

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. VIII.—No. 85. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.  
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

MARCH 1, 1877.

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## Contents :

Leading Articles:—The Introduction of the Bill; The Law of Scotland takes a Baby from its Mother; English Law for Mothers; Women's Questions in the Italian Parliament.  
Parliamentary Intelligence.  
Election Intelligence:—Halifax.

Public Meetings:—Edinburgh (Annual Meeting), Ken- nair, Inverurie, Lymington, Andover, London.  
Drawing Room Meetings:—Aberdeen, Portobello, Bath.  
Debating Societies:—Durham University Union, Ossett.  
Memorial Stone of New Board Schools for Manchester.  
The Condition of Hindoo Women.

The Last Ballad of Charles Kingsley.  
Correspondence:—Taxation without Representation.  
Women Household's Declaration.  
The Property of Married Women.  
Treasurer's Reports:—Bristol, Manchester, Central Committee.

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**PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!**—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for the Petitions in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, the second reading of which is fixed for June 6th. Written Petitions, ready for signature, with full information, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; or to Miss THORNBURY, Secretary, Central Committee, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

**BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.** The ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on Thursday, March 8th, 1877. The Chair will be taken at 7-30 p.m. by the Lady Anna Gore-Langton. Miss Lillias S. Ashworth, Professor Sheldon Amos, Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Dr. Davey, James Inskip, Esq., Rev. T. Burchell Spring, Miss Isabella Tod (Belfast), Rev. Arnold Thomas, Rev. Urijah R. Thomas, and others, have promised to attend.—Admission Free; Reserved seats, One Shilling.

**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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**BIRMINGHAM.**—The CONFERENCE and PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on Tuesday, April 17, 1877. Further particulars will be advertised in the next issue of the *Journal* and in local announcements.

**MR. HOCHSTETTER'S STRING QUARTETT CONCERTS,** under the distinguished patronage of Sir Julius Benedict.

In consequence of M. Rubenstein's concert taking place on March 6th, the FIFTH and LAST CONCERT of the Season at the Memorial Hall, Albert Square, is postponed to Wednesday, March 21st, 1877.

### PROGRAMME.

Sextett in C major, Op. 140 .....Spohr.  
Quartett, in E minor, Op. 44, No. 2, Mendelssohn.  
Quintett, in C major, Op. 29 .....Beethoven.

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**LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM THE PLANET VENUS.** Reprinted by permission from *Fraser's Magazine*.—May be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society, 4, Broad-street Corner, Birmingham.

**"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.

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For further information apply to the Assistant Honorary Secretary, at the Club; to Lady Jackson, 61, Portland Place, W.; or the Treasurer, Miss Helen Blackburn, 14, Victoria Road, Kensington, W.

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CONTENTS FOR FEBRUARY 15, 1877.

- Art. I.—The Women's Education Union.  
" II.—Influence of Women on Temperance.  
" III.—Mademoiselle de Grandpré and the Discharged Prisoners of St. Lazare.  
" IV.—Events of the Month:—London University—Saint Andrew's—Girton—Women's Education Union—Ladies' Colleges—Apothecaries' Arts Examination—Women's Suffrage—School Board Elections: Northampton, Worcester, Bristol—Boarding of Pauper Children—Property of Married Women—Responsibilities of Mothers—Rejection of a Woman as Registrar—Railway Clerks—Associations for Needlework—British Women's Temperance Association—Cooking Classes—Miscellaneous.

Art. V.—Appeal for Neapolitan Schools. VI.—Correspondence. VII.—Foreign Notes and News. VIII.—A Plea for Women.

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The Society is established for the purpose of giving special facilities for the thorough training and for the employment of girls and women in type-setting and other light branches of printing. Those who desire to assist in promoting this object are invited to take shares in the Society and to send orders for printing.

Full information may be obtained of the Secretary, Mrs. PATERSON, at the Office, 38, Castle-street, Holborn.

## NATIONAL UNION OF WORKING WOMEN.

Instituted August, 1874,  
And enrolled according to Act of Parliament.

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GENERAL TREASURER.  
Mrs. GRENFELL, 5, Albert Villas, Clifton.

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Mr. T. THOMAS, 14, Leigh Terrace, Redland, Bristol.

The Executive Committee desire to make known the objects of the Union to all who are interested in the welfare of the working women of England. The Union was established for the purpose of combining all classes of working women into one Association, for their mutual help and protection. There is a uniform contribution per week per member, while the benefits are given for illness, when out of work, and provision for the funeral money of deceased members. Five Branches have been opened, and applications have been received to open others, while the constant addition of new members leads the Committee to hope for a large measure of success. The expenses attendant on organising such an institution are many. The Committee, therefore, earnestly invite all friends of women's work to assist them by their contributions, and to co-operate with them in organising Branches wherever they may be required.

Correspondence invited; and any information which will promote the objects of the Union will be gladly received by the General Secretary.

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### PUBLIC PETITIONS—APPENDIX TO THE REPORT.

Containing the Text of Petitions presented in favour of the  
*Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.*

App. 1. *Mr. John Holms.* Sig. 1,440.

11. The humble Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of Hackney,  
Sheweth,

That the exclusion of women otherwise legally qualified from voting in the election of Members of Parliament is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass the Bill entitled "A Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

LOUISA E. WADE.  
WM. HARRY.  
ANN HAYDON.  
&c. &c. &c.

App. 2. *Mr. Russell Gurney.* Seal.

29. The humble Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Southampton, in council assembled,  
Sheweth,

That the principles on which the government of the United Kingdom is based imply the representation of all classes and interests in the State.

That representation being now reduced to a household qualification, it is unjust to exclude from the parliamentary franchise, on the ground of sex only, those householders who fulfil all the conditions which entitle to a vote in the election of Members of Parliament.

That the electoral principle has been conceded to women in reference to the municipal franchise and to school boards, and it has been largely exercised with acknowledged advantage.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass the Bill intitled "A Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Given under our common seal the 7th day of  
February, 1877. (Seal.)

LADIES AT CAMBRIDGE.—At the recent Cambridge mathematical tripos examination two ladies were informally examined, and the examiners report that one of them, Miss Borchardt, of Girton College, gained the necessary number of marks for a place among the Senior Optimes.

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WE have the gratification of announcing to our friends that the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women was introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, Sir ROBERT ANSTRUTHER, the Right Hon. RUSSELL GURNEY, and the Right Hon. JAMES STANSFELD. It was read a first time on February 9th, and the second reading fixed for Wednesday, June the 6th. This is a later date than has heretofore been fixed for the debate; but as we reminded our readers in our last issue, the matter depends in a great measure on the chances of the ballot for places among members who have charge of Bills, and the choice of days in April and May was more than usually limited this session, owing to the early occurrence of the Easter and Whitsuntide holidays. The debate has usually taken place between Easter and Whitsuntide, but this year it will be after the latter recess, in the beginning of the third period of the session. This is a much more favourable time than the friends of the Bill have been able to secure for a division during the present Parliament. In each of the last two years the debate has taken place the third day after the termination of the Easter recess, when it was impossible for many of our warmest supporters to return to London in time to record their votes. This circumstance may or may not have affected the number of the majority; it certainly did reduce the number of votes which would otherwise have been given for the Bill. We rejoice to think that this disadvantage will not recur this session: the House will have been re-assembled ten days or a fortnight after the Whitsuntide recess, the session will be in full tide, and so far as we can foresee there will be nothing to prevent a full and fair vote, which will be an adequate representation of the mind of the existing Parliament on the question of maintaining the disfranchisement of women.

