

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. IX.—No 95. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

JANUARY 1, 1878.

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PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by at once beginning to collect signatures for the petitions to be presented in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, at the opening of the next session of Parliament. Written petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; or to Miss THORNBURY, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

LAMBETH BATHS.—A PUBLIC MEETING will be held on the 18th January, at the Lambeth Baths. F. W. CHESSON, Esq., in the chair. Miss Helen Taylor, G. M. Murphy, Esq., and others will address the meeting.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—A PUBLIC MEETING, in support of the Bill for Conferring the Parliamentary Suffrage upon Women Householders, will be held in the MECHANICS' INSTITUTION, South Shields, on Tuesday evening, January 22nd, 1878. Mr. Alderman GLOVER, J.P., has consented to preside. The meeting will be addressed by Miss Becker, Mrs. Oliver Scatterd, and others. To commence at eight o'clock. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. each.

MORPETH.—A PUBLIC MEETING, in support of the Bill for Conferring the Parliamentary Suffrage upon Women Householders, will be held in the MASONIC HALL, Morpeth, on Wednesday evening, January 23rd, 1878. The Worshipful the MAYOR OF MORPETH will preside. Miss Becker, Mrs. Oliver Scatterd, and others will address the meeting. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. each. To commence at eight o'clock.

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

THE WOMAN'S GAZETTE; or, News about Work. Published Monthly, post free, 2½d., by Hatchards. Reviews topics of interest to women, and affords information and a means of advertisement respecting the Employments open to them, both paid and unpaid.—Office: 42, Somerset-street, Portman Square.

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LADIES' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION in connection with University College, London.—Lent Term begins on Monday, January 21st.—Prospectuses in the Office at the College, or of J. E. MYLNE, Esq., 27, Oxford Square, Hyde Park, W.

LONDON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.—The FOURTH WINTER SESSION begins on the 1st October, 1877. The course of study comprises all the Lectures required for the Medical Examinations and Clinical Instruction at the Royal Free Hospital.—Apply to Mrs. THORNE, Hon. Sec., 30, Henrietta-street, Brunswick Square, W.C.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held in the Town Hall, Manchester, November 7th, 1877. In coloured cover, price 6d., to be had of the Secretary, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

BOOKS.—WANTED to Purchase, THE SUBJECTION OF WOMEN, by Mr. J. S. Mill; THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEPENDENCE OF WOMEN.—Write, stating price, to Miss H. BLACKBURN, 14, Victoria Road, Kensington.

MOURNING REFORM ASSOCIATION.—Established in order to aid in bringing into general use Mourning Customs simple, rational, and free from ostentation or extravagance.—For particulars, apply to the Hon. Sec., Miss L. Whitby, Peckleton House, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

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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 with those of 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.

The following is the form of declaration, which it is hoped will become a record of permanent historical and political value:—"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 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."

All friends are requested to send for forms to collect signatures.

Women householders are invited to write (stating name, address, and qualification, and) authorising their names to be attached to the declaration to MISS BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester; or to MISS THORNBURY, Secretary of Central Committee, 64, Berners Street, London, W.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

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

Write out the form given below on any kind of paper that may be at hand. A sheet of note paper opened out will do.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

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.

Write out the above form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper. Try to obtain one or more signatures to follow your own. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise. Make up the petition as a book-post packet, open at the ends, write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the

member who is to present it at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free. Write, and send along with the petition, a note (post paid) asking the member to present it, and to support its prayer.

NEW ACT ON MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.

To-day (1st January) an Act passed in the last session comes into operation to protect the property of married women in Scotland. It provides that the earnings of married women acquired from and after the commencement of the Act shall be protected, and in any marriage after that date the liability of the husband for the anti-nuptial debts is to be limited to the amount of property received through the wife at or before or subsequent to the marriage, and any court in which the husband is sued may order an investigation.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL. Edited by LYDIA E. BECKER.—Volume VIII., January to December, 1877. In coloured cover, price, post free, 1s. 10d. London: Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co.

READING CASES to hold 12 numbers of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, cloth, with gilt letters, and 12 elastic bands, price 2s. Published by Messrs. Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London, and Mr. John Heywood, Manchester. To be had of all booksellers.

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THE Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women will be introduced in the forthcoming session of Parliament by Mr. LEONARD COURTNEY, M.P. for Liskeard. A deputation consisting of representatives from the various committees of the National Society for Women's Suffrage waited on the honourable gentleman on December 11th, at his residence in Queen ANNE'S Gate, to convey to him their request that he would take charge of the Bill, it having become known that Mr. JACOB BRIGHT would be unable for the present to continue his services as the Parliamentary leader. Mr. COURTNEY acceded in the most hearty and generous manner to the application made to him, and did so in terms which were such as to impress all present with the conviction that in him the cause finds a faithful and zealous exponent, and an able and energetic leader.

Mr. COURTNEY has been a supporter of the principle from the beginning of the movement. His name was among the first to be given to the petitions in 1866, and he has been for some time a member of the Executive Committee of the London National Society for Women's Suffrage. He was a candidate for the Borough of Liskeard in the general election of 1874, when he was defeated by Mr. HORSMAN by five votes only; but he was returned in the election which took place in December, 1876, beating his opponent, Lieut.-Col. STERLING, by a large majority. In the course of his election speeches at Liskeard, Mr. COURTNEY dealt with the question of women's suffrage, and argued forcibly that women should vote at Parliamentary as they did at municipal elections. He said that he advocated their claims partly for the sake of women, partly for the sake of men, and greatly for the sake of society. Women had most to do in the formation of character, and the higher they could raise the status of women, the better would it be for the community.

It will thus be seen that Mr. COURTNEY is no new adherent of the principle, and that his convictions are the fruits of long consideration and matured thought. He brings to the cause the support of a high reputation, an

active and independent spirit, and an earnest purpose, and there is every prospect that under his leadership the movement will steadily advance to a prosperous and successful issue.

It is announced that Parliament will meet for the despatch of business on the seventeenth of January. This is about three weeks earlier than usual, and it therefore seems that before another number of this journal shall be in the hands of our readers, the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill will have been introduced by Mr. COURTNEY, and read a first time in the House of Commons.

Let our friends support the Bill in the hands of our new leader by the same energy and perseverance in petitions which they have shown in former years. In requesting Mr. COURTNEY to take charge of the measure, the friends of the cause pledged themselves to support his action by every means in their power, and it is in the power of every one interested in the Bill to promote and sign petitions. We desire to call attention to some remarks on the duty of petitioning, reprinted from the *Anti-Bread Tax Circular*, which will be found in another column. What was true then is true now, and so long as human nature remains what it is always will be true. People who want a thing must ask for it, and continue to ask for it until they get it. It would be unreasonable to expect to obtain any great thing the first or the second time of asking. The persistency must be the test of the reality of the demand. Year after year the petitioners for our Bill have been over a quarter of a million. They have been more than for any other measure before Parliament. The petitions have a cumulative force when they continue steadily year after year. If there had been a great rush at the beginning, and then they had subsided when the Bill did not at once pass, the cessation would have marked a subsidence of interest in question, or faint-hearted distrust of its progress. But the continuous demand of the petitioners through so many years shows that the movement has taken deep root in the convictions of the people, and the expression of those convictions in the constitu-

tional and time-honoured form of petitions to the High Court of Parliament cannot fail sooner or later to influence the Legislature in the direction desired.

We give in our advertising columns full directions for preparing and forwarding petitions. It is desirable that our friends should prepare and forward their own petitions to their own local members at the House of Commons, but those who wish for them can have petitions forwarded ready for signature, by writing to the Office of this Journal, or to any of the Secretaries of the Society. It is also desirable that friends who send petitions to their own members, should notify to us or to any of the Secretaries the fact of having done so, and particulars of the petitions, in order that they may be compared with the Parliamentary report to see if they have been duly presented and the right number of signatures reported.

We refer our readers to the autumnal numbers of the Journal for the list of petitions presented last year, and we shall continue to give the list for the forthcoming session as soon as possible after the appearance of the report, in order that our friends who are promoting petitions may at once see the result of their labours.

