sorts of municipal elections, why on earth they should be debarred from expressing their opinion by their vote on the great political questions on which the welfare of their country depended. He felt sure they were as patriotic as the men and a good deal more so, and not so liable to be led away by clap-trap.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

WEST OF ENGLAND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.
ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the West of England Women's Society was held at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on February 11th, and was well attended. Mrs. BEDDOE presided, and said they had to regret the absence of the Countess of Portsmouth and of Mr. Woodall, M.P.

Miss BLACKBURN (the secretary) read a telegram stating that Mr. Woodall and Baron Dimsdale had secured Wednesday, June

6th, for the reading of the Parliamentary Franchise Extension to Women Bill. Miss Blackburn then read the report for 1887.

The accounts, also presented by Miss Blackburn, showed that the subscriptions and donations amounted to £199. 9s. 6d., and, with several small items, the income was raised to a total of £204. 5s. 7d. The expenses amounted to £198. 19s. 2d., so that there was a small balance in hand and in the bank.

Mrs. FAWCETT moved the adoption of the report, and, having alluded to the progress which had been made, said they had been helped by a power which had of late arisen to influence their Parliamentary representatives in this matter. Their Parliamentary friends had sometimes felt that this measure lacked what she might call a motive power behind it to get it passed and adopted finally as part of the laws of the land. She thought she saw symptoms that this motive power had begun to come into existence. It took the form of women's political associations confined to no one party. Some members of Parliament, with small favour to women claiming representation, would perhaps think long before venturing to put themselves in a prominent position as opponents to this measure when they knew that there were active women's associations in their constituencies that might work either for or against them at the time of the next general election. Another cause for congratulation was the antiquity and feebleness of the reasons adduced by their opponents for refusing the suffrage to women. Professor Goldwin Smith had written recently against women's suffrage, and the quality of his reasons seemed to her a fair measure of the weakness of the cause he advocated. His arguments were exploded fallacies and truisms. Women, the professor told them, could not help in maintaining the Government or in upholding the law. This was certainly an exploded fallacy. Numerous instances had shown women's influence in the direction of good order, and that very town was one in which women had exerted themselves to a remarkable degree in ameliorative works which had done much to raise those who had fallen and restore the lost to a respectable position in society. In these ways, and not by the arm of a policeman or the force of a soldier, women upheld the law and maintained Government. (Applause.)

Mr. LEWIS FRAY, M.P., seconded the motion. He said they possibly might wish him to refer to the Parliamentary prospects of the measure in support of which they were met. He was present when the ballot took place for the days on which Bills should be introduced, and he was pleased that Baron Dimsdale came out, he thought, with No. 12 in the ballot, although there were more than 116 members who entered. This was a very favourable augury, and he had no doubt in selecting the day named wise choice had been exercised. Probably a first place had been obtained for the Wednesday, so that unless something unforeseen should arise it was in the highest degree probable, almost certain, a discussion would take place, and he should hope none of those malign influences so often at work to prevent expressions of opinion would stand in the way of the majority of the House of Commons, now pledged in favour of this Bill, expressing their opinion upon that fact. They had reason to hope, from what happened on Thursday night, the session just commenced would be a working one. That great authority, Mr. Gladstone—(applause)—said he saw no reason why this session should not be a useful and even distinguished one, and he believed men of all parties in the House heard that declaration with the greatest pleasure, as giving them the results of Mr. Gladstone's unrivalled experience in Parliamentary proceedings. They hoped, then, there would be a chance of that and other similar measures becoming law. (Applause.) The ordinary motive power to Parliamentary measures was the influence of party. This was absent in the present case, and he had no doubt the influence such as Mrs. Fawcett had described, brought to bear from political associations, was of the most useful and important character. The progress which the measure had made, and the great number of adhesions it had been received from members of Parliament, had been obtained to a large extent up to the present time without that pressure, and it had won its place in public opinion very much by force of argument, independent of all party or political pressure from without. This was a rather striking fact, and if, as seemed likely to be the case, this political pressure was likely to be added, they might hope an increased impetus might be given to the Bill to enable it shortly to be passed into law. The burden of proof lay upon those who opposed the admission of women to the franchise. The present extended condition of their political franchise sought to give, he thought