The number of petitions recorded in the first and second Parliamentary reports in favour of the Bill is 47, with 18,963 signatures. Among these we observe with great pleasure one from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Southampton under their corporate seal, which we hope will be followed by petitions from other municipal corporations. Fifteen petitions are from public meetings,

including one from women's trades unions, and several from drawing-room meetings. The largest number of signatures to any one petition is 5,051, from Oldham. No petitions have been presented against the Bill. We have hitherto reprinted in the *Journal* the full list of petitions from the Parliamentary report, but the increased pressure on our space compels us to discontinue this practice. Our friends, however, may rest assured that their petitions come under the notice of members of Parliament, although they are not recorded in the pages of the *Journal*; and if those who have forwarded petitions for presentation will kindly notify the particulars of the same to this office, information will be sent to them by post when their petitions have been presented. We again urge on our friends the need of increasing diligence and perseverance in this mode of supporting the Bill, and we beg them to profit by the longer interval of preparation to furnish a stronger demonstration than ever of the demand for the measure, and of the sense that the claim is based on justice and reason, and that it ought to be conceded without delay.

Turning to other Bills introduced by the Government or by private members, we find few that have any special application to women. The provisions of the proposed measure for the regulation and extension of the Factories and Workshops Acts may, perhaps, threaten additional restriction of the industrial rights of women who have to earn their own living, and a further confiscation of that which is their capital,—their labour, and their freedom to sell that labour. But as the Report of the Royal Commission was against further interference with the liberty of adult women, it is possible that the Government may accept that principle, and limit the operation of their Bill to children and young persons.

Among private members' Bills we perceive one only which is designed to redress any of the injustice and hardship of the laws affecting women, and this solitary Bill applies to one kingdom only. Scotch women will be interested to observe that Mr. ANDERSON has introduced a Bill to amend the laws relating to the property of married women in Scotland, the second reading of which is fixed for Wednesday, April 18th. As, however, this Bill does

not stand as the first order of the day, it is possible that there may be no opportunity of bringing it on; and it may become a dropped order and be postponed till next session. In spite of this uncertainty, our sisters north of the Tweed will do well to send petitions in support of Mr. ANDERSON'S Bill.

It is understood that Lord COLERIDGE will, after Easter, introduce in the House of Lords a Bill with a similar object, to apply to England and Ireland. Should these two Bills become law this session, Parliament will have done something to bear out the assertion of the opponents of women's suffrage, that they are always ready and willing to do justice to women although women are deprived of votes; but they will have done nothing to militate against the assertion of the friends, that the deprivation is in itself unjust, and injurious to those who suffer it.

THE seemingly inveterate delusion that the laws of this realm allow to a mother the right to the custody of her baby until it has reached the age of seven years, may have received a little shock through a legal decision just given in Scotland. The Court of Session had before them a petition from the Reverend JAMES LILLEY, minister of Knox Free Church, Arbroath, to obtain an order for the custody of his infant child. From the pleadings before the Court we learn that Mr. and Mrs. LILLEY were married in 1875, that after a few months of wedded misery Mrs. LILLEY, feeling that she could bear no more, and fearing for her health and life under the trial of her approaching confinement, left her husband's house, and took refuge with her sisters, at whose house her baby was born. Before taking this step her medical attendant, Dr. TRAILL, had given it as his professional opinion, "that it would be fraught with danger to her to remain in her husband's house during her approaching confinement." She herself felt this to be true, and that her only hope of a safe delivery depended upon absolute quiet and separation from the life she had been compelled to lead in the petitioner's house and society. For a period of four months previous to her departure, during his fits of passionate abuse, he would often menace her with his clenched fist pressed against her forehead; and five days before she left him, while uttering threats to "cow and tame" her, he struck her on the shoulder with his fist. He used to denounce her in the bitterest terms, to call his own passionate outbursts of fury "earnest speaking," and to exhort her, as if she and not he were the wrong-doer. On the 7th April, he wrote to her brothers, "I hesitate not to remind you that I have a

potent weapon in store (referring to his wife's approaching confinement). If MAGGIE retains long her present criminal attitude, and if it please the Creator to put that instrument (her then unborn child) into my hands, I shall feel not only compelled, but solemnly bound as a husband to use it relentlessly." The child was born, and was named and registered the day after its birth by the name which the father and mother had agreed it should bear, if a daughter, namely, MARY SALMOND LILLEY, after the name of its maternal grandmother. The mother had never denied the father access to the child, and was willing to make any reasonable arrangement considering its age, which he or the Court might suggest. The child, though healthy, was not robust, and required all the care and attention which only a mother could give. It would be most detrimental to its health and comfort to remove it from her charge, and to place it in alien hands. Moreover, she averred that she had done nothing to forfeit the right of a mother to minister to the wants of her infant.

The first thing that the Court did was to order the child to be baptised, which occasion was used by Mr. LILLEY to break the agreement as to the name it should bear, and cause it to be changed to "AGNES ELEANOR." This was stated to be in the exercise of "his paramount authority as the father in the naming of his child," and the matter "must just be brought before the Court unless Mrs. LILLEY would take the reasonable and proper course of at once agreeing to what Mr. LILLEY has fixed." The child was therefore baptised "AGNES ELEANOR" in violation of the previous agreement, and of a general, if not invariable, practice in the district that the first-born daughter should be named after its maternal grandmother. Mr. LILLEY then applied to have the name altered in the register for the district, which was accordingly done.

After the baptism the arguments were continued in the Court, Mr. CAMPBELL, on behalf of the father, contending that "the only relevant considerations were simply those that related to the life or health or morals of the child. If the mother could make out that these would be endangered by putting the child into her husband's custody, then she had a relevant answer to the petition. If she could not make out that, there was no answer to the petition."

Mr. CAMPBELL was indisputably right in his law. In questions of this nature the law takes no account of mothers. The only persons who are before the Court, or who are supposed to have interests which the Court is

bound to consider, are the father and the child.

Judgment was given by the Court of Session in conformity with this principle. They ordered Mrs. LILLEY forthwith to deliver the child to the father, with this arrangement, that it be sent once a week to her residence, and that she should be entitled to visit her husband's house without any attendant as often as she might desire to see it. Whereupon Mr. LILLEY sent his sister in a cab with a hired nurse to his wife's house, with a memorandum requiring that *his* child should be delivered to the bearer, and the baby was reft from its mother's arms.

Commenting on this decision the *Dundee Advertiser* says:—"It would certainly seem to be natural that a young infant should be brought up by its mother. But there is no statute in Scotland like Talfourd's Act, and the Scotch law is ruled by the Roman law, which gave all power to the father. . . . It seems somewhat inhuman to take an infant of eight months from its mother, especially when a girl; and if the principle of the law is right, and always to be rigorously enforced, there may yet be a case when it will be applied to a child only born a few days or a few hours."

Scotch mothers, then, will do well to bear in mind that from the moment their babes are born they have no right or control over them, and that there exists no Court or authority in Scotland that can give to a mother the legal guardianship of her child.