THE *Times*, in commenting on the controversy between Mr. LOWE and Mr. GLADSTONE respecting the extension of the suffrage, very justly says that Mr. GLADSTONE'S reasoning "covers, though of this he may not have been conscious, the widest claim for the enfranchisement of women." The reasoning of the *Times* itself with regard to Mr. LOWE'S objections to popular suffrage is open to a similar application. In an article of December 7th, from which we quote, the *Times* says:—"Mr. LOWE himself would scarcely deny that it is some gain that the laws of the country should be sanctioned with the concurrence of the representatives of a larger number of the inhabitants of the country." As all laws affect women, and many laws and rules of law apply to women exclusively, we should think the *Times* itself would hardly deny that it would be a gain that these laws should be sanctioned by the concurrence of the representatives of those whom they affect. "Nor can we omit," says the *Times*, "all consideration of the principle of equality, which Mr. LOWE tries to treat lightly. He admits that it is necessary that the laws should be administered equally to all, but he appears to think it a matter of little importance that they should be made under conditions securing equal attention to the circumstances of all." It would tax the ingenuity of greater men than

either Mr. LOWE or the writer in the *Times* to prove that that half of the people which is arbitrarily and specifically excluded from representation can have the laws made or administered under conditions securing equal attention to their circumstances as is secured to those of the represented section of the nation. If this could be proved, the arguments used would also prove Mr. LOWE'S case against the need for any further extension of representation among men, for if people can secure attention to their condition and redress of their grievances without the suffrage, what is the good of agitating for Parliamentary reform?

MR. GLADSTONE contributes to the January number of *The Nineteenth Century* some "Last Words on the County Franchise." He says, "For me, enfranchisement in the absence of a reasonable bar is good, and is only to be foregone upon proof that it will be accompanied and outweighed by some evil incident to that form in which it is proposed." "I look to it as augmenting the sum total of forces enlisted in the nation's interest, and placed at the disposal of the State." It is noteworthy that Mr. GLADSTONE lays stress on the consideration that enfranchisement is in itself good, and is only to be foregone upon proof that it will be outweighed by some evil incident to the form in which it is proposed. He is not satisfied with presumption or assertion, or with vague predictions of possible evils; he thinks enfranchisement should only be withheld from a class which demands it on proof that the evil will outweigh the good.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to produce proofs beforehand that evil consequences would arise from any particular measure of Parliamentary reform, but the advocates of the enfranchisement of women are not reduced to merely negative evidence. They are happily in a position to produce positive proof. Women's suffrage has been brought to the practical test of experience, and it has been proved that the evils so many men seem to apprehend are illusory, and that the good results have exceeded the expectations of the promoters. Most of our readers are aware that woman's suffrage has been for some years in operation in the territory of Wyoming. The Hon. JOHN W. KINGMAN, for four years a judge of the Supreme Court in that territory, was invited by a committee of the Massachusetts Legislature to give an account of the history and practical working of woman's suffrage in Wyoming.

He said that woman's suffrage was inaugurated without much discussion, and without any general movement of men or women in its favour. Some of the members urged

it from conviction, others as a joke, others with the expectation that the GOVERNOR would veto the measure. When the law was enacted it was viewed with indifference by some, with dislike by others, with warm regard by many. At that day there were comparatively few women there, and few of them voted. At each election since they have voted in large numbers, and now nearly all go to the polls. At the last election a larger proportion of women voted than of men.

The opposition at first was rather bitter. The measure was passed by a Democratic Legislature, and approved by a Republican Governor. At the next election, several Democrats were defeated by the women. It was thought that the law was working unfavourably for that party. At the second Legislature the Democratic members repealed women's suffrage by a strict party vote, every Republican voting for women's suffrage, every Democrat against it. But the GOVERNOR vetoed the repeal, a compromise was effected, and the law remained in force. In the third Legislature, the Democrats were still largely predominant and could have repealed the law had they been so disposed. But public sentiment had changed, there was less opposition. In the last Legislature (1875) only one member was opposed to women's suffrage. He was an intemperate person, who had become a defaulter. He made a motion for repeal, but could not find any one to second it, and was actually hooted down. When he returned home his constituents threatened to lynch him.

This change of public sentiment is radical. It is so general that no attempt to repeal the law would now avail. It would not be possible to get a dozen respectable men of any locality to oppose it.

At the first election before women voted there was a perfect Pandemonium. The saloons were all open. Whisky was dealt out freely by the candidates to all who would vote for them. The streets were filled with men partially intoxicated, all armed with knives and pistols; it was dangerous to pass through them; the bullets were flying at random, and many were severely wounded.

At the next election women voted. The miners and railroad labourers were still there, the gamblers and saloon keepers also. Political parties still gave the saloons money to distribute free rum on election day. But at the polls, where before was so rough, perfect order prevailed, and has prevailed ever since. Not a single case has occurred of a lady being insulted or treated with disrespect at elections.

The grant of the suffrage has not caused women to neg-

lect their domestic affairs. No man in Wyoming has been heard to complain that his wife was less interested in domestic economy because she had a right and took an interest in maintaining the community respectable.

This conclusive testimony on unimpeachable authority to the good effects of women's suffrage in, perhaps, the only country in which it has been fairly tried, and in a country of universal suffrage, should for ever set at rest the panic terror of those who apprehend that to admit women within the pale of the constitution, would uproot the landmarks or subvert the foundations of society.

WE learn from *Il Dovero*, a Roman newspaper, that by an Imperial ukase, the Russian ladies who were finishing their studies at Berlin, have been recalled to St. Petersburg under threats of grave penalties on all who hesitated to obey. It has since been learned that these ladies, who belong to some of the best families, have been accused before Russian tribunals of being connected with a secret society; eight of them have been condemned to exile in Siberia and to several years of forced labour in the mines, and two have been sent to prison.

In France we learn that some women have been sent to prison by the authorities for disrespectful conduct to a picture of Marshal Macmahon.

There are persons who say women have nothing to do with politics. But in no country have women been held to be free from responsibility for political offences. Madame de STAEL said that in a country where women were liable to have their heads cut off for political reasons, they liked to know the reason why. Women are denied the suffrage everywhere on the ground that they are persons incapable of exercising political rights. If this were true the converse of the proposition would be equally true, and women would be persons incapable of committing political wrongs.

NOTWITHSTANDING the weighty opinion of Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, given in a Parliamentary debate on the subject of Women's Suffrage, in the summer of 1876, one is inclined to think that women are a class as distinguished from men, at any rate for all practical purposes. This Women's Suffrage question seems to be one as much affecting a particular class as any great political question of the present century, the agitation of which has produced great results. What are the agitations for army reform, or for the reform of abuses in our merchant service, but class

agitations? Are not those who agitate in favour of teetotalism, or for the extension of the franchise amongst men, or for the abolition of taxation on certain articles of food, or for religious equality, in reality agitating for particular classes of the community? Suppose that in one of these recent labour strikes, one of the masters was to have come forward and advanced to the workmen such arguments as the following:—"My good fellows, what is all this fuss that you are making about your wages? You seem to fancy that your interests are not safe in our hands; you seem to think that we masters look upon you workmen as a class distinct from ourselves. You could not make a greater mistake, I assure you. Though we are the masters and you the servants, yet we are all equally men, with men's sympathies, and I can assure you that your interests are as safe in our hands as if they were our own." Can one suppose for a moment that these workmen would allow themselves to be talked over in this manner? Yet this is what a statesman of Mr. BRIGHT's breadth of view says to the women who are agitating for women's suffrage. These workmen would, I should fancy, answer their master much in the following way: "This is all very fine, good sir, but we must look to the facts, we must look to the results of your kind sympathy for our interests. Have we found in time past, when each one of you masters was a powerful capitalist, and each one of us workmen was a poor labourer with a wife and family, struggling hard for existence on insufficient wages, that you the rich millionaires looked after our interests, felt for our sufferings, and raised our wages? Have we not rather found that you have tried to get out of us as much work as possible for the smallest amount of money, and, if we refused to work on such terms, have turned us away at a moment's notice and sent for some one else? Have we not found that the rights which we do possess have been slowly ground out of you by our own painful efforts, assisted, partly by reforms in the law, partly by our own organisations? This is what the workmen might say to such a master. This is what Englishwomen should answer to the arguments of Mr. BRIGHT.

