

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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MARCH 2, 1885.

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Contents :

Leading Articles :—The Parliamentary Position of the Question; Meetings during February; Liberal Associations; Ladies at the Small-pox Camp; How the Legal Rights of Women may be Lost; Curious Case Respecting a Married Woman's Will; Inequality of the Property Rights of Widows and Widowers; The Betrothal of Princess Beatrice; Comparative Treatment of Princes and Princesses. Parliamentary Intelligence. Public Meetings :— Manchester, London, Plymouth,

Clifton (Bristol), Hyde, Mitcham. Ireland : Dublin, Belfast. Liberal Associations :—Paddock Liberal Club, Armley Progressive Club (Leeds), Prestwich Liberal Club, Liberal Club at Harwood, Paddington Liberal Association, The John Bright Club (Paddington). Lectures :—London, Swansea, Dartmouth, Totterdown (Bristol), Leominster, Cheddar. Drawing Room Meetings :—Bayswater, Clapham, Bolton Gardens, Cadogan Place, Highbury Crescent, Upper Woburn Place, Sloane Street.

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Foreign Notes and News.

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

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for petitions to both Houses of Parliament, to be presented during the Session. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh; or Miss BALGARNIE, 29, Parliament-street, London.

GAINSBOROUGH.—A Public Meeting in Support of the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women will be held at Gainsborough on March 12th. Particulars will be given in local announcements.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XV. January to December, 1884. Printed on fine paper, with coloured cover, price, post free, Two Shillings and Sixpence.—London: Trübner and Co.; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

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

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By Vice-Admiral MAXSE.
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Addresses on subjects connected with women's work by ladies of experience.

Season Tickets, not including admission to the opening ceremony, 5s. Admission, first day, 2s. 6d.; other days, 1s.; Saturdays and Evenings, 6d.

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For further particulars apply to the Hon. Secs., 20, Park-street, Bristol.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Daily Votes and Proceedings.)

- Feb. 20. Franchise, Petition for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of PLYMOUTH; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
" 23. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women; of Meetings at DUBLIN (2), ST. HELENS, and GRAVESEND, Inhabitants of DUBLIN, STANNINGLEY, and EXETER, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
" 24. Franchise, Petitions for extension of, to women, of Meetings at BRISTOL, LONDON, and LEEDS; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

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

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

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

FORMS OF PETITIONS.

The following are forms for general petitions:—

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

The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of SHEWETH,

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will pass a measure to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

FORM FOR WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' PETITION.

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

The humble petition of women inhabitant householders of

SHEWETH,

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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THE appropriation by the Government of every day, including Wednesdays, for the Redistribution Bill has destroyed the chance, always a very slender one, that the Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women could be brought on for discussion on the 4th of March. It is, we understand, the intention of Mr. WOODALL to keep the Bill on the paper, and to be prepared to take any opportunity that may present itself for moving the second reading of the measure.

Mr. WOODALL, in his speech in St. James's Hall, expressed his hope that a day might be found for it during the session; we can, therefore, only urge our friends to continue to send a stream of petitions in support of the extension of the franchise to women.

NEVER since the movement began have so many large and important meetings been held in one month as have taken place during the February just passed. The list begins with a meeting in the Guildhall, Plymouth, on the 4th ultimo, under the presidency of Mr. ISAAC LATIMER, J.P. The speakers were the Rev. E. READ, Mr. A. P. BALKWILL, Mrs. BEDDOE, Mr. ELLIOTT, and Miss WILKINSON.

At a meeting in Clifton, Bristol, Mr. LEWIS FRY, M.P., in the chair, the Countess of PORTSMOUTH, President of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage, made an able and powerful speech in support of the question. Other speakers were Mrs. ASHFORD, Miss ORME, Miss C. A. BIGGS, Miss BLACKBURN, Miss WILKINSON, also the Rev. HAYES ROBINSON, Rev. A. N. BLATCHFORD, Mr. BEVAN, Chairman of the Liberal Operative Association, Mr. W. S. CLARK, Mr. HARRIS, President of the Bristol Trades' Council, and others.

In Dublin two public meetings have been held: the first on the afternoon of Feb. 5th, in the Molesworth Hall, the Rev. Dr. CARMICHAEL in the chair. The speakers were Prof. C. CAMERON, Mr. DAVID SHERLOCK, B.L., Rev. Mr. WHITMEE, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, Mrs. HAMILTON, Prof. MIR AULAD ALI, Miss TOD, Mr. JOHNSTON, Inspector

of Fisheries, and others. On Feb. 6th a meeting was held in Sackville Hall, Mr. ABRAHAM SHACKLETON in the chair, when speeches were delivered by Mr. A. WEBB, Mr. W. REDMOND, M.P., Rev. S. SANDYS, M.A., Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAILEY, Mr. OLDHAM, Miss TOD, and Mrs. ASHTON DILKE.

The annual meeting of the North of Ireland Society was held at Belfast on Feb. 12th. Mrs. LINDSAY presided, and addresses were delivered by Miss HARDY, Mrs. W. B. RITCHIE, Mrs. HENRY THOMPSON, Mrs. KNOX, Mrs. ACHE-SON, Miss WILKINSON, Miss TOD, and Mrs. HYNDMAN.

A great meeting was held at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Feb. 17th. Mr. WOODALL, M.P., presided. The resolutions were supported by Professor ADAMSON, Miss BECKER, Mr. W. H. HOULDSWORTH, M.P., Miss TOD, Mr. CROSFIELD, Miss C. A. BIGGS, Mr. J. P. THOMASSON, M.P., Professor MUNRO, Mr. SCHOUB, Dr. PANKHURST, Mr. H. H. HOWORTH, Miss WILKINSON, Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL, and others.

The annual meeting of the Hyde Branch was held on Feb. 12th, under the presidency of Mr. C. HIBBERT. Miss HIBBERT, Mrs. DOWSON, Miss BECKER, Mrs. LOUISA HERFORD, Mrs. MOSS, and Mrs. THORLEY took part in the proceedings.

On February 24th, Mr. WOODALL, M.P., presided at a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in St. James's Hall, London, when resolutions in support of the Bill now before Parliament were adopted. The meeting was addressed by Professor STUART, M.P., Miss TOD, Mr. HOPWOOD, Q.C., M.P., Mr. COLERIDGE KENNARD, M.P., Mrs. CHARLES M'LAREN, Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, Bart., Miss BALGARNIE, Rev. BROOKE LAMBERT, Mrs. BRYANT, D.Sc., Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, and Viscountess HARBERTON.

Numerous drawing-room meetings have been held in London during the month, in which the following ladies took part: Miss ANNA SWANWICK, Mrs. BRIGHT LUCAS, Mrs. FENWICK MILLER, Miss MULLER, Miss C. A. BIGGS, Mrs. LUCAS, Miss LORD, Dr. ELIZ. BLACKWELL, Miss HELEN TAYLOR, Mrs. BRINE, Dr. JANET RUSHBROOK, Dr.

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KATE MITCHELL, Miss KING, Mrs. STANTON BLATCH, Miss MILLER, Mrs. ORMISTON CHANT, and many others.

Mrs. CHARLES, Mrs. WOOLCOTT BROWNE, Miss LUCY JOHNSON, Miss MAUD PERRY, and Miss LILY STACPOOLE have been elected members of the general council of the Paddington Liberal Association.

Resolutions in support of the enfranchisement of women have been adopted by the Paddock (Huddersfield) Liberal Club, the Armley (Leeds) Progressive Club, the Prestwich Liberal Club, the Longridge Liberal Club, and the John Bright Liberal Club, Paddington.

SOME time ago Sir CHARLES DILKE, in the exercise of his functions as President of the Local Government Board, appointed the Countess of DUCIE and the Hon. MAUDE STANLEY as members of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, they being the first ladies who had occupied that position. Scarcely had the ladies taken their seats when the scandal at the Darenth smallpox camp broke out. Allegations of gross mismanagement and hardships to patients were made. In this condition of things the Asylums Board asked the Local Government Board for a third lady member, as there was another vacancy to fill. Sir CHARLES DILKE complied with this requisition by appointing Miss BAKER, poor-law guardian for Holborn, to fill the vacant place on the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Miss BAKER accepted the appointment, and went down to Darenth to take charge of the smallpox camp.

This is not the first time in history where a woman has gone with a healing and helping hand into regions where men have failed to do the work. It is, perhaps, not unreasonable to claim that the woman who goes down to war with disease and death in a smallpox camp is not less a soldier and servant of her country than the man who wages war in the scarcely more terrible scenes of purely military experience.

A NOTEWORTHY instance of the liability to encroachment which besets the existing rights of women while unprotected by the ægis of the Parliamentary vote was afforded by some proposed local legislation for Manchester. The Corporation are about to apply to Parliament for an Act for the extension of the city boundaries, which was intended to provide, among other objects, for the election of fifteen overseers. The clause relating to the qualifications of these overseers began, in the original draft of the Bill, "Any male person who is rated," &c.

Now, from time immemorial there has been no difference between men and women ratepayers as regards eligibility for the office of overseer, or liability to serve when elected, and the previous Act in force relating to the appointment of overseers for the city of Manchester contains no limitation of the office to male persons. When the attention of the authorities was called to the change, they immediately ordered that the word "male" should be omitted from the amended official draft of the Bill, as they had no intention of altering the law so as to exclude women.

WOMEN may have lost other rights by the insertion of the words "male person" into amending Acts of Parliament relating to subjects in which the language previously used had contained no reference to sex. This was done in the Reform Act of 1832, the Municipal Corporation Act of 1835, and in the definition of the word "parishioner" in the Public Worship Regulation Act. It is quite possible that the alteration may have been made by the draftsman without instructions from the authorities nominally responsible for such Bills. It is high time that this retrogressive process should be arrested. One step has been made by the erasure of the words "male person" from the Municipal Corporations Act. The next step, and the one which will effectually prevent any further encroachment on the political and civil rights of women citizens, will be the abolition of the restriction of the Parliamentary franchise to male persons. We believe that by an earnest and energetic effort in support of Mr. WOODALL'S Bill this step may be secured before the dissolution of the present Parliament, and the new elections take place by a constituency which shall include every household in the land, whether the head of that household be a man or a woman.

A CURIOUS case respecting the will of a married woman was tried before Mr. Justice PEARSON on February 9th. Mrs. PRICE, a married lady residing at Southport, made her will on the 19th of January, 1884, in which, after making some specific bequests, she bequeathed the residue of her property to certain persons. Mr. PRICE died on the 26th of January, one week after his wife had made her will, having by his will bequeathed the residue of his property to his wife. Mrs. PRICE died three days after her husband without having re-executed her will, and the question was whether the property she took under her husband's will was disposed of by her own will. It was admitted that under the law as it stood before the Act of

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1882 the wife's will would have been ineffectual to dispose of property which accrued to her after the death of her husband; but it was contended that an alteration had been made by the Act of 1882, and that a married woman now stood in exactly the same position as a *feme sole*.

Mr. Justice PEARSON, in delivering judgment, said that the new Act applied only to what was done by a married woman with regard to property which she then had, consequently the old law was not altered and the will did not pass the property which the wife took under the husband's will.

The effect of this decision is that all the property left by the husband to the wife goes to persons who certainly seem to have no moral claim to it, namely, the wife's next of kin. The natural heirs of the husband and the persons whom the wife intended to benefit by her will are alike excluded from the inheritance of the husband's estate. The judgment is another and striking instance of the inequality of the law between men and women. The will of a man, whether married or not, operates upon whatever property he is possessed of at the time of his death. The will of a married woman only operates upon such property as she possesses during the marriage.

