

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XI.—No 120. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.  
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

FEBRUARY 2, 1880.

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often substituted.

## GRAND NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN, IN THE FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 1880,

To promote a Memorial to Her Majesty's Government, praying that Women Householders and Ratepayers may be enfranchised before another General Election.

Doors open at Six. The Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock, by

### MRS. DUNCAN M'LAREN,

President of the Edinburgh Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

The Viscountess HARBERTON.  
Mrs. ASHFORD (Birmingham).  
Mrs. BUTLER (Liverpool).  
Mrs. COLMAN (Bristol).  
Mrs. THOMAS DALE (Romiley).  
Mrs. ELLIS (Batley).  
Mrs. FORD (Leeds).  
Mrs. GELL (Pendleton).  
Mrs. LILLIAS ASHWORTH HALLETT (Bath).  
Mrs. ABEL HEYWOOD (Bowdon).  
Mrs. FRANCES HOGGAN, M.D. (London).  
Mrs. PAXTON HOOD (Manchester).  
Mrs. LEACH (Yarmouth).  
Mrs. LUCAS (London).  
Mrs. M'ILQUHAM (Cheltenham).  
Mrs. A. M'LAREN (Manchester).  
Mrs. MILLS (Bowdon).  
Mrs. PEARSON (Heywood).  
Mrs. RHYS (Oxford).  
Mrs. ROBY (Pendleton).

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD (Leeds).  
Mrs. SCOTT (Kersall).  
Mrs. EDWARD SMITHSON (York).  
Mrs. THOMASSON (Bolton).  
Mrs. WELLSTOOD (Edinburgh).  
Miss MARIA ATKINSON (Sale).  
Miss BECKER (Manchester).  
Miss C. A. BIGGS (London).  
Miss JANE E. COBDEN (London).  
Miss BURTON (Edinburgh).  
Miss HELENA P. DOWNING (London).  
Miss JESSIE FOTHERGILL (Manchester).  
Miss DINAH GOODALL (Leeds).  
Miss ELIZA STURGE (Bewdley).  
Miss EMILY STURGE (Bristol).  
Miss TAYLOUR (Galloway).  
Miss LAURA WHITTLE (Liverpool).  
Miss LUCY WILSON (London).  
Miss WILLIAMS (London).  
Miss YOUNG (Glasgow).

And other Ladies are expected to be present.

ADMISSION :—Ladies Free to all parts of the Hall ; Gentlemen to the Gallery, by ticket, 2s. 6d. each.—Seats on the Platform will be reserved for delegates ; and Reserved and Numbered Seats will be issued to Ladies for the Body of the Hall.—Tickets and full particulars will be sent on application to the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.—Tickets may also be had at Messrs. Palmer & Howe's, Princess-street ; Messrs. Forsyth Brothers', South King-street, and at the doors.

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**THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF WOMEN  
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.** A Paper read by Miss Becker, at the Conference on behalf of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, held in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol, on January 24th, 1879.—Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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2. How Workwomen are Trained Abroad.
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Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume X. January to December, 1879. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London: Trübner and Co.



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## MEMORIAL TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

The following Memorial to Her Majesty's Government from women who possess the statutory qualification for a vote, praying that they may be enfranchised before the general election, will be presented shortly after the opening of Parliament:—

"That the Memorialists respectfully submit that they are entitled to the Parliamentary franchise on the same grounds of expediency and justice as those on which they have been admitted in England to the municipal and school board franchises.

"That the experience of the action of women in the discharge of the trusts of the municipal and school board vote warrants their claim to become Parliamentary voters.

"That they therefore submit their claim to be admitted on the conditions that have been approved by experience, and they respectfully urge that they should be enfranchised before another general election, so that in consulting the judgment of the nation their wishes and opinions might be heard, and allowed their due weight in questions affecting their interests and well-being as taxpayers and subjects of the Crown."

It is intended that a deputation of ladies shall be appointed to present the Memorial in person soon after the opening of Parliament. Ladies who are owners or occupiers of property which would entitle them to the Parliamentary vote, and who desire to sign the Memorial, are requested to communicate with Miss Becker, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester. Signatures should be sent in not later than February 6th.

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## THE CALENDAR.

FEBRUARY, 1880.			
MOON.	SUN.	CLOCK.	
	Rises.	Sets.	
3rd Last Quar., 9h 38m aft.	7 38	4 50	14m 2s
10th New Moon, 11h 17m morn.	7 28	5 2	14 28
18th First Quar., 3h 46m morn.	7 11	5 17	14 12
26th Full Moon, 1h 22m morn.	6 55	5 32	13 11
1 S	Sexagesima. S. Bridgett, Ireland, 6th century.		
2 M	Lady Anna Gore Langton died 1878.		
3 T	S. Agatha, Virgin Martyr, 251. Madame de Sevigné b. 1627.		
4 W	[awarded to Miss Herschell 1828		
5 Th	Quinquagesima. Gold Medal of Royal Astronomical Society		
6 F	Mdle. Mars, actress, b. 1778. Miss K. Terry's first appearance		
7 S	Peereesses sumd. to send proxies to Parliament 36 Ed. III. [52.		
8 M	Lady Jane Grey beheaded 1554.		
9 T	Quadragesima. Women's Law Copying office opened 1800.		
10 W	Women's Disab. Rem. Bill intro. House of Com. first time 1870.		
11 Th	[Senior appointed Inspector of Workhouses 1874		
12 F	First recorded visit of Mrs. Fry to Newgate 1813. Mrs. Nassau		
13 S	Mrs. Angelina Grimke Weld born Charleston, U.S., 1805.		
14 M	Mrs. Grant, of Laggan, born 1755.		
15 T	2 in Lent.		
16 W	Joanna Baillie died 1851, aged 89.		
17 Th	Women's Union, Leipzig, formed 1865. Lady Nithsdale saves		
18 F	(her husband's life 1715.		
19 S	3 in Lent.		

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

"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY." A Reply to Mr. Fitzjames Stephen's Strictures on Mr. J. S. Mill's "Subjection of Women," by LYDIA E. BECKER. Reprinted from the *Women's Suffrage Journal*. Price 2d. To be had at 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

THE BIBLE AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. By JOHN HOOKER, of Hartford, Connecticut. Reprinted from a tract issued by the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association. Price Threepence. A. Ireland & Co., Manchester.

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THE arrangements for the great demonstration of women in the Free Trade Hall on February 3rd are completed, and the interest which has been aroused in the occasion, both in the district and in the country generally, has been such as to afford abundant promise of an overflowing gathering. The demand for tickets has been already very large, and ladies who propose to be present should lose no time in obtaining them, in order to secure their places. All the three kingdoms and the Principality, and most of the large towns—London, Birmingham, Bristol, Bath, Batley, Cheltenham, Chester, Nottingham, Leeds, York, Yarmouth, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, Dublin, and nearer home—Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Stockport, Bowdon, and other places—will be well represented at the meeting.

The drawing-room at the Free Trade Hall will be open on the day of the demonstration at twelve o'clock as a Reception Room for visitors from a distance, who are invited to present themselves on their arrival in Manchester.

ONE of the principal motives which have guided the promoters of the women's demonstration has been to afford a means of testing the reality of the alleged demand for the suffrage by women. The opponents of the proposal, both in and out of Parliament, assert that there is no real demand on the part of women for political enfranchisement; they allege that the agitation is promoted by an insignificant minority, and not supported by the feeling of any considerable portion of the women of the country. The promoters, on the other hand, allege that there does exist among women at large a very widespread desire for political emancipation, a very strong sense of the injustice of the laws relating to women, and of the injury which the restrictions on their education and on their employment, industrial and professional, cause to vast numbers who are thrown on their own resources for a livelihood; and a strong and growing conviction among women that the suffrage is the only power which can avail to procure an amendment of the law.

The reality of this feeling among women is not a matter

which can be determined by argument or assertion; it must be put to a practical test. Women have held meetings assiduously, amounting on an average to upwards of two meetings per week for the last thirteen years; and at all these public meetings, with one or two solitary exceptions, the principle of women's suffrage has received emphatic assertion—yet that is not held to be a sufficient test.