The fact is, that if there ever were two classes distinct from one another, they are men on the one hand, and women on the other. All other class distinctions are merely artificial; this one alone is both artificial and natural. Englishwomen, in order to carry this agitation to a successful issue, should consider themselves not only to be a class, but, which is more, a united class. Unity gives

strength. United as a class, with a common sympathy and a common aim, they will be able to maintain their claims and extend their influence amongst men, unaffected by the coarse brutality of a SMOLLETT, and not discouraged even by the honest eloquence of a BRIGHT. L. F. E.

MR. GLADSTONE, in his speech in the House of Commons on women's suffrage, said that the English law did much less than justice to women. He said he was one of those who thought that they had struck a serious blow at the law of marriage when they passed the Divorce Act; but he had never been able to satisfy his mind as to the reason why, in framing and passing that Act, they chose to introduce a new and gross inequality against women and in favour of men. This inequality received a striking illustration in a case which recently came before Lord HANNEN'S Court. Lord ALBERT PELHAM CLINTON sued for a divorce from his wife, the co-respondent being Sir CLAUDE SCOTT. The case was established, and the relief sought for was granted. But Lady SCOTT, the wife of the co-respondent, has obtained only a *judicial separation*. Lord ALBERT PELHAM CLINTON is free to marry again; but Lady SCOTT remains fettered for his life to her faithless spouse, she is debarred from forming other ties, and, though relieved from some of her marital obligations and disabilities, her status is far short of the full measure of civil rights which the law allows to an unmarried woman.

THE insufficiency of the present law to ensure the support and protect the lives of wives was demonstrated at an inquest recently held at Manchester, on the body of ELIZABETH, wife of JOSEPH NORMANTON, typefounder. The deceased, who for a lengthened period had suffered from consumption, had until a fortnight before her death attended the hospital for diseases of the throat and chest. She then became too weak to go to the hospital, and for a week before her death she was unable to get out of bed. For several days she was insensible and never tasted food. The husband never attended to her or procured medical assistance, and for two or three nights preceding her death he did not sleep in the same room. The medical evidence showed that the lungs were much diseased, that there was scarcely any fat on the body, and that for three days the deceased could not have received any nourishment; also that life could not have been prolonged had medical aid been procured. The coroner in his charge left it to the jury to say whether the husband of the deceased was not morally and legally liable for her death in not attending to her or

procuring medical assistance. The jury, after deliberation, returned a verdict of "death from natural causes, accelerated by want of medical aid," and "severely censured" the husband for his neglect.

We fear that a husband whose nature was sufficiently callous to leave his wife to struggle uncared for with the agonies of mortal disease, and to accelerate her death by wilful and what, in spite of the verdict of the jury, we shall dare to characterise as criminal neglect, would not trouble himself much about the "censure" with which they visited him. This case, and many similar ones where husbands have escaped without penalty, seem to show that a man may accelerate the death of his wife with impunity by ill-treatment or neglect if she happens to be suffering from mortal disease. It will be a serious matter for society at large if this principle should come to be generally recognised and acted upon by judicial tribunals and if a succession of verdicts and decisions should establish the principle that only those in sound health will be protected by the criminal law from the consequences of violence and neglect on the part of the persons legally responsible for their maintenance.

A FLAGRANT case, showing the impunity with which men may commit the most grievous offences against women, is reported from Bristol. An inquest was lately held in that town on the bodies of AGNES LEE and her child, which had been found in the river Avon. The evidence showed that AGNES LEE had lived in service in Bristol, and left at the solicitation of a man named WEBBER to live with him, on his assurance that he was a single man. On December 5th WEBBER'S wife made herself known to LEE, who, taking her child, at once left the house in deep distress. Mrs. WEBBER followed her to the banks of the Avon, where in the darkness she lost sight of her. Mrs. WEBBER afterwards heard a splash, and she informed the police; and on the river being dragged both the bodies were found. The jury returned the following verdict:—"That AGNES LEE committed suicide by throwing herself into the river with her child in her arms, whilst in a fit of frenzy of despair." WEBBER was admonished by the coroner. Had the victim of WEBBER'S false pretences been a man, the law would doubtless have provided some punishment; but as the particular injury suffered by AGNES LEE could not have been suffered by a man, no punishment is provided. Mr. LEATHAM, in one of his speeches against representative government for women, said, "Beauty provoketh thieves as well as gold," and such

cases as the above illustrate the consequences of allowing the thieves a monopoly in making the law. Had WEBBER gone through the ceremony of marriage with his unfortunate victim he could have been punished for bigamy, and it may be said that AGNES LEE should not have consented to live with him without it. But the penalties and disabilities imposed on wives by the English marriage law are such as to render the position of a woman who cohabits with a man safer and better both as regards the ownership of her property and the custody and maintenance of her children than if she were legally married; and so long as this barbarous and disgraceful law is maintained it is probable that there will be a large and increasing number of women who will refuse to subject themselves to its provisions.

THE *Times'* correspondent gives the following "terribly suggestive" fragments of conversation which might for months past have been overheard in hundreds of drawing-rooms in St. Petersburg.—"Poor A. he has just heard that his only son has been killed in the Shipka Pass!" "You know dear young Madame B., who was married only a few months ago? She is already a widow!" "Is not this war too horrible? Have you read to-day the description of the way in which our poor wounded soldiers are tortured and mutilated?" "Miss C. is really to be pitied; she has three brothers before Plevna, and has not heard of them for a month." "Madame D. was too late; her husband was already dead when she arrived at Bucharest." "How is the E. family to exist now that their father has been killed?" Who can say that non-combatants have not as intense an interest in the maintenance of peace as those who actually take the field?

ONE of the objections commonly raised to the proposal of women as doctors, or women as voters, is the assertion or assumption that they have not "nerve" for it. Of course there are nervous women as there are cowards among men, but we believe that when tested by a sudden emergency the nerve and courage of women are usually found equal at least to those qualities in men. Every newspaper record of a common calamity arriving to men and women may supply an illustration of this position. The following narrative shows an amount of presence of mind and self-devotion which could hardly be surpassed even by a man. It is related in the *Gazette Hebdomadaire* that a few weeks ago Sister S—, one of the nursery sisters of the Order of Troyes, "was taking charge of some convalescent children

for a walk, the eldest of whom was only eight years of age, when they were suddenly assailed by a sheep-dog, whose jaws were running with foam, and which attacked them, with fury. She instantly saw the danger of her charges and, resolutely interposing between the terrified children and the furious animal, bravely withstood its attack. She was severely bitten, and the dog, excited by the cries of the children, endeavoured to rush upon them. Then followed a splendid act of devotion. Protecting with her body the children, who hung on to her petticoats shrieking with terror, this brave girl threw herself courageously on the dog, and for ten minutes grasped it, rolling over with it, and thrusting her fist into its mouth to prevent its biting the children. Some peasants, who came up at last, beat off and killed the dog. The sister was found to have fifteen deep wounds on her hands, and lacerated arms; an important artery was wounded. Skilful care was given to her wounds, and for a short time some hope existed that she might escape the ultimate fate which there was so much reason to fear. In a week or two, however, hydrophobia in all its characteristic symptoms appeared, and Sister S— died from this fatal and fearful disease, finding consolation in the certitude of having saved, at the price of her life, the five children who had been confided to her. Such traits of heroism can hardly serve for an object of comment; their memory becomes a title of glory to the families to whom their authors belong, and represents in the eyes of all, the spirit of sacrifice and devotion in its most sublime expression."

GENERAL ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

SCARBOROUGH.

Mr. W. S. Caine, of Liverpool, has been selected by the Liberals of Scarborough as the second candidate to contest the borough in conjunction with Sir Harcourt Johnstone, Bart. Mr. Caine is a warm supporter of women's suffrage.

DEVONPORT.

Sir David Wedderburn is to address the electors of Devonport with a view to becoming the Liberal candidate at the next election. Sir David Wedderburn while in the last Parliament voted for Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill.

GREENWICH.