they might say, political power to every capable citizen who had anything like a stake in the country, and under that state of things it lay upon those who opposed this measure to give good reasons for the exclusion of women. (Hear, hear.) The question could not be settled by any abstract ideas of justice, but when they found every male citizen who possessed a certain qualification was admitted to the franchise, he said it rested with those who opposed the admission of women to show in what particular way women were disqualified from enjoying a similar privilege. An hon. friend of his once said there was only one reason, and that was they were women. (Laughter.) That was not an argument at all; it might be described as a sentiment, if not a prejudice. These kinds of sentimental objections which had to a large extent stood in the way of the acceptance of this measure by very many persons were to a large extent dying out in the light of experience. Many people had been afraid, and he did not hesitate to say, he, to some extent, had sympathised with them, that the extension of the franchise to women would to some extent interfere with those womanly qualities they all so much loved and desired, and would draw them away from that which had been spoken of as woman's natural sphere—the home. The experience they had had of the part women had taken in public life in exercising the franchise already conferred upon them had done a great deal to lessen, if not do away with, that class of objections in the minds of many persons. (Hear, hear.) Women had votes in municipal and school board elections, and if they passed a great measure extending local government to the counties, it was inevitable women should have votes in these county boards. The way women had taken part in these elections showed it was possible to do it in a perfectly womanlike way. People said home was the natural sphere of a woman. They had better endeavour to let nature take care of her laws would assert their supremacy whatever they might do. He in this particular. He agreed with the sentiment, but if woman should be more or less fitted for a domestic sphere natural had no fear that a measure of this kind would interfere with the true and rightful position of woman in the social community. Liberal politicians had expressed fears of the result to the party of an extension of the franchise. It was an unworthy argument, and one which no true Liberal should entertain. If women had a right to vote, they had a right to express their opinion truly and fully for any party they chose. He did not believe the effect upon party politics would be so great as many persons expected. Women would be as much divided upon political questions as men, and the same influences of association and natural inclination which affected men would make some women Liberal, some Conservative, and possibly some Liberal Unionist. (Laughter and applause.) It was, he was convinced, impossible to maintain the line of exclusion where it was now drawn, and he believed very great advantage on the side of morality, virtue, and public good would result from the influence of women if they were given a voice in Parliamentary elections. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried.

Miss AMELIA B. EDWARDS moved the election of the committee. She expressed her deep sympathy with the movement; she believed it to be right, and right would always triumph in the long-run, though the long-run might sometimes be a very long run indeed. If ever peace was to reign on earth and goodwill amongst men, she thought sometimes it would be due to the pacific influence of women in the council of the nations.

Miss CLIFFORD seconded the resolution, and it was carried.

Mrs. M'ILQUHAM moved: "That this meeting has heard with great satisfaction that in conjunction with Mr. Woodall, Baron Dimsdale has secured the 6th of June for the second reading of the Parliamentary Franchise Extension to Women Bill, and this meeting pledges itself to strengthen the hands of the Parliamentary leaders by every means in its power."

The Rev. A. C. MACPHERSON seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

Miss COCKS moved, and Mrs. Hale seconded, a proposal to petition both Houses of Parliament, and this having been carried, Miss E. STURGE moved, and Mrs. HALLETT seconded, thanks to the speakers, to which Mrs. FAWCETT replied.

GLOUCESTER.

A meeting in the interests of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women was held in the Corn Exchange, Gloucester, on

February 7th. Mr. VASSAR SMITH presided, and there were also present Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. M'Ilquham, Miss Blackburn, Revs. W. Tucker and J. Macdonald, Sir William Wedderburn, Bart., Dr. Batten, Mr. T. N. Foster, Mr. T. Gambier Parry, Mr. H. Jeffs, Mr. W. Stafford, Mr. Joseph Ward, Mr. J. J. Seekings, Dr. Bond, Mr. Jas. Fielding, Mr. C. Brown, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. C. H. Clutterbuck (Deputy-Mayor), Mr. Councillor Arkell, Mr. Councillor Baker, Mr. Councillor Ward, Rev. C. Naylor, Mr. H. E. Waddy, Mr. Gardom, Mr. Garnham, Mr. J. D. Robertson, Major Roberts, Mr. Bealey, Alderman Knowles, Mr. Councillor Bruton, Mr. Josiah Castree, and many others, and a large number of ladies.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said letters expressing regret at inability to be present had been received from Mr. T. Robinson, M.P., the Rev. Canon Mayne, and Capt. de Winton. He thought on looking at the large meeting before him that it was unnecessary for him to make any excuse on behalf of those responsible for calling the meeting, because it was evident that they all felt a deep interest in this growing movement, the advance of which was evidenced by the number of meetings held throughout the country and the numerous works written in favour of it. (Hear, hear.) He took it that the old Acts fully intended that both men and women who were properly qualified should vote, but as the law had been laid down by some judges debarring women they must take that and look forward in hope to the removal of this disability so that women might exercise what they had a right to. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. FAWCETT, who was cordially received, then delivered an address.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN said he was sure that he should only be expressing the feelings of all present when he said they had been very much impressed with what they had heard from the distinguished lady who had just been addressing them. (Applause.) He felt he was at a disadvantage in following a speaker so lucid and cogent, while on the other hand he felt there was an advantage in that respect. He moved the following resolution in support of the views and doctrines which Mrs. Fawcett had just enunciated; feeling that their minds had been well prepared to accept it by a speech which was so full of facts, arguments, and convictions: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who pay rates and taxes, and this meeting adopts petitions to both Houses of Parliament in support of the Parliamentary Franchise Extension to Women Bill, to be signed by the Chairman on its behalf and forwarded by him to the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and Mr. Thomas Robinson, M.P., for presentation." The Bill which was referred to would give the Parliamentary franchise to about 900,000 women who were householders, or about one-seventh of the male voters. As had already been mentioned, women had for some time possessed a vote in matters of local and municipal administration, and had acquitted themselves in a satisfactory way in their elections as guardians of the poor, and in the more recently constituted School Boards. All the effect of this Bill therefore would be to extend the function they already satisfactorily exercised, and would give them a voice in the control of the administration of the country in the same way they now possessed in local administration. This subject of the franchise to women as had been already mentioned had been brought mostly to the front during the last twenty years, and he could remember very well a time before this movement had made so much progress as it now had when its very name of "women's rights" was considered quite odious to polite ears. (Laughter.) He could remember very well how a good many years ago a lady asked him in a tone of complete horror whether it was true he was in favour of women's rights. With the habit of Scotchmen to answer questions by asking another, he asked her if she was in favour of women's wrongs. She replied she was not, so he thought they did not differ very much. He believed that those who would not stand up for women's rights were those who had a hand in forming women's wrongs. (Applause.) In confirmation of this, he would relate a little instance which came under his own observation in India. It was the case of a woman who went out nursing an officer's wife, and not getting any wages demanded them, ultimately having to go to the Court of Request to enforce her demand. He was sorry to say the officer avenged himself by giving the money to the woman's husband, who was a drunken scoundrel, and immediately drank it all away. There was an instance of women's wrongs, but he was glad to say that part of the law had been amended to a certain extent. (Hear,