ANOTHER inequality in the law of property as between women and men is brought out by the rules for deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank. It is therein provided that if a married woman who is a depositor should die without making a nomination or leaving a will, her husband will be entitled to her deposits. He gets them at once without delay, formality, or expense, exactly as if they had originally been deposits of his own, and to the exclusion of any children of his wife, even though she might leave children by a former marriage.

Far different is the case when a married man who is a depositor dies without making a nomination or leaving a will. In that case, if the deposit is under £100, after waiting two months to see if any will or letters of administration are produced, the Postmaster-General may divide the money amongst the widow and relatives at his discretion. If the deposit is over £100 the sum will only be paid to the executor or administrator on production of probate of the will or letters of administration.

Thus widows are mulcted in expenditure and required to go through complicated legal forms in order to obtain a share of their deceased husband's money, while widowers get the whole sum belonging to their deceased wife without expenses or legal proceedings.

THE announcement of the betrothal of Princess BEATRICE, with the consequent application to Parliament for the usual dowry for the daughters of the Royal House, suggest the reflection that the Princess has been for many years in the position of being the only one of the QUEEN'S children whom the nation has not provided with an income of her own. The sons had an income assigned as they came of age, with a further provision on their marriage; the daughters on their marriage had a provision, though very much smaller than that of their brothers. Had Princess BEATRICE married at the same age as her sisters, she would, like them, have had an allowance of £6,000 a year. But because the Princess has remained the solace and stay of the widowed Mother and Sovereign, and thereby rendered a service to her country not less real because unobtrusive, the nation has not up to now been asked to accord to her the provision which it affords to her sisters whose marriages, auspicious as they have been, have, to a certain extent, severed their connection with their country. No one of the daughters of the QUEEN has deserved better of her country than Princess BEATRICE, and the best wishes of the nation for her welfare and happiness will attend her Royal Highness on her marriage.

THE inequality between the consideration given to men and women is shewn somewhat conspicuously in the treatment of Princes and Princesses. One of the painful aggravations of the bereavement sustained by the Duchess of ALBANY was the great change thereby made in her circumstances. The income of the Royal pair during the lifetime of the late Duke was, we believe, about £30,000 a year. Out of this it was possible for the Duke to live in a manner befitting his rank, to bring up his family, and to save enough to make a provision for his successor. But on the death of the Duke, the income of the Duchess suddenly dropped to £6,000 a year, while the burden of bringing up the family and making a provision for the maintenance of the successor to the dukedom is, so far as the nation is concerned, thrown upon the Duchess to save out of the disproportionately diminished revenue.

The treatment that the English nation metes out to the unmarried and widowed Princesses of the Royal House reminds us of the mode in which, according to VOLTAIRE, the science of philology in his day dealt with the letters of the alphabet. Unmarried princesses, as VOLTAIRE said of the vowels, "*ne valent rien*," and widows, like consquants, "*fort peu de chose*."

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, *Friday, February 20th.*

PETITIONS.

The Earl of Morley presented a petition from inhabitants of Plymouth in favour of granting the suffrage to duly qualified women.

February 23rd.

Petitions in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women were presented by the Earl of Darnley, from Gravesend; by Lord Dunraven, from inhabitants of Pembrokeshire; by the Earl of Lathom, from St. Helens; and by the Earl of Cork, from inhabitants of Dublin.

February 26th.

The Duke of Bedford presented a petition from inhabitants of Wisbeach in favour of women's suffrage.

The Duke of St. Albans presented a petition from the Nottingham branch of the Women's Suffrage Society, in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Thursday, February 19th.*

PETITIONS.

Petitions in favour of a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women were presented by Colonel Blackburne, from St. Helens; by Sir C. Dilke, from the metropolis and elsewhere; by Mr. Woodall, from a public meeting at Manchester, also from Stanford Harris, Nancy Whalley, Aurelia Holmes, and others; by Sir R. A. Otway, from a public meeting at Rochester; by Dr. Lyons, from public meetings in Molesworth Hall and in Sackville Hall, Dublin; and by Sir S. Waterlow, from Gravesend.

February 20th.

Petitions in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women were presented by Sir C. Dilke, from Kensington; by Mr. J. M'Carthy, from Dublin city and suburbs; and by Mr. P. S. MacIver, from Plymouth.

February 23rd.

Mr. Woodall presented four petitions from Brentwood in favour of women's suffrage.

February 25th.

Petitions to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women were presented, by Sir W. M'Arthur, from Peckham and Camberwell, Newington Butts, Kennington Road, New Kent Road, and Great Dover-street; by Mr. A. Morley, from Nottingham; by Mr. J. Barran, from Leeds; by Lord G. Hamilton, from various places in Middlesex; and by Mr. Coleman, from Wisbeach.

February 26th.

Petitions in favour of women's suffrage were presented, by Mr. S. Buxton, from Miss Henrietta Muller; by Mr. H. Gladstone, from the Board and National School Teachers of Leeds; by Mr. W. Ewart, from a public meeting of the women of Belfast; and by Mr. T. R. Buchanan, from the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

February 23rd.

WIVES AND FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS.

Mr. TOMLINSON asked the Secretary for War whether there was any truth in the statement that the wives of the soldiers about to defend the honour of the country in the Soudan had been ordered to quit the Windsor Barracks by that morning, and that the women and children who had no friends with whom they could seek shelter scarcely knew where to find a home, although the commandant of the battalion had done his best to assist them. And, whether he intended to take any steps to mitigate the hardships which that order must have occasioned, or was it intended to leave the care of those poor women and children merely to private charity. He wished to add the further question whether any similar difficulty had occurred in the case of the families of the soldiers who had left Wellington Barracks.

Lord CLAUD HAMILTON said he should like to ask who were the authorities directly responsible for the expulsion of the women and children of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards from Victoria Barracks, Windsor, immediately on the departure of the battalion for

Egypt? Was it necessary in the interests of the public service that those women should be thus treated, and what notice had been given to them of the intention of the authorities?

The Marquis of HARTINGTON: It was indispensable that the families of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards should vacate the married soldiers' quarters at Windsor to the extent required by the families of the incoming battalion. Authority was given as soon as it was asked for these women to occupy any vacant quarters at Windsor and in London; and so far as is at present known only four are not provided for. The Regulations provide special issues from Government for wives separated, with their families, from their husbands under such circumstances; and provision is also made for the compulsory allotment to them of a portion of the soldiers' pay. The total sum they receive from these sources amounts to 1s. a day for the wife of each private and 3d. a day for each child. In the case of sergeants' families the allowance is larger. These allowances were fixed in 1881 after very full consideration, and having regard to the circumstance that they are able to earn something in addition I am not prepared to say that they are inadequate. The arrangements for the accommodation of these women and children are made by and on the responsibility of the general officer commanding the district subject to the Regulations.

Colonel MILNE HOME said he might be allowed by the courtesy of the House to state that he held in his hand a communication from the secretary of the Egyptian War Fund, which was started during the last Egyptian war, and which was still open to assist the wives and families of soldiers in cases of emergency. It had been arranged that whatever the Government might do for the wives and families of soldiers the Fund would contribute £1 in each case. (Hear, hear.)

Sir H. FLETCHER said that the officers at Windsor said that every woman and child was provided for, and had a home to go to. In the cases of the three mentioned temporary lodgings were found until other arrangements could be made. An arrangement had been made by the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 3rd Grenadier Guards under which a considerable portion of their pay would be devoted to the maintenance of their wives and families. (Hear, hear.)

In reply to Mr. Carrington, The Marquis of HARTINGTON said he believed that the wives and families of the soldiers would be sent to their homes free of expense to themselves in all cases in which they desired it.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MANCHESTER.

GREAT MEETING IN THE FREE TRADE HALL.

A public meeting in support of the Parliamentary Franchise for women was held on February 17th in the Free Trade Hall. The gathering was convened by the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage. Mr. WILLIAM WOODALL, M.P., occupied the chair, and there were present Mr. W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., Mr. J. P. Thomasson, M.P., Professor Adamson, Miss Becker, Miss C. A. Biggs, H. H. Howorth, Esq., Professor Munro, J. H. Crossfield, Esq., the Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Dr. Pankhurst, N. C. Schou, Esq., Dr. Royle, H. E. Oakeley, Esq., Miss Tod, Miss J. G. Wilkinson, Alderman G. Booth, Esq., J.P., H. Boddington, Esq., Rev. Robert Craig, M.A., Councillor Alfred Evans, R. Gibson, Esq., Mrs. Gell, Mrs. Louisa Herford, J. Hinchliffe, Esq., J. Milling, Esq., Rev. W. Rigby Murray, J. F. Roberts, Esq., J.P., C. Stewart, Esq., Miss Smith (Hyde), W. T. Windsor, Esq., J.P., Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Goulden, Mr. William Herford, Mrs. Oldham (Hyde), Mrs. R. V. Yates and Mrs. Furnvale (Liverpool), Miss Lomas (Stockport), Mrs. M'Cormick, Miss Backhouse, and others.

Miss Becker read a telegram, "Heartiest wishes for a most successful meeting are sent by a gathering of committee workers at the Central Office," and several letters from gentlemen who had been invited to attend.

Mr. Robert Leake, M.P., wrote:—

"I cannot attend the meeting of your society on the 17th, but any proposition which may be made in the coming session to confer the franchise on women otherwise qualified as householders, freeholders, and lodgers will have my support."

Mr. J. T. Hibbert, M.P., Financial Secretary to the Treasury, wrote:—

"Reform Club, Pall Mall, S.W., Feb. 12th, 1885.

"My dear Miss Becker,—I regret much that, in consequence of my official duties, I shall not be able to attend the women's suffrage meeting on Tuesday next. Success will, I hope, soon crown your efforts; and with the votes of the women occupiers added to those of the new electors, lately admitted within the Constitution, we shall at last attain a true reflex of the opinion of the country.—I am, yours very truly,
JOHN T. HIBBERT."

Professor Stuart, M.P., wrote:—

"I am very sorry that I could not come to Manchester on the 17th. I shall at that date be just pushing my work here before going up to London for the session, so it is necessary for me to be here. You have my fullest and heartiest sympathy in the object of your meeting, as you well know."

Sir Edward Watkin, Bart., M.P., after expressing his dissatisfaction with the conduct of members who, having expressed themselves in favour of the franchise for women, had voted against Mr. Woodall's clause, wrote:—"My vote, as long as I have a seat in Parliament, will be given as heretofore in favour of the enfranchisement of women."

Mr. A. J. Balfour, M.P., wrote:—

"4, Carlton Gardens, S.W., Feb. 3rd, 1885.

"Dear Madam,—I have hitherto abstained from taking any very decided part in the controversy connected with women's suffrage; and, on the 17th, I am afraid that for other reasons it will be impossible for me to be present in Manchester. I am, however, perfectly ready to admit that the exclusion of women is an anomaly in our representative system, not very easy to justify in argument. Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR."

Mr. Cunliffe Brooks, M.P., wrote:—

"Barlow Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester,
2nd Feb., 1885.

"Dear Miss Becker,—I shall be unable to be present at the meeting on the 17th February. Your cause has my hearty wishes for its success.—I am, yours faithfully,
WM. CUNLIFFE BROOKS."

Mr. J. R. Yorke, M.P., wrote:—

"I am very sorry that my engagements will not admit of my attending your meeting at Manchester on the 17th. You may rely on my fidelity to your cause in Parliament."