The Liberal Association of Greenwich have rejected Admiral Maxse as a candidate for the second Liberal seat on account of the gallant Admiral's opposition to women's suffrage. For the same reason the committee have decided against Mr. John Willis. The Association seems determined not to give Mr. Gladstone a colleague who is opposed to the enfranchisement of women.

In Mr. Riley's interesting "Report on Historical MSS. relating to Queen's College, Oxford," and in the reference therein to the Hospital of God's House at Southampton, occurs the following paragraph on the question of the ancient laws and customs of our country with regard to women:—"Married women seem to have been admitted independently as tenants. Alice Pollard owes 5s. 3d. arrears, which she pays off in sums of from 3d. to 9d., some of them paid 'per visum,' by her husband."

HONOURS EXAMINATION AT CAMBRIDGE.

The examinations for that Moral Science Tripos commenced on November 26th, and lasted six days of six hours each. The examinations comprised the branches of political economy, logic, moral philosophy, political philosophy, mental science, mainly metaphysics and psychology. Three students of Girton College presented themselves for examination in honours, and eleven men. The ladies were Miss Borchardt, Miss Müller, and Miss Arthur. The examiners do not tell the lady students their exact places, they only tell them the class, though the place frequently oozes out privately. Miss Borchardt and Miss Müller were high in the second class, Miss Müller passed in the third, Miss Arthur and Miss Müller both took it as their first tripos. Miss Borchardt has taken double honours—a second class in the mathematical, and a second in the moral science tripos in 1877.

POLITICAL ECONOMY AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS.—Of seven prizes given this year by the Cobden Club to the most successful students in political economy, in connection with the Cambridge University Extension Syndicate for conducting local lectures, five have been awarded to female competitors. The winners are Gertrude Gregson, of Highbury, Bowdon; Sarah Smithson, York; Hannah Cheetham, Southport; Annie Hankinson, Altrincham; Elizabeth H. Sturge, Cheltenham; H. R. Krüger, Hull; and Alfred W. Tarbottom, Hull.

THE DUTY OF PETITIONING.

The following passages are taken from an article on the "Duty of Petitioning" in the *Anti-Bread Tax Circular*, for December 2nd, 1841, and *mutatis mutandis* are equally applicable to the women suffrage agitation in 1878:—

"We are told that some friends of Corn Law repeal entertain doubts of the propriety and expediency of again petitioning Parliament. What will they do then?"

It is not surprising that men should grow wearied of addressing those who receive their statements with callous *nonchalance*, but it would be unwise to allow a transient feeling of disappointment and disgust to paralyse exertion. Whoever aspires to a share in the honour of contributing to the removal of a great national grievance must make up his mind to bear up, among other things, against delay and neglect and securing want of progress—teasing things, and harder to endure than that fierce opposition which warms the blood of those who struggle against it. Great good can only be bought by great toil, and the most arduous toil is patient perseverance. It is not the horse that breaks away and heads the field at the first burst, but the horse which holds on at a steady as well as a rapid pace, that comes in at the death. The Corn Law repealer must nerve himself to hope and labour when all seems hopeless, if need be. We must work by the means we have in our power, by the existing constitutional forms of the empire.

It may be a round about way to our object, but in the existing state of society it is the only way. We have begun it in earnest, and it will prove us feeble and frivolous as children, if we grow impatient, and fly off because the result does not come with the rapidity of the catastrophe of a melodrama. We are not always making no progress when we cannot at the moment see visible effects of our efforts. When Sir Christopher Wren was demolishing the old St. Paul's to lay the foundations of the new, he brought a battering ram to bear upon a particularly obstinate piece of wall. For two long days did his workmen keep knocking away, and to all appearance the wall remained as strong and solid as ever. The men murmured, and could scarcely be brought to resume their labours. But the

scientific knowledge of their master revealed to him the internal friction which must have been at work beneath so many repeated blows. He forced them to begin again on the third day, and almost at the first light stroke of the machine, the wall crumbled and fell down into a heap of fragments. The blows dealt to the House of Commons by perseverance in electoral agitation and petitioning, may in like manner seem without effect for a time, but every one of them tells, every one of them has its share in producing that destruction of the bread tax, which is certain if we persevere doggedly as we have begun with alacrity."

Even so with the exclusion of women from electoral rights. We, too, may conclude with the *Anti-Bread Tax Circular*, "This is no time to be fainthearted or slack in petitioning."

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BRISTOL.

A meeting of the local branch of the Women's Suffrage Society was held at their office, 16, Park-street, Bristol, November 26th. Mr. J. Bartlett presided, and in his introductory remarks said those who opposed women's suffrage did not state their objections. He thought the more the question was discussed and looked into, the more would it gain in public favour. What they were seeking to obtain could not only be a positive benefit to women voters, but a great benefit to women generally, and an advantage to the community at large, and they meant to continue their pursuit until they had succeeded. It was a sound and recognised principle that those who paid taxes should have some voice in regard to their appropriation. What they were asking for was neither unreasonable, extravagant, nor alarming. The enfranchisement of about 300,000 women, many of whom were highly intelligent and cultivated, need not awaken any serious apprehensions. There were clear indications that the suffrage would soon be extended to agricultural labourers, and from that time he thought it could not be justly withheld from women. Dr. Davis then addressed the meeting, after which Miss Sturge spoke, and, in the course of her remarks, answered the several objections which were made to the enfranchisement of women. Whilst admitting there were many women who did not care to vote, the speaker urged that this remark applied to men, many of whom, in the upper classes of society, took no part in political matters during the whole of their lives; and as to the lower classes, there were many voters who only looked forward to an election as an occasion on which to get thoroughly intoxicated. (A laugh.) Mr. Gladstone had said, in reference to the county franchise, that if agricultural labourers had votes they would take more interest in the affairs of the nation. Just so with women; if they had the franchise, they would be able to take part in the duties of life much more intelligently and take a deeper interest in those matters which affected the whole land. It was a fact, which ought to be better known than perhaps it was, that there were in the country 3,000,000 women who gained their own living, but what did the men do?—endeavoured to keep them out of the higher and more lucrative employments. Women ought to wake out of their supineness and demand to have passed that which affected them so vitally. In conclusion, Miss Sturge moved the adoption of a memorial to Parliament, praying for the enfranchisement of women. Mr. G. Bessell seconded the motion, which was carried, and other addresses were afterwards delivered, the meeting closing with a vote of thanks to the chairman.—*Western Daily Press*.

LONDON.

On the evening of Wednesday, the 12th December, Mr. George Minchin gave an address on woman suffrage, at the London Tailors' Club and Institute; the chair was occupied by

Mr. Scott. In the discussion which followed, Col. Minchin, Mr. L. E. Pyke, and the chairman supported Mr. Minchin. There was considerable opposition from some members of the club, who thought that the county franchise and manhood suffrage should be preferred; but on a vote being taken, the meeting by a large majority directed their chairman to sign (on behalf of the Tailors' Club and Institute) a petition to the Speaker of the House of Commons in favour of woman suffrage.