hear.) He believed, too, the labour laws were such as would not have been framed if women had had a voice in the matter, and the same applied to the matter of education. All these matters were now within the scope of legislation, but he believed no proper redress for those grievances would be obtained unless women had a vote. Perhaps people might say a good many of these grievances had been already redressed, and by the activity of their members others would follow, but he had very little confidence in that, believing in their being forced to attend to the needs of any class. He thought the very fact of their having a free and representative constitution was specially unfavourable to any class which was unrepresented, and in fact an unrepresented class in a country of representative interests was really worse off than under despotism.

Mrs. M'ILQUHAM seconded the resolution, which was adopted. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and those who had addressed the meeting was moved by Dr. BOND, seconded by the Rev. W. TUCKER, and carried most cordially, and, after a few words of reply from Mrs. Fawcett and the Chairman, the meeting separated.

HASTINGS.

On January 26th, at the Public Hall, Hastings, a public meeting was held in support of the women's suffrage movement, when an address was delivered by Mrs. Fawcett. There was a good attendance. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Stubbs) presided, and there were present the Mayoress, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, Mr. Eiloart, Rev. Dr. Seddon, Mrs. Tubbs, Miss F. Hall, Mr. T. H. Cole, M.A., Mr. B. Bickle, Mr. W. Slade, Mr. J. Huggett, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. D. H. Gabb, &c. At the close of the address, resolutions in favour of women's suffrage and the adoption of a petition to the House of Commons were adopted. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Fawcett for her able and interesting address and the Mayor for presiding.

PORTSMOUTH.

On January 27th, a public meeting was held in the Victoria Hall, Southsea, when there was a large attendance. Lieutenant-General T. N. Harward presided, and among those supporting him on the platform were Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Florence Balgarnie (the deputation), Lieutenant-Colonel Wintle, Councillors J. H. Allen, A. Ross, W. T. Dittman, and W. Ward, the Revs. B. D. Aldwell and J. Horwill, Mr. H. Palin, &c. Resolutions in support of the principle of women's suffrage were spoken to by the Chairman, the Deputation, the Rev. B. D. Aldwell, Mr. W. Ward, Mr. Dillman, and others, and the proceedings concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

A meeting was held on February 6th, at the Athenæum Hall, Bury St. Edmunds. The MAYOR (Mr. F. C. Andrews) presided, and there were also on the platform Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Floyd, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Salmon, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cornish, Miss Balgarnie, Miss Bateson, Rev. W. H. Cole, &c.

After some observations by the Mayor in favour of the object of the meeting, Miss BALGARNIE delivered an address. Mrs. CHAS. SALMON then proposed a resolution in support of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women. Mr. J. FLOYD seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

The Rev. W. H. COLE proposed that a petition based on the foregoing resolution be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of that meeting, and be sent to Lord Francis Hervey for presentation in the House of Commons.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. CORNISH, and unanimously carried.

A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Balgarnie, on the motion of Mr. C. SALMON, seconded by Miss OLIVER, and

Miss BALGARNIE, having briefly replied, proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

This was seconded by Miss BATESON and carried, and the MAYOR having acknowledged the vote, the meeting terminated.

YARMOUTH.

A public meeting, in connection with the National Society for Women's Suffrage, was held in the Minor Hall at the Aquarium, on February 7th, the Mayor (R. Martins, Esq.) in the chair. Letters of apology for non-attendance had been received from Sir Edward Birkbeck, M.P., E. W. Worledge, Esq., W. Barnard, Esq., and other gentlemen. The Chairman considered that women who owned

or occupied property and paid rates and taxes should have the Parliamentary franchise. Miss Balgarnie followed with an address in support of the movement. Mr. F. Danby Palmer moved, and Mr. J. Eockes seconded, the following resolution, which was carried: "In the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the same qualifications as entitle men to vote." Mr. J. W. B. Johnson moved, "That a petition based on the former resolution be signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and be sent either to Sir Henry W. Tyler or Sir Edward Birkbeck, for presentation to the House of Commons." This was seconded by Mr. H. Blyth, and carried. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Mayor and Miss Balgarnie.