Women have used the right of petition—the only political right which the law, as at present interpreted, allows to them—with such diligence, that millions of signatures to petitions have been sent to the House of Commons since the movement began—yet this has not been deemed a sufficient test.

Able and accomplished ladies have claimed the right of suffrage in papers and articles in the periodical press, and last season a large body of opinions of women in favour of the suffrage was circulated, comprising testimony from women engaged in educational, philanthropic, literary, and artistic work—yet this was not deemed to be a sufficient test.

Another mode of testifying is now proposed. If thousands of women come together in the great Free Trade Hall at Manchester, attracted not by great names, but simply and solely to manifest by their presence their support and sympathy with the women who are claiming the suffrage on behalf of their sex—that will be a testimony to the strength and popularity of the movement amongst women which can neither be effaced nor explained away.

For ourselves, we are quite willing to submit to such a test. If the women do not come up in their thousands on Tuesday next, then we must admit that we have been mistaken in our estimate of their political feelings, although not in our conviction of the justice of the claim. If the women do come up in their thousands at the call of the suffrage leaders, then all candid opponents will be compelled to admit that the demand for the franchise exists and deserves serious consideration, whether they are disposed to concede it or not.

THE forthcoming demonstration will bear the character of



spontaneity. No organisation has been employed to bring up women to the meeting; no funds have been raised to enable them to come from a distance; no long time for preparation has been given. The notice in our last issue was the first public intimation of the intention to hold the demonstration. We have trusted to a simple invitation, with shorter notice than many a London hostess would think it desirable to give in inviting to a social entertainment, to gather together the multitudes of women whom we hope to see present to testify to the demand for the franchise. The women who respond to the invitation will do so of their own impulse and at their own charges, and the testimony thus given cannot be gainsayed.

WE desire most earnestly to impress on the mind of every woman who reads these lines the supreme importance, in the interests of the cause, of attendance at the forthcoming demonstration. We beg that every one will accept this appeal as a personal invitation to herself to be present at the gathering. Women of mark in the world, who have political, social, or personal influence of any kind which can add weight to the demonstration, are exhorted to bring these freely in aid of the cause. Women who are obscure in a worldly point of view, who can bring nothing but an earnest woman's heart and mind to the assemblage, are urged to bring such as they have to swell the force of the tide which will owe its magnitude to the aggregate of units such as they.

The occasion for such a demonstration may occur but once in a lifetime. Let every claim save that of imperative duty be put aside, in order to testify by personal presence to the strength of the demand for this righteous and beneficent reform.

WE would suggest to women who cannot possibly be present in person at the demonstration in the Free Trade Hall, that they may take a very real and effective part in it by contributing towards the expenses. The moral effect of the demonstration would be greatly enhanced if the costs were defrayed entirely by special subscriptions from women. We ask ladies who are unable to demonstrate in person to express their approval of the object by contributing donations towards the expenses, and we hope to receive a sufficient number of such contributions to go a long way towards, if not entirely to cover, the cost of the demonstration. We have already received several donations for this purpose, and we hereby appeal to women who sympathise in the efforts we are making to

aid in subscribing the required amount, which may be estimated at about one hundred and fifty pounds.

There are vast numbers of women in the United Kingdom who care for the suffrage. We ask them now, on this unique occasion, to send to us a practical proof of how much they care.

SCOTLAND is to the front during the past month with work in support of the movement. The annual meeting of the Edinburgh Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on January 23rd, and was attended by many hundreds of ladies. The chair was occupied by the president (Mrs. McLAREN), and Miss WIGHAM, Miss MAITLAND, Dr. SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE, Miss LOUISA STEVENSON, Mrs. WELLSTOOD, Miss BURTON, and Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD took part in the proceedings.

The appeal made by Mr. GLADSTONE, in his recent speech to a meeting of ladies at Dalkeith, has been responded to in the form of a meeting held at Dalkeith, on January 22nd, when a resolution was passed, on the motion of Professor CALDERWOOD, "that in considering the advice of Mr. GLADSTONE to women to bear their part in this political crisis, this meeting is of opinion that the great practical and legitimate way of doing that is by the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise."

A large and influential drawing-room meeting has also been held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. DICK PEDDIE, in Edinburgh, when an able address was delivered by Professor HODGSON, and speeches in support of the movement delivered by ladies interested in the cause.

DRAWING-ROOM or At-Home meetings have been held at Liverpool, at the residence of Mrs. THOMAS BROCKLEBANK, jun., Huskisson-street, when Mr. RATHBONE, M.P., Lady RAMSAY, and others were present; and at the house of Dr. WHITTLE, Parliament Terrace, when Miss DOWNING, and other ladies and gentlemen were present; at Bowdon by invitation from Mrs. ABEL HEYWOOD and Mrs. JOHN MILLS; at Rochdale, in the Town Hall, by invitation of Miss PETRIE. Public meetings in various districts of Manchester have been held during the past week in support of the demonstration, under the presidency respectively of Mr. Alderman WORTHINGTON, the Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, Mr. Alderman BENNETT, and other gentlemen, and have been addressed by Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD, Miss BECKER, Miss C. A. BIGGS, Miss DOWNING, Miss CRAIGEN, and others.

AN admirable illustration was recently given by Mr.

VARY CAMPBELL, in an exposition of the land question at Portobello, of the influence of the laws in creating an arbitrary social standard. "The mere fact of a man inheriting an entailed estate pledged to the eyes in debt, which he is doing his best to transmit to his successors still more heavily burdened, gives him a social status far above the man who has made a fortune three times over the value of the landed estate by his own ability, intelligence, and honest dealing, or even than the man who buys an equal parcel of land with his own savings." The *Edinburgh Daily Review* pertinently remarks on this: "So it has been with women in the rights of citizenship. The mere fact of a man possessing a vote, however poor and squalid may be the tenement on which he may qualify, or however ignorant, worthless, or ill-behaved he may be, confers upon him a greater political rank and influence than can be enjoyed by ladies of acknowledged public spirit, who are fitted to give an intelligent and patriotic vote alongside any elector in the kingdom."

It is a humiliating thought that every woman, however exalted her personal or territorial position may be, however great the amount of her wealth, however distinguished she may be by intelligence, public spirit, ability, or philanthropy—every woman in the land, except VICTORIA, the Queen, has to acknowledge as her political superior the meanest and vilest man who can contrive to keep a house over his head.

WE print in another column an account of two sentences awarded at Wigan, by Mr. KNOWLES, M.P., in his magisterial capacity, one on poachers, and one on a man who was convicted of a terrible assault on his wife with a cleaver. The wife beater was fined ten shillings and costs, or fourteen days in prison; the man who was found with two hares in their possession were fined five pounds and costs, or one month in prison.

The magistrate who thus marked his sense of the comparative enormity of the two offenders, is among those members who voted against the political enfranchisement of women. It is not therefore very surprising to find that his estimate of the personal rights of women is somewhat analogous to his estimate of their political rights.

But giving Mr. KNOWLES credit for intending to act justly in these cases, such notions of justice prove the difficulty which besets men in estimating the comparative guilt of offences evenly as between those from which they are themselves liable to suffer in person or property, and those which cannot possibly hurt themselves. Mr.

KNOWLES is, or may be, a game preserver, therefore he has a keen sense of the wickedness of being in unlawful possession of a hare. Mr. KNOWLES could, under no circumstance, be liable to the risk of having his head split open by the cleaver of a ferocious, drunken husband, and therefore he had no sense of fellow feeling with the sufferer to quicken his indignation against the ruffianly assailant. We suspect that if Mr. KNOWLES had happened to have had his own head broken by the violence of a Wigan "rough," he would not have been disposed to be lenient because it was the "first time" the man had done such a thing. In such a case we should have seen a heavier penalty inflicted than ten shillings with costs. Lately an offender for giving one blow, which was admitted to have left no mark on a man (Lord FERMOY), was sentenced to *five years' penal servitude*. Yet in how much greater need are helpless wives than powerful peers of the protection of the law from personal violence.