IN an article on the custody of infants, which appeared a few months ago in the *Spectator*, it was said that the custody of a child belonged by *nature and by nurture* to the father. This is a truly masculine view of the case, and it reminds us of a story told in one of THOMAS HOOD'S poems. A child, being in delicate health, was ordered ass's milk. This was supplied by a neighbouring farmer, who every day brought the animal to yield the morning meal. One day, the farmer was observed bringing a strange ass. He explained that an accident had befallen "JENNY," who was dead; but, rather than the child should be wholly disappointed, he had brought "JACK," adding, "he doesn't give no milk, but he can bray!" The law, in its substitution of the father for the mother, as the lawful custodian of a new-born babe, resembles the farmer of the story; and the perverse irony of the situation would be ludicrous but for the mother's agony and the child's risk. It cannot be too deeply burnt into the minds of English wives and mothers that the moment an infant is born it ceases to belong to the

mother; it belongs absolutely to the father, and, if he chooses, he can give the custody of it to a stranger—he can send it away out of its mother's sight; he can deprive the infant of its natural nourishment, and forbid to the mother the exercise of the most sacred of her maternal functions. But, it will be said—Is this absolutely so? Is there *no* remedy? Yes; the law does give the mother some means of redress, if she is patient enough to wait for it, and rich enough to pay for it. An Act, passed in the year 1873, declares that "it shall be lawful for the Court (the Court of Chancery), upon hearing the petition of the mother of any infant under sixteen years of age, to order that the mother shall have access to the infant at such times, and subject to such regulations, as the Judge shall deem proper, or to order that such infant shall be delivered to the mother." But how utterly inadequate is this remedy for such a wrong! The mother may be lying weak and helpless on her bed of sorrowing maternity, in no condition to undertake proceedings at law. She may be poor, and unable to raise the sum necessary to prosecute a costly Chancery suit. But supposing these difficulties were overcome, there is the question of time—the law's delay is proverbial—and Chancery proceedings have not hitherto been the most rapid of legal processes. Before the costly and cumbrous machinery can have been set in motion, the babe may have perished for want of its mother's breast, or by the time it is restored that fount may be dried up through privation and grief.

"It is a scandalous and odious libel," says Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, "to say that women are a class, or that Parliament would do any injustice to them." But mothers are a class, as fathers are a class; and the sex which includes the class of mothers is unrepresented in Parliament, while the sex which includes the class of fathers has a monopoly of political power. It is a natural corollary from these facts that the rights of fathers are made absolute, and the mother's rights are *nil*. The remedy for these and all other wrongs inflicted by law on the unrepresented half of the nation lies through their admission to the franchise.

WE learn from *L'Avenir des Femmes* that on January 26th M. SALVATORE MORELLI introduced in the Italian Chamber of Deputies a Bill to remove the disability which at present precludes women from serving as witnesses to civil or public documents and acts. During the sitting of December 12th, in a discussion relating to the employment of women as telegraph clerks, the Minister of Public Works pointed out the practical advantage of

the admission of women to employments in which they could acquit themselves with honour. M. MORELLI followed in an eloquent discourse, in which he said that the destinies of nations were in the hands of women; and from the detestation of humanity against such states as Turkey, where women groaned in servitude, one might infer that this century was to be the age of the rights of women, as last century was the age of the rights of men.

### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
*Friday, February 9th.*

Women's Disabilities Removal.—Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Jacob Bright, Sir Robert Anstruther, Mr. Russell Gurney, and Mr. Stansfeld. Presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 6th June, and to be printed. [Bill 17.]

Married Women's Property (Scotland).—Bill for the Protection of the Property of Married Women in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Anderson, Sir Robert Anstruther, Mr. M'Laren, and Mr. Orr Ewing. Presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 41.]

### ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

HALIFAX.—The resignation of Mr. Crossley, one of the members for this borough, has been followed by the return of the Liberal candidate, Mr. Hutchinson, by a large majority over his opponent, Mr. Gamble, Q.C. At one of his election meetings, Mr. Hutchinson declared in answer to a question that he would vote for Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. As Mr. Crossley had been neutral, there is a gain of one vote for the Bill.

Mrs. Frances Elizabeth Hoggan, M.D., of Zurich, who has been for several years in practice in London, has just passed a successful examination in Dublin, and has received the Licences in medicine and midwifery of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, which of course secure for her official recognition in the United Kingdom. By a singular coincidence, on the same day Dr. George Hoggan, the husband of Mrs. Hoggan, was attending at the reading of their joint paper on "Lymphatics of Muscles" at the meeting of the Royal Society on Thursday last. This subject is one of the most intricate and mysterious known in physiological science, and it is rather singular that one of the sex whose incapacity for medical pursuits has been so continually asserted by the profession should have been a principal agent in elucidating this obscure problem; and has accomplished the work moreover (we are happy to hear) without the infliction of the smallest pain even on the meanest of God's sensitive creatures.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

#### EDINBURGH.

ANNUAL MEETING.—SPEECH OF MR. COWAN, M.P.

The ninth annual meeting of the Edinburgh Society was held in the large saloon of the Royal Hotel, Princes-street, on February 1st. Professor HODGSON occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of ladies. Amongst those present were Mr. James Cowan, M.P.; Mr. R. A. Macfie, of Dregghorn; Mr. Walter M'Laren, Rev. Mr. Graham, Newhaven; Mrs. M'Laren, Mrs. M'Queen, Miss Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Wellstood, Miss Spalding, Miss Craig, Miss E. Whyte, Mrs. Masson, Miss Masson, Mrs. Nichol, Mrs. Pryde, Miss Kirkland, and Miss Walls.

The CHAIRMAN, before commencing the proceedings, read a letter of apology from Mr. M'Laren, the senior member for Edinburgh, which was to the effect that he was sorry he was unable to meet with them that day to testify his unabated confidence in the cause of women's suffrage, but prudential considerations on the score of health obliged him to remain quiet at home for a few days longer. He might repeat once more what he had often stated: he never had been able to see any logical or other valid reason why women who occupied houses of their own should not have votes equally with men occupying the same comparative position as householders. He wished them a successful meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, proceeding with a few preliminary remarks, said that it was because he thought the claims of ladies in this matter were essentially, entirely, and indisputably just that he was so glad to be able in some way to advocate those claims. Many persons, perhaps more from confusion of mind than from any other cause, were apt to think that the ladies in this matter were putting forward claims of some peculiar privilege on the ground of their sex. There was no such thing. It was exactly the reverse: instead of putting their sex as a qualification, they simply pleaded that sex should not be a disqualification. Surely the difference between these two things was quite wide enough and clear enough to render further argument quite unnecessary. Here they had a law that men who were householders and paid rates should have the right to vote for members in Parliament, and by that same Act women who were equally householders, equally ratepayers, and equally entitled to the suffrage, were debarred from the exercise of that suffrage. He could not say that that was right or just. He did not care to go into the question of the mighty evils, or cruelties, or atrocities, which might result from the present state of the law; he was quite convinced that if a thing was unjust it must be mischievous. (Applause.)

Miss WIGHAM submitted the ninth annual report of the society, which stated that since the agitation commenced, in 1866, remarkable progress had been made in the recognition of the right and capacity of women to exercise the franchise, and the number of women who annually took part in the municipal elections of England showed this appreciation of the power entrusted to them. The School Board elections in Scotland last year again proved that there was no difficulty in women recording their votes, and the capacity of women to act as members of the boards and their power to give an account of their stewardship. The operations of the committee during the past year had been mainly directed in upholding the principles of the society, by distributing facts and arguments, by holding drawing-room and public meetings, and by sending petitions to Parliament in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. In pursuance of the latter branch of the operations, the secretary (Miss Kirkland) and other mem-

bers of the committee had visited many towns in Scotland, and town councillors, ministers, and other persons of importance had interested themselves in the movement. The result of the committee's labours had been that 256 petitions had been sent from Scotland, signed by 32,450 persons. Among these petitions were 90 from female householders, 14 from town councils, 16 from Good Templar lodges, 17 from public meetings, seven from drawing-room meetings, one from twenty-four officers, professors, and teachers of the Scottish Universities, and one from professional women (teachers, &c.) The Bill received similar support from all parts of the kingdom and from all classes of the community. It was submitted for second reading to the House of Commons on April 6, 1876, when 152 votes were recorded for the Bill and 239 against it. The minority consisted, including the tellers, of 116 English, 20 Scotch, and 19 Irish members; the majority, also including the tellers, was composed of 206 English, 20 Scotch, and 19 Irish representatives. The total number of petitions presented had been 11,171, and the signatures 376,166. The treasurer's statement showed that the income of the society for the past year, including a balance from the account of the previous year of £54. 9s. 9d., had been £226. 17s. 11d., and the expenditure £197. 2s. 8d., leaving a balance of £84. 5s.