LOWESTOFT.

On February 8th, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Lowestoft, under the presidency of the Mayor (W. H. Clubbe, Esq.). There were also present the Mayoress, the Deputy-Mayor, and Miss Newman, Messrs. W. W. Garnham, W. Mobbs, A. Adams, and J. Beckett, jun. The Mayor said the object of the meeting was to assist in the movement for the extension of the franchise to women who were householders. Mr. W. W. Garnham proposed the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." The Deputy-Mayor seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss Balgarnie, and it was carried with one dissentient. A resolution was also passed, "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and be sent to Sir Savile Crossley, Bart, M.P., for presentation in the House of Commons."

NORWICH.

On February 10th, a public meeting was held in the Prince's Street Congregational Church Lecture Hall, Mr. Alderman WHITE presided. Miss Balgarnie and Miss Bateson attended as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Among those on the platform were the Rev. W. A. McAllan, Mr. Councillor Saul, Mr. Councillor Green, Mr. Councillor Savage, Mr. W. R. Anthony, Mr. E. Burgess, and others. After some remarks by the chairman, the Rev. W. A. McAllan moved a resolution in favour of women's suffrage, which was seconded by Mr. W. B. Anthony, and supported by Miss Balgarnie, and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Councillor GREEN moved: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting."

Mr. BURGESS, who seconded, said that on the municipal electoral roll for Norwich there were 2,900 women.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and the proceedings concluded with votes of thanks to the chairman and the Rev. G. S. Barrett, for granting the use of the Hall.

BUSHBURY.

On February 6th, a meeting was held in the school-room, Bushbury Lane, under the presidency of Mr. E. M. Howard, to consider the question of women's suffrage. The discussion was opened by a paper read by Mr. W. J. T. Minors, in the course of which he said the granting of the franchise to properly qualified ladies would give them an increase of about 30 votes in Bushbury, or 1,800 in the Kingswinford division, and he believed that as the ladies were both shrewd and sensible the great majority of those would be Conservative voters. Mr. Burton took the opposite side. Mr. Jabez Howard took part in the discussion and said he was in favour of women's suffrage on the same conditions as the men enjoyed their electoral rights. At the conclusion of the debate Mr. Minors proposed "That in the opinion of this meeting the time has arrived when duly qualified women ought to be admitted to the same electoral franchise as men." This was seconded by Mr. Veale, and on being put was carried. The Chairman, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Minors, declared himself opposed to women's suffrage. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

LONDON.

At a meeting held on the 21st February, in St. Jude's Schools, Commercial-street, E., Mr. Woodall, M.P., opened a discussion upon the question of women's suffrage, and throughout his able remarks,

advocating the extension of the franchise to women householders, was listened to with great attention and evident appreciation. He pointed out that up to a certain point the registers of those entitled to vote in public elections were all compiled in an exactly similar way; but that the law stepped in at one particular place and effected a separation between those to whom the franchise was given and those who, although duly qualified in every other respect, were yet denied the power of voting simply by reason of their sex. Two principles were adopted in conferring the franchise: they began with property qualification, and then changed this principle for a basis implying capacity for voting in one sex only. He then proceeded to ask why it was that such illogical opposition should be raised to the complete adoption of one fundamental principle that should depend on the same essentials throughout. Woman's sphere, it is said, lies altogether and wholly outside the political world; but this is almost entirely due to the treatment she has received in the past, and public feeling is now very much altered on this point. Things are greatly changed, and indeed continue to do so day by day. Notably is this to be seen in the extensive and admirable work done by women as members of school boards and as guardians of the poor. The burden of proving women's incapacity for public life lies entirely on those who affirm it. Mr. Woodall went on to refute some of the objections brought against this proposed extension of the franchise, or removal of disability, and referred briefly to the absurd idea that only those should have the power of voting who were able to act on occasion as defenders of their country; but he apologised for trespassing on the time of the meeting by any such allusions to what would be at once stigmatised as a frivolous objection, to which indeed he had only made reference because so high an authority as Sir Henry James had actually advanced it as a serious argument against women's suffrage. The question at issue is almost entirely one of abstract justice, though, of course, it would necessarily be therefore one of expediency; and the exclusion of women from public life is not only unjust, but is on every ground positively inexpedient. Her co-operation is of the greatest value in every part of political life, and her influence is exerted whether there be any wish to keep it out or not. It is always better for this to be done openly and as a matter of course, than for occasion to be given for underhand and secret influence. The difference even between those races whose women are totally secluded and those who allow a partial freedom is sufficiently marked to give ample proof that further movement in the latter direction is not only advisable, but necessary. Mr. Woodall concluded by moving the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting, the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary franchise is both unjust and inexpedient." After an animated discussion, Mr. Woodall spoke briefly in reply, and the resolution was carried with but four or five dissentients.