Two dates occur in the Calendar for February which call to mind two wide fields of public duty into which women have made themselves an entrance, and regarding which few would venture to deny either the social importance of the field or the fitness of women to work therein; but where their place is nevertheless one more of sufferance than of authority. The name of Mrs. FRY is for ever associated with prisons, the name of Mrs. NASSAU SENIOR with workhouses.

Prisons and workhouses, in other words the two departments of public administration where the State has under its immediate care the aged and infirm, the orphans, the sick, the sorrowful, and which form a sort of border land between purely political functions and purely domestic functions. In these departments public administration and personal sympathy must combine to produce any efficient result in dealing with the constant stream of human lives that, for good or for evil, enter and issue from those dreary walls. Here are fields ripe for woman's influence, but where as yet few can find entrance.

H. B.

AN article in the *New Quarterly Review* for October last, entitled "Workhouse Visiting and Management during Twenty-five Years," reviewing the improvements that have been effected and suggesting others that should be effected, teaches one moral throughout—let there be more of the women element: "The plea had been incessantly put forth in all the writings and statements of the Work-



house Visiting Society for the introduction of the influence of women into all the departments of workhouse management—the household, the schools, the nursery, the infirmary. . . . Educated women as guardians, as matrons, as nurses, as inspectors had been over and over again urged, as the one hope of reform and amelioration ever since the theme was first taken up by Mrs. JAMESON in her lectures on the social employments of women in 1855-56." Mrs. NASSAU SENIOR'S appointment as inspector of workhouses was joyfully hailed as breaking through the old custom, but that lady's lamented death put an end too soon to the new order which as yet has not been revised.

H. B.

SOME progress has been made as regards the election of women as guardians. A lady was elected as guardian in London in 1875, and there have been two or three elected in each succeeding year: yet what are they amongst such a mass of population? Pioneers we trust of many more, and rejoice to hear a rumour of one or two new lady candidates in the ensuing elections in April. The nation still is far from recognising that whether as guardian or superintendent a woman "who would have the sense to perceive and the tact to discern all those matters which essentially belong to her province, would quickly find out the ways and the means for all needed improvements." Those amongst us, however, who are striving to make the voice of women felt in public concerns, can well sympathise with the writer's remark "that the only hope of this good result being attained is still to urge it and bring it before that all-powerful influence—public opinion;" and can we not also realise that if more of the many women so well fitted for such duties would come forward as guardians, they might even now by practical action prove how much more effective work becomes when it is responsible and recognised.

H. B.

THE centralisation of prison management since the new Prisons Act has indeed rather checked than encouraged the visits of ladies. In their report for 1878 the HOWARD Association thus speaks on the subject:—

"All the prisons having now passed into the hands of the Central Government, the access to prisoners, occasionally permitted hitherto to judicious visitors, ought not only to have been continued, but considerably *extended*. But the new Board has already increased the stringency of the rules of visitation to prisoners. Whereas they could hardly do a better thing than encourage in every gaol such visits, as those for example at the Westminster

Prison for Women by Miss ANTROBUS, who has long and worthily followed in the footsteps of Mrs. FRY and Miss LYDIA IRVING and others in this important branch of philanthropic service. Her father, Mr. ANTROBUS, a veteran magistrate of Middlesex, thus alludes to the result of her labours in a letter addressed to the Secretary of the HOWARD Association:—

"14, Kensington Palace Gardens,

"March 15th, 1878.

"Dear Sir,—Miss ANTROBUS informs me that during the sixteen years of her visiting our Westminster prisons, 609 prisoners, the greater number from the age of thirteen to thirty, have been more or less under her care for instruction and reformation. Of these, 218 have been sent to refuges or schools, 4 have died, 6 have been sent to lunatic asylums, only 50 have returned to prison. From personal communication, or from information obtained, a large number of those who have not again become inmates of Westminster Prison are known to be gaining an honest living in service or some other industrial occupation, and some are married. These are results which I hope you will agree with me may be considered highly satisfactory. Very truly yours,

"EDMUND E. ANTROBUS.

"Wm. Tallack, Esq."

This lady is still, we are glad to know, permitted to continue her useful labours, but as is stated in the report of the same society for the year just passed, "the Central Board still restrict the admission of visitors to those who apply to themselves in London," a restriction which the report may well characterise as "*very undesirable*."

H. B.

THE London Correspondent of the *Birmingham Daily Post* gives an amusing account of the domestic *regime* of the three Commissioners who have been sent by King THEEBAU to make purchases in Europe of merchandise on account of His Majesty. The three gentlemen are Mahomedans, and partners in a great house in Rangoon. "If they could be persuaded to write their impressions of English manners it would afford us an admirable opportunity of seeing ourselves 'as others see us.' One of them declares, for instance, that with the twenty wives who adorn his harem, he has not half the trouble that the Englishman has with his single one. 'Our wives give us ease and repose,' said he to an English friend; 'they wait upon us instead of expecting to be waited upon like yours. When I return home from business, one wife brings me my pipe, another comes forward with her fan, another hands me the sherbet, another wipes my forehead, and

another changes my slippers. There is not one of the twenty who does not contribute to my comfort; and when they all stand silent and submissive around me I do not feel the least envious of the domestic happiness of my English partners at Rangoon."

We suspect that there are a good many European husbands whose ideas of domestic life do not differ in principle from those of King THEEBAU'S Commissioners. The difference is merely one in detail. The Oriental husband has twenty wives to do all the various offices he describes. The European husband has one wife whom he expects to do all the twenty different things.

THE following paragraph has been lately circulated in the newspapers:—"Ladies are in future to be eligible for election as Royal Academicians and Associates, with the same privileges as members of the other sex, with two important exceptions, namely, that they shall not be allowed to vote at the elections, nor be present at the annual banquet." Our Royal Academicians in presence of the ladies resemble a shy boy entering a room full of company; he comes in sideways, and inch by inch! As logic does not rule the world, we must be thankful for what is given, and patiently wait for the rest. Meanwhile, how really grotesque are these two exceptions! The ladies may paint, and beat the men in painting, but they must not vote with the men, or dine with the men. What a fearful revolution it will be when they do both vote and dine with them! One almost shudders at the thought of that furthest momentous change.

C. H. C.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

## WESTMINSTER.

The notice in our last issue respecting the reply of Sir Arthur Hobhouse to the question put to him as to women's suffrage appears to have been imperfect. We are informed, by a correspondent who was present at the meeting, that Sir Arthur Hobhouse is decidedly in favour of the political enfranchisement of women, as might have been supposed from his consistent and powerful advocacy of reform in the property and other laws which press so hardly and unjustly on women.

## DARLINGTON.

Mr. Theodore Fry has been selected by the Liberal Three Hundred as their candidate, subject to the approval of a mass meeting of the Liberal electors. Mr. Fry has declared himself in favour of women's suffrage.

## DEWSBURY.

Mr. H. F. Beaumont, Liberal candidate for Dewsbury, on being asked if he was in favour of women voting for members of Parliament who are possessed of the statutory qualifications to vote in municipal, parochial, and School Board elections? His reply to that was, No. (A female voice: Why?) He did not want to see women members of the House of Commons, for that was what was really intended; they had enough to do at home.

## MEETINGS IN SCOTLAND.

## EDINBURGH.

The annual meeting of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on January 23rd, in the saloon of the Royal Hotel, and was attended by several hundred ladies and a very few gentlemen. Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN occupied the chair, and among other ladies on the platform were Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Leeds; Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, Miss Maitland, Miss Wigham, Miss Burton, Dr. Agnes M'Laren, Miss Louisa Stevenson, Mrs. Kirk, Mrs. Wellstood, Mrs. Somerville, and Miss E. Kirkland.

After an introductory address from Mrs. M'LAREN, the annual report was read by Miss WIGHAM, the hon. secretary. Miss MAITLAND moved its adoption and the re-election of the committee.

Dr. SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE seconded the resolution. She said that all the arguments were on the side of giving the suffrage to women. The fact was, it was not argument they had to deal with on the other side; it was prejudice and sentiment—(applause)—and prejudice and sentiment were just about the two hardest things in the world to meet. It was not argument in the House of Commons they had to fight against; it was simply a dead vote, resting on that prejudice and sentiment. She did not think argument would ever get rid of it; but there was one power supreme over the House of Commons, and that was public opinion, and it was because these meetings fostered the growth of public opinion on this subject that she was extremely glad to see them, and extremely glad to offer any mite she could towards their support.—The resolution was adopted.