Lectures have also been delivered, on November 26th, by Miss Wade, at the London Fields Mutual Improvement Association rooms; on November 27th, by Miss Helen Blackburn, at the Clerkenwell Patriotic Society's Club; on December 9th, by Miss Caroline Ashurst Biggs, at the Elensis Club, Notting Hill; and on December 14th, by Miss Helena Downing, at the College Memorial School, Peckham. Petitions to the House of Commons were unanimously adopted at the close of these lectures.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

SCARBOROUGH.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE DEBATING SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of this society, the subject of debate was: "Should sex be a disqualification for the franchise?" Mr. J. C. Hodgson occupied the chair.—Mr. T. P. Whittaker opened in the affirmative. The franchise was not a right, but a trust, which should exclusively apply to men—the hurly-burly of politics was not for woman. Her influence was more useful in the home and social circles. It would be a great mistake to remove her into the turbulent sea of political warfare.—Mr. H. A. Smith took the contrary view, and went in for individuality irrespective of sex; and, as an individual, woman's claim to the suffrage was indisputable.—Mr. Fryer applied the evolution theory to the question, and said that woman was never intended for the political arena.—Mr. T. Whittaker, in a humorous speech, reviewed the objections of the preceding speakers, considered them frivolous and untenable. He would give to woman full political freedom, and he had no apprehensions about the result.—Mr. Berridge made a few remarks concerning American and English ladies, and said that the former had more justice from the law than was accorded to the latter.—Mr. Cockburn also supported the affirmative, and considered the chief disqualification of woman for the franchise was her sex.—Mr. M. T. Whittaker believed the franchise was more a right than a trust. He defended the woman's suffrage movement, and considered the opposition based on a misconception of the question.—Mr. Smethurst said his ideas had been so well given by the preceding speaker, that it was needless to give them expression.—Mr. J. B. Baker thought difference of sex no ground of disqualification. If woman's political education was deficient, we had none but ourselves to blame.—Mr. Tugwell doubted whether the opener of the debate was in earnest. He had never met with so many fallacies in so small a compass—they were so self-evident, that to deal with them seriously was a work of "supererogation."—Mr. Hunt would accord the franchise to single but not married women; and, as the qualification for the franchise was a property one, those who had it should be allowed to exercise it.—Mr. L. Thompson had one difficulty with the enfranchisement of women, and that was the extension of the machinery of representation.—Mr. Maude thought taxation and representation should go together, and therefore women (if ratepayers) should have the franchise.—Mr. F. Tugwell criticised the arguments on the negative side, and declined to give the suffrage to women.—Mr. Steele denied that women were a class—they were a sex, and, as such, were

not fitted for the franchise.—Mr. H. M. Cross said that woman had as much right as man to political freedom. Give her that, and her education (so long neglected) would begin.—The replies of the first speakers were now given; and a show of hands being taken, a large majority declared against the opener of the debate.

BATLEY WORKING MEN'S CLUB DEBATING CLASS.

On December 19th, at the weekly meeting of this society, the subject for debate was "Women's Suffrage," which was introduced by Mrs. O. Scatcherd, of Leeds. There was a large attendance. Mr. W. W. YATES, president of the Dewsbury Working Men's Club, occupied the chair, and a few appropriate remarks introduced the lady to the meeting.

Mrs. SCATCHERD, who was received with applause, brought forward the usual arguments for women's suffrage.

Mr. D. S. BREARLEY, in opening the debate, contended that the real point, the effect it would produce in domestic circles, had not been touched. Mrs. Scatcherd had said that she wished them to exercise an intelligent vote, and yet she said it would not make any great demand on their time, for they would only be required to vote about once in five years, but he contended that in order to give an intelligent vote they would have to study politics, and not one woman in ten was at all read in politics. He held that the effects of the proposal would be to interfere with and derange household matters. He went on to say that a woman had no business on a political platform or any other platform, or in a pulpit, at any time or place whatever, or on any subject whatever. It was not the province of a woman to instruct men or to instruct the community.

The debate was continued by Miss Craigen, Mr. Councillor Alfred Parker, Mr. Walter Bagshaw, Mr. B. Whittaker, and Mr. Mark Stubbley.

Mrs. SCATCHERD ably replied to the various speakers on the opposite side, after which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to her on the motion of Mr. Brearley, seconded by Mrs. Ellis. A similar compliment was passed to the chairman, on the motion of Mr. B. Whittaker, and the proceedings terminated.—*Abridged from the Heckmondwike Reporter.*

THE HEALTH OF LADIES.

This was the subject of discussion at one of the "At Homes" of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, held at the offices in Berners-street. It was introduced in an address by Miss F. P. Cobbe, and among the speakers were Miss Todd of Belfast, Miss Becker, Mrs. Hallett, Miss Bewick, Mrs. Rose, Miss Jessie Boucherett, Miss Babb, Mrs. Webster, Mr. Alsager Hay Hill, and Mr. A. Arnold. Miss Cobbe thought ladies were apt to incur slight risks thoughtlessly because they had no wives to look after them, as wives did after their husbands. She condemned, as practices which still survived, the neglect of exercise, the discouragement of appetite, and tight lacing; deprecated sentimental brooding over a "disappointment;" and advocated healthy occupation for the mind as well as the body. In regard to attire, the address and the subsequent discussion may be described as a revolt against the tyranny of fashion, particularly in respect of the oppressiveness of false hair, the little protection afforded by bonnets, the great weight and inconvenient length of skirts, the lameness produced by high heels, and the difficulty of walking with the dress or person "pulled back" by a modern device, the allusions to which seemed to be well understood. One or two ladies blamed men for professing that admiration which tempted women to submit to the vagaries of fashion. In

a comparison between the attires of the sexes, the ordinary hat worn by the male voter was recognised as the symbol of his subjection to a corresponding yoke. Mention was made of the Mahomedan custom of covering the face as one very injurious to health, and it was said that Turkey's valiant defenders were mainly descended from races which discarded the yashmak and the thick veil. It was affirmed that much serious illness resulting from the neglect of early symptoms would be avoided if lady doctors could be more readily consulted. The discussion chiefly related to well-to-do women, but it was urged that for those in poor circumstances there was a great lack of healthy amusements, and that the co-operative principle might be usefully applied in furnishing them both with such amusements and better food than they could now command. It was said that shopwomen suffered from standing too long behind the counter, but it was feared that anything like a demand for seats for them would lead to their being superseded by men. Mrs. William Grey, who had been moved into the chair at the commencement of the discussion, brought it to a close with a few earnest words on the aimlessness of too much education. She also urged that earnest, practical work would in many cases furnish the best specific against the ailments of women. A vote of thanks to Miss Cobbe for the address, and to Mrs. Grey for presiding, concluded the proceedings. The address will form the subject of a paper by Miss Cobbe in the forthcoming number of the *Contemporary Review*.

COBBE TO THE RESCUE.

Surely not before it was wanted, Miss Frances Power Cobbe has been holding a conference, preliminary to the publication of a paper on the "Little Health of Women," a translation, no doubt, of the delicate French phrase, "*Petite santé*," which means not so much positive illness as a general out-of-healthiness, something which justifies an interesting invalid in maintaining she is "not well," when at the same time she would hardly feel justified in proclaiming herself ill. It is a very dangerous crisis for affectionate and impressionable husbands, who often find feminine attacks made under cover of *la petite santé* peculiarly irresistible.

When Miss Cobbe proceeded to formulate the causes for this "little health," *Punch* can only feel astonished, not that the sex should have "little health," but that they should have any health at all.

Here is Miss Cobbe's summary: Neglect of exercise, discouragement of appetite, tight lacing, sentimental brooding over disappointments, lack of healthy occupation for mind and body, false hair, bonnets that don't protect the head, heavy-dragging skirts, high heels, and pull-backs.

This is a formidable list, and it might have been made larger, as—for fashionable females—late hours, unwholesome excitement, crowded rooms, low dresses, sudden alternations of heat and cold, and many more potent causes of the ills that fashionable flesh is heir to.

If a crusade against these self-inflicted women's wrongs could be set agoing by the lady advocates of Women's Rights, the "little health" of the ladies would become larger, and might in time grow as large and lusty as that of their lords.

Let us hope that the Cobbing which these fashionable insanitary practices have been subjected to may lead to still more strenuous efforts to punish them with something worse than Cobbing—to their effectual putting down; till at length the British woman, even of fashion, can walk abroad without the false symmetry of a tight corset, the deceptive elevation of high heels, and the degrading thralldom of a "pull-back."—*Punch*.

THE PRACTICAL RESULT OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN WYOMING.

We take from the *Woman's Journal* the following extract from a private letter from a lady of intelligence and culture, who has resided for two years in the territory of Wyoming. It must be remembered that in the United States there is no rate-paying qualification, every man of full age has a vote; and where woman suffrage is in force, every woman of full age has a vote. "Household suffrage," as understood in this country, is unknown in America:—

Laramie City, Wyoming Territory, November 14th, 1876.—Dear Friend,—What a mighty interest has been and is now manifested from one end of our land to the other in the recent election! Not a whit less of this interest do we of the Territories feel than you of the States, even though our ballots may not be cast for either candidate. But we did have a warmly contested local election last Tuesday, and elected a good "delegate" to Congress, and good men to our county offices.