LECTURES.

DULWICH WORKING MEN'S LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB.

On February 5th, an address was delivered to a large audience at this institution by Mrs. Fenwick Miller on "Women and the Vote." The lecturer contended, in the course of her address, that while lunatics and criminals were placed on the register and entitled to vote at Parliamentary elections, it was monstrous that the vote should be withheld from women. She strongly advocated the extension of the franchise to widows and unmarried women, who were justly entitled to it by their contribution to the taxation of the country. At the close of the address, a resolution supporting the views expressed by Mrs. Miller was submitted to the audience, and was unanimously agreed to.

DOWNS CHAPEL, CLAPTON.

On February 13th, Mrs. Fenwick Miller delivered an address to the Discussion Society, Downs Congregational Chapel, Clapton, London. The attendance was good, and included a large number of ladies. Mrs. Miller moved the adoption of a petition, which was seconded by Mrs. Crosby, daughter of the late Mr. George Gowland, president of the Liberal Association. Mr. Payne and other gentlemen supported the petition, which was carried, there being no opposition.

NEWINGTON REFORM CLUB.

On February 22nd, Mrs. Ashton Dilke delivered a lecture on "Woman's Suffrage" in the new lecture hall of the Newington Reform Club. Mr. Charles E. Hope occupied the chair. Mr. J. Feron moved, and Mr. Brady seconded, "That this meeting is in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary vote to all duly qualified women." This was carried unanimously.

THORNTON HEATH LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB.

At the Seneca Hall, Thornton Heath, a lecture on women's suffrage was delivered by Miss Balgarnie on January 25th. Mr. Clarke presided, and after the lecture a resolution to the effect that a petition be adopted in favour of the enfranchisement of women was carried on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Jupp, seconded by Dr. Jackson. Mr. Chubb and several other speakers took part.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

MUTLEY.

In connection with the Mutley Baptist Mutual Improvement Society, a debate was opened on "Woman Suffrage" by Mr. Knowles, who dealt with the subject in a comprehensive manner. A spirited debate followed, Messrs. W. C. Shaddock, N. Phillips, G. Treleaven, and H. Lean taking part in the discussion. A resolution supporting woman suffrage was proposed, and also an amendment, but the former was carried by a small majority. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Benwell Bird.

LIVERPOOL IRISH LIBRARY INSTITUTE.

The usual weekly meeting of this society was held on January 24th, at 52a, Byrom-street, Mr. J. M. Denvir in the chair. The subject of debate was women's suffrage. Mr. D. McCarthy opened in the affirmative, and was supported by Messrs. Mulhall, Murphy, Grimes, and Connolly. Mr. W. J. Wolfe opened in the negative, and Messrs. Taggart, Darcy, and Gerraghty followed on the same side. A vote was then taken, which resulted in a victory for the affirmative.

POLITICAL SOCIETIES.

MIDLAND UNION OF CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

LADIES' AUXILIARY COUNCIL.

The fourth quarterly gathering of the Midland Union of Conservative Associations took place at Hereford on February 16th. The proceedings commenced with a meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary Council, under the presidency of Lady Sawyer. In the course of the proceedings, Mrs. Douglas, a Canadian lady, read a paper entitled "The political status of women lowered by the extension of the franchise." She said that, bearing in mind that at the last meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary Council, she was in a minority of two in opposition to the extension of the franchise to women, she naturally felt that hers was the unpopular side of the question. After Mrs. Douglas had read her paper, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett replied on behalf of the Parliamentary franchise for women. The addresses of both ladies were received with the greatest attention. After an address by Mrs. S. Wilson Lloyd, on the Primrose League, Sir James Sawyer said he did not know that he had any claim to speak at the meeting were it not that he happened to be chairman of the Midland Union of Conservative Associations, of which the Ladies' Auxiliary Council was so charming and efficient a part. Their thanks were particularly due to those ladies who had spoken there that day, and they as gentlemen were especially grateful for being allowed to form part of the auditory on this occasion. He might add that some of the men present might venture to be proud of their wives. He was quite sure that the husbands of all ladies who had taken part in the conference would feel indeed pleased that their wives had at last come forward to help in the work of diffusing political information. He did not think it would become him, as chairman of the Conservative Union, to say what his opinion was officially upon the question of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, but as an individual he was in favour of that extension. Sir Joseph Bailey, M.P., proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. Hallett, and Mrs. Lloyd for their addresses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rankin, M.P., and

carried unanimously. Miss Cockshott moved, and Mrs. Lambert seconded, a vote of thanks to Lady Sawyer for presiding, and after a brief reply the proceedings terminated.

CONSERVATIVE CLUB, FROME.