Miss LOUISA STEVENSON moved a second resolution, as follows:—"That as women are equally with men amenable to the laws of the country, they therefore should have a voice in the election of those who make the laws; that a parliamentary vote should be given to them on the same condition as it is given to men; and that a petition be adopted praying the House of Commons to adopt a bill to remove the electoral disabilities of woman." Miss Stevenson said she was quite persuaded that if the passing of this bill depended upon the number of signatures it would have become the law of the land long ago, for she was told that no bill concerning any matter whatsoever had had so many petitions sent up in its favour. With regard to the best means for turning the majority opposed to the bill into a minority, she submitted that so long as it was said that women themselves did not want the suffrage they must go on giving definite contradiction to such a statement by sending petition upon petition. She thought if they would make inquiry they would find that those were women to whom the lines of life had fallen in pleasant places, who lived so much in contemplation of their own happiness as not sufficiently to take into account the miseries of other people. There was an enormous number of their sex on whom the laws of the country were pressing very hard indeed.—The resolution was seconded by Mrs. KIRK, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. WELLSTOOD moved the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Leonard Courtney for his able advocacy of women's suffrage in the introduction of his resolution to the House of Commons, and to the 103 members of the House who voted for it, among whom was gladly noted many Scotch members, and their own city members.—Miss BURTON seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation.

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD was then called on to address the meeting, and a vote of thanks to Mrs. Scatcherd and to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

A large and influential drawing-room meeting was held on



January 21st, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Peddie, Buckingham Crescent, Edinburgh. The chair was occupied by Dr. Hodgson, Professor of Political Economy in Edinburgh University, who opened the meeting with a powerful and eloquent address. He repudiated the doctrine that women have not equally with men the right of self-representation, and maintained that an innate contempt of women is at the foundation of a great deal of the opposition of men to this cause. At the same time he hailed with satisfaction the progress that the interests of women are making in other directions, and instanced the recent decision of the Royal Academy of London to admit women to be elected to the honorary degrees of that institution. Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds, at present on a visit to Edinburgh, next addressed the meeting, and related many interesting cases in which practical good had been effected for women in English towns by their exercise of the municipal franchise; and she expressed her regret and surprise that the women ratepayers in Scotland do not enjoy the same privilege of voting for Town Councils which has been accorded to their sisters in England. In a careful *resumé* of the leading arguments in favour of extending the political franchise to women, Mrs. Scatcherd dwelt at some length on the fact that women do actually suffer from various injustices in the law, which neither they nor men can hope to relieve so long as women have no direct share in the election of their representatives. Mrs. McLaren, Miss Burton, and other ladies supported these opinions, and the proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Peddie for the kind and hospitable reception they had given to the friends of the cause.

## DALKEITH.

A public meeting was held on January 22nd in the Foresters' Hall, Dalkeith, to consider how the advice of Mr. Gladstone to the women of Dalkeith might be most effectually responded to. There was a good attendance, for the most part of ladies. Among those on the platform were Professor Calderwood, Mrs. Scatcherd, Leeds; Mrs. McLaren and Miss Wigham, Edinburgh; Miss Kirkland, Revs. D. Mackintosh, J. Fraser, A. Hunter, and A. F. Simpson, Dalkeith; Messrs. John Tod, James Thomson, John Chisholm, Robert Somerville, and James Gray. Provost MITCHELL having been called to the chair, the Rev. D. Mackintosh opened the proceedings with prayer.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that the object they sought to promote in calling the meeting met with his very warmest approval, and should receive his most cordial support. (Applause.) The holding of the meeting was suggested by the remarkable address delivered in that place two months ago by Mr. Gladstone to the women of Dalkeith. In that eloquent address Mr. Gladstone urged his female auditors to open their feelings and play their own part in the political crisis that had arisen, and to raise their voices for justice and mercy—duties which he reminded them were specially appropriate to women. The originators of this meeting believed that women would not be able to speak effectually until their electoral disqualification had been removed. Neither Mr. Gladstone nor his committee had anything to do with this meeting, and anyone taking part in the meeting did so on his own responsibility; but he reminded them that the question of women's suffrage was not a party one. (Applause.)

Professor CALDERWOOD moved—"Resolved, that in considering the advice of Mr. Gladstone to women to bear their own part in this political crisis, this meeting is of opinion that the quiet, practical, and legitimate way of doing that is by the exercise of the parliamentary franchise." After explaining the nature of the claims made by those advocating women's suffrage, he argued that this was a matter of wise, liberal legislation,

because it was against class legislation. It was for the general interest of the community that women should exercise the franchise. It was not good for them to have any portion of the community isolated from national interests, to have any fringe of the population inclined to say—"Those who are privileged may attend to their voting, may consider who shall be candidates and representatives, but as for us we have no interest in the matter." It was unhealthy and unsafe for any community to leave any portion of the people in that position. He asked them how were the children of their family circles to be trained to take their place in the State when they came to years of maturity? It was by table talk. Put away politics from the table, banish political references from that gathering time, when their boys and girls were round about their board, and they would make their children believe that they were not in earnest about political matters. He had heard a good deal lately about such things as a father and son being on opposite benches, and how did this happen? It was the absence of table talk and home training—(applause)—and they never heard their women talk as they ought upon this question, because they had no vote to make them take an interest in politics. (Applause.)

Mrs. SCATCHERD seconded the motion. After speaking of the rise of the movement, she said that an opportunity had lately been given to the women of this neighbourhood to evince such an interest, and they had not let it slip. (Applause.) The action of the women of Dalkeith not only reflected honour on themselves, on the men of their own town, and on the women of their own country, but it reflected honour on the women of the whole kingdom. (Applause.) Thousands and thousands of women's hearts would be gratified when they heard next morning of the action that had been taken. She entreated the women of Dalkeith, having once put their hands to the plough, not to draw back. (Applause.) One portion of Mr. Gladstone's speech in this hall, when referring to the atrocities in eastern Europe, struck her very forcibly. He said that "for many generations a cruel and a crying oppression arose, not upon superior civilisation, not upon superior knowledge, but upon a dominion of mere force, which crushed down to the earth races which four or five hundred years ago excelled our own forefathers greatly in their civilisation—which crushed those races to the earth—which abated entirely the manhood and nobler faculties which belonged to freemen—which ground them almost out of their position, and which succeeded in pressing upon them some of the features of the slave—(cheers)—and in addition to which, when from time to time the impulses of humanity would not be suppressed, and an effort was made by these people to secure for themselves their long-lost liberties, these efforts had been put down with a cruelty incredible and unequalled, perhaps entirely unequalled, in the annals of mankind; and not only with cruelty, but with a development of other horrors, and the treatment of men and women and children which even decency does not permit us to mention." (Applause.) She thought as she read these words that they could be applied not only to suffering thousands in the East, but to thousands of Mr. Gladstone's own countrywomen. (Applause.) Did they not see in the papers day after day cases of brutal ill-treatment of women? Almost every week they read of some poor soul who had been kicked to death, and often found that the punishment was totally inadequate to the offence. When she saw those women in the large manufacturing towns, going about down-trodden, depressed, patient, and servile-looking, her heart ached. She could see that almost every quality of freedom was ground out of their composition, and some of them looked in very deed as if they were slaves. (Hear, hear.) She knew it was absurd to speak of slavery in connection with the wives of the

comfortable middle classes—luckily for the wives their countrymen's hearts were much better than the laws of their country—but amongst the lowest of the low, among the brutal part of the community, they did see this.

Mrs. McLAREN supported the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. SOMERVILLE moved: "Resolved, that as taxation is the basis of representation in this country, and that by the exclusion of women from the electoral franchise a large proportion of the property and intelligence of the nation is unrepresented, this meeting resolves to petition Parliament to remove the electoral disabilities of women householders, so that the principle of complete and consistent representation of the people may be obtained."

Mr. JAMES TOD seconded, and Miss WIGHAM supported, the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The form of petition was then read, and agreed to; and the meeting separated after the usual votes of thanks had been passed.