Being alone this evening, and thinking over these matters, I have it in my mind to write you at greater length than I have yet done, of "Woman Suffrage" in our renowned Wyoming.

It seemed strange to me when I first came here, never to hear the old objections, and, in fact, to have the whole matter of citizenship taken so naturally, and only talked of among new comers.

Shall I tell you something of its effects? 1. At the polls. 2. At home. From babyhood, almost, have I heard of the vile talk, the intemperance, the general independency of behaviour attending elections, and can remember being cautioned when a child, never to pass the Court House on my way to school on election days, on these accounts.

I have now lived in Wyoming Territory over two years, and, as you know, I came here a theoretical believer in "Woman Suffrage," so you may well imagine I have been to the polls with open eyes on election days. I have gone alone, have gone with lady friends, have gone with my husband, and in one instance with my baby boy, and I have yet to see the first drunken man or hear the first oath around the polls. Perfect order and decorum have prevailed in every case, and men as well as women seem to go about their business after having deposited their ballots, so that in point of unpleasantness a lady has not so much to encounter and dread as is often the case in passing the "animated dry goods boxes" on the business streets of small towns.

So much for my own experience at the polls! Allow me to quote from a local daily paper of a year ago, whose editor is one of the pioneer men:

"We did not have a single election here without drunkenness, rowdyism, gambling, fighting, and bloodshed, until our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters were permitted to accompany us to the polls. We well remember the times when many a man strayed away from the polls, leaving his rights of citizenship rather than encounter the danger and rowdyism he must in order to exercise it.

But all this is changed. Our elections go off as quietly as any other social gathering, no matter how heated a political campaign may be, or how important the issues at stake."

Speaking of last Tuesday's election, the same paper, the *Laramie Sentinel*, says:

"We attribute this result"—good order at the polls—"almost solely to the presence of ladies at the poll, and we doubt if anyone in the city will be disposed to doubt or gainsay this opinion."

Instead of writing to you of the effects of "Woman Suffrage" in the homes of our Territory, I wish you could go with me into the Laramie homes, whose mistresses vote. Could the

opponents of "Woman Suffrage" visit these, they would have ample opportunity to dispel the horrors that haunt them in the shape of neglected husbands, unkempt children, masculine women, and general slackness. Such happy, well-kept homes as I know many of them to be, where both husband and wife vote, and by no means always the same ticket, for it is as possible to "agree to disagree" in political matters as in matters of religious belief or anything else. I have never lived in a place where the average home was so comfortable, have never known more womanly women, have never seen rosier, happier children, and, may I add, more immaculate shirt fronts than in Laramie.

The women generally are well-informed, and have higher notions as to the duties of citizenship than the average man.

In fact, "Woman Suffrage" has here had a severe trial—as rigid as it could well be subjected to.

Politics was formerly in the hands of an unusually hard class of men, so that if participation in public matters could have degraded women anywhere it would have done so in Wyoming.

"PETTICOAT POLITICIANS."

"C. E. B." writes as follows to the *Daily News*:—"You lately published an article headed 'Round About France,' with the second title of 'Pettycoat Politicians.' Will you allow me to say a few words upon it? The writer of the above-named article is so violent in his remarks that it is evident he is very much afraid of women. He is justified in this, because all those who would keep their fellow-creatures in subjection have reason to fear, and therefore hate, the individuals whom they wrong. If France suffers now from the influence of priest-ridden women, let Frenchmen remember that women owe nothing to a country in which they are slaves, that they are not enfranchised, and the work of the great Revolution fell short in that one point. France is suffering now because half her children are kept out of political freedom; and so will any country suffer until it acknowledges the great truth that men and women have equal right to a voice in the government under which they live, and in making the laws which they have to obey. The author of 'Pettycoat Politicians' seems to think that men should never consult, or listen to, women; but nature has made the bond between them too close for any foolish human laws and regulations to divide the sexes, either socially or politically. They must inevitably act and re-act on one another. In reading this misogynist's tirade, one might fancy that the Republicans themselves had no honest loving mothers, sisters, or daughters, to whom the liberty of their country is precious, and who hope for a peaceful and honourable solution of the present difficulties. He only speaks of the Republican women as excelled in the 'game' of drawing-room intrigues by their Conservative sisters. He treats all women with equal disdain. I feel very earnestly with the Republicans in politics, but I protest against this intemperate judgment passed upon women, and especially upon those who are associated with the opposite party. The cause of a nation's freedom is one so great that those who are endeavouring to maintain it should be above the mean spite of abusing persons because they influence or are influenced by those nearest and dearest to them. If the priests prevail over women, it is because the right road for political action is closed by the denial of the suffrage to women. No thinking being can hear a French orator talk of 'universal suffrage,' or an English speaker of 'household suffrage,' without knowing that each is a huge sham, while half humanity is excluded from them. As human beings, women have the right to interest themselves in every question, social or political. That they

are kept in slavery is so much the worse for those whom they rule. It is evident that the writer of 'Petticoat Politicians' thinks that they rule, for he never seems to imagine that men act on their own convictions, but merely as tools of the women about them. Nothing can be more disgraceful to men than this writer's view of them. In spite of all his vituperation, the women, however mistaken their aims and measures, must at least have the credit of acting from heart and mind. Let Frenchmen trust Frenchwomen; let them uphold women's political equality; let them advocate an education entirely free from priestly influence, and then, in a little while, the best and wisest of the people of France may find reason to rejoice in the work of 'Petticoat Politicians.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—Will you allow me to supplement the admirable letter of Mrs. W. Grey, which lately appeared in your journal by a few remarks to the same purpose? The assertion that women are not called upon, and are unable, to defend this country in time of war, which is used as an argument against their admission to the rights of citizenship, is founded upon gross ignorance and gross misconception—ignorance, namely, of the past history of our country; and misconception of its present constitution and institutions, especially the institution known as our military system. In our past history, before we maintained a standing army—and our standing army dates only from the reign of James II.—forces for the field were supplied, as everyone ought to know, but as everyone does not seem to know, upon the feudal system, and, as civilisation progressed, upon so much of the citizen system as was then in existence; that is to say, when men and arms were wanted, every landholder had to furnish from among his vassals at the first, afterwards his tenants and other dependants, a certain number of men, armed and accoutred at his proper expense, according to the value of his property; and as trade and commerce rose in importance, so the burghers of cities were called upon, as well as the feudal lords, to supply men and arms in the landward towns,—men, arms, and ships in the seaports. Now, from contributing to these levies no woman, who was a landholder, was exempted any more than a man: on the contrary, if she refused to contribute, she subjected herself to a charge of treason, and was made to suffer accordingly. More, she might, and indeed not unfrequently did, take command personally of the troops she furnished. Everyone knows—I beg pardon, everyone ought to know—that in the civil wars Lady Fairfax was actually in the field on more than one occasion, on the Parliamentary side, beside performing all the other duties of a general, in gathering together the smaller levies, forming them into larger bodies, providing for their safe conduct to headquarters, procuring provisions, &c.; while the history of the defence of Lathom House by the Countess of Derby, on the side of the king, should be as "familiar in our mouths as household words." This lady held exactly the same position in her besieged mansion as any male commandant of a garrison holds, or has ever held. On her authority the house was closed and fortified against the Parliamentary army; she arranged and superintended the bringing in of supplies; she assigned to every man his rank and his post,—he took his authority from her, and was responsible to her for the performance of his duties. The Parliamentary general treated with her, in person, for the surrender of the fortress, and she refused his terms; her husband entreated assistance for her from Prince Rupert, as for a loyal subject and soldiers in great risk and strait