The meeting of this class took place at the club on February 16th, when an address was given by Mr. Percy Cruttwell on the franchise for women. Mr. Baily presided during the reading of Mr. Cruttwell's paper, and there were present Messrs. E. Olive, W. Bishop, E. Watson, J. W. Singer, C. Hillier, I. Bray, F. Adams, A. Moldram, W. Brewer, C. W. Cousins, C. Holloway, jun., A. Chivers, C. Pratten, S. G. Derry, G. W. Jackson, &c. Mr. Percy Cruttwell said, as members of this club, their opinions were, he trusted, finally formed on all important matters relating to party politics. The subject for discussion that night was one on which he had always had strong opinions, and he need hardly say that he should open the question in the affirmative. After an exhaustive address, Mr. Cruttwell concluded by saying that his own opinion was decidedly that only spinsters of full age and widows who had the necessary property qualifications ought to have votes. He should view with alarm the extension of the franchise to married women. He observed in the papers that Baron Dimsdale had given notice of the Women's Suffrage Bill this session. When that comes on they would hear the details more freely discussed. His aim had been rather to uphold the general principle of the thing than to try to explain or answer any of the difficulties of detail which were certain to arise. He knew that if women were admitted to the franchise, it would be a great gain to the Conservative cause. While regarding the question quite impartially, and supporting it in any case, he admitted that this consideration did not make him any less keen in its favour. An animated discussion ensued, at the conclusion of which Mr. Cruttwell replied, and on a division the proposition in favour of women's suffrage was adopted by twenty-three votes to three. Votes of thanks to Mr. Cruttwell and the chairman concluded the proceedings.

SOUTH WALES LIBERAL FEDERATION.

PEMBROKE DOCK.

The annual meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Liberal Federation was held at Pembroke Dock on January 25th.

In the course of the proceedings, Mr. EVANS moved the following resolution in relation to manhood suffrage: "That in order to complete the representative character of the House of Commons, and to give full effect to the will of the people, this council declares it to be of the first importance that the franchise should be based solely on the principle of 'one man one vote,' and that the laws of registration should be so reformed as to assist every duly qualified citizen in securing his electoral rights."

After some discussion, Mr. L. R. ISITT proposed an amendment to the effect that the franchise should be based solely on the principle of "every man one vote," and added that if he could have his way he would put in the words, "and every woman too."

The CHAIRMAN asked if any one was prepared to second the amendment, whereupon

Mr. A. J. WILLIAMS, M.P., who was loudly cheered on rising, said that he very much doubted if the amendment were necessary, as "one man one vote" meant every adult in the kingdom. (Cheers.) He found that Mr. Howell, who had given great attention to this question, and who had drawn up a bill of his own, said that all men—each man in his Parliamentary division—should have a vote, therefore the amendment was not required. He felt that, so far as he was concerned, he would be untrue to the strong convictions of the whole of his life if he did not propose an amendment which had for its object the giving of a vote to every woman in the kingdom, and he therefore had great pleasure in doing so. (Hear, hear.) For twenty years he had belonged to an Association the object of which was the enfranchisement of women. Every hour he lived confirmed the conviction that this anomaly and injustice—worse, in fact, in one respect than injustice—was the greatest misfortune for this country. They should place women in that position of responsibility which their intelligence, their high instincts for right, their domestic affections, the training of their children, and their association with youth fitted them so eminently. The girls of today were the adult women of the future, and they should not be denied the privileges accorded to men. (Applause.) Those who opposed the enfranchisement of women were opposing, to his mind,

the greatest interests of the country. (Hear.) He was sure that if they could place upon the register all the women in the kingdom there would be a revolution with reference to war. (Applause.) There would be an enormous change for the better in the management of their public educational institutions. It was all nonsense to say there was a Conservative instinct in women. There might be in a limited class which was under the influence of the priests and the parsons. (Laughter.) But to say that the women of the great Welsh Nonconformist body, where they fought side by side with their husbands and brothers, to say that the women who, in his own division, had helped to elect him would not use properly the powers entrusted to them was irrational nonsense. (Cheers.) Let them be true to their principles, let them act up to their advocacy of justice and equal rights, let them give women votes. (Applause.)

Mr. HOWELL seconded the amendment, for, being associated with the same society Mr. Williams alluded to, he could not allow the proposal to fall through for want of a seconder.

The CHAIRMAN said there had been no seconder to the first amendment, and he suggested that after the explanation of Mr. Williams, the gentleman who had moved it would allow it to be withdrawn.

This having been agreed to, Mr. ARTHUR WILLIAMS said, in answer to an inquiry, that what he meant by his amendment was that women should be put on the same terms as the men—whatever franchise was given to adult men should be given to adult women.

The Rev. ROBERT ANN (Tenby) said he was afraid if the resolution were amended in the way proposed it might be too strong for some present, and he should like to first get the original resolution carried—it would be done with unanimity—rather than have it complicated with a proposal on which there might be some division of feeling. Would Mr. Williams consent to put his proposal as a separate resolution?

Mr. WILLIAMS consented to the suggestion, and the original motion was then put and carried unanimously.

WOMEN AND THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. ARTHUR WILLIAMS then said he felt he should be wanting in his duty if he did not propose, as he now did with pleasure, "That the Parliamentary franchise be given to women."

The Rev. AARON DAVIES (Pontlottyn) seconded.