The Rev. H. A. Noel, rector of St. Clement's, Longsight, wrote:—

"I do not think that I am wrong in addressing you in the language of congratulation. I believe the victory is almost in your hands. You and your fellow-workers have educated the national conscience, and now thoughtful men of all parties concede the justice of your claims."

The Rev. Dr. Thomson in his letter said that if he could have attended the meeting he should have had great pleasure in testifying his sympathy with its object, of which he cordially approved.

Alderman M'Kerrow wrote:—

"I much regret to find that an important private engagement will prevent my attendance at your meeting. I hope you will have a successful meeting, both as regards attendance and speaking. In my opinion Mr. Woodall has exercised a wise discretion in expressing clearly in his Bill the fact that it proposes to give the franchise to unmarried women only."

Letters had also been received from the following gentlemen: The Mayor of Manchester, Mr. John Slagg, M.P., Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P., the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., Mr. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Mr. William Agnew, M.P., Mr. Arthur Arnold, M.P., Mr. B. Armitage, M.P., Mr. Wm. Summers, M.P., Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., Mr. A. Ilingworth, M.P., Mr. Justin M'Carthy, M.P., Mr. Henry Lee, M.P., Mr. Coleridge J. Kennard, M.P., Mrs. Fawcett, Miss F. P. Cobbe, Miss J. Cobden, Mrs. Roby, Mr. and Mrs. W. M'Laren, Dr. Anna Dahms, Dr. and Miss Whittle, Mr. Alderman and Mrs. Heywood, Miss Atkinson, Sir R. Temple, Bart., Mr. Henry Charle-

wood, Mr. Alderman Bennett, Mr. Alderman Thompson, Mr. Alderman Husband, Mr. Alderman Davies, Mr. Alderman J. B. M'Kerrow, Mr. Henry Lightbown, Mr. William Mather, the Rev. Mr. M'Gaw, Mr. John Rylands, Mr. B. Armitage, Mr. Alexander Ireland, Councillors Lloyd, Hampson, Milne, Bazley, John Roberts, and Goldsworthy.

The CHAIRMAN said that during the last sixty years they had had the satisfaction of seeing many disabilities removed which had had the effect of restricting the exercise of citizenship on various political and polemical grounds. This last year had seen a great measure passed, with the cordial assent of both political parties, which removed the most important political disability that weighed upon the householders of the United Kingdom. One disability, however, still survived. In the old time that disability was an anomaly. The disability of sex alone under the new conditions they must all feel to be intolerable. (Hear, hear.) Seventeen years of active protest against that disability had passed, and he trusted they all felt that evening an earnest hope that this present Parliament, which had done so much, would not allow its work to remain incomplete, would not be content with a lame and impotent conclusion to its great measure of enfranchisement. Those present that evening were in any case determined that another opportunity should be given to that Parliament to, if possible, perfect their work. (Hear, hear.) For seventeen years that struggle had been carried on, and it was now impossible, he thought, to feel anything but a sense of triumph at the evidence they had of manifest progress. The cause to-day was respected by those most opposed to it; it was spoken of in very different tones to those which not very long ago it was customary to hear with regard to it. All this had been achieved by earnest women working on the public opinion of the country, although they had no voice in Parliament itself. Miss Cobbe, speaking of it, said, "The struggle constitutes one of the bravest battles, one of the most pathetic movements, the world has ever seen." (Cheers.) They did not desire to be for a moment blind to the difficulties with which they yet had to combat; but of this there could be no doubt, that whatever might be the issue of the appeal to the present Parliament, or what even conceivably might be the result of the next appeal to the constituencies, those who had so long laboured in this great cause would never accept defeat, but would work on confident of ultimate triumph. (Cheers.) Last year the motion which he had the honour to submit to Parliament was defeated by a majority of 136. That majority, however, comprised at least 100 who in one way or another had expressed their approval of the movement itself. It included men conspicuous in their devotion to the cause, such as Mr. Hugh Mason, who had championed their cause in Parliament a year before, and Mr. A. Ilingworth, whose name was on the back of the Bill now before the House. The division was, in truth, a remarkable testimony to the personal influence of the leader of the Liberal party. (Cheers.) He desired to speak of Mr. Gladstone—(cheers)—as one, it might be, of his humblest, but most devoted followers. He had never complained of the action the Premier took on that occasion, although he regretted it. It was impossible to commit themselves to any practical responsible work without feeling that they had to reckon with conditions and with difficulties which the ordinary enthusiast was incapable of realising. Mr. Gladstone in his turn had not been wanting in generosity in reference to his action on that occasion. The Premier declared not very long ago that he (Mr. Woodall) had evinced the sincerity of his conduct on that occasion by doing what he was entitled to do, what with his views he was bound to do, although it was very inconvenient to the Government and the Liberal party. (Cheers.) The division last session could not then be regarded as showing the full strength of the cause. The next division would be taken under very different circumstances. (Cheers.) Mr. Gladstone himself was, he believed, prepared to vote for the principle of the Bill. He had no authority to confirm the statement which had appeared in the papers, but on the other hand he had no reason to question its accuracy. Mr. Gladstone said a short time ago that he had not departed from the position he had taken up in 1871. What were the opinions which he expressed then? For, apart from the interest always attaching to the opinions and actions of so distinguished a man, this was undoubtedly an important factor in the situation. The occasion on which Mr. Gladstone spoke in 1871 was the debate upon the Bill introduced into the House by one of the members for Manchester. It was impossible, speaking in this city and on this

subject, to refrain from paying a tribute of respectful regard and homage to Mr. Jacob Bright. (Cheers.) He had been throughout the history of their movement a constant, firm, and earnest friend. He regretted extremely that Mr. Bright's name was not on the back of the Bill which he (Mr. Woodall) had the honour of introducing to the House. An amendment to Mr. Jacob Bright's motion in 1871 was moved by Mr. Bouverie and seconded by Mr. Scourfield, and Mr. Gladstone spoke in the debate. Mr. Gladstone said then that there was more presumptive ground for change in the law than opponents of the measure were disposed to own. He went on to declare that the ancient law recognised the rights of women in the parish; that they could both vote and act in the parish. He reminded the House that the modern rule had extended the right to the municipality, and said that with regard to school boards he agreed with the Act which had given the franchise and the right of sitting on school boards to women. Mr. Gladstone added: "Then comes the question with regard to Parliament, and we have to ask ourselves whether we shall or shall not go farther. Now I do go so far as to admit that my hon. friend has a presumptive case for some change in the law." Then came an indication of Mr. Gladstone's views, when he spoke of the importance of considering the possibility of securing the representation of the property of women at elections by their actual exercise of the franchise, provided it was not done by means of personal intervention and attendance. "I have never heard any conclusive reason," he said, "why we should not borrow a hint from the law now existing in Italy under which a woman is allowed to exercise the franchise if she is possessed of a qualification, subject to the condition that she shall only exercise it through a deputy." A little while before Mr. Gladstone had said, referring to the argument of one of the opponents of the Bill, that Mr. Scourfield placed his objection in a great degree on its demanding the personal attendance of women and involving them in the general proceedings of elections. That appeared to him (Mr. Gladstone said) to be an objection of the greatest force, but it might be when they adopted the principle of secret voting that they would "ensure that tranquillity of elections which had been achieved in other countries." Let it be remembered that those were the days of hustings, of open voting, of hourly publication of the polls, and of many other forms of excitement often leading to violence. We were now living under a different condition of things than in 1871. The ballot had undoubtedly secured that quiet at elections, that tranquillity, which Mr. Gladstone admitted would make a very great deal of difference in regard to the force of the opposing argument. At the present time probably one in seven who voted at local elections were women. Would anyone venture to say that the women who had voted at the ballot boxes had been unsexed, had done anything derogatory to their womanhood, had been exposed to any impropriety any more than they would have been by going to the market or on the railway? Formerly there was some justification possibly for misgiving. With their experience since the passing of the ballot, it seemed to him that their contentment was irresistible. (Cheers.) He was not likely to underrate the serious objections to their proposal. There was, however, one argument which he declined to discuss. They were told that women were constitutionally subject to clerical influence, and that they were certain to give their votes for the political party which was represented by his friend on the left (Mr. W. H. Houldsworth, M.P.). (Laughter.) This was the favourite contention of Admiral Maxse, who had published figures to prove that women in much larger proportion than men believed in the efficacy of prayer, and seemed to urge that as a reason for their being denied the vote. (Shame.) On the other hand, as he thought to his great honour, Mr. Bradlaugh—(cheers)—told him (the chairman) some time ago that if he were convinced that every woman enfranchised would vote against him, so strongly did he feel the justice of their claim that he could not refuse to concede it. (Cheers.) It would be unworthy of them to consider for a moment how the vote would be used. Mr. Courtney called it political pettifoggery. Mr. Gladstone described such consideration as a sin against first principles. (Hear, hear.) We had not done that in the great measure of enfranchisement which had just received the assent of Parliament. There had recently been some forecasts of the questions which would find favour with the new constituencies. He would only say that he thought, and he hoped, that among the questions which would be prominent in the minds of the new electors would be those affecting the social condition and the welfare of the poorest classes. If those questions

did command public attention in anything like the degree which they deserved—if we had, as he hoped we should have, earnest efforts to mitigate social sufferings—surely we might believe that the sex which suffered most would be a great power on the side of those who desired to bring about reforms. (Cheers.) Who were the busiest, the most valuable helpers in investigation and in every effort to ameliorate the condition of the poor? Was it not true that in London, in Manchester, in all our great centres of population, women were the ministering angels upon whom we chiefly relied? (Cheers.) Was it possible to look over the history of past times, or to make a comparison of countries to-day, without realising the fact that the place of a people in the ranks of civilisation was indicated by the position accorded to women; and surely these were considerations which it was dangerous to overlook? (Cheers.)

Miss BECKER moved the following resolution:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act, recently become law, should be supplemented by the passing of a measure during the present session of Parliament for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women."

She said that if the Bill promoted by the chairman were to become law the vote would be given to those women who already had municipal votes and votes in other local elections; and she claimed that the experience of the good effects of the power already given to women was an argument for entrusting them with the further responsibility of the Parliamentary suffrage. (Hear.) If Mr. Woodall's Bill were carried, about 800,000 women ratepayers would be enfranchised; but as there would be about 5,000,000 male voters when the new Franchise Act came into operation, man might be satisfied that the supremacy of his sex was not in danger. The number of women qualified as electors for the Parliamentary borough of Manchester was 10,868. Under the new Seats Bill Manchester will be divided into six constituencies, having an average number of electors of 8,870 each. Therefore the number of women householders in Manchester was considerably above the average number of electors in the new divisions, and if they were united into one constituency they might be held to have a claim to elect a seventh member for the city. The number of women householders on the burgess roll of Salford was about 4,149, as nearly as could be estimated. These added to the Manchester householders would give a total of upwards of 15,000 ratepayers disfranchised in Manchester and Salford alone. There were on the Parliamentary register of the two boroughs 131 lodgers. These lodgers paid no rates, and consequently had no municipal votes. Yet these men who were not citizens and contributed nothing to the burdens of the towns had 131 Parliamentary votes, while the 15,000 householders who have their share of the rates had not one Parliamentary vote amongst them.