through her loyalty and bravery; and, finally, when Prince Rupert raised the siege, the captured colours of the enemy were presented to her as to a victorious general. Clearly, therefore, women were called upon, and were considered able, to defend their country during the period previous to our possession of a standing army. With regard to the meaning of "a standing army," it signifies simply this: that instead of private persons, or city corporations, furnishing at their proper expense arms and men for the war service of the country, they consent to pay a certain sum in taxes to the State, wherewith the State purchases the voluntary services of individuals who choose, and are suited for, the profession of soldiers and sailors. That men are better suited for those professions, and that, consequently, they are composed exclusively of men, is therefore no more a valid argument for depriving women of the rights of citizenship than it would be for depriving of it all those men—the great majority of the males of our nation—who do not choose, and are not suited to be, soldiers and sailors, and who, like women, pay to have the fighting done by those who are. It might, with some show of sound reasoning, be used in a country where military service for a certain time was compulsory on every man, and where women, as women, are exempted from it; but it has not even a show of reason under a Constitution and with a military system such as ours. Everyone who pays the taxes which pay the soldier and the sailor, which builds our forts and construct our war ships, defends the country—be it his or hers—just as completely, according to the correct meaning of the words, as the man who discharges a rifle or makes a thrust with a bayonet. There is really no difference, in this matter, between non-combative men who, among us, are the majority of their sex, and non-combative women who are the whole of their sex. The non-combative women, like the non-combative men, are exempted only from one mode of defending their country; and exempted not for reason of their womanhood, but for the very same reason which exempts the men, namely, because they pay others to do the combative work. If they were exempted because of their sex, then they ought to be exempted also from paying the taxes which pay our army and our navy. Anyone who asserts that women among us are not called on to defend their country because they do not personally bear arms, must be prepared to assert that the members of the House of Commons who vote the supplies for a war are not called on to defend their country. That the engineers who build our ironclads do nothing for the defence of their country; that the men in all the public offices, through means of which our armies abroad and our navies afloat are cared for and provided for do nothing for the defence of their country. I find that women perform services for their country quite analagous to most of those done by men who are not actually in our army and navy. Women as well as men are employed in the manufactories and workshops which supply the clothing for our soldiers and sailors; and women in the government telegraph offices are employed in sending messages to all our military and naval stations. There is an important naval station in the south of Ireland where, early in the present century, the Government storehouses were built by a woman. She was the widow of an architect, who died after his tender for the work had been accepted, and she immediately came forward and offered to fulfil the contract; and, in my younger days, I was told by men who had been in her employment, that she gave her personal superintendence to every bit of the work, and that the worst weather never prevented her from crossing by boat from her house to the place where the works were being erected, or from mounting the scaffoldings to see that all was being well done. She has long been dead, but her children

and grandchildren yet live, who are justly proud of her honoured name. Did she do nothing for the defence of her country? And what is the difference, as regards "defence," between doing this and placing a cannon in the field? Or, how does the fact of her being a woman alter the meaning of the word?—I am, madam, yours,
ANNA PERRIER.

A BRAVE RUSSIAN GIRL.

The *Times* correspondent with the Turkish army gives the following details of an extraordinary episode of the war which occurred at Kaceljevo on the 6th of September, and which has been already briefly noticed in telegrams: "As the Russians began to waver and their fire to slacken as the Turks were pressing forward with increased vigour, a young Russian officer was seen standing just behind one of their batteries waving his sword and boldly encouraging his men to stand their ground. Over and over again he rallied the troops who were pouring out of the trench, but it was of no use; it was not in his power alone to stem the tide of victory. His men, animated by his example, turned and held their own for a few minutes, but the fire was too heavy for any human thing to stay and live. They could not bear it. They fell on their knees and entreated him to fly, but not an inch would he stir, and at last he stood for more than a minute absolutely alone, save for the dying and the dead piled in heaps around him. It could only end one way amid the storm of bullets which were raining round him thick as hail; one at last found its way to that noble heart, and he fell dead. As the Turks swept over the parapet and dashed past the spot where he lay, the colonel, struck by the boy's extraordinary courage and devotion, gave orders that he should be decently buried. In the evening he reported to the Commander-in-Chief that the body was that of a girl. I give this most astounding declaration of the colonel upon the authority of one of the English officers on the Sirdar's staff, who tells me that he was actually present when it was made. It seems almost incredible; but, true or false, no braver heart ever beat than now sleeps in that little grave on the sunny slope of Kaceljevo."

A MEDICAL WOMAN IN INDIA.

We extract from a local paper, the *Pioneer*, published at Hyderabad, the following account of the work of a lady doctor in that district:—

"Nearly three years ago, Dr. Nancie Monelle, came to Hyderabad, on the invitation of H. E. Sir Salar Jung, and established the hospital for women in Afzulgunge, and in a quiet, unostentatious way worked with a zeal, energy, and devotedness beyond all praise. During the time she was "Physician in charge" she personally treated no less than 40,000 of the women of Hyderabad and its vicinity. Rich and poor, from the begum to the beggar, women of all castes and no caste, sought relief at the hospital, whose fame spread so rapidly that the place was thronged every morning with patients from all parts of Hyderabad and the country surrounding. Disease, in all its protean forms presented itself, and to thousands and thousands the blessings of health were restored by the fair physician, who, to great skill, added all a woman's tenderness, in the treatment of her suffering sisters, which was eminently successful. Dr. Nancie Monelle loved her profession, and loved the people of the country, and working as she did with a woman's enthusiasm and devotion, she could not fail to endear herself to the patients, who flocked in such numbers to the good lady whose mission it was to act the good Samaritan to

her suffering sisters in this far distant land. Her work in these parts has been unprecedented, viewing it only in the light of the great success which has attended her labours; but the vast influence for good which her very presence must have secured is incalculable. Thousands and thousands of women, who were shut out by class prejudices, long established habits and customs, from telling their tales of suffering and distress to the doctor, as they ought to be told, in order that the proper measures of relief might be afforded, had ample opportunities for pouring out these tales, without any reserve, to one who could not only minister to their afflictions, but do so with all a woman's kindness, gentleness, and tenderness, which must have left the most favourable impressions. There is no calculating the benefits likely to flow from such relationships, independent of those which naturally arise between the physician and patient, to say nothing of the breaking down of strong barriers and the introduction of the blessings of modern science into places so difficult to penetrate. Notwithstanding all the efforts made in this direction, a great vantage ground is gained towards drawing the native and European closer together. In the homes and hearths of this country, the fair sex holds considerable sway, and before much can be done in the way of a more intimate association between the two peoples, the condition of the women must be improved and their position considerably elevated, and to this end the good work of our lady doctor must have in some measure contributed. Influences like these it must be said work slowly, but nevertheless they work sure."

The *Pioneer* goes on to lament that Dr. Nancie Monelle has left Hyderabad, and the Afzulgunge Hospital has been closed. It is true Dr. Monelle resigned her appointment to get married, but it was never her intention to resign her profession, and it was no fault of hers that the hospital was shut up. The Afzulgunge Hospital for women cost very little; a thousand rupees a month covered all expenses, and in all His Highness the Nizam's dominions, a thousand rupees were never and are not better expended. Our contemporary urges the Government to make some effort to induce Dr. Nancie Monelle to come back and go on with the good work so well begun.

WOMEN AND THE HOUSE OF CAVENDISH.

The recent visit of the Marquis of Hartington to Edinburgh gave occasion to the *Daily Review* to insert a summary of the family history of the house of Cavendish. From this it appears that this noble family owes its greatness mainly to the ability and energy of two women. In the person of William Cavendish it first rose above the surface during that redistribution of England popularly known as the dissolution of the monasteries, but he was not the real founder of the family. After the death of two wives who had left him no heirs, he wooed and won Elizabeth Hardwick, then Mistress Barley, widow of Alexander Barley, of Barley, Derbyshire, and to the devotion and ability of this lady the house of Cavendish really owes its rapid advancement to the rank of nobility. She had been first married when fourteen years of age, but, early wed, she early became a widow. Not, however, a dowerless widow, for her husband bequeathed to her his whole estate. Her whole subsequent long and busy life was devoted to the increase of the wealth and the enlargement of the influence and the elevation of the social position of the Cavendishes. She sold her southern estates, and with the proceeds extended the Cavendish property around her ancestral farms. When her second husband died, leaving her with three sons and three daughters, and also three inheritances—her own, Mr.