Mr. S. T. EVANS said there was no necessity for hurrying the question forward, and he therefore suggested that it would be better to defer it. It was not within their programme, and had certainly not been accepted as a plank of the general Liberal programme, and he respectfully suggested that the hon. member postpone the question till notice was given of it.

Mr. ARTHUR WILLIAMS: I am quite willing. I only want it to be perfectly understood that personally I hold this opinion.

BRENTFORD LIBERAL AND RADICAL CLUB.

On February 8th, an address on women's suffrage was delivered at the Brentford Liberal and Radical Club by Mr. A. Dean (of Bedfont). The chair was occupied by Mr. E. Moyce. The lecturer, having stated his intention of giving both sides of the question, proceeded first to give the reasons upon which the advocates of women's suffrage based their claim. In stating the other side of the question, the lecturer said that as Radicals they were looking forward to manhood suffrage, and if women were to be placed on an equality with men now, when that time came the bulk of political power would be in the hands of women. A discussion followed, and the usual votes of thanks closed the meeting.

BRISTOL LIBERAL FEDERATION.

On February 16th, a public meeting, in connection with the St. Michael's ward, was held in the schoolroom in Maudlin-street, an address being announced by Miss Emily Sturge on "women's suffrage." Mr. H. Daniel presided. At the conclusion of the address, a discussion followed, and the proceedings concluded with the usual vote of thanks.

BRISTOL WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

The Bristol Women's Association issued invitations for a conference on February 1st, which was largely attended by delegates from the various corresponding societies. The circular invited

delegates "from the associations affiliated to the Women's Liberal Federation, in order to discuss the present position of the women's suffrage question, and the best means of promoting the passing next session of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. The present appears to be a most favourable opportunity for the expression of an opinion on this important matter from all who, while supporting women's suffrage in the abstract, have not thought it worth while to include it among the objects of the federation."

The conference was held in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on the morning of February 1st, and was composed of delegates from Liberal associations affiliated with the Women's Liberal Federation, to consider the best means of obtaining the franchise for women. Newcastle and Gateshead, Wolverhampton, Nottingham, South Kensington, East Somerset, Wells division of Somerset, and Bristol were represented, and letters were received from nearly every association.

Most of the letters expressed sympathy with the object of the conference and wished it every success. The delegates unanimously adopted a resolution: "That having experienced the insufficiency of political work done by bodies of exclusively unrepresented persons, this conference strongly urges all women's Liberal associations to assist, by every means in their power, the passing of a measure conferring the franchise on duly qualified women."

In the evening a soirée and public meeting was held in the Victoria Rooms, Mrs. ARTHUR TANNER presiding. The President briefly introduced the object of the meeting, and Miss EMILY STURGE proposed the first resolution: "That this meeting, believing in the fundamental principle of Liberalism—government of the people by the people—considers the arbitrary exclusion of all women from Parliamentary representation to be a practical denial of a great Liberal doctrine, and earnestly desires that this infringement on liberty may be speedily removed by the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as men."

The speaker remarked that this year they attained their majority in this agitation, it being in the year 1867 when the late John Stuart Mill first moved in Parliament an amendment to the Franchise Bill then before the House of Commons, that women should be included in it. Without doubt, they had made some progress since, but they had also experienced a great deal of disappointment. Many of them had hoped that the passing of the last Franchise Act would recognise this claim of theirs that women should be included in the measure as well as those who actually came under its operation; but they were again shut out. However, they still hoped that the time was not far distant when the Liberal party would see the justice and suitability of granting the Parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as it had granted the suffrage to men. Many Liberals expressed a fear that the majority of women would become Conservative voters. But was it likely that if they obtained the franchise from the Conservative party they would become more Liberal than at present? They would not feel gratitude to the Liberal governments who refused that. There now seemed a bare chance of the Conservatives winking at the passing of the Bill this year. Liberal women would be extremely sorry if that should be so, and would rather owe their enfranchisement to a Liberal government, though to urge this objection was abandoning principle to expediency and opportunism.

The Rev. J. ROBBERTS, in seconding the motion, said that legislation would be improved if they had the strong and direct influence of women's mind. It would have been a graceful and appropriate act if the Queen's jubilee year could have been marked by granting the suffrage to Her Majesty's own sex.

Mrs. SPENCE WATSON, of Newcastle, supported the resolution, and dwelt on the great progress which had been made by their movement, inasmuch as a few years ago hardly any one would have been bold enough to support such a resolution as had been proposed that evening, that women should have the franchise on the same terms as men. As had been explained, the association had now reached its majority, and in entering upon womanhood they might hope that the long delayed vote would at last be granted to them. A great deal was due to the women of Bristol, who had been long to the forefront in the fight. There could be no doubt that in the end the franchise, which had been so long delayed, would be given to women.

Mr. W. H. ELKINS also supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Professor Goldwin Smith has written an excited article in the *National Review* on Conservatism and Women's Suffrage. The article is full of the most dire foreboding as to the "wreck of the nation," which is to follow the grant of the Parliamentary suffrage to duly qualified women. The following passage may serve as a sample of the tone adopted by the writer. "In Canada we have not political suffrage for women, but we have municipal suffrage for widows and spinsters. The result, as many people think, is a tendency to sentimental and arbitrary legislation. The side which the woman espouses is that of Christ, the other side is that of Barabbas. There is some reason to suspect that we should not enjoy so much liberty as we do now if all the women had votes." A reply by Mrs. Fawcett appears in the current number of the *National Review*.