Professor ADAMSON seconded the motion. The matter of the resolution, he said, had passed from the sphere of discussion, and was already within measurable distance of practical legislation; and Miss Becker and her friends, who had worked so hard for so many years, were to be heartily congratulated on what they had achieved. (Cheers.) We were now passing through one of the most momentous changes in our electoral machinery, and he sometimes thought we were apt on such occasions to concentrate our thoughts too much on the mere mechanism, and to forget the real end for which any electoral machinery or representative system really existed. A representative system simply existed in order to commit to each competent citizen the fullest and most complete civic liberty and life; and there we had a first principle which would fully entitle us to include the duly qualified electors referred to in the resolution. The work could not be complete when a large section of the community, the members of which were fully competent to exercise civic rights, were not entrusted with those rights. Within the last generation, or generation and a half, a very remarkable change had taken place in the position Parliament occupied in the political life of the country. There had been a transference of the centre of political power from Parliament to the people—(cheers), and we now regarded Parliament as an excellent—sometimes not a supremely excellent—instrument for discharging the popular will. At the same time, political life had become far more widely diffused, and each individual in the community now took a larger share in the general life of the country than formerly. A great change was slowly taking place,

and to stop short and to exclude from the franchise one large section of the community would be a grave injustice and a monstrous anomaly. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. H. HOULDSWORTH, M.P., who was warmly received, supported the resolution. He said he might at the outset confess that that was the first meeting at which he had publicly come forward at a public meeting in support of the movement in which they were interested, namely, the extension of the franchise to women. He did not attend that meeting now to discuss the question of women's rights at large, because in the first place he was not quite sure he was acquainted with all the rights to which they were entitled—(laughter), and, secondly, because their wrongs had hitherto occupied as much of his time and attention as he had been able to give to the subject. (Renewed laughter and applause.) But it was with great pleasure he supported the particular right they were discussing that night, because he thought the admission of female freeholders and female householders, who possessed the due qualification required by law, to the franchise was a claim which was unanswerable. (Hear, hear.) He thought the claim the women made out was as strong and as perfect as equity, justice, and logic could make it. (Applause.) Without entering into a lengthened discussion, he might place before those present a few arguments which were to his mind conclusive on the subject. What were the facts of the case with regard to our representative system? There were three great periods of reform, 1832, 1867, and 1884. Before 1832 the whole system was one based upon privilege and upon selection. The constituencies were chosen, and the privilege of sending members to Parliament was given them for services which they had rendered to the Crown. The electors were of the most limited character, consisting of potwallopers and other antediluvian people. (Laughter.) The principal point in the Reform Bill of 1832 was that it removed inequalities and was based on qualifications of fitness. What were the qualifications in 1832? Mr. Gladstone said: "The middle class in 1832 were admitted because they were loyal to our institutions, sober and thoughtful in disposition, having access to political information, reasonably capable of forming a judgment on public affairs, well disposed to defer to the opinion and advice of those who might be more capable." He went on to say that the admission of the middle class was not a final settlement of the question, and he used the following remarkable words: "We must, therefore, inquire as occasion offers what other portions of the community, or whether indeed the mass of that community, under only the conditions of due verification and of order, has its qualifications also." The conclusion he drew from that statement was that it was the bounden duty of the Legislature to see from time to time if any class of the community came within the qualification. Coming to 1867, the case seemed to him stronger. The great principle of the measure of household suffrage in 1867 was that it introduced what he called an electoral base line, above which the franchise was to be granted and below which it was to be refused. From that moment the principle laid down was one householder one vote. That principle must include women. Under every principle of justice and equity they had a right to the franchise quite as much as men. (Applause.) When they came to the Act of last year they saw not only this principle asserted, but it had become stronger and stronger. In introducing the measure of 1884, the Prime Minister said: "I take my stand on the broad principle that the enfranchisement of capable citizens—be they few or be they many: and if they be many so much the better—is an additional strength to the State." What was a capable citizen? It was a person able to perform the duties of a citizen. But how did they know that a citizen was able to perform those duties? The best way was to see whether he or she did so, and when they found any class of men or women who were performing the duties of "capable citizens" they came within the definition laid down by Mr. Gladstone. (Applause.) He would mention three objections which he understood were made to the admission of female householders to the franchise. The first, which certainly astonished him very much, was made by Mr. Gladstone himself in the debate on Mr. Woodall's motion, and it was the only argument the Prime Minister used against the Bill. He said it would produce a social revolution. He (Mr. Houldsworth) should have thought by this they had got accustomed to social revolutions of this character. (Laughter.) The fact was social revolution was a mere bugbear. There was no social revolution in giving to one class of capable citizens the rights enjoyed by another class of capable

citizens. The second argument used was that there was a difference between a man and a woman, but he held that there was a great deal in common between male and female householders; and if they looked at it from the point that each paid taxes and rates, and performed all the duties of capable householders, there was no difference at all. The other objection was that women did not fight. He was not quite so sure about that—(laughter), but if they granted, for the sake of gallantry, that they did not fight, there were others, too, householders and capable citizens, who did not fight, and yet no one proposed to take their votes from them. (Applause.) Mr. Houldsworth referred to the services rendered by women amongst our soldiers and sailors on the battle field and elsewhere. It was no argument to say that because they did not fight the vote should not be given to them. There were many other subsidiary arguments, which to his mind warranted him in supporting the measure. On the ground of simple justice women ought to be admitted. But he also believed that in philanthropic and other works their admission would be of great value to the community. In dealing with the evils of intemperance their influence would be of immense value in inducing candidates to pursue that course in regard to temperance which was absolutely necessary if this country was to hold its own, and if future generations were to be benefited by legislation. (Applause.)

Miss TOD also supported the resolution. She said that from the beginning of the agitation for the enfranchisement of women (under the shadow of which great reforms had already taken place) the advocates of the reform had claimed rights because they were necessary to enable them to fulfil duties; and she did not know that any smaller or weaker motive would have been sufficient to overcome the difficulties which lay in their way, to overcome the mass of prejudice, the mass of ignorance, the inertia, the unwillingness to change anything that did not seem absolutely necessary to the persons who were then privileged. The women attacked the mountain of prejudice, and that greater difficulty ignorance, and now the women's suffrage societies combined formed a larger political association than any other political association in the United Kingdom. (Cheers.) And it must be remembered that for every one woman who joined these societies, there were ten who sympathised with their objects, and all these, when enfranchised, would be able to exert their influence, and the influence of every individual woman would at once be doubled in effect and value.

Miss BECKER then read the following memorial to Mr. Gladstone:

To the Right Honourable WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE, M.P.,
First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury, &c., &c., &c.
The Memorial of Inhabitants of Manchester in public meeting
assembled on February 17th, 1885, in the Free Trade Hall,
Manchester,

Respectfully Sheweth,

That the claim of duly qualified women to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise has been continuously presented before Parliament and the country since the introduction of the Reform Bill of 1867.

That the period when the Legislature is engaged in amending the law relating to the representation of the people is a proper time for the consideration of this claim.

That the clause moved by Mr. Woodall in Committee on the Franchise Bill was not considered on its merits, but rejected lest its adoption by the House of Commons might imperil the Franchise Bill.

That the Franchise Bill having now happily become law, that ground of objection to the consideration of the proposal to extend the franchise to women is finally removed.

That by the extension of the household franchise to all classes of men throughout the country, the injustice of the continued exclusion of women possessed of the same qualification is emphasized and intensified.

That your Memorialists have good reason to believe that a majority of the members of both Houses of Parliament would vote in favour of a measure for the enfranchisement of duly qualified women if an opportunity were afforded for submitting such a measure to them.

That a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women has been introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Woodall, which Bill stood for second reading on November 24th, and if it had then

come on your Memorialists believe that the Bill would have been read a second time.

That in the exercise of the discretion appertaining to you as the head of Her Majesty's Government it seemed good to you to move the adjournment of the House over that date, whereby the women whose interests were at stake were deprived of the opportunity of submitting their claim for the consideration of the House of Commons.

Wherefore your Memorialists respectfully and earnestly pray that you will, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, take such measures as may ensure a full and fair discussion of the claim of women to the suffrage during the present session; and further, that you will give your support in the House of Commons to a measure for the extension of the franchise to women under such conditions as may be deemed equitable and expedient by the wisdom of Parliament.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

WILLIAM WOODALL, Chairman.

Mr. J. H. CROSFIELD moved that the memorial be adopted, and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting. He said he thought the question had been somewhat complicated by the use of the term "women's rights," which made people think that the women were working for some selfish purpose; whereas, in truth, they desired to possess the vote for the benefit of the whole nation. There was no part of society more unselfish and more patriotic than were the women of England, and they ought to have power to assist in the furtherance of those measures which would tend to the advantage of the whole country. The people who suffered most from political blunders were the women. There was no question that they had proved themselves in every possible aspect to be competent and capable citizens, not only by attending to their homes, but by attending to public affairs. There were imperial questions in which ladies were very greatly concerned, and they ought to have a voice in the settlement of these matters. When the ladies had that voice he was sure our members of Parliament would be better selected; we should have a better Parliament, one more active and vigorous in attending to the wants and necessities of the whole nation; and we should not have that bitter cry of outcast London; for women knew of these things, and one of their first endeavours would be, he was sure, to promote such measures as would tend to the relief of the wants of the poor, to raise the lower classes of society, and especially to help their sisters who had to bear such an immense amount of suffering and sorrow. He hoped Mr. Gladstone would pay good heed to that memorial, and that the coming session of Parliament would see passed the measure for the enfranchisement of the women. (Hear, hear.)

Miss C. A. BIGGS (London) seconded the resolution. The injustice done to women, she said, had been intensified by the recent political action, because women were now the only class in the country that did not possess the franchise. The advocates of women's suffrage were constantly being told to wait, but they were getting tired, for it was now nineteen years ago when she (the speaker) signed the first petition to Parliament which was presented by John Stuart Mill. The question of reform would not be finally settled until women were granted the franchise. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. P. THOMASSON, M.P., said it gave him very great pleasure to support the resolution.

Professor MUNRO also supported the resolution. They were entitled, he thought, to ask from Mr. Gladstone for at least one day next session for the discussion of their Bill, and, if possible, its adoption. There were, he found, 20,000 agricultural women farmers and 40,000 agricultural women labourers in the country. They were told that two of the most important measures to come before Parliament had reference, one to land reform and the other to the condition of the agricultural population. Surely these women were entitled to be heard on such questions. It was interesting to find that the number of women engaged in trade was increasing. That was an outward sign of the fact that women were being forced more and more to earn their own livings and maintain their own households. On the whole the fact was one over which he rejoiced, though it had its disadvantages. Seeing there were thousands of women obliged to maintain their own households, to pay their own taxes, to enter into all the duties of citizenship, was it not a mere matter of justice to ask that they should have the chief right of citizenship, that of expressing their grievances in the House of Commons by the mouths of their chosen representatives? (Cheers.)

Mr. N. C. SCHOU also supported the resolution, which was adopted.

Dr. PANKHURST moved a resolution that petitions be presented to both Houses of Parliament in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women. They desired in that movement, he said, to strengthen by extending the freedom of the land. Liberty in this country had been marked from age to age by the successive removal from class after class of disability and subjection, by giving to class after class the power to control its own destiny and future. He ventured to say that the class whose destiny was dictated from without was a class in despotism, while the class whose destiny was dictated from within was a class in freedom. (Cheers.) The women of England asked now as a class that they might be admitted to all the liberties which had been hitherto enjoyed by the men of England; liberty in the three great departments which make life worth having in a country like this—liberty of education, liberty of work, liberty of citizenship. And in presence of a claim so high and large he thought the attitude of women ought to be one of firm demand. The attitude of men who now have the franchise should be that of earnest readiness to grant the request. Surely it was enough to say that a class demanded the right; it was enough to say that the self-defence and self-development of the class demanded that they should have their disabilities removed from them. (Cheers.)