Barley's, and the Cavendish—she attracted as many suitors as Penelope herself, and when she at last condescended to accept the love of the most devoted of the lovers, Sir William St. Loe of Tormarton, in Gloucestershire, it was only on the condition that in default of more children all the lordships and manors of St. Loe should pass to the children of William Cavendish, to the exclusion of St. Loe's brothers and his own daughters by a previous marriage. When this third husband died she married George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; passing thus from the baronetage into the peerage, securing at the same time for her youngest daughter, Mary Cavendish, the eldest son of the Earl, and for her eldest son Henry Cavendish, the Earl's youngest daughter. More than this, through her second daughter she formed a relationship with the Royal Family, Elizabeth Cavendish having been married to Charles Stuart, Earl of Lennox, younger brother of Lord Darnley, King of Scotland. After the death of Darnley and the disastrous battle of Langside, Lord Shrewsbury was appointed the custodian of Queen Mary, and thus Elizabeth Hardwick became not only the relative, but the mistress of Royalty. She survived her fourth husband also, and, till the close of her life, diligently continued her work of building up the fortunes of the house of Cavendish. Her second and favourite son, William, on the early death of his eldest brother, became heir of all the possessions of the house, with the exception of Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire, which was bequeathed to the third son, Charles, who founded the subsidiary or Welbeck branch of the family.

The elder branch continued to grow and prosper, and it is of its wealth and name the present Marquis of Hartington is the heir-apparent. But that it did survive as a great house beyond two or three generations, is mainly due to a lady, and a Scotch lady too. Bess of Hardwicke was the founder of the family; Christian Bruce was its deliverer and protector. Christian was the daughter of Edward, Lord Bruce of Kinloss, whose younger brother was an ancestor of the present Earl of Elgin. Her fortunes were linked to those of the Cavendishes, when in 1625 or 1626 she was married to William, the second Earl of Devonshire—the son of the William Cavendish who, through the influence of Arabella Stuart, was created Earl of Devonshire by King James, and Baron Cavendish of Hardwicke fourteen years afterwards in recognition of his services in founding a colony in Virginia and in settling Bermuda. This second Earl, whom Christian Bruce married, receiving from the Queen a bridal gift of £10,000, was a most accomplished but also a most extravagant and dissolute man, and when he died, three years after his accession to the Earldom, his affairs were found in a state of apparently hopeless confusion. He left his widow a vast debt and upwards of thirty law suits, but fortunately the Countess was able to bear the enormous burden thrown upon her.

Here, in brief, is a sketch of her life and work:—Christian was guardian of the minor, and she calmly devoted her life to the unravelling of the skein. She had a jointure of £5,000 a year, a clear head, a fascinating tongue, and that incapacity of blundering in matters pecuniary which is included in Scotch descent. With this, and still more with her own woman's wit, perseverance, and fascination of manner, she fought successfully all the lawsuits against powerful adversaries, and brought them to an end in moderate time, so that King Charles said to her in astonishment, "Madam, you have all my judges at your disposal." Some of the debts she liquidated by the sale of some estates disentailed by her husband by Act of Parliament (a rare act of grace in those days), the rest she fairly paid off by her more prudent management of the property, and she handed over to her son his inheritance scarcely impaired

by his father's mad extravagance. When her son came of age she retired to her seat, Leicester Abbey, and resided there till the civil war broke out, remaining the Providence of the family.

WOMEN AND THE INCOME TAX.

"A working gentlewoman" writes as follows to the *Echo*:—

With reference to the unjust incidences of the income tax on many classes of sufferers, permit me to call attention to the common case of widows and others with small means who derive their income from property in houses, railways, or public funds. These small incomes, ranging from £100 to £150, though legally exempt, are nevertheless taxed to the uttermost farthing before coming into the owners' hands. Rents and dividends are paid in "less income tax," and as not one in fifty, probably, of the recipients knows how to obtain repayment—or even that it can be had—they are practically defrauded of the amount withheld.

Even if the victims, who are mostly women, have the courage to seek restitution of their own, the majority of them, untrained and unused to business, find themselves helpless in face of the complicated technicalities that must be mastered before their claims can be received and repayment made. The weakest members of society, those who are least able to obtain a hearing for themselves—widows, orphans, single women, aged people—are precisely those who by thousands suffer, and suffer heavily, from this form of taxation.

OUR SOCIETY.

The completion of the tenth year of our existence as a corporate society offers an appropriate occasion for an analysis of the elements which have gone to form our constitution and of which we consist.

To begin with our Court. At the head of it is our King; but as we are a women's suffrage society, no one need be surprised to find that our King is a woman. We have a Duke, an Earle, a Lord, and a Baron, with a Chamberlain to Marshall them, the whole guarded by a sturdy Yeoman. Our ecclesiastical organisation has a Pope as Pontifex, a Bishop and a Dean. There is an Abbey for them to live in, and a Monkhouse to shelter our Palmer. We are also provided with a Chaplin, a supply of Parsons, and a considerable number of Clerks. Our nationality is limited to French and Welch, although we have a Scott among us, and our territory includes Greece, Holland, Brittain, and Ireland. Our towns are Oldham, Blackburn, Ross, Bolton, Eccles, and Madeley.

For relations we have Cousins, and a Husband, Widdows, and a Widdowson. We have also our Boys.

For company we have, Dick, Thomas, Henry, Jack, Jacob, Adam, Moses, Daniell, Samuel, Gregory, Archibald, Alexander, Allan, Francis, Charles, Oliver, and Maude.

There are some very useful members among us. We have a Baker, a Butler, a Cook, and a Porter, a Chandler, a Carpenter, a Cooper, a Dyer, a Fuller, a Glover, a Skinner, a Barber, a Taylor, a Mason, a Thatcher, a Sawyer, a Glaisyer, a Potter, a Pitman, a Carryer, a Carter, and a Shepherd, with a Crook.

We do not neglect Sport, as we have a Forester, a Bowman, a Hunter, a Fisher, a Falconer, and a Fowler.

Our scenery is of a varied and interesting character. We have Hill and Dale, Heath and Moore. We have a Firth with Brine, and a Shore not always free from Mudd, our Brook has a Ford, but no one need Wade through it as it is also provided with a Bridge, it is ornamented with Pollard and Birch in Leaf

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Mrs. Joseph Cross...	5	0	0
Mr. Richard Ellis, Harrogate...	1	1	0
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Rev. J. L. Rentoul, M.A.	0	10	6
Mrs. Leaf...	0	10	6
Mrs. Moses...	0	6	0
Miss M. Nichol...	0	5	0
Mrs. Kilmister...	0	5	0
Mr. Benjamin Stafford...	0	5	0
Mr. Crawshaw...	0	5	0
Miss M. Shatwell...	0	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Praeger...	0	5	0
Mrs. Boyes...	0	5	0
A Friend, Bolton...	0	2	6
Mr. Thos. Walsh...	0	2	6
Mrs. Brine...	0	2	6
Rev. Guy Bryan, M.A.	0	2	6
Mrs. Ann Lanes...	0	2	6
Mr. Thos. Parker...	0	2	6
Miss H. M. Dunlop...	0	2	6
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilkins...	0	2	0
Mr. Samuel Wood...	0	1	6
Mrs. Samuel Wood...	0	1	6
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Mr. L. Cordingley...	0	1	6
Mr. John Fearnley...	0	1	6
Mr. Wm. Preston...	0	1	6
Mr. Hutchins...	0	1	6
Mr. Thos. Denton...	0	1	6
Mr. J. Wm. Houldsworth...	0	1	6
Mr. Thomas Hurst...	0	1	6
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Mr. S. Storey (Mayor)...	1	1	0
Mr. Edward Backhouse...	1	0	0
Mr. G. H. Gowland...	0	10	6
Mr. E. C. Robson...	0	10	6
Mr. R. Shadforth...	0	10	6
Mr. J. Armstrong...	0	10	6
Dr. Gammage...	0	10	0
Mr. A. Common...	0	10	0
Mr. F. M. Bowey...	0	10	0
Mr. Lawson...	0	10	0
Mr. Geo. Lucas...	0	10	0
Mrs. Lucas...	0	5	0
Mr. Geo. Douglas...	0	5	0
Rev. S. J. Hodgson...	0	5	0
Mr. John Hills...	0	5	0
Mr. Newbegin...	0	5	0
Mrs. E. Smith...	0	2	6
Miss Alice Lucas...	0	2	6
Miss Clara Lucas...	0	2	6
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Mr. Alderman Watson...	0	10	0
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