SKETCHES FROM THE PAST. No. 3.

NICHOLAA DE LA HAYE (obit 1229).

"And after the war it befell that the Lord the King, John, came to Lincoln, and the Lady Nicholaa came forth from the western gate of the castle, carrying the keys of the castle in her hand, and met the said Lord King John and offered him the keys as lord; and said she was a woman of great age, and had endured many labours and anxieties in that castle, and she could bear no more. And the Lord the King returned them to her sweetly, and said, Bear them, if you please, yet awhile."

Might not this scene (which is preserved to us in that Royal Commission of inquiry into the condition of the country in the thirteenth century, the *Rotuli Hundredorum*) furnish a fine motive for a picture? The aged lady, valorous and loyal, whose chief deed of valour and loyalty was yet to come, advancing to meet the king at the castle gate, and seek relief from the arduous post where he had placed her; and the king, desirous to persuade so steadfast an adherent to continue to hold "in time of peace and in time of war" what, in those disturbed days, was one of the most important fortresses of his kingdom. For Nicholaa de la Haye and Gerard de Camville, her husband, had stood by King John in all his troubles; too well for themselves at times; their attachment to John before he was king had brought suspicions and confiscations upon them, and Gerard had had to pay a heavy sum to Richard I. in order to be repossessed of his own estate, while Nicholaa paid the king three hundred marks for leave to marry her daughter to whom she would, provided it was not to an enemy of the king. What romantic story may be hidden behind that brief statement, of some threatened hateful marriage by command of the suzerain, and some possible happy marriage with the blessing of a mother?

After the death of King Richard, Gerard de Camville was reinstated as Governor of Lincoln Castle, during the remainder of his life, and at his death John transferred the appointment to his wife "a lady eminent in those days" as Dugdale has it. She was evidently a lady ready to sacrifice private ease to public duty, for not only did she continue to act as Governor of the Castle after the above mentioned visit of the king, but in the last year of his reign he appointed her to be also Sheriff of Lincoln. The following year, 1217, found her still at her old post, when the partisans of Louis the Dauphin laid siege to Lincoln. Though the town sided with the besiegers, though 600 knights and 20,000 foot soldiers came to reinforce them, Nicholaa maintained the defence of her Castle until the Earl of Pembroke arrived with an army to her relief. Her services seem to have again met with recognition in the shape of additional demands upon them; for in the next year she was again appointed Sheriff by Henry III. This, however, apparently

closed her public career, and the end of her days were passed in peace at Swaynston, where she died about 1229.

Few and meagre as are these glimpses, they suffice to indicate a valiant spirit, ready to endure many things for the public good and honoured as of public service. It is interesting to note that the granddaughter of the valiant Nicholaa became the wife of the eldest son of the devout Ela of Salisbury. H. B.

Obituary.

SIR HENRY SUMNER MAINE, K.C.S.L., &c.—We regret to record the death last month of Sir Henry Sumner Maine, whose many attainments in history and learning cause his loss to be deeply and widely deplored. We can but add our tribute of gratitude for his researches into early history, which brought to light so much that has served to illustrate the position of women and assist in the amelioration of the law. He delivered a lecture on the early history of the property of married women at Birmingham in 1873, which lecture formed part of a then unpublished work he allowed to be printed and circulated by the Married Women's Property Committee. He was in favour of the franchise for women, although he took no active part in the movement.

MARY HOWITT.—The death of this venerable lady at the age of nearly ninety took place on January 30th, at Rome. William and Mary Howitt were familiar names in the literature of the past half century, and the separate writings of Mary Howitt were also numerous. She was the first to introduce into English literature the writings of Frederick Bremer, and few more popular and delightful stories have been issued than the series of translations by Mary Howitt of the *Home* and other novels of the gifted Scandinavian. Mary Howitt fully sympathised with the women's movement, and one of her latest acts in connection therewith was to sign the letter to the House of Lords in support of women's franchise in 1855.

LADY MARION ALFORD.—We regret to record the death of this amiable and venerable lady, who closed her useful and beneficent life last month. She was ever ready in good works for the benefit of women, and interested herself in most of the modern movements for enlarging their sphere of action and improving their condition.

DR. ANNA KINGSFORD.—This able and accomplished lady died last month, of consumption. She was one of the qualified medical practitioners on the register of the United Kingdom, and took an active part in the anti-vivisection movement, and other social questions.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

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

SECOND REPORT, 16—21 February, 1888.

Table with 2 columns: Date (Feb.) and Signatures. Lists various petitions from groups like 'South Paddington Working Men's Conservative Club' and 'West Herts Liberal Club'.

Total number of Petitions 15—Signatures 394

These Petitions are substantially similar to that from Eastbourne [APP. 1]. The Petitions marked thus (C) are signed officially.

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