Mr. H. H. HOWORTH said that the previous speakers had addressed themselves to the enemies of the movement, to those who had persistently opposed it on principle and on the ground of expediency. He wished to say a word or two to those who were lately the friends of the movement, but who were now turning their weapons against it; to those who told them that although they admitted their principle, yet they felt compelled by their love of logic to brave disaster to the movement and insist on a whole loaf instead of the partial loaf which was fairly within their reach. In the papers of the last few days there had been a correspondence in which old friends of the movement—friends who had often been at their meetings in that room—had turned round and told them that, because certain classes of women were not to be included in the Bill, therefore their sympathy and assistance must no longer be counted upon. Certainly this attitude seemed to him a curious illustration of the famous old aphorism, "The greatest enemy of the good is the best." Those who would not accept the best that could be got because not ideally perfect were, it seemed to him, not in search of a real goal but a purely Utopian one. They were all agreed that eventually it might be well that the whole of the classes for whom their friends spoke should have the franchise. In the meantime let them secure at least what they could get. (Cheers.) And on another ground their friends were illogical. Surely it was for them at all events to protect the class most needing protection. The married woman paying rates had at all events a vicarious protector in the husband. The woman who had no protector, and who had an entirely individual existence, had no such vicarious agent who could either vote for her or represent her interest. She was the most unprotected, and it was to her case that they must in the first instance direct their efforts. If they could secure 800,000 additional voters in the country they would have done great good to the cause. It seemed to him the height of perverted chivalry to refuse to assist a cause because it did not quite contain the whole of what their aspirations would like to see. (Hear, hear.) Turning from this subject he would like to quote two or three sentences from a strong polemic recently written against the cause they had at heart. He had read that article with great care, and confessed to being much struck with the philistinism of the arguments from one end to the other. He would take two quotations from the writer—a member of Parliament who had represented several constituencies, including one or two of a very dubious character—to show them what he had to say with regard to this question: "Marital authority may come to be enforced not as at present by prescription, conventionality, and as a last resource by an appeal to the courts of law, but by the poker and the clog, or any other implement hitherto employed by the horny-handed sons of toil to procure submission." That was the kind of argument used against them! Did they not hope, when woman had a sufficient influence in electing members of Parliament, to put a stop to that peculiar kind of barbarism indicated by the writer, such barbarism being a disgrace to the community, and existing very largely because those who had the

control of the sources of justice were in the habit of treating crimes of this ferocious character in a way the conscience of woman and of the best men felt completely revolted at. (Cheers.) To quote another sentence from the article: "It may be thought shocking in these days of electoral purism, but it is, nevertheless, too probable, that a hard working widow, with a large family to be fed and clothed, with school rates and school fees to pay, with a mangle to repair, an eldest daughter to fit out for service, and a boy or two whom she wishes to apprentice to neighbouring tradesmen, may actually be inclined to think how the family bread can best be buttered rather than seek to form a dispassionate judgment on Mr. Gladstone's administration by an exhaustive study of the Midlothian speeches. And such is the frailty of human nature that it may be doubted whether a British jury is to be moved, even by the austerest of law officers, to cast the first stone at the hapless woman who has sold her vote in order to keep the wolf from her humble door." The man who wrote that article was born in and represented a town which was at present disfranchised because of the infamous corruption that pervaded not the women but the men in that community. (Shame.) Weapons such as he used were the last resource of an expiring cause. (Cheers.)

Miss J. G. WILKINSON also supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. Royle having taken the chair,

The Rev. S. A. STEINTHAL moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Woodall for presiding, which was seconded by Miss BECKER.

Dr. ROYLE said he wished the cause hearty success.

The resolution was adopted, and the proceedings closed.

Mr. Woodall, M.P., has received the following letters from the Prime Minister:—

"Downing-street, February 23.

"Sir,—Mr. Gladstone has had before him the memorial signed by you as chairman of a meeting held at Manchester on the 17th instant, urging that facilities should be given during the present session for a full discussion of the claims of women to the suffrage, and with reference to this representation he desires me to say that he fears he cannot encourage the memorialists to expect the Government will be able to meet their wishes. The present demands upon the time at the disposal of the Ministers are such that they are unable to give pledges to introduce and forward Bills of importance and urgency under their own charge, and in this state of facts Mr. Gladstone trusts that the memorialists will recognise that it is impossible for him to hold out hopes that facilities can be given for the discussion of the subject in which they are interested.—I am, &c.,

"W. H. PRIMROSE."

The following letter has been addressed by the Premier to Mr. Woodall, M.P.:

"10, Downing-street, Whitehall, Feb. 21st, 1885.

"Dear Mr. Woodall,—Mr. Leveson Gower has mentioned to me your conversation with him the other day on the subject of the possibility of your obtaining facilities for bringing on your Bill. I am afraid I cannot give you any encouragement on this head. The present demands on the time at the disposal of the House of Commons are such that the Government are unable even to give pledges to introduce and forward Bills of importance and urgency under their own charge; and in this state of facts I am sure you will see that I cannot properly lead you to hope that we can be able to afford you facilities. I have been reading your speech at Manchester, and am very grateful to you for the kind tone in which you spoke of me.—I remain, yours faithfully,

"W. E. GLADSTONE."

LONDON.

GREAT MEETING IN ST. JAMES'S HALL.

(SPECIAL REPORT.)

On the evening of Tuesday, February 24th, a crowded and successful meeting in support of women's suffrage was held in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly. Mr. WM. WOODALL, M.P., presided, and amongst those on the platform were: Professor Stuart, M.P., Mr. T. A. Dickson, M.P., Sir Richard Temple, Bart., Mr. C. H. Hopwood, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Coleridge Kennard, M.P., Mr. J. P. Thomasson, M.P., Mr. Summers, M.P., Mr. Theodore Fry, M.P., Sir Matthew Wilson, Bart., M.P., and Lady Wilson, Rev. Dr. Balmgarnie (Scarbro'), Rev. Brooke Lambert, Viscountess Harberton, Mrs.

Chas. M'Laren, Lady Wilde, Mrs. J. F. B. Firth, Mrs. Lucas, Dr. and Mrs. Chant, Miss Gurney, Miss Tod, Mrs. Pennington, Lady Goldsmid, Miss Müller, M.L.S.B., Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Bryant, D.Sc., Miss Anna Swanwick, Mrs. Burgwin, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Buss, Miss R. Davenport Hill, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss Florence Balmgarnie, Mrs. Browne Stirling, Mrs. J. C. Stevenson, Dr. George Hoggan, Dr. F. Hoggan, Mrs. Henry Richard, Mrs. Geo. Bidder, Mrs. Müller, Mrs. Percy Bunting, Miss Andrews (head mistress of Maida Vale High School), Rev. E. Wyatt Edgell, Rev. Canon Barnes, Mrs. Charles, Mrs. Caine, Mrs. Fry, Miss Moore, and Mrs. M'Cormick (Manchester); also the following delegates, viz.: The Misses Ford (Leeds), Mr. R. O. Roberts, Mrs. Bateson, and Miss Rhodes (Cambridge), Mrs. Thomasson (Bolton), Mrs. Garnett (Clifton), Miss Gill (Leicester), Mrs. Lynch (Beckenham), Mrs. Brine (Teignmouth). The hour of waiting between seven and eight o'clock was agreeably beguiled with organ pieces and also by an admirable selection of vocal music, which Mrs. Pennington had arranged to have given by students of the Royal College of Music, who kindly gave their services on the occasion. There was a full attendance in every part of the large hall. At the call of the chairman,

Miss BALGARNIE stated that letters expressing sympathy with the movement and regret at inability to be present had been received from Lord Napier of Magdala (who said that when the question came before the House of Lords he would do all in his power to promote its acceptance), Lord Denman, the Countess of Portsmouth (with good wishes), Mr. J. Rankine, M.P., Lord Lymington, M.P., Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P. Telegrams of good wishes, and expressing full sympathy with the objects of the meeting had also been received from Mrs. Duncan M'Laren, Miss Becker, and Miss Frances Power Cobbe; also best wishes from the Birmingham Suffrage Association, from the York Women's Liberal Association, from the Liverpool Association, the Bradford Women's Electoral Association, the Nottingham Association; also from Dublin, Edinburgh, and other places.

The CHAIRMAN, after explaining the proposed order of the proceedings, said: Ladies and gentlemen,—It does appear to me, after very considerable experience of public meetings, that this magnificent gathering to-night is one of the most significant I have ever attended—(hear, hear)—because great as is the interest on the subject which has brought us together we know that at this moment there is an over-shadowing, painful, absorbing concern in what is going on in another part of the world, and in presence of that subject our question and many others must suffer to a certain extent. But we are met to show our interest in what we regard as a great and urgent question, and to recall the fact that since we last met in this hall for the same object many things have happened. At that time a measure was before the House of Commons—great in its comprehension, and great certainly in the consequences which must be anticipated from it—a measure which I am happy to say has since passed into law. I have said that the Franchise Bill was greatly conceived. It proposed to give to every hearth in the kingdom, to the head of every family, however humble must be its position, its proper place in the constitution. It proposed to reconcile the theory of the constitution with its practice. It left, however, as we all felt, one conspicuous anomaly—an anomaly arising from the desirability which has always been felt to be unjustifiable, but which has now been made conspicuous and intolerable. (Hear, hear.) It leaves the disability of sex alone, debarring a very considerable number of those who in every other respect possess the qualification which would give them a vote. Well, it was impossible that a measure with such an aim should be allowed to pass without at least a protest being made, and an earnest endeavour to remedy its conspicuous defect. I don't want to take you back to ancient history, but you will recall the fact that the effort to which I have referred was made in the House of Commons, and that the proposal which I had the honour to submit to the House was beaten in a division by 271 to 135. No one, however, for a single moment has taken that division, without qualification, as any test of our strength. There voted on that occasion in the majority against the proposal for women's suffrage 104 gentlemen, who in one way or another had expressed their sympathy with our objects. Half of that number had actually signed a memorial to the Prime Minister declaring that no measure of Parliamentary reform would be complete and satisfactory which did not recognise the just claims of duly qualified women. A very simple sum, therefore, transferring 104 from the one side to the other,