Mr. JAMES COWAN, M.P., moved:—"That the report now read be adopted, and the committee be appointed for the coming year." Speaking in support of the motion, Mr. Cowan said that he particularly agreed with the report in what it said about Mr. Forsyth. His efforts on behalf of the cause had been signal, and had been one great means of having the large minority in the House of 152. A minority in the House of Commons of 152, and when a minority reached that height a measure was likely to succeed in the end. The cause, he thought, had been going on increasing. The petition in 1867 was signed by only 13,000, and last year they had 415,000 signatures. The petitions had come from all parts of the country, crowded meetings had been held in every large town, and the extraordinary thing was that their opponents had never even had the courage to get up a public meeting in any town against the measure, and why? because they knew they would not have the least chance of being successful. The feeling was growing in the country that women, single women, who paid rates and taxes, should be represented in Parliament. They had as much right to vote for members of Parliament as men had, and he could not but conceive that at the end of a few years their efforts would be successful, and they would attain their desire. The arguments used against the Bill were more arguments as to what might happen if the Bill were to pass. It was stated that the ladies wished to go into the House of Commons, to be ambassadors. The same argument applied to every scheme brought before the House. There was one petition presented in favour of the Bill from Cambridge, signed by no less than 32 Fellows, showing that the case they had so much at heart was supported by the best and most learned men of the country, and was by no means confined to the women themselves. There was no doubt that the hon. members who were so eloquent against the measure took their ideas from the ladies they met with in London society; and he need not tell them how the ladies in London society were not the ladies to go in for women's rights. Those who went for them were ladies of that class of women who strove to keep houses over their heads, to keep themselves from the poorhouse, and who, therefore, had an interest that economy should be practised in the Government. He thought the admission of women to the electoral rights would also exercise a wholesome supervision over that feeling for war which so often had taken hold of the people, and might do so again. Giving women votes would add 13 per

cent to the already numerous constituency of voters, and the 13 per cent, he felt sure, would always be on the side of peace. There was another thing that was agitating the whole country at present from Land's End to John o' Groat's House, and that was the question of sobriety. There was a strong feeling in the country that something should be done. He did not think the Permissive Bill should be passed, but that some measure ought to be adopted that would put more under the supervision of the people, whereby there might be less temptation to drinking and less temptation for people to be led astray. He thought that 13 per cent of women's votes would always be in favour of sobriety. On these two grounds, that of their support if enfranchised to the cause of peace and sobriety, he would warmly advocate that they should proceed with due vigour in the prosecution of their object. He earnestly hoped that the cause would prosper, and that soon the minority they now had would be turned into a majority. (Applause.)

Mr. MACFIE, of Dregghorn, in seconding the motion, said that he was sanguine enough to believe that when this reform was carried it would tend to the improvement of the personal qualities of candidates for Parliament, whether for the representation of cities, burghs, or other communities—(applause)—because a very so-so candidate would never be presented to a constituency largely composed of ladies. There were many matters of very great importance to the community which did not receive sufficient attention at present because they were not party questions; and there was one question, a very important one, that ladies would be sure to take an interest in—the cheapening of books. It appeared to him that the way had been happily prepared for the exercise of the suffrage by ladies. It appeared as if Providence had prepared the way for female suffrage in the institution of the ballot. (Applause.)

The motion was then passed.

Miss TOD, Belfast, moved:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of women householders and ratepayers from the electoral franchise is inconsistent with the constitutional principle that taxation is the basis of representation, and that the rejection of a large portion of the industry and intelligence and property of the country from direct representation is unjust to those excluded and injurious to the community at large; further, resolve that a petition to this effect be forwarded to Parliament, signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, praying the House of Commons to pass a Bill removing the electoral disabilities of women, to be introduced into the House this session by Mr. Jacob Bright." In supporting the motion, she said that she supposed that at this, the ninth annual meeting of the society, the majority of those present had made up their minds that the claim of duly qualified women to be represented in Parliament was a just one, and its success would be productive of benefit to the community at large. Not long since a distinguished writer said to her that he was sure that the claim of women householders was a right one, and he certainly wished to see all legal obstacles put out of their way, but he thought it was a cold thing to care so much for. She was afraid that was the feeling of a great many shallow-minded people, who were willing to acknowledge the cogency of political facts and arguments when put before them, but without having had their attention sufficiently called to the moral facts that lay behind them. They too often forgot, although it had been acknowledged by all true statesmen, that morals underlay all politics. When this was the ground and basis of politics, and the province in which it was acknowledged by all that the opinions and convictions of women were of some weight, was it not worth while considering whether what they pleaded was not the best means, as had already been suggested, of relieving politics from coldness and shallowness? They wanted to gain two objects by their pro-

ceedings. They desired to have certain specific reforms achieved, and they desired also to raise the status of women by removing a conspicuous disability. They had reason to congratulate themselves upon the point which they had reached. They had not, indeed, got the privilege which they claimed, but year by year, and almost day by day, they saw how general the sense of the necessity and justice of their claim was becoming, and how deep and strong the feeling was which led ladies to set aside their objections to taking part in public life, and the conviction that this claim which they were presenting was one which would enable them to do their duty in a great number of respects much better than at present. They were not asking to enter into a new sphere, but to enlarge an old one. They only asked for the removal of obstacles; and if the Suffrage Bill were passed to-morrow, while it would not extinguish the duties which were already woman's, it would greatly deepen her sense of responsibility in regard to others. With many drawbacks women have always had an influence in public life, in whatever status of society. From the time of the early Christian martyrs down to the last struggle for the extinction of slavery, women had raised their voices no less effectively than men. In all Christian countries public life was simply an extension of home life; and they knew very well that legislation now, at least the greater part of it, was emphatically domestic legislation; that was, of a kind in regard to which women were likely to have as cool and judicious views as men. Great gain had accrued to their cause during the past year in the very important department of professional employment. She alluded to the satisfactory conclusion of a long struggle to obtain medical diplomas for ladies. She hoped they would pardon her if she said with a little pride it was an Irish University that had been the first in the kingdom to admit ladies into these institutions. After pointing out the importance of a higher and wider education for girls, to give them a chance of developing more fully their powers and faculties, and, in fact, to give them an opportunity of being whatever their Creator meant them to be, Miss Tod proceeded to maintain that women were citizens of the State as well as men; guardians with men of the best life of the nation; bound as much as men were to consider the good of the whole; and justified as much as men in sharing in the good of the whole. They pressed their claim because they thought it was right in itself, and because they believed it would bear good fruits. If women were not prepared for the franchise, they were growing so every day; and, as Mr. Gladstone said about another matter, "freedom itself is the best preparation for freedom." Every advance in constitutional government brought us nearer the ideal in which Government would find the means of satisfying the feminine as well as the masculine idea of human nature. She believed the success of their movement would benefit men as much as women, tend to the spread of Christianity, and, in the present circumstances of modern society, lead much towards promoting practical religion in all departments of daily life. She had great pleasure in moving the motion entrusted to her.