## MEETINGS IN ENGLAND.

## MANCHESTER.

A series of well-attended public meetings were held in the week preceding the Free Trade Hall demonstration. On Monday, January 26th, there was a crowded attendance in Hulme Town Hall to support the enfranchisement of women householders and ratepayers before the general election. The Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Miss Biggs (London), Miss Craigen (Retford), Miss Whitelegge, Miss Holding, Miss Hunt, Mrs. Gell, Miss Backhouse, and Mr. and Mrs. Abbot. Miss Becker and Miss Downing (London) were present during the later portion of the proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN said that if they looked back to the time it had generally taken to indoctrinate the public with a new political idea they would recognise with what great success the agitation on behalf of women's suffrage had been carried on. Although they had only had a comparatively few years of practical work in this matter, the number of men who in the House of Commons had registered their votes in behalf of this movement, was now far greater than that which prior to the final success of the movement for the repeal of the Corn Laws voted in favour of the repeal of those acts. With a little more united action amongst them, the time would be very soon indeed at hand when they would see their object attained, and those disabilities under which women laboured at the present time removed and the franchise granted to them on the same conditions as it was granted to men.

Miss CAROLINE ASHURST BIGGS moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Miss CRAIGEN, and unanimously passed. She proposed: "That this meeting, believing that it is injurious to the best interests of the country that women who are possessed of the legal qualification which entitles men to a parliamentary vote should be disabled from voting, claims for them the franchise on the same conditions as it is granted to men. It commends the object of the Free Trade Hall demonstration, and pledges itself to use all means at its disposal to make that meeting a truly representative gathering of the women of this district."

Miss BECKER proposed that the following petition to the House of Commons should be adopted, and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting women are entitled to the parliamentary franchise on the same grounds of expediency and justice as those on which they have been admitted in England to the municipal and school board franchises.

"That the experience of the action of women in the discharge of the trusts of the municipal and school board vote warrants their claim to become parliamentary voters. Wherefore your petitioners pray that your honourable House will pass a measure whereby women may be admitted as parliamentary voters on the conditions that have been approved by experience, and they respectfully urge that women should be enfranchised before the general election, so that in consulting the judgment of the nation their wishes and opinions may be heard and allowed their due weight in questions affecting their interests and wellbeing as taxpayers and subjects of the Crown."

This was seconded by Miss HELENA DOWNSING, and, like the preceding resolution, carried unanimously.

On the same night a similar meeting was held in the Public Hall, Churnet-street, Rochdale Road; Mr. Alderman Worthington in the chair. This meeting was addressed by the same ladies, and also by Miss Fozzard and Mrs. Marsh, and similar resolutions were carried.

On January 27th a well-attended meeting in furtherance of the petition was held in the Broughton Town Hall, under the presidency of Mr. G. H. Greenwood (in the absence of Mr. Alderman Davies). On the motion of Miss Biggs (of London), seconded by Miss Becker, a resolution similar to that adopted at Hulme was passed. On the motion of Miss Downing (of London), seconded by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, a petition to the House of Commons was adopted, praying that the parliamentary franchise should be granted to women householders previous to the next general election. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding.

On the same evening a public meeting was held in the Chorlton Town Hall, when similar resolutions were adopted. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd (Leeds) presided; and there were upon the platform Miss Becker, Miss Backhouse, Miss Craigen, Mrs. Murray, and Mrs. Hill.—Mrs. Scatcherd defended the claims of women to the enjoyment of the franchise. Women were trusted with a share in local self-government, and she regarded that government as the foundation of our greatness. Mrs. Scatcherd having to leave the meeting, in order to attend at another meeting at Broughton, the chair was taken by Miss Backhouse.—The resolution was seconded by Miss Craigen, who said that if they could get the Free Trade Hall crammed with women desirous of asking Parliament for the franchise, no one could say hereafter that they did not want it.—(Applause.)—The resolution was unanimously adopted.—Miss Biggs (London) moved the adoption of a petition to Parliament in favour of the movement, which was seconded by Miss Becker, who remarked that the object of the meeting was primarily to interest the women of the district in the demonstration of next week.—The petition was adopted, and a vote of thanks to Miss Backhouse for presiding brought the proceedings to a close.

On January 28th a large and influential meeting took place in Pendleton Town Hall. The chair was occupied by Mr. Councillor W. H. Bailey. The first resolution, which was similar to that carried at the other meetings, was moved by Miss Downing, seconded by the Rev. J. Freeston, and carried unanimously. Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss Becker moved and seconded the adoption of the petition, and the meeting separated after a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman.

Another meeting was held the same night in the Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, Ardwick, and was addressed by the same ladies, with the addition of Miss Craigen and Mrs. Ada Harrison. Mr. Alderman Bennett presided. In the course of his observations he remarked that the movement for giving



the parliamentary franchise to women was certainly progressing, and that the expression of opinion on the part of so large a body of the public as would be gathered in the Free Trade Hall on Tuesday next would greatly help forward the cause. Similar resolutions to those passed at the other district meetings were carried, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Meetings have also been held at Cheetham Town Hall; Temperance Hall, New Cross Ward, January 29th; and in the Stretford Town Hall, January 30th; reports of which did not come in time for publication.

## LIVERPOOL.

On January 24th, Mrs. Thomas Brocklebank, jun., had an "At Home" at her residence, 72, Huskisson-street, which was numerously attended, amongst those present being Lady Ramsay, Mrs. R. D. Holt (wife of the president of the Liberal Association), Mr. Wm. Rathbone, M.P., &c. Mr. E. R. Russell gave an address on "A Topic of the Time." At the conclusion of the address a vote of thanks to Mr. Russell was moved by Mr. Rathbone, and seconded by Dr. Gee. The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Brocklebank, moved by Miss Laura Whittle, and carried by acclamation.

On January 27th a meeting was held at the residence of Dr. Whittle, Parliament Terrace. Miss Helena Downing and other ladies and gentlemen were present, and addressed the meeting. There was an excellent attendance.

## ALTRINCHAM.

On January 27th a meeting of ladies was held in the Building Society's Room, Altrincham, by invitation of Mrs. Abel Heywood and Mrs. John Mills. After tea and conversation, Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, of Leeds, gave an educational address on the women's suffrage movement, which was listened to with the deepest interest. Mrs. Scatcherd pointed out the great importance of the approaching national demonstration of women on Feb. 3rd, and received many promises of attendance. The chair was occupied by Mrs. Heywood, and the speaker was cordially thanked for her address. A committee was formed to promote the enfranchisement of women.

## BRADFORD.

On Wednesday, January 7th, an address was given on women's suffrage, by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, to a meeting of women convened by Mrs. Porritt, at her house. Everyone present was heartily in favour of women householders voting in the election of members of Parliament. Mrs. Porritt was unanimously chosen by the meeting, as their delegate, to represent them at the demonstration in Manchester on Feb. 3rd.

## HUDDERSFIELD.

On Thursday, January 8th, Mrs. Scatcherd gave a similar address to a meeting of women assembled in the large room of Thornton's Temperance Hotel. A petition in favour of women's suffrage was carried unanimously. The meeting elected Mrs. Netherton as its delegate for February 3rd.

## HALIFAX.

On Tuesday, January 13th, Mrs. Nutton, of Pellon Lane, convened a meeting of women in her house, to hear an address from Mrs. Scatcherd. Petition in favour of women's suffrage carried unanimously. The meeting chose Mrs. Nutton as its delegate for February 3rd.

## SHEFFIELD.

On Wednesday, January 14th, a meeting of women was held in the house of Mrs. Barker. There was a good attendance. Petition in favour of women's suffrage carried. Mrs. Barker was chosen by the meeting to represent it at Manchester on February 3rd.

## WAKEFIELD.

On Friday, January 16th, a most interesting meeting was held in the house of Mrs. Pullein, Kirkgate. Mrs. Scatcherd's address was well received. Petition in favour of women's suffrage carried unanimously. The meeting chose Mrs. Pullein to represent it on February 3rd.