would have converted the minority of 136 into a majority of 72 for the proposal. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I desire on this occasion, as on all occasions, gratefully to acknowledge the new support which we then received, and I do so the more readily because in some quarters the votes of a considerable number of Conservatives who, for the first time, voted for the resolution, have been disparaged. Their reasons, however, have been frankly stated, and I regard them sincerely as important, as honourable, and as valuable additions to our Parliamentary strength. (Hear, hear.) That was the day of opportunism. The division itself was a remarkable testimony to the personal influence of the Prime Minister, and to the fidelity with which he was followed by his party. Mr. Gladstone stated on that occasion, whilst vehemently opposing the proposal, that it was his desire, if a suitable time and occasion were found, that the question should be discussed in all its bearings, and should be determined as an open one to the members of his Ministry and to the House in general. After quoting from Mr. Gladstone's 1871 speech on the subject, Mr. Woodall added: It is stated—and I have no particular authority to affirm it as true; but, on the other hand, I have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement—that, when next we have an opportunity of testing the opinion of the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone will vote for the principle of the Bill which I have introduced. (Cheers.) I say, when we have an opportunity. Unfortunately that is rather a far cry, because the day for which our Bill is down for a second reading has been absorbed by the Government under the sanction of an almost unanimous vote of the House of Commons, and we have therefore no chance of taking the judgment of the House of Commons on the 4th of March. I hope, however, that an opportunity may be found before the end of the session, for it is extremely important that this Parliament—which, with all its faults, has distinguished itself by passing a great measure of enfranchisement—should have the opportunity of completing its work by removing this most invidious disability. (Hear, hear.) In the event of a majority voting against my proposal, then in view of the appeal to the constituencies, which must be taken within twelve months, it is most important that the constituencies should have an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the action of those who have voted for or against our Bill, and that we should be able to take a decisive issue upon that vote. There is also a hope that the House of Lords, which has happily placed itself in accord with the Lower House, may possibly undertake the earlier stages of our Bill, and that the measure may be sent down to the House of Commons possibly, with the approval and sanction of the House of Lords. (Hear, hear.) Although there may be some delay in the realisation of our hopes, we may, at any rate, congratulate ourselves upon manifest signs of progress. We have outlived, we have beaten down the ridicule and misrepresentation with which the pioneers of the movement were continually assailed. We do not say that we have outlived hostility to the proposal. There are many who still entertain apprehensions which to us seem unfounded and sometimes childish, but which, nevertheless, are quite honestly maintained. Still we have made a great impression upon that form of opposition. At the present moment there are some who have other misgivings with regard to the particular form of tactics adopted. I am bound to say that, in the main differing widely as so many of the supporters of women's suffrage do upon theories and principles, they have been exceedingly generous and have accorded to those who have taken charge of the Bill a freedom of action, and have given to them a generous support, which I think is extremely encouraging with regard to the future. (Applause, and "hear, hear.") Well, you will possess your souls in patience yet awhile, assured at any rate that we who have charge of this measure are very much in earnest, and that, feeling a deep sense of the high responsibility devolving upon us, we shall miss no opportunity of furthering its interests and of taking the sense of the House upon it. Meantime there are everywhere signs and manifestations of activity, and this activity is not merely furthering the cause of the enfranchisement of women in the political sense, but is developing and advancing public opinion upon those many other collateral questions in which women are so much interested. (Hear, hear.) I find that the country is covered by political debating societies or mimic parliaments, which are likely, I should think, to exercise a great influence in educating the public mind and in training the politicians of the future; and so far as I can judge there is no question which so universally occupies attention in these societies

as that of women's suffrage. (Hear, hear.) Political organisations are being formed, especially with a view to the coming elections, by both political parties, and it is a remarkable sign of the times that on these popular and representative bodies women are being elected to membership and are being welcomed to take their part—a part which I am sure they will play wisely and well in guiding and influencing the action of political bodies throughout the country. Petitions come steadily in to both Houses of Parliament—petitions more remarkable in their character and in the signatures that they bear than anything of the kind I have ever seen. Among them are many from women householders in the various towns who take that way of answering the charge so commonly made, so unscrupulously repeated, that the women concerned do not want and do not care for that which we are endeavouring to secure for them. (Hear, hear.) The activity to which I have referred is by no means limited to the three kingdoms, for abroad and in our colonies also decided progress is being made in the removal of disabilities in the way of women.

Professor STUART, M.P., moved the first resolution as follows:—
"That in the opinion of this meeting the Representation of the People Act, recently become law, should be supplemented by the passing of a measure during the present session of Parliament for the extension of the suffrage to duly qualified women."

He said he should make his remarks as brief as possible. The reasons for which he advocated the enfranchisement of women were precisely the same as those for which he advocated the enfranchisement of any other section of the community. (Cheers.) The reasons were two—first, by the possession of political freedom, by the possession of a vote, they might be able to direct themselves; and secondly, in order that we might be able to govern rightly. (Cheers.) It had been demonstrated in the present democratic state of society there was no set of persons among men who were able to adequately protect themselves without the possession of a vote, and he had always been unable to see any point in which that argument when applied to women failed of equal application. (Cheers.) Surely, when their interests were launched into this busy world, they were subject to as many disabilities as any class of men, and they had therefore as much interest in the method of protecting themselves by vote as any men, and of using their influence upon the general legislation of the country in whose well-being they were so intimately bound up. In the second place, he desired that they in common with any class of persons should have the vote in order that we might govern rightly. Surely there was nothing which those who had to govern so much desired than to know what it was the people wanted. There was, he believed, nothing upon which personal government had in the past more frequently split and came to grief than the inability rather than the unwillingness of knowing what the people were thinking and what the people were wanting. (Cheers.) If they were to legislate for themselves they should become the interpreters of their wishes, for there were always many self-constituted interpreters who generally interpreted them wrongly. (Cheers.) To get at what women wanted and at what would meet the circumstances of their case, in order to obtain good solid lasting legislation, he desired them to be free and to be encouraged to express their opinions. It might be said that they had public meetings which they could attend; they could write to the newspapers, and they had a great many channels of political information. Yes, but these and the exercise of these were like pulling a string when there was no bell at the other end—unless they had the vote. (Cheers.) Give them the vote and all these methods of political influence would be vivified; all the efforts they had made would be brought into reality, and they would have bestowed upon them many streams of political influence in which the mere exercise of the vote was only one of the channels. There was another thing that he desired their assistance in, not only in seeking out and legislating on what might be advantageous or what might be acceptable to them, but he wanted their good judgment—their ripe and mature judgment upon the affairs of the nation itself. He felt that there was no real argument against these two reasons for giving women or any one else the vote, except one or other of these two assertions were brought forward—first that the set of persons considered was so inconsiderable in numbers that it was not worth while taking them into account, or secondly that the contribution that it would bring was utterly worthless. As to these points of the matter there were nearly a million more women than men in this country, and as to

the capability of women he would say that those who conducted through long years not only this agitation but many others successfully and well, and had brought through great difficulty their views before the public and before Parliament, were in a condition of capability so far as politics were concerned, second to no set of persons in the United Kingdom. (Cheers.) He promised to be brief, and he should be very brief. He would only glance at two of the arguments which were brought against women having votes. The first argument was urged with what he might call preternatural solemnity on the part of some persons who fancied they were behind the secrets of Fate. It was said: "What would happen? First, of course, there would be universal suffrage, and when that comes all women will perhaps be on one side and men on the other." It was really too bad to put such an extraordinary supposition in the way of an argument. He would give them one exactly similar. What would become of our railway systems if everybody in London on the same day and by the same train took a ticket for York? (Laughter and cheers.) That was exactly the kind of argument. It was one of those things which did not usually happen. There was another point. The future difficulties in any nation must look after themselves. It was necessary and right and sufficient that we should at the present time act justly. And what he maintained was this, that if legislation was to take account of history (and it was right that it should), it should rely on the history of the past, and not on the imaginary history of the future. (Cheers.) Look at the history of the past. Look at the municipal action of women; look at their action on the School Boards, and their action on Boards of Guardians. Had they been separated off on the one side against the men, and the men against them, or had they not contributed a share to the government in which they had taken part? The other argument was, he was sorry to say, used by a few of the party to which he belonged. It was this: "If women get votes they would impede legislation!" That argument was used by those who would govern democracy from above, and who had no proper idea of the future character of democracy. Progressive legislation was what the people wanted, and which in the due light of their intelligence they had determined to adopt. ("Bosh.") It might be "bosh" in the idea of that gentleman, but it was not bosh to the mind of the vast multitude. (Cheers.) One word more and he would finish. He had used the phrase "a class" in speaking of women. It had been said that they belonged to all classes, and that they were not a class in themselves. They had been made a class by the injustice of our legislation—(cheers)—and they had been called into being to exercise their political rights. (Cheers.) But he did not agree with the notion that they were putting class against class as each set of persons was admitted to the legislature. Englishmen and Englishwomen had each, whatever side they belonged to, their own peculiar class interests, but the vast substratum of their wishes was common to them all; and they made a class less a class, whether they be men or women, by admitting them to a free expression of their wants and to a share in the government. Governed and governing was, in his opinion, the only true class distinction. The more they obliterated this distinction the more homogeneous would the nation become, and its future would be on a basis more staple and secure. (Cheers.)

Miss TOOP (Belfast) seconded the motion. She said that meeting was the latest of a long series of meetings which had been held in every large hall in every large town throughout the three kingdoms—(cheers)—and their just claims had been acknowledged and accepted by meetings as crowded and as enthusiastic as the present one. During the last six years they had succeeded in awakening public opinion on this great matter, and they had obtained a clear and deliberate judgment in their favour of the large majority of their fellow citizens—their countrymen and countrywomen throughout the three kingdoms—(cheers)—all those who cared at all for political justice and who looked beyond the narrow bonds of their own party politics. It was perhaps not known to all—at any rate not to all members of Parliament, and not to the writers for the press—but it was known to all veterans in the cause, that for every person not in favour of women's suffrage there were at the very least double the number who cared for the cause, who believed it to be righteous, who worked for it in public and private and who prayed God for a blessing upon it. Their cause was unfavourable in this respect—their summons, although it reached the ear of the public it did not vibrate within the walls of the House of Commons

correspondingly. It was to obtain that direct and immediate recognition that they asked for help. It was not possible that unless great efforts were made their claims could be heard within those walls as clearly and distinctly and as prominently as the claims of anything like the same number of men. With a Cabinet composed entirely of men, a Parliament composed entirely of men elected by men, with newspapers edited by men, wire-pulling arrangements managed by men—if this was the machinery necessary to bring to the notice of the Government of the day the convictions of men, what was to be put against all this for women? It was partly true that many of these men remembered the claims of women, but at present they were in a minority and some machinery would have to be created by which these men should be reminded first of the existence, next of the interests and the convictions of their fellow countrywomen. (Cheers.) They had very great interests at stake, nevertheless they claimed rights in order that they might perform duties. The era of physical force was past, and mind, more or less, was in the ascendant. (Cheers.) They had not to count battalions but ideas and thoughts. She had no hesitation in saying that, judging by that high standard, the majority of the House of Commons was already in their favour. (Hear, hear.) They had to bring before Parliament the thoughts and feelings of those most immediately concerned, and they felt that while they were speaking there were tens of thousands of women who could not speak, but whose interests were profoundly conceived in every word uttered that night. (Hear, hear.) Behind them was a great army of suffering women. It was for those they pleaded, for those who could never express their opinions effectively in the columns of the newspaper, for those who could not speak to a member. She heard it said over and over again last summer that some persons advised them to wait until the Franchise Bill was attended to, and that when that was passed they would certainly have a share of attention. "It would be a gracious, generous, and lady-like thing to keep silence and retire!" How dared they keep silent with those poor clients behind them? How dared they be generous at their expense? There were times when every class—man or woman—or any section might be called upon to wait. Shakspeare said "Nothing so becomes a man as modest stillness and humility." (Great laughter.) The present was not the time for resting. They had to fight, whatever they would like to do otherwise. They felt they were helping men to rise to a higher level of justice than they were before, and men would govern better side by side with their fellow citizens—women. (Cheers.)