Mrs. Masson did not think there was half the opposition to the movement at present that existed formerly. Public opinion appeared to be rapidly coming round to their side, especially among the more educated classes of the people. The system of representation in this country had always been in an unsatisfactory condition. Many reforms had been made in it, but the reforms had all been made by men and for men, whereas this reform was distinct from those which had come before it, in that it had been instituted by women and for women. The tendency in these reforms was and had always been to extend the basis of representation. Every class of men in the country had their representatives, and women were beginning to ask—why are

we treated thus and left out in the cold? Mr. Bright tells us we are not a class, and should object to be treated as a class. Certainly we were not a class. It would be difficult to put all women in one class; on the contrary, there were as many classes among women as among men; or, rather, there were a variety of classes in society, each of which consisted, not of women only and men only, but of women and men. (Applause.) When the women in all these classes were sifted out and set aside, then, and then only were they driven to think of themselves as a class, and the world began to speak of them as such. It was because they objected to be treated as a class that they asked to share the privileges that are supposed to belong to all classes of men. Mr. Bright has spent his life very nobly in obtaining for the working man—that is, one class of men—the privilege of representing themselves in Parliament. There are numbers of women householders intellectual, highly educated, with more money and more time to give to others than Mr. Bright's working man—that much to be cared for, much to be legislated for individual whom Mr. Bright has put in front of all his countrymen. (Applause.) It was not that women objected to political freedom being given to the working men, they only asked that the same privilege be conferred on the working women. They might ask, why was this Bill which they all advocated so long in getting through the House of Commons? and some of them who had been working might begin to feel a little discouraged. Well, they would need to remember, in the first place, that it was an old right they were invading. She did not think, if the Parliamentary franchise were a new right to be granted now to men, that it would be given to men and not to women. They saw that that was the natural process when the educational franchise was given a few years ago. There was nothing said then about excluding women. They had been ten years at work, and their Bill was still in its first reading. But, after all, ten years was not a very long time to carry a great reform in. After speaking of the manner in which the association had endeavoured to gain its ends, particularly by petitioning, Mrs. Masson went on to say that the object they had in view was the most beneficent scheme they had to deal with in the present day, and asked their help to carry a great public measure which would put an end to, or at least ameliorate, a great part of the misery and distress which they saw around them—to make it easier for women to live honestly, and put an end to great injustice. Temperance and sanitary reforms would run a better chance of doing good: the women would make them so. (Applause.) She concluded by seconding the motion.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Mr. GRAHAM, Newhaven, then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Forsyth, M.P., for his leadership, and to other members who had supported the Bill.

The motion was seconded by Mr. WELLSTOOD, and passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. WALTER M'LAREN, a vote of thanks was passed to the speakers; after which a vote of thanks to Professor Hodgson for his conduct in the chair brought the meeting to a close.

Miss Craigen held meetings in Scotland during August last at LOCHGILPHEAD, DENNY, LINLITHGOW, NEWTON GRANGE, BUCKIE, NEW PITSLIGO, STRICHEN, LONMAY, DYSART, and WOODSIDE OF ABERDEEN.

A Quaker was recently inveighing against agitation. "I should like to know," said a lady, "what good was ever done in the world without agitation. We can't even make butter without it."

## DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

## ABERDEEN.

A series of drawing-room meetings, promoted by Miss Burton and Miss Ella Burton, have been held in Aberdeen during February. On February 1st a drawing-room meeting was held at Hawthorn Lodge, the residence of Sheriff Comrie Thomson, when Miss Ella Burton read an admirable paper on "Woman's Sphere: an Historical Sketch." The subject of conversation was the granting of the franchise to female householders, which was very cordially supported. On the previous afternoon a similar meeting, composed entirely of ladies, was held at Professor Dickie's residence, Cherryvale, when the latter subject was discussed and a large number of signatures obtained to a petition in favour of the proposal. Both meetings were exceedingly well attended, and the proceedings were of a very interesting nature.

Another drawing-room meeting, convened by request of Miss Burton and Miss Ella Burton, was held on February 2nd at the residence of Provost Jamieson, Albyn Place. There was a large attendance of ladies, and several of the magistrates and town council were also present. The Provost, who presided, after some introductory remarks, introduced the Misses Burton, who addressed the meeting. Bailie Urquhart, in moving that the petition for passing the Bill entitled "A Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women," be signed by Provost Jamieson on behalf of the meeting, said that, as an old supporter of the cause, he was glad to notice the great advance of public opinion in favour of the movement within the last few years. The motion was seconded by Professor Salmond and carried unanimously.

On February 3rd a meeting was held in the house of Mr. Gerard, Union-street, at which the Dean of Guild presided, and, as an old supporter of the movement, delivered a neat and effective address. He was followed by Misses Burton and Mrs. Gerard, and Councillor Bruce also gave an excellent address.

On February 5th a meeting took place in the house of Mr. Leslie, of Nethermuir, Albyn Place. Mr. Leslie, who is also an old friend of the movement, spoke cordially in its favour, and addresses were given by Principal Brown, Rev. Mr. Arthur, and Mr. A. C. Barker, Misses Burton also taking part in the proceedings.

A drawing-room meeting was held on February 5th, in Kingsland House. On the invitation of Messrs. and Miss Forbes, a large company of ladies and gentlemen were present. Mr. J. Forbes was called to the chair, and introduced the subject of the evening in a felicitous speech. Thereafter, in addition to Miss Burton and Miss Ella Burton, others, including the Rev. Mr. Beatt, Mr. Lessel Stephen, and Dr. Cowan, of H.M.S. Clyde, gave short and effective addresses. An animated conversation followed, the preponderating feelings being in favour of the female franchise. Altogether the meeting was a most pleasant and successful one.

On February 6th a meeting was held in the house of Mrs. Fleming, Crown-street, at which Rev. Mr. Galbraith presided.

The series was concluded by a meeting held in the house of Mrs. Duthie, of Cairnbulg, Albyn Place, on February 7th. On the motion of Captain John Martin, Rev. Mr. Cowan took the chair, and the proceedings were very pleasant and cordial throughout. This, indeed, may be said to have been the characteristic of the whole series, all of which were fully attended. In several of the cases the feeling of the meeting was unanimous in favour of the extension of the suffrage to female ratepayers; and in all the others large majorities of those present signed the petition to Parliament to that effect.

## PORTOBELLO.

A drawing-room meeting was held at Miss Caldwell's, 2, Victoria Terrace, Portobello, on Thursday, the 15th February. Bailie Tait presided, and the meeting was addressed by the Rev. R. Auchterlone, Mrs. Wellstood, Mrs. Masson, Miss Wigham, and others. A resolution adopting a petition in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill was unanimously passed. The proceedings were altogether of a very interesting character.

## KEMNAY.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.—A lecture in connection with this association was delivered by Miss Ella Burton in the Public School, on the evening of February 8th, Mr. J. A. Burnett, younger, of Kemnay, in the chair. The school was densely crowded in every part, many having to go away without even getting a look inside. The subject of the lecture, "Woman's Sphere," and the well-known ability of the speaker, brought people from considerable distances. The lecturer sketched the position occupied by women from the earliest records of history down to the present time, her aim being to show that they were equally capable with men to manage and govern for the common weal. The audience listened with rapt attention, and, at the close, proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Burton, which was very heartily responded to. Votes of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

## INVERURIE.

On February 16th, a lecture was delivered in the Town Hall, by Miss Ella Burton, the subject being "Remarkable Women in History." Miss Burton was accompanied to the platform by Provost Annand and Treasurer Skinner. In the course of her lecture she gave short and vivid sketches of various women who stand out conspicuously in history, as examples of women in different capacities, as Queen Margaret of Scotland, representative of the woman saint; Joan of Arc, the woman warrior. The times of Queen Elizabeth she characterised as an age of remarkable women; the woman ruler being well represented by Elizabeth. The Covenanted times were next brought under review, and the important part taken then by women, as Jenny Geddes, Grizzle Baillie, John Brown's wife, and numerous others who suffered persecution and death for the sake of the truth. In the afternoon, previous to the lecture, a most successful meeting of a semi-private nature was held for the purpose of discussing the question of women's household franchise.

## LYMINGTON.

An important public meeting was held on February 13th at the Assembly Rooms, Lymington, in favour of Women's Suffrage. The hall was well filled with a most respectable and attentive audience. The chair was taken by the Hon. AUBERON HERBERT. The principal speakers were Mrs. Ronniger and Miss Caroline A. Biggs. Some little opposition took place, Mr. Coxwell and Mr. Spackman taking exception to the first resolution, the controversy being one affording both interest and amusement, though we are bound to add, says the *Lymington Chronicle*, not altogether to the advantage of the opposition.