## CARLINGHOW.

A meeting of residents in Carlinghow (near Batley) was held at the house of Mr. David R. Vero, on the evening of Monday, Jan. 19th, 1880, for the purpose of electing two lady delegates to represent Carlinghow at the demonstration of women in favour of the extension of the franchise to female ratepayers before the general election, to be held at Manchester on February 3rd, 1880. Mrs. Ellis moved, Samuel Day seconded, and it was unanimously resolved that Mrs. Starkey take the chair. Frederic Sheard moved, Samuel Day seconded, and it was unanimously resolved that Mrs. David Vero and Mrs. Green be delegated to attend the aforesaid demonstration.

## TARPORLEY.

A meeting was held on the 23rd instant, in the Baptist Schoolroom, Tarporley, Cheshire, in support of the women's suffrage movement. The attendance was very good. Mr. Bate took the chair, and Miss Craigen addressed the meeting. Mr. Walley spoke in support of the petition, saying that he had never before known of how great importance the question was. Mr. Sherlock and another gentleman also supported the petition, which was passed unanimously.

## NEWCHURCH IN ROSSENDALE.

On the 15th January Miss Becker gave an address on the Claim of women to the Parliamentary franchise, at the Unitarian Schoolroom, Newchurch. The Rev. A. Lazenby occupied the chair. There was a good attendance, and the address was received with evident interest. At the close of the proceedings a petition in favour of the Parliamentary franchise for women was adopted by the meeting. A full report of Miss Becker's address appeared in the *Bacup Times*.

## TOWER HAMLETS RADICAL CLUB.

On Sunday, January 18th, a lecture was given by Miss C. A. Biggs on "The Women's Movement at home and abroad."

## DEBATING SOCIETIES.

## GLASGOW.

On the 9th of January the Glasgow Western Literary Club held a debate on the question "Should the franchise be extended to women?" On the chair being taken by Mr. James Allan, the meeting was opened with prayer, and the subject of debate was thereafter introduced by Mr. McKellar, who in a very neat and concisely written paper argued the question in its religious, social, and political aspects, and predicted a speedy extension of the franchise to women. A most eloquent and telling speech was made by Mr. Mitchell, who also supported the affirmative of the question. The objectors to the extension of the franchise to women were, however, so strong in the usual platitudes, viz., woman's sphere being at the fireside, which she is to keep clean, and among the stockings which she is to darn, that the debate terminated against the movement; notwithstanding which it will be productive of good to the rights of women, which cannot in any wise diverge from the rights of men.

## SALFORD.

On January 21st, Mr. John Edwards read a paper in the Presbyterian Schoolroom, Chapel-street, Salford, "That it is the duty of the State to grant the Parliamentary franchise to women as a right." The chair was taken by the Rev. Mr. Reed. A discussion followed the reading of the paper, and the vote was carried in favour of the proposition.

## POACHING AND WIFE BEATING.

On January 2nd, at the Wigan County Police Court, before Messrs. T. Knowles, M.P., and T. Prescott, Joseph Glover, clogger, Wood's Yard, Ince, was charged with unlawfully wounding his wife, Ann Glover.—Prosecutrix, who had a baby in her arms and seemed to be in a weak state, said about five o'clock the previous afternoon the prisoner came home. He had had some drink, and while in the house he had some more, but he did not seem to be much the worse for it. He went out again, and returned between six and seven o'clock, and he was considerably further advanced in drink than he was on leaving home. About nine o'clock he went upstairs, saying he would go to bed. He had not been up long before he commenced to create a disturbance because she could not find his pipe. He came downstairs, and used abusive language and swore at her. She was then sitting on a chair, and he struck her with his hand, knocking her to the floor. She got up, and he laid hold of an old cleaver and struck her on the right side of the head with it. Blood flowed fearfully from the wound, and she screamed, and got the children to scream. Prisoner said the complainant first got hold of the cleaver, and struck him on the top of the head.—Mrs. Elizabeth Draper said she lived next door to the prisoner at Ince. About half-past nine she heard someone screaming in the prisoner's house. She went in and found the prisoner and his wife struggling. Prisoner was on the floor, and his wife was standing over him. They had both hold of the cleaver. The complainant was bleeding very profusely from a wound on her head.—Mr. Germain, surgeon's assistant, said: Ann Glover was brought to Dr. Hall's surgery the previous night. There was a swelling over the right eyebrow, and a slight cut over the right ear about an inch in length. She complained of having had a blow on the mouth, and there was a front tooth injured. Blood was flowing from the wound on the head. Such an injury would be caused by an instrument like the cleaver produced. The woman was now out of danger, and he did not apprehend any serious consequences unless erysipelas set in.—Police-constable Halstead said he apprehended the prisoner, and charged him with cutting and wounding his wife. He replied, "It's all right; I wish I had killed her."—Mr. Knowles: Was he drunk or sober? Witness: He had had some.—Superintendent Ludlam: Where did you find the cleaver? Witness: I found it on the floor, and took possession of it.—Mr. Knowles: What character does the man bear? Superintendent Ludlam: He has not been here before, but he is a very dissipated character.—Mr. Knowles: What family have you?—Prisoner: Five children. When I went home about five o'clock yesterday afternoon my wife was in the house, and I went to the Navigation Inn and found my wife there drinking with another woman. I told her to come out, and in a short time she came out. I grumbled at her, and she began to curse me, and I cursed her. She "clod" a washing mug at me, and then she "clod" a club of wood at me. She then got hold of the cleaver and hit me on the head with it.

Mr. Knowles: This might have been a very serious matter, but the doctor gives a hopeful description of the case. As this is the first time, we shall deal leniently with you, and only fine you 10s. and costs. In default of payment you will have to go to prison for fourteen days.

The prisoner went to gaol.

Two colliers named Peter Bullock and Nicholas Eatock were charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having game in their possession for which they could not satisfactorily account. The defendants were seen by Inspector Kier on the

public footpath in Ince a little before six o'clock on Tuesday morning. He stopped them, and on Eatock found two nets, and Bullock had two hares and a rabbit in his possession. Mr. J. Knowles, M.P., the chairman, said both defendants were old offenders. They would each be fined £5 and costs, in default a month's imprisonment. Both went to gaol.—*Manchester Guardian*.

## LIFE INSURANCE AND THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT.

The following letters have recently appeared in the Manchester newspapers:—

Sir,—A friend of mine in this city having a policy of insurance in a Scotch office on his life, and in his own disposition, some time ago endorsed it to his wife under the provisions of the above Act. The other day the wife, with the concurrence of her husband, applied to the office for the surrender value of the policy, but was told, in reply, that under the insurance clauses of the Act a policy endorsed to a wife cannot be surrendered, even by the wife; and that all she could do in the present case was to allow the policy to lapse for 12 months, after which time the office might be disposed to take the matter into consideration.

As I can find nothing to this effect in the Act, and as such a construction of it, if correct, must affect most seriously the interests of a very large proportion of the insuring public, I shall feel greatly obliged by your permission to inquire through your columns whether any of your readers are aware of any such interpretation of the clauses having been given by the courts in any case, and, if so, where a reliable report of the case may be found.

To me it seems inevitable that, if such a policy cannot be surrendered, neither can it be transferred, and, therefore, as a security in any business transaction is valueless. Indeed, for all practical purposes during the lifetime of the insured the premiums paid on the policy are absolutely and irretrievably lost.—Yours, &c.,

F. M.

January 21.

Sir,—There is a letter in your issue of this morning, headed "Life Insurance and the Married Women's Property Act," and signed "F. M.," asking for information as to whether a certain interpretation of the clauses of that Act has been given by any of the courts. As to whether a married man can "assign" a policy on his own life to his wife under the provisions of the Married Women's Property Act I cannot say, although I have no doubt that if the husband were solvent at the time he made the assignment the law would protect the wife as against everyone. The assignment, however, would create a trust, and neither husband nor wife could deal with the policy in the manner "F. M." states his friend desired to do. Why 12 months must elapse before this particular company could give any relief I cannot pretend to say, as that may have something to do with Scotch law, while, as all must be aware, the Married Women's Property Act, 1870, applies only to England and Ireland. "F. M." must not conclude that all policies under the provisions of the Married Women's Property Act, 1870, are subject to the restrictions attaching to a trust policy, for a married woman may insure her husband's life under the provisions of this Act "for her separate use and benefit," and she can thereafter deal with the policy in any way for loans, surrender, &c., as absolutely as if she were a single woman.—Hoping this will enlighten "F. M.," I am, &c.,

Manchester, January 23.