Mr. HOPWOOD, Q.C., M.P., in supporting the motion, said he presented himself as one of that wicked, tyrannical portion of the creation who had many sins to answer for, and especially for keeping out of the Legislature, or the chief representation accorded to all capable citizens, the best part of the wisdom of the country. (Laughter and cheers.) He had not come to say that men were all tyrants and women were all slaves. He believed his fellow countrywomen would repudiate anything of the kind. Neither had he come to say that women had all the sense or all the morals. He believed his countrywomen would repudiate that also. They had to feel that they were on equal terms. They need not compliment one another, and they need not abuse one another. It was quite true in times past that women had suffered under disabilities most discreditably to men. In all history it could be traced that man, being the stronger, had looked too closely to his own selfish rights than he should have done. He knew of women who had been capable of securing their own way—(laughter)—in their own way. (Renewed laughter.) It was well, therefore, they should come to a truce in this matter, and they should put man upon his defence as to the future. If men objected to the claims of women to be on equal terms with them so far as being capable citizens were concerned, he (the speaker) had already decided against the men. He had given his judgment years ago on the matter. He remembered an able man who first raised the banner in the House of Parliament—Mr. Mill—and who expounded the cause with a force and logic as powerful as it had ever been expounded. Mr. Mill gave an impulse to the movement by bringing it within the range of practical politics, and they could not too often dwell upon what he did say. His great name was a shield for them. Women sprang from the same families as men, women might be educated by the same means as men, and they had been capable of these highest attainments in science, in literature, and in reasoning, and many had stood forth

distinguished for the part they had taken in their studies. Why were men to deny themselves of the counsel they could get from women? They knew who was the counsellor at home. Among the poorer classes who was the thinking part of the household? The wife. And who had not heard the perplexed husband say "he would go and ask missus" before deciding upon a course of action? (Laughter.) It was a homely suggestion which they would take in good part. What was just for man to have was just that woman should have. They looked forward to the time when they would have full and complete justice. This movement had made progress for women far exceeding in the last thirty years what could be crowded in the history of women in the time before. Emancipation, in a hundred different forms, had resulted partly from the workers in this movement, and partly by the independent spirit stirred up by Mr. Mill. He asked them to imagine what it used to be when the poor governess, with her skill and ability, was recognised by the most paltry pittance, and then to look at the hundreds and thousands who had secured honourable callings, won by their skill and ability. All this he attributed to the emancipation of the political spirit in women, the extraction from them of that independence, without which no character could glow in its purest warmth. He had heard a man say of woman, "Would she shoulder her gun and go to the Soudan?" That person was the one who would be willing to shed the last drop of blood in the veins—of his wife's relations. (Great laughter.) A gentleman like that was an arm-chair politician, who, by writing something in the paper, consented to our gallant fellows to meet something like certain death, while he remained at home and boasted and bragged of the honesty and prestige of England. The women's contribution to the war was far beyond that of the men, who carried the musket! The blind man might as well be deprived of his intelligence because he could not go to the war; and they might deprive the lame man of his reason, though his capacity be that of Sir Walter Scott or Lord Byron, because he could not go to the war. These were all paltry suggestions, and were made sometimes to save personal dignity. He had much pleasure in supporting the resolution. The meeting attested to the awakening of the sentiment of the women of this country, which would never cease until it had attained a right so reasonable, so unanswerable, as the right to vote for those who governed them in Parliament. (Cheers.)

Mr. COLERIDGE KENNARD followed. He said there was one thing he might congratulate them upon that evening, and that was that the movement had decidedly grown in volume and intensity, and they were encouraged to keep pegging away. It was not his intention to intrude himself upon them. He had come before them a messenger from the House of Lords—from Lord Carnarvon, who they knew had their cause very closely at heart. Lord Carnarvon desired him to express his lordship's hearty greeting to the meeting, and he also desired him to tell the meeting, in as gentle language as he was capable of using, that after weighing the matter well in his own mind, and after long and anxious consultation with others, it had been borne into his lordship's mind that it was more expedient on the whole that this cause should continue where it had begun, viz., in the Commons House of Parliament. He appealed to them to keep the question a purely national one, and on no account to let political partisanship influence them. He spoke with feeling which they would understand when he told them that he belonged to that political party which had but recently thrown in its interests in their cause. He begged them to refrain from attributing any merit or demerit to either political party, and from saying "I am a Liberal," "I am a Conservative." This was essentially not a party question. In conclusion he said he hoped to be the bearer of more cheerful news, but he knew they would bear with the House of Lords. Whatever their shortcomings might be, certainly the feelings of the House of Lords was not one out of sympathy with their great movement. (Cheers.)

Mrs. CHARLES M'LAREN also supported the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN then read the resolution.

Mr. PERCY H. SNELLING moved the following amendment from the body of the hall: "That the enfranchisement of women is a sham unless it includes married women."

Miss JESSIE CRAIGEN also moved a similar amendment.

The CHAIRMAN called careful attention to the wording of the resolution. He said the amendment was foreign to the purpose of the resolution, which did not ask the meeting to commit itself one

way or the other, and it was desired to avoid, as far as possible, that difference of opinion with which it was honestly felt by their friends that the movement was threatened. Unless it was treated in very good temper and caution, something like schism would creep into the ranks of those whose opinions should be united. (Cheers.)

The amendment upon being put to the meeting was lost, and the resolution was carried, with only four dissentients, amidst enthusiastic cheering.

Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, Bart., G.C.S.I., moved the next resolution as follows:—

"That a memorial to Mr. Gladstone and petitions to both Houses of Parliament, in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting."

To the Right Honourable WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE, the First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister of Her Majesty the Queen.

The memorial adopted at a public meeting, numerously attended of men and women, in favour of women's suffrage, held this 24th day of February, 1885, in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly.

Sheweth—

That your memorialists have viewed the passing of the Act for the extension of the franchise, in December last, with much satisfaction.

They submit that the justice of the claim of duly qualified women to the franchise is made thereby more evident, their exclusion from it more illogical.

In education, intelligence, concern for the public welfare and the direction of public policy, in personal devotion to duty, and loyalty to the institutions of the country, they may challenge comparison with those whom the legislature has just admitted to a voice in the government of the United Kingdom.

In the many years which have elapsed since their demand was brought within the sphere of practical politics, women have been entrusted by Parliament with many duties of a public nature, and especially that most important one, the municipal vote. In all these situations they have shown political aptitude and justified the confidence placed in them.

Your memorialists do no more than glance at those considerations of justice, public welfare, and experience, which support their request.

The prayer of this memorial is, that you will use your great power to secure the passing into law of the measure now before the House of Commons.

He said he need not make a speech in support of the resolution, which was so faultlessly worded. It was a question in which he would put sentiment aside, and he preferred to deal with justice and reason. (Hear, hear.) Representation in Parliament was the right of every duly qualified person. They were encouraged by the progress the question had made, not only within the walls of Parliament, but amidst the public outside, amidst all political parties, Conservatives as well as Liberals, and this was attested by the many public meetings, of which the present was such a noble specimen. (Cheers.) They were further encouraged by the consideration of the new impulse which had been given to this movement by the Bill which had recently passed for the extension of the franchise. The agitation which had been conducted for so many years with so much prudence, wisdom, forbearance, and perseverance would ultimately be crowned with success. And lastly, they entreated all patriotic citizens and far-sighted politicians and all true-hearted men to give a helping hand to the women of England. (Cheers.)

The resolution was seconded by Miss BALGARNIE, supported by Rev. BROOKE LAMBERT and Mrs. BRYANT, D.Sc., and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Mrs. ASHTON DILKE and seconded by Lady HARBERTON, concluded the proceedings.

The following acknowledgment of the Memorial has been received:—

"10, Downing-street, Whitehall, Feb. 26, 1885.

"Dear Mr. Woodall,—I am directed by Mr. Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date forwarding to him a Memorial on behalf of a public meeting at St. James's Hall in favour of women's suffrage.—Believe me, very truly yours,
"W. Woodall, Esq., M.P." "G. LEVISON GOWER.

PLYMOUTH.

A large and influential meeting was held in the Plymouth Guildhall on February 4th. The list of ladies and gentlemen who encourage the agitation is an influential one, and includes the Mayor and Mayoress of Plymouth and Devonport, many local members of Parliament, and a number of the clergy and professional gentlemen of the neighbourhood, many of whom were present last evening. A programme of organ music was commenced at 7-30 by Mr. A. C. Faulk, and at eight o'clock the chair was taken by Mr. ISAAC LATIMER, J.P., who was supported on the platform and in the body of the hall by the Mayor of Devonport (Mr. A. B. Hutchings), Mr. R. B. Welch (President of the Devonport and Stonehouse Junior Liberal Association), Mr. R. Langford, Dr. Row, the Rev. T. Palmer, Messrs. R. C. Smith, N. Barter, J. Jacobs, Sherwood, J. Thomas, G. Derry, H. J. Trethewy, J. Hoyten, H. H. Whipple, T. Jinkin, C. Radford, Page, and Captain Daubeney.

The CHAIRMAN, having mentioned the object of the meeting, said the movement had been in existence for the past eighteen years. He had been requested to preside by the ladies of Bristol, who had been working very ardently in this cause. He had the honour of taking the chair some twelve or thirteen years ago (whilst chief magistrate) at a similar meeting. Although the ladies thought their progress had been slow, yet, compared with the progress of the enfranchisement of the men, he did not think they had any occasion to complain. There is a great amount of good feeling towards this movement on the part of many of the principal men of both sides of politics, and it is a pleasure to know that they feel the justice of the cause. He had a number of letters from gentlemen expressing their hearty concurrence in the object of the meeting. Mr. Puleston, member for Devonport—(applause)—sent a forcible letter on the subject, and others who sent letters were the Rev. C. S. Slater (of Sherwell Chapel), Mr. J. N. Bennett, Mr. Langdon Price, Mr. John Bayly, Mr. Thomas Pitts, jun., Dr. Merrifield, Dr. Kolston (who said he was glad the two Liberal candidates were in favour of the movement), Mr. R. Fox, Rev. Mr. Whittle, Mr. W. F. Collier, and Mr. Medley (candidate for Devonport), who expressed a hope that he should be able to be present, and had found it difficult to come down from London. Turning again to the subject, the chairman said they were aware that by the Bill recently passed two millions of people would be enfranchised, and every Liberal rejoiced that that act of justice was about to be consummated. It had been stated that between seven and eight hundred thousand women householders are now in the same position socially as those who are about to be enfranchised, and he agreed with the remarks of Mr. Macliver, who said, in reply to him on this matter, that he could not understand how there could be any objection to give to women a Parliamentary vote when it had been already given them for school boards, boards of guardians, and municipal bodies. (Hear, hear.) People asked what occasion is there for the vote? There were many occasions when women's feelings should be represented. Very recently a body of men associated themselves in the north of England to pay each other's fines when convicted for brutally ill-using women. This was one instance in which women may desire and ought to have a voice. Women would have consideration from candidates for Parliamentary honours if they had some direct influence upon them. They would say to them when they asked for their support: "You must protect our sex from these brutalities." (Hear, hear.)

Here there was one point in which women's influence could be brought to bear. Having spoken of the simplicity of the Women's Suffrage Bill, he referred to the many different parties and sources from which support of the measure came, and which included large numbers of representatives and delegates of working men. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Mr. Chamberlain—(applause and hisses)—Lord Salisbury—(applause and hisses)—Lord Carnarvon, and many others were in favour of the measure. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Amongst the list of local supporters he found the names of Mr. Borlase, Mr. Molesworth St. Aubyn, Sir H. Giffard, Mr. Courtney, and others. (Hear, hear.) Then in our own county support was given by Sir S. Northcote—(hisses and applause)—Sir Massey Lopes (who had voted for the measure four times), Sir John Kennaway (who had voted for it twice), Lord Lynton, Mr. Puleston (who had voted for it five times), Captain Price (who had voted for it twice), Mr. Johnson and Mr. Northcote, M.P.s, for Exeter. Mr. Macliver had voted for it—(applause)—and Mr. Clarke, he believed, was in the happy state of neutrality. (A

voice: "He is in favour of it," applause.) He was glad to hear that.