The business of the evening was opened by the CHAIRMAN, who declared himself in sympathy with the movement, and maintained that on many of the leading questions of the day, women were as deeply concerned, and ought to have the power of expressing their wishes and views thereon.

A resolution affirming the principle was proposed by Miss CAROLINE BIGGS and seconded by Mrs. RONNIGER.

Mr. SPACKMAN begged to propose an amendment to the effect that the exclusion of women from voting was not injurious to

those excluded, or contrary to the principle of just representation. He said the present position of woman was her natural one, and the one she was intended to take, and one given by experience.—The amendment was seconded by Mr. COXWELL, who said he denied that the law did not afford ample protection for ladies. He referred to various Acts of Parliament dealing with the property of married women—wife's equity settlements, &c. The professions were overstocked; he knew many persons compelled to leave the country in consequence, not being able to earn even journeyman's wages in a profession. It would be better for many women if they would attend more to home duty and put less finery on their back. Her place was inferior to man, and he thought it would not be wise to give her the power of Parliamentary voting.

Mr. SPACKMAN said woman was intended by God to be his helpmeet and not his rival. He mentioned the cases of Spain and France in which full liberty was granted to women but not to any good result. We must consider life work in two classes, the heavy for the man and the lighter for the woman.

The Rev. — FITCH said both Mr. Coxwell and Mr. Spackman had gone aside of the subject. The women did not seek to be rivals with men—they were not rivals, they were not at present equals.

The CHAIRMAN said the resolution had been laid before the meeting, also certain reasons against its passing. They had heard of competitors existing in the profession. It was natural in competitions that jealousies should arise, but there were two interests to be considered; one, the interest of the profession, the other, and by far the greater, was the interest of the public outside. We hear of distress from want of employment, but we do not say there shall be only so many workmen employed. It is considered wisest and best that there should be no restriction whatever. This is found to be a good principle between man, and the same principle should apply as between man and woman. Mr. Spackman told them the experience had put woman where she is. Such a principle allowed would lead to every abuse. It would have prevented the people from ever obtaining the power to vote. It would have kept the franchise from the Irish Catholics. No! we must allow the experience of to-day to correct the experience of yesterday. (Hear.) What did Mr. Spackman mean by creative genius? and that because men had it and women had not, only men must be empowered to vote. Why, creative genius hardly appeared once in a century, and then in about one man out of twenty-five million. Is there any of us present who has creative genius, and thereby entitled to vote? He thought not, except, perhaps, it might be his friend—(a laugh)—and must we not have a vote? The great justification of liberty was that it invariably developed and brought into exercise these powers by which men became wiser and happier, and why should it not do so with women? It was the liberty enjoyed by this nation which had hitherto enabled it to play a leading part in history, and what had resulted so well for Englishmen would, he was persuaded, bear the same fruit for Englishwomen. The Acts for the protection of property of married women were procured by the women themselves, who took the matter into their own hands, and pressed it upon Parliament. The position of women towards their own children was not fair or satisfactory, the husband having the power of giving the children into any guardianship he pleased. Then as to the statement that God had put men into an unequal position, it was a statement that had already been too often used in keeping up an evil thing. Such a doctrine never came from God. A sense of justice and right, that he did believe came from God; that sense made man wiser and better, and would continue to make him so both for himself and for others.

The amendment was then put, only a few hands lifted. The resolution was put, and carried with cheers.

Petitions in favour of the Bill were afterwards adopted by the meeting, which concluded with the usual votes of thanks.—Abridged from the *Lynton and South Hants Chronicle*.

## ANDOVER.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on February 14th, in support of the Bill for conferring the electoral franchise on women householders. The chair was taken soon after eight o'clock by Mr. T. P. CLARKE, who was accompanied on the platform by Mrs. Ronniger and Miss Caroline A. Biggs (the deputation from the Society), and also by Mr. R. D. Walbey.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said that the object they desired to promote was not a party question; it was supported by the most eminent men on both sides the House. Women had for some years taken part in municipal matters, they were eligible to hold office as overseers or churchwardens, and—most notable instance of all—the throne of England was occupied by a woman, our good and gracious and much loved Queen—(cheers)—and if she was considered competent to wield the sceptre over the largest empire the world ever saw, he did not see why the rights conferred by the franchise should not be exercised by the rest of her sex. He trusted, therefore, the audience would come forward and sign the petition to allow ladies duly qualified to exercise these rights.—The usual resolutions were proposed and supported and carried unanimously, and votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

## BATH.

A drawing-room meeting was held on Friday afternoon, February 2nd, at Mrs. Morison's, Bathwick Hill, Bath. The meeting, which was very numerous attended, was addressed by Miss Le Geyt, Miss Spender, and Mr. Greenwell. A resolution was passed adopting a petition to Parliament in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. Many ladies and gentlemen who had not before had an opportunity of hearing the subject discussed, now expressed themselves in favour of the women's suffrage movement.

## LONDON.

A public meeting, convened by the West Middlesex Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, was held on February 21st, at the Quebec Institute, Lower Seymour-street, W., in support of the Bill for enabling women householders to exercise the franchise. Sir John Bennett presided; and on the platform were Miss Fenwick Miller, Mrs. Lucas, Miss Downing, the Hon. Auberon Herbert, and Dr. W. C. Bennett. Resolutions in favour of the Bill, and urging the borough members to support it in Parliament, were unanimously adopted.

## DEBATING SOCIETIES.

DURHAM UNIVERSITY UNION.—At a recent debate of the Durham University Union Society a majority of 10, being more than two to one in a full meeting, voted in favour of "Women's Rights." Suggestions were made that the University of Durham should admit female students in every faculty.

OSSETT.—A paper on women's suffrage was read by Mr. Saberton, on February 19th, before the Ossett Young Men's Mutual Improvement and Debating Society. After reading the paper Mr. A. Ellis led off vigorously in opposition, and was ably supported by Rev. J. P. Perkins, Messrs. J. S. Wilby, J. Dews, and others. The writer of the paper was well supported by Mr. A. Mitchel, S. Archer, Alfred Ellis, and others. After a warm debate a resolution in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill was carried by a majority of one.

## MEMORIAL STONE OF NEW BOARD SCHOOLS FOR MANCHESTER.

The memorial stone of the new Board Schools, which are already about half built in Burgess-street, Harpurhey, Manchester, was laid by Miss Becker on February 17th. Miss Becker was accompanied by Mr. Herbert Birley (chairman of the Board), Dr. John Watts, Mr. Dale, Mr. Phythian, the Rev. J. Henn, Mr. Milner, Mr. Croston, and Mr. Ruspini (clerk to the Board), and a large crowd of people witnessed the ceremony.

Rev. J. HENN having offered prayer, Mr. BIRLEY delivered an address describing the educational requirements of the locality.

Mr. JAMES CROSTON then presented Miss Becker with an engraved silver trowel, bearing a suitable inscription, in the name and on behalf of the members of the School Board. He said he believed it was the first occasion on which the memorial stone of new Board schools had been laid by a lady. Addressing Miss Becker, he said he knew of no member of the School Board who had laboured more earnestly and more zealously to carry out the provisions of the Education Act than herself; and therefore he knew of no one to whom the duty could more fittingly have been assigned, or who was better entitled to that token of the appreciation of her colleagues upon the School Board that he was that day privileged to present to her.

Mr. ROYLE (one of the architects) presented Miss Becker with a mallet with which to perform her work.