F. M. S.



## THE PHYSIOLOGICAL OBJECTION TO WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

It is a familiar idea to many readers of this journal that a woman who claims rights of any kind thereby incurs the penalty of acting "Aunt Sally" to all the idle and silly men in her vicinity. And as "any stick is good enough to throw at a dog," so is any argument sound enough to be pitched at the heads of women—whether it be arguments drawn from the "wisdom of Nature," or from that of "our ancestors," from the over-abundance of female emotion, or the paucity of female muscle—from the fact that there has never been a female Shakspeare, or the fact that women are not qualified to figure as soldiers. As physiology is the fashion of this materialistic epoch, of course physiological discoveries (mares' nests also) have been quoted freely to prove that even if women should, by any chance, exhibit mental powers qualifying them to take University degrees, the use of those powers would surely entail disastrous consequences to themselves and to the community. Now, another stick has been flung from the same bundle, and women are informed that they must not claim political rights because their skulls are, on an average, an inch or two smaller in circumference than those of men. The argument will probably be supposed to have been intended merely as a joke, being about as relevant and cogent as the famous old Oxford syllogism in the "Art of Pluck:"

A man in a boat has got skulls in the water—  
Skulls contain brains.

Therefore a man in a boat has got water on the brain!

Nevertheless, it has really been put forth seriously by some Solomon who has been instructing the world in the columns of a paper which we should have thought too sensible to admit such correspondence—the *Daily Chronicle*. The following are extracts from the long letter of "W. S." After much of the usual talk about the familiar "proper sphere," he brandishes his new cudgel:—

"In my cursory readings in phrenology and physiology, I have met with some very curious and interesting facts—facts, I call them—establishing fundamentally distinct characteristics in the sexes; and, with your permission, I will here jot down a few of them for public consideration, and further inquiry; they have not hitherto been taken into account. Perhaps they have been kept in the background advisedly. But if they are found as unassailable as I believe them to be, they will go a considerable way towards limiting and fixing the *political* and *public* as they do *practically* the *social* and *private* position and status of woman.

"The points I desire to lay before your readers are the following: In phrenology *size* is a *measure* of power, and woman's brain, being smaller than man's, is less fitted for rough work. The female head is usually  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. less in circumference than the male head. [Here follow many details of comparative measurement.] The female body is less than the male, and in females the pulse beats ten times oftener per minute than in males.

"If the above data be found irrefutable—and they can be practically tested—they must knock most of the female politicians off their perch.

"It would be interesting, by the way, to know how the heads of the leaders of the female-suffrage movement contrast with the above measurements; and perhaps some experienced phrenologist may be allowed to furnish us with a chart of them."

After half a column more of application of these "discoveries" "W. S." concludes by an exhortation in verse beginning—

Learn, Lydia, learn, thy battlefield is home, &c., &c.

Surely, if there be any reader insensible to the arguments

derived from the size of female skulls, this appeal about the "battlefield of home" (alas! an o'er-true simile for thousands of hapless wives) cannot fail to carry conviction?

"W. S.," however, made a mistake in so recklessly challenging the leaders of the women's suffrage movement to publish the circumference of their skulls. The following reply to his letter appeared a day or two later in the *Daily Chronicle*:—

To the Editor of the *Daily Chronicle*.

Sir,—Your correspondent "W. S." very appropriately bases his opposition to women's rights on the exploded pseudo-science of phrenology. Both are equally out of date, and his superstructure is as solid as his foundation. However, as he expresses a curiosity to learn the sizes of the heads of the women who ask for the franchise, I will inform him that I, for one, possess a head a good deal larger than that of Descartes, and considerably above the average of all the male heads, taken collectively, in the museum of the College of Surgeons—a receptacle where I have promised to deposit mine (when I have quite done with it), for the inspection of such inquirers as "W. S."

For me, then, at least I suppose, on this *scullery* principle, it would not be presumptuous to ask for a vote? But what would "W. S." have said to Mrs. Somerville, who also persistently signed her name to every petition for the franchise, and yet had a tiny head, nearly the smallest and most delicate I ever beheld on any woman's shoulders? This little head, nevertheless, contained, probably, a good many more ideas than are shut up in "W. S.'s" "knowledge-box," though that doubtless is a large one, or he would not attach so vast an importance to the difference of an inch in circumference as that the human soul with a 23-inch skull may have all the rights of a citizen, and the soul with a 22-inch skull ought not to have one of them! Of course there is additional absurdity, even from the phrenological point of view, in calculating the size of a skull without reference to the height and weight of the body to which it belongs—an elephant or a toy terrier for example. I have read somewhere, but I attach no importance to the fact, that the skulls of women are, on an average, relatively larger in proportion to their bodies than those of men, and that the convolutions of their brains (of greater importance according to the latest *fad* of materialistic philosophy) are absolutely more multiplied. If this be true it does not hinder them from being certainly, on an average, intellectually weaker than men. But if such a difference be really a proper ground for withholding the franchise, it is high time that we should all publicly acknowledge and thoroughly carry out the principle. By all means let us put all men and all women through a competitive examination before they be permitted to exercise any political rights whatsoever. I fancy I could name a few women—a dozen or two, at all events—who might pass possibly before the illiterates now on the roll of the Constitution. Even I myself (dare I say it?), poor, illogical, feminine creature that I am! should not altogether despair of pitting my feeble intellects against the gigantic masculine brain of "W. S." Were I by any chance to come off victorious, is it possible that the horrible consequence would be, that, on his own showing, I ought to have a vote, and "W. S." to have none?—I am, sir, yours,  
K O P F.

Jan. 5.  
Of course, in sober sense, it is not the size of the skull, but the evidence of what the brain contained therein can actually achieve, which must be considered in every estimate of human ability, and to "K O P F's" citation of Mrs. Somerville might be added that of many other women of exceptional mental powers, with likewise exceptionally diminutive heads.

## EDUCATIONAL.

## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS.

Since the elections recorded in the December issue of this Journal, ladies have been elected on the School Boards of the seven following boroughs:—

Bridgewater ... ..	Miss Spiller (re-elected).
Bristol ... ..	Miss Emily Sturge.
Huddersfield ... ..	Mrs. Huth (re-elected).
Ipswich ... ..	Miss Grimwade.
Leicester ... ..	Mrs. Evans.
Rochester ... ..	Mrs. West.
Swansea ... ..	Mrs. Higginson.

Miss Sturge in Bristol, and Mrs. Evans in Leicester, were invited to stand as candidates in the lists put forward by the Liberal Associations of their respective boroughs.

## SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR GIRLS.

Dr. Samelson, of Manchester, has placed in the hands of the Manchester School Board the sum of five pounds, being the sum required for one scholarship for scholars in elementary schools, and has requested that his scholarship may be reserved for girls. Under the regulations of the Education Department the Government will add one equal sum to any amount which may be contributed to these scholarships.

## EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR GIRLS.

At the meeting of the London School Board, on January 21st, the Rev. G. M. Murphy, for Mr. Lucraft, moved the adoption of a report presented by the Educational Endowments Committee with regard to a newly-arranged City charity. The facts in relation to the charity were stated as follow:—Robert Hitchins, in the year 1680, gave to the Clothworkers' Company £1,500 upon trust, to purchase an estate the rents and profits of which should be appropriated in the form of gifts as follow:—Upon St. Stephen's Day yearly to 20 poor men and 20 poor women, of 50 years of age or upwards, to every one of them  $3\frac{1}{4}$  yards of broadcloth at 6s. a yard, one pair of shoes, one pair of hose, and one shirt or smock; and to an orthodox minister for preaching a sermon on that day, 20s.; and to him that should read the Psalms that day, 2s.; to the clerk of the company for his attendance on the occasion, 5s.; and to the beadle of the livery, 2s. 6d. Six men and six women of the above number were to be natives of the parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate, if so many recipients so qualified could be found, otherwise such poor men and women inhabitants of the said part of the parish as the churchwardens of the said part should think fit. And if there should be a surplus, the donor directed that it should be equally divided among, and annually given to, the said 40 poor men and women. The Clothworkers' Company had been in the habit of providing clothing for 20 men and 20 women, and giving £4 in money per annum to each, 14 of each sex being freemen or their widows, and six inhabitants of St. Giles, Cripplegate. The present actual value of the property purchased with the legacy money was not stated in the accounts furnished by the Clothworkers' Company to the Charity Commissioners, the income of £323. 9s. 9d. being stated to balance the payments made within the year. The income was said to be part of a gross income from property held for various interests. The expenditure accounted for amounted to £40. 19s. 6d. a year, exclusive of the amount for shoes, hose, and shirts. The new scheme provides that a yearly payment of £3. 9s. 9d. be made out of the income from the estate for a sermon as heretofore on St. Stephen's Day, and for expenses incidental thereto; that the Clothworkers' Com-

pany shall be the governing body, and that the estates and property of the foundation shall also be managed by the governors. There is to be a separate governing body, however, of the parochial branch of the foundation, to consist of the master and the two senior wardens of the Clothworkers' Company for the time being, and the two churchwardens of St. Giles, Cripplegate, for the time being. The income is to be divided into 40 equal shares, of which 12 are to form a separate branch, to be called the parochial branch of the foundation, which proportion is to be applied in gifts of money or clothing, of such amount or value respectively as the governors shall fix, to girls under the age of seven years, in the Elementary School of the foundation of Lady Eleanor Holles, in the parish of St. Giles, Cripplegate, who shall have been regular in attendance and diligent in studies. Out of the remaining 28 shares the governors are to apply the sum of £100 yearly for the education of sons or daughters of freemen or women of the Clothworkers' Company; and the residue of the income from the 28 shares, after providing for expenses of examinations, is to be applied in maintaining exhibitions, each of a yearly value of not more than £30, tenable at any place of education higher than elementary schools. These exhibitions are to be competed for by girls who have for three years at least attended any of the public elementary schools in the metropolis, and have passed in one or more subjects in one of the two highest standards of examination for the time being recognised by the Education Department. The Committee considered that the Board should have a representative on the managing body of this charity, and recommended that a letter should be addressed to the Committee of Council on Education urging that this should be adopted.—The recommendation was carried.

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

We have received a letter from Miss Martin, who passed successfully in the Moral Science Tripos, Cambridge, explaining that she had not "beaten all the men," as three other students were before her on the list, and suggesting that the expression implied an ungenerous rivalry between the sexes. In disclaiming any such intention, we desire to remark that the phrase objected to was the cordial and enthusiastic expression employed by a Cambridge student in describing the results of the late examination, thus welcoming the advance of women in the path of knowledge hitherto only open to his own sex.

## REVIEW.

*The Elementary School Manager.* By HUGO R. RICE-WIGGIN (late one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools) and ALFRED PERCEVAL GRAVES. Isbister and Co., London, 1871.

This is a most useful book. The aim of the writers has been "to help managers to select, to trace to their causes and to remedy all those flaws in their schools which in spite of precautions are constantly recurring," and in this aim they have been successful. The book shows both what to observe and how to observe in a clear, succinct manner, which will well repay study by all who have or hope to have care over schools, whether as recognised managers or otherwise. We rejoice to see the writers recurring frequently to the need of help from lady managers in various details of school management, and laying it down as a principle that in all schools a portion of the managers should be ladies. They would have every school, whether board or voluntary, to have at least three managers, "about one-third of whom should be ladies." This has been found to work well in the important school board district of Liverpool, though we cannot but think that in time a yet larger proportion may come to be recognised as advantageous.



WOMEN AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

Among the list of the candidates who have passed the first LL.B. examination of the London University appears the name of Miss Eliza Orme, the first lady who has taken advantage of the University's extension of its privileges to women as far as law degrees are concerned.

Our readers will be glad to learn that at a meeting of the United Law Students' Society (a society of which the Lord Chancellor is president), held at St. Clement's Town Hall on the 7th ult., a resolution approving of the decisions of the Incorporated Law Society and Inns of Court in excluding women to their respective examinations was rejected.

WOMEN AND THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

The resolution of the Council of the Royal Academy rendering ladies eligible in future for election as Academicians and Associates is a remarkable step in advance for that most conservative body, and a great triumph for the few members who are known to have persistently advocated the concession.

WOMEN AND THE MANCHESTER ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS.

The Manchester Academy of Fine Arts consists of 39 members, 23 associates, and 10 "lady exhibitors." The distinction between a member and an associate is a clear one, though the classification may not always accurately indicate the real status of the artist; but a different element is introduced in the phrase of "lady exhibitor."

VARIETIES.

As a memorial to the late Lady Anna Gore-Langton, a stained glass window has just been executed and placed in the church at Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset. The subject illustrates the text, "The Master comes and calleth for thee."

We learn from Paris that Mdle. Juliette Dodu, a heroine who was last year decorated with the Legion of Honour for splendid conduct during the war, has just been appointed by M. Jules Ferry, Minister of Public Instruction, to the office of delegate-general for the inspection of the schools established for the reception of little children under six years of age.

THE BARONY OF BRAYE.—A correspondent writes: "The recent re-appearance of this ancient title on the roll of peers affords a curious illustration of the vitality of a barony by writ of summons. Although the title dates from 1529, the Hon. Alfred Thomas Townshend Wyatt-Edgell, who has recently inherited it, is only the third Lord Braye. The title has, however, been twice held in the female line—namely, by the grandmother and mother of the present peer, the latter of whom is recently deceased.

NAVAL OFFICERS' WIVES.—Practically the order of the Admiralty of 1869, directing that the wives of officers shall no longer be permitted to reside on board ship, is being rescinded. Several exceptions have recently been made, and now the commanders of the flagships at Portsmouth and Devonport have been granted permission for their wives to reside on board.

At a preliminary examination of women over eighteen years of age, recently held at Oxford, the secretary to the delegacy (the Rev. S. Edwards) has issued the following list of those who obtained certificates at this examination:—Edith M. Argles, Lady Margaret Hall; E. Dorothy Bradby, Lady Margaret Hall; Helen M. Brailey, Somerville Hall; Georgina H. Nicholson, Oxford; Edith E. Pearson, Lady Margaret Hall. There were thirteen candidates entered for this examination, but one did not appear.

There are now fifty girls among the students of Cornell University, of whom thirteen are members of the Freshman class. Michigan University has one hundred and thirty-four women students, and the President says of the experiment of educating the sexes together: "After our nine years' experience in coeducation, we have become so accustomed to see women take up any kind of university work, carry it on successfully, graduate in good health, cause no embarrassment in the administration of the institution, and awaken no especial solicitude in the minds of their friends or of their teachers, that many of the theoretical discussions of coeducation, by those who have had no opportunity to examine it carefully, read queerly to us here on the ground."

At a public meeting held at the Eleusis Club, Chelsea, on January 8th, in order to protest against the cruelty and inhumanity practised in the war in Afghanistan, the chief speakers were Professor Beesly, Mrs. Webster (of the London School Board), and Dr. Bridges.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING JANUARY, 1880.

Table listing subscribers for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including names like Mrs. Garnett, Miss Edith Brooke, Mrs. Stephenson Hunter, etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

DEMONSTRATION FUND.

Table listing donors for the Demonstration Fund, including Mrs. Garnett, Lady Bowring, Miss Courtenay, etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

LEEDS.

Table listing subscribers from Leeds, including Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Mrs. Ed. Oates, Miss Carbutt, etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

Table listing subscribers for the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Hopkinson, Mrs. R. W. Eddison, etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

Table listing subscribers and donors for the Bristol and West of England Branch, including Mrs. Hallett, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Baker, Misses Priestman, etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

ALAN GREENWELL, TREASURER, 3, Buckingham Vale, Clifton.

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

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FROM DEC. 20, 1879, TO JAN. 20, 1880.

Table listing subscribers for the Central Committee, including Miss C. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M'Laren, Miss Arthur, etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

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