A letter having been read from Mr. J. H. Puleston, the Rev. E. READ moved:—"That this meeting thanks Mr. Woodall, M.P., for introducing a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, being of opinion that the Franchise Bill now happily become law should be supplemented by a measure for extending the suffrage to all householders without distinction of sex." (Applause.) Having referred to the good services of Mr. Woodall, Mr. READ said that last autumn they witnessed one of the most remarkable events which had probably ever happened. They were brought, as some said, within twenty-four hours of a revolution when most unexpectedly came that wonderful interview between the leaders of the party which had resulted in the greatest victory to the Liberal cause. The people of England ought to be the crown power of England, and by the consent of both parties the crown was placed on the head of the people. He believed in giving the franchise to women as well as men. In order to arouse a sense of patriotism and enthusiasm in the people they must give them a stake in the country. (Applause.)

Mr. A. P. BALKWILL seconded the resolution. They felt that the Franchise Bill was not complete without women's suffrage was added to it. (Applause.)

Mrs. BEDDOE, of Bristol, and Miss STURGE supported the resolution, which was then put to the meeting, and declared to be carried with one dissentient.

Mr. W. N. ELLIOTT said the resolution entrusted to him to move was, "That this meeting forwards petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour of the foregoing resolution, to be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him." He moved that resolution with the greatest pleasure.

Miss WILKINSON seconded the resolution.

The motion having been carried, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, on the motion of Miss BLACKBURN, and the proceedings terminated.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

SPEECHES BY THE COUNTESS OF PORTSMOUTH, MR. L. FRY, M.P., ETC.

A public meeting in support of Mr. Woodall's Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women was held on February 12th, at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol. Mr. LEWIS FRY, M.P., presided, and among those present were the High Sheriff (Alderman Harvey), the Countess of Portsmouth (president of the Women's Suffrage Society), Rev. R. Hayes Robinson (Bath), Rev. A. N. Blatchford, Major Rumsey, Dr. Beddoe, Mr. W. K. Wait, Mr. F. N. Tribe, Mr. W. S. Clark (Street), Mr. J. Bevan, Mr. A. Harris (Bristol Trades Council), Mr. J. Chapman (Frome), Mr. S. Tanner, Miss Orme, Miss Caroline Ashurst Biggs, Miss J. G. Wilkinson, Mrs. Ashford (Birmingham), Mrs. Beddoe, Miss Priestman, Mrs. Garnett, Mrs. Bruce, Miss Pease, Miss H. Sturge, Miss Tribe, Miss Blackburn (hon. secretary), &c.

The CHAIRMAN said in the history of the Parliamentary franchise they had arrived, with the concurrence of both political parties, at this conclusion—that it was a good and convenient thing in itself to confer the Parliamentary franchise upon as many capable citizens as possible. Now, that being so, the question must be asked and must be answered why they did not apply that principle to women?—(applause)—and it was because he was unable to find any satisfactory answer in his own mind to that question that he stood upon the platform that night. He said they must ask themselves why, if circumstances placed upon a woman the burden of the position of head of the house, they should not allow her to exercise those political rights and privileges that position would give her if she were a man. (Applause.) Now, he was aware there were many arguments used in answer to the question he had suggested. Some of them had a show of logic in them, and some were almost entirely sentimental, and many of them he believed to be mutually contradictory. He thought the strongest influence which had worked on behalf of those who opposed this movement was the conviction that the proper sphere of woman was domestic and social life—(cheers)—and that nature pointed out that as her proper sphere of action. Now he would say he most heartily sympathised with the ideas that lay at the bottom of that view of the question, and if he believed for one instant that the granting of the Parliamentary franchise would make women less domestic, would less fit them to be centres and ornaments of social life, he should not be an advocate of this

cause. Nay, more, he would go further, and he would say if he believed that the granting of the Parliamentary franchise would in general convert women into politicians, if he thought it would very largely change the relation in which the female sex stood to the public—then he said he should very much hesitate to be its supporter. But he did not believe any of these things would come to pass. (Hear, hear.) He was convinced, on the other hand, these were fears which would never be realised. He heartily agreed that nature pointed the social and domestic sphere as the proper one for women, but he asked whether they might not leave nature in this matter to take care of herself? (Hear, hear.) He believed it was impossible for them to contravene the laws of nature without nature asserting herself in the matter, and they had to take great care if they attempted to draw artificial lines and erect artificial barriers in the idea that they were doing so in accordance with the law of nature, that they were not drawing them otherwise and in other places than nature would draw them. And he thought the history of the past would lend some confirmation to the view which he was now putting before them, because if they carried their minds back for a comparatively short period, and remembered the feelings which generally prevailed in society as to what were the proper and peculiar pursuits for women, he thought they would admit there had been a very great change. It was not very long ago—not many years—that he thought most people would have been almost startled at the idea that it would have been a suitable thing for a lady to become a guardian of the poor, a member of a school board, or a member of the governing body of a public school. He ventured to say, however, a great change had come over public opinion in respect to these matters, and if they could ascertain the opinion of the vast majority of persons of that country, it would be generally admitted that very great benefits had accrued to society from the pursuits and employments being thrown open to women. (Applause.) He did not conceive for a moment that there was the slightest infringement of the most perfect feminine delicacy in women undertaking those duties he had described, and he felt bound to ask himself why, if that were the case, why, if women satisfactorily filled all these functions, it could be thought at all unfeminine for them to walk to the poll and quietly drop their voting papers in the ballot box? (Hear, hear.) He knew many persons were afraid of the influence of women on public affairs. He knew many members of his own political party were honestly of opinion that the influence of the women's vote upon political parties would be in a direction they did not like. He did not think any true Liberal would say, if that were the case, that it was the slightest answer to the claim which was made on the part of women. He believed every true Liberal would wish every capable citizen to be empowered to exercise a fair share of political power, in whatever direction in a party sense he or she might exercise it. But he thought his Liberal friends, and those who feared in a more general sense the influence which they thought women might exercise upon public affairs, might calm their fears. Looking at the matter in a reasonable point of view, it seemed to him that women were in the main influenced by the same kind of influences as mankind in general. He believed the same influences which made men Conservative or Liberal would operate just the same with the other sex; and according to the influences which were brought to bear on the family circle and elsewhere, and according to the views which people adopted from natural disposition, they would find all these same differences growing up among women which they found among men. (Applause.) They knew it was said women were less independent than men. He did not know how that might be, but he believed many men were influenced by a variety of motives and by the feelings and influence of those around them to an extent, perhaps, that they were hardly aware of—(hear, hear)—but even if there was anything in the argument he could not admit that it was a satisfactory reason why women should be prohibited from their political rights. He had intimated that he did not think the granting of the franchise to women would produce any startling influence on political parties, and he must not be taken to say that he did not believe it would produce good results. He believed there were questions in which it was desirable they should know more clearly and accurately what the women felt. He referred especially to those questions which affected that which lay at the root and foundation of their national happiness—he meant the home and family life, and he believed upon questions of that character, upon questions which directly involved moral issues, it would be greatly to the advantage of

the community that the voice of women should have more influence. (Applause.) Without wishing to pay any compliment to his fair friends, he honestly believed that women generally were found on the side of the virtues, and not on the side of the vices. (Applause.) There was one other reason why he was willing to come forward as a supporter of this movement, and that was that he thought their present position in the matter was wholly illogical. They had given the vote to women at municipal elections. It was almost certain that the legislation of the next year or two would bring about a very large extension of local government. They were going to have county boards, and could anyone in his senses maintain that women's votes ought to be excluded in the election of these county boards? (Hear, hear.) He thought that went without saying; and if they were going to give them the vote in these local parliaments, what distinction could they draw, in logic and principle, between that and voting for the Imperial Parliament? They knew that the course of things in the future would almost certainly be that matters of more and more importance, many matters which at present were governed and settled in the House of Commons, would be devolved upon those local representative bodies; and, therefore, the point he wished to make was that the distinction which had been in the past set up between local bodies, such as municipal councils and others and the Imperial Parliament was a line of demarcation that was not founded upon principle or reason, and was certain to become more and more effete and less clearly marked. The women's suffrage movement had sustained a great loss in the death of the late Postmaster-General, Mr. Fawcett. Mr. Fawcett was a man of great independence of mind and judgment, and it was those characteristics that gave him the great influence he possessed in the public opinion of the country. But though the movement had sustained a great loss in Mr. Fawcett's death he believed it was a movement founded on justice and reason, and therefore he did not believe that any blow it might have sustained would be of long or permanent duration. He thought those who knew the House of Commons would say that this movement was gradually receiving more and more support from members of that body. He entirely agreed with what was said, that the division upon Mr. Woodall's amendment in no way represented the true state of things in the House of Commons upon this subject. He was not going to defend the vote he gave on that occasion, and he could only say that if he were called upon under similar circumstances he should give the same vote again. They knew very well that a very large number of the warmest supporters in the House of Commons of women's suffrage voted on that occasion with the Government, and they had also to remember this, on the other hand, that a certain number of members who were not supporters of the movement at all were found in the ranks of the Opposition on that occasion. So that they must not, he thought, attach too great a weight to the numbers in that division. The Bill which was in the charge of Mr. Woodall was set down for second reading on the 4th March, and from the discussion which would then arise they would have the means of knowing much more closely than they did at present what was the real feeling of the House of Commons upon this question. He did not attempt to prophesy or at all to forecast the future, and he would only say, in conclusion, that as he believed this cause was really founded on truth and justice, so, whether it was carried in the present Parliament or left for a later period, he believed in the end it would be successful. (Cheers.)

Miss BLACKBURN, the hon. secretary, read a number of letters from gentlemen unable to be present. The Rev. U. R. Thomas expressed great regret that he could not take part in the crusade against the unjust and evil legislation that had so long deprived the State of women's votes and women the right of citizenship. Mr. Mark Whitwill also regretted his absence, and said it was disappointing that the Government, when bringing in the scheme for enfranchising the agricultural labourers, would not listen to the claims of the thousands of intelligent women householders. Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., said, "I am very sorry that I am quite unable to accept your invitation." Mr. W. H. Long, M.P., wrote, "I regret that I shall not be able to attend on the 12th, but I must ask you not to consider my absence is caused by any doubt as to the fairness of your demand. I am decidedly of opinion that any extension of the franchise ought to have included capable women." Lord Lynton, M.P., was sorry pressure of public engagements prevented his being able to attend. Mr. H. B. Samuelson, M.P., said he fully sympathised with the principle of Mr. Woodall's Bill, and

hoped it would be carried. "Now that we have enfranchised the county labourer it seems to me too absurd, as well as impolitic, an injustice to refuse a voice in the national government to lady householders." Other engagements, however, prevented his attending. Mr. C. I. Elton, M.P., regretted he was otherwise engaged. Sir E. Strachey, M.P., was friendly to the movement, but unable to be present. Mr. Carbutt, M.P., Mr. J. R. Foster, M.P., Mr. Theodore Fry, M.P., and Canon Percival also regretted their absence.

The Rev. R. HAYES ROBINSON (Bath) moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Franchise Bill, now happily become law, should be supplemented by a measure for extending the suffrage to all householders, without distinction of sex." He remarked that he came from a city that could speak with emphasis on this question, for Bath had a larger number of women householders than any other city in England. A thing they often heard was that women, if given votes, would want to get into Parliament. Now, he was a member of a profession allowed to vote for members of Parliament but not allowed to enter Parliament, so he had no fear as regards this argument. He believed before long they would win the day because of the inherent justice of their claim. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. BEVAN (chairman of the Liberal Operatives' Association) seconded the motion with much pleasure. He said amongst some parts of his own party there was a feeling that if the