Miss BECKER, after thanking her colleagues for the honour they had conferred upon her in inviting her to lay the memorial stone, said she was not one who thought that education, however high it was carried, did interfere, or ought to interfere, with the proper performance of the common every-day duties of life. On the contrary, she believed that the more the intellectual faculties were sharpened and developed the more effective an instrument they had to perform these duties. She was sure that the best educated women were those who would most readily perceive what their domestic duties were, and perform them with efficiency and comfort to all concerned. But she thought it a great mistake to suppose that domestic duties were limited to girls and women. We heard a good deal now about a school of cookery, and it had been proposed by some to introduce cooking lessons into board schools. The more people learned the better, undoubtedly; and, if she had her way, every boy in Manchester should be taught to darn his own socks and cook his own chops. A short time ago Sir John Lubbock was lecturing upon ants, and, describing a certain kind of those insects who kept slaves, he said they had so much accustomed themselves to depend upon the labour of their slaves that they were too lazy to feed themselves. By way of experiment, he put a few of these aristocratic ants into a box, and so lazy were they that they would have died if he had not put two or three slaves in the same box to feed them. She was afraid that some of the working men of this country were in the condition of the aristocratic ants described by Sir John Lubbock, for unless they had domestic slaves in the shape of wives and daughters they would be too lazy to feed themselves or too ignorant to know how to do it. A sad case was recently reported in Manchester where a man had been left a widower with several children. After the death of his wife he spent his time at the public-house, and one of his children was actually starved to death. When the children were spoken to they said they had not had a proper dinner since their mother died, and when the man was asked why he had allowed his child to die for want of attention, his answer was that he had nobody to look after them. Why did not the man look after them himself instead of spending his time at the public-house? When a woman was left a widow she had to be father and mother too, and a man who was left a widower should be mother and father too.

## THE CONDITION OF HINDOO WOMEN.

LECTURE BY LADY ANNA GORE-LANGTON.

A lecture was delivered on February 20th by Lady Anna Gore-Langton, sister of the Duke of Buckingham, Governor of Madras, at the rooms of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, Oxford-street, on "The Social Condition of Women in Southern India." Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL, M.P., presided, and was supported by Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., Mr. Pennington, M.P., Lady Buchanan, Lady Burgoyne, the Hon. Mrs. Drummond, &c.

The CHAIRMAN said there could be no more interesting subject of benevolent enterprise than the endeavour to improve the social condition of the women of India. A short time ago the world was surprised that a man holding one of the highest positions in this country—the Duke of Buckingham—should expatriate himself simply in order to go to India to benefit many millions of his fellow subjects. During his journey to India and during a portion of his stay there he was accompanied by his sister Lady Anna Gore-Langton, who had thus been enabled to make herself acquainted with the manners and customs of the natives, especially those in the south of India.

The LECTURER, who was received with cheers, commenced by describing the general condition of females in South India. Native girls and women were, she observed, considered of little value. The fathers considered it a disgrace to have a number of female children, and parents generally objected to their daughters attending school. Native women suffered greatly—particularly in childbirth—for want of good doctors and nurses, and she (Lady Anna Gore-Langton) did not see why English ladies should not supply that defect. She hoped it would be done within a few years. Generally speaking, she thought, the native men did not want the females to be educated, one objection urged against education being that if women had it they would require more clothes and jewels. In concluding, her ladyship observed that any improvement among the men would be very much owing to improvement in the minds of the women. She also spoke of the elevating effect of Christianity upon the condition of women in India as elsewhere, and of the wide and important sphere of women generally, domestic and social; adding that, if women were lowered, men must be degraded.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, M.P., said that there was much in Lady Anna's statements suggestive of things in this country. The position of widows was of course immeasurably higher than in India, yet in some respects there was a similarity. There was much that was profoundly melancholy in what they had heard; men and women are much alike all the world over, and what raises men raises women. The foundation of future progress for women lies in their possession in some way or other of political power. New classes and new interests arise in many constituencies, demanding attention from members of Parliament; those without votes come with timidity and nervously, those with votes like masters to a servant. He would not have made these remarks had they been on more neutral grounds, but the place was associated with this question.

Miss COBBE, in moving a vote of thanks to Lady Anna Gore-Langton, remarked on the freer condition of women in ancient India, as seen in the hymns of the Vedas, and how, through the dark superstitions which had overgrown the purer religions of earlier times, they had fallen from a condition of *subjection*, to one which might be called *abjection*.

The vote of thanks was cordially adopted, and Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL expressed a hope that her ladyship would repeat her lecture, a wish with which we understand the noble and accomplished lecturer has already consented to comply.

THE LAST BALLAD OF CHARLES KINGSLEY.

Near the close of the second volume of the "Letters and Memoirs of Charles Kingsley" there is a ballad said to be the last poem he ever wrote. It illustrates a crying wrong of women—the subjection of the personal and maternal rights of a wife to the will and power of a husband, who may be as selfish and cruel as the "hero" of the ballad:—

"Are you ready for your steeplechase, Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree? Barum, Barum, Barum, Barum, Barum, Barum, Baree. You're booked to ride your capping race to-day at Coulterlee, You're booked to ride Vindictive, for all the world to see, To keep him straight, and keep him first, and win the run for me, Barum, Barum," &c.

She clasped her new-born baby, poor Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree, Barum, Barum, &c.

"I cannot ride Vindictive, as any man might see, And I will not ride Vindictive, with this baby on my knee; He's killed a boy, he's killed a man, and why must he kill me?"

"Unless you ride Vindictive, Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree, Unless you ride Vindictive to-day at Coulterlee, And land him safe across the brook, and win the blank for me, It's you may keep your baby, for you'll get no keep from me."

"That husbands could be cruel" said Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree, "That husbands could be cruel, I've known for seasons three; But oh! to ride Vindictive while a baby cries for me, And be killed across a fence at last, for all the world to see!

She mastered young Vindictive—oh! the gallant lass was she!— And kept him straight, and won the race, as near as near could be; But he killed her at the brook against a pollard willow tree, Oh! he killed her at the brook—the brute!—for all the world to see, And no one but the baby cried for poor Lorraine, Lorree."

The Contemporary Review comments as follows on the "mysterious refrain" of the ballad:—

"First of all, it must be read with the stress upon the second syllable, so as to run—

"Barum-barum barum-barum-barum-barum-barée!"

So much is clear, for metrical reasons. The rest is guess-work. But what strikes us is very simple. Many a riding-master or circus-master has lived by his wife's performances, and perhaps Kingsley had heard just then of some case very much like that of the main incident of the ballad (there was such an occurrence in London). Now let us figure to ourselves a jaunty blackguard of that stamp, with his smoking-cap cocked loosely, and the music of the circus band in his head. He goes about to wheedle—and at last to bully—his wife into riding a dangerous horse, and while he does so, in the pauses of the talk, he hums the music of the brass instruments and the drums—"Barum-barum-barum-barum-barum-barum-barée"—and this makes a natural refrain to the ballad; a kind of rhyming bass, which well reflects the jaunty way of this selfish ruffian."

CORRESPONDENCE.

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—Will you allow me a small space in your Journal to state that I have again permitted my goods to be distrained for Queen's taxes, as a protest against the exclusion of women householders from the Parliamentary franchise? The collector had postponed the levy for last year's taxes until to-day. He was extremely civil in performing his duty.—I am, dear madam, yours truly, R. A. H.

Hendon, Middlesex, February 16th, 1877.

WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' DECLARATION.

A desire has been felt to form a record of a permanent kind, of the demand of women, otherwise legally qualified, to exercise the Parliamentary franchise. When the names of such women are appended to petitions to the House of Commons, they are usually mixed up together with the men and women who are not householders, and when once the petition has been laid on the table of the House of Commons the signatures become the property of Parliament, and are no longer accessible for reference. It is therefore proposed, that women who possess the qualification for the Parliamentary vote, should in addition to signing petitions to Parliament, send in their names to be appended to the declaration to be preserved in the offices of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, as a standing protest against the deprivation of the Parliamentary franchise attached to the household or property qualification they possess, and a memorial of the desire and demand of women for the suffrage.

Those who desire to join in this demonstration should write for a form, or they may send their signature with a request that it be attached to the declaration, to Miss Thornbury, secretary, 64, Berners-street, London; or to Miss Becker, Office of the Women's Suffrage Journal, Manchester; or to any of the secretaries of the society. The full Christian name and address should be given, and the nature of the qualification, whether it be a household or property qualification, should be stated. The declaration has already received the adhesion of some most distinguished names, and it is hoped will become a record of permanent historical and political value. The following is the form of declaration:—

"We, the undersigned, possessing qualifications which would entitle us, if we were men, to vote in elections for members of Parliament, declare that we consider our exclusion from the privilege on the ground of sex, an infraction of the principle that taxation and representation should go together, and we hereby express our desire for an alteration in the laws, which shall enable all women possessing the qualifications now enabling men to vote, to exercise the Parliamentary franchise, if they desire so to do."

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Mr. George Anderson, M.P. for Glasgow, speaking at the City Hall, is reported by the Glasgow Herald of the 3rd of February, to have said:—

"He also intended to introduce a Bill on behalf of the ladies—a Bill for the protection of the Property of Married Women. A few years ago he introduced and passed a small measure in that direction, to protect the earnings of married women who happened to have disreputable and drunken husbands, or husbands who deserted them, and did not treat them fairly. Well, the Bill he was contemplating was more comprehensive; it would aim at dealing with the property of married women in a more complete manner—the tendency indeed of it was to get away from the old-fashioned idea that a woman was only a piece of goods; that a woman was merely a chattel and belongeth to her husband; that she and everything she had belonged to him; and that she had no right to have anything at all. The Bill would go more on the principle that marriage was a partnership in which both ought to have rights and interests, and that the interests of females ought to be more protected than hitherto they had been. He hoped to be able to carry a Bill in that direction."

The Married Women's Property Committee have great pleasure in announcing that Mr. Anderson has already fulfilled his pledge by introducing the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill, the second reading of which is fixed for Wednesday, the 18th of April. As the law as to the Property of Married Women in Scotland differs materially in technical details from the law of England and Ireland, it has been found impossible to deal with it in any measure which might apply to England and Ireland. No previous Married Women's Property Bill has, therefore, extended its provisions to Scotland, so that this is the first attempt made in a British Parliament to deal with this question, so far as Scotland is affected, on a broad and equitable principle.

The committee appeal most earnestly to their friends, and especially to their friends in Scotland, to give them immediate and effectual help, especially by contributing liberally to their funds, and by petitioning Parliament in support of these two measures.

With two Bills before Parliament in one session, they feel that they have much arduous work before them, work that only the active co-operation of all who sympathise with their efforts can enable them successfully to achieve.

The English Property Bill will not be introduced until after Easter. It was the intention of Lord Coleridge to have introduced it during the first days of the session, but as it could not then have been proceeded with, owing to his absence on circuit, he has decided to postpone its introduction until after the Easter holidays.

All persons who are disposed to prepare their own forms of petition are cordially invited to do so, as each varying form is specially recorded in the reports of the Committee of the House of Commons on Petitions, and thus helps to attract attention to the subject.

For the convenience of others, written headings, leaflets for distribution, and other papers will be supplied, on application to the secretary, Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, Congleton, Cheshire.

Subscriptions and donations will be gladly received by the treasurer, Mrs. Jacob Bright, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY, 1877.

Table listing names and amounts received during February 1877, including Mr. Samuel L. Taylor, Anonymous (Edgbaston), Mrs. Ogden, Mrs. H. Gillson, Mrs. Joseph Leese, Mrs. S. S. Hennell, Mrs. Moore, Miss Lupton, Mrs. Freeston, Mrs. Gerard, and URSULA M. BRIGHT, TREASURER.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE 18TH DECEMBER, 1876.

Table listing names and amounts received since 18th December 1876, including Miss L. S. Ashworth, Professor F. W. Newman, Miss Estlin, Mr. Handel Cossham, Mrs. Mills Baker, Mr. John Lucas, Miss Tribe, Mr. T. W. Dunn, M.A., Miss Cortauld, The Misses Priestman, Mrs. Helen Bright Clark (Street), Mrs. Tanner, and Carried forward.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS (continued).

Large table listing names and amounts received, including Brought forward, Mrs. Coates, Rev. U. R. Thomas, Mrs. Price, Miss Mary Price, Miss Marian Price, Mrs. Layton (Bideford), Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Robberds (Cheltenham), Miss Schaw Protheroe, Mrs. Russell Carpenter (Bridport), Mr. W. F. Collier (Horrabridge), The Rev. T. Brown, Miss Thomas, Mr. W. Tribe, Mr. Alfred Price, Miss Price, Mrs. Peck, Miss Malin, The Rev. J. B. Spring, Miss Hall, Mrs. de l'Hoste, Mrs. F. G. Thompson (Bridgwater), Mr. John Bill (Coventry), Mrs. Miller (Galway), Mrs. W. Calfox (Bridport), Miss Gibson (Bridport), Mr. H. F. Lawes, junr., Rev. Prebendary Percival, D.D., Dr. Eliza W. Dunbar, Mr. H. Hill, Mr. Peter Price (Cardiff), Rev. J. Caldicott, D.D., Mrs. Austin (Cirencester), Mrs. Frazer (Cirencester), Mr. J. L. Daniell, Miss Taylor, Miss Leedham, Mrs. Colman, Miss Lloyd, Miss Jones, Mr. Weir, Mrs. A. Thompson (Bridgwater), Mrs. G. C. Thompson (Bridgwater), Mrs. J. H. B. Carslake (Bridgwater), Miss L. F. March Phillips (Cheltenham), Miss Evans (Tavistock), Miss M. Gibson (Bridport), Mrs. Rendall (Bridport), Mrs. Reynolds (Bridport), Mrs. J. P. Stephens (Bridport), Miss G. Stephens (Bridport), Miss Wansley (Bridport), Mrs. Goss, Miss F. E. Leonard, Mrs. Travers Wood (Swansea), Miss Hincks (Clevedon), Mr. W. H. Frank, Mrs. Budgett, Miss Evelyn Thompson (Bridgwater), Miss Beddoe, Mr. G. A. Bessell, Rev. J. J. Brown (Cirencester), Rev. T. G. Rooke (Frome), Mr. Chapman (Frome), Mr. S. Clarke (Malmesbury), Mrs. Wm. Sturge, Miss Dance (Taunton), Miss Lutley (Wiveliscombe), Mrs. Boucher, Miss Bryant, Mrs. Geary, Mrs. Davies (Bridport), Mrs. Reader (Bridport), Mrs. Seaton, Mr. Gawler.

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Table with columns for names and amounts received during February 1877. Includes names like Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Mrs. Chas. Holland, etc.

Table with columns for names and amounts received during February 1877. Includes names like Mrs. Edward W. Smithson, Mrs. Henry Richardson, etc.

Table with columns for names and amounts received during February 1877. Includes names like Mr. T. Roe, jun., Mr. F. Longdon, J.P., etc.

Table with columns for names and amounts received during February 1877. Includes names like Mr. Charles Simpson, Carried forward.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS (continued).

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes sections for HANLEY, STAFFORD, and YORK.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Contributions to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners Street, London, W., from January 21st to February 20th, 1877.

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes names like Mrs. Pennington, Miss Williams, Mrs. Branch, etc.

ALFRED W. BENNETT, TREASURER.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Executive Committee.

Table listing members of the Executive Committee, including Sir Robert Anstruther, Miss Caroline Biggs, and others.

General Committee.

Table listing members of the General Committee, including Carter, Mr. Alderman, Hunt, Alfred W., Esq., and many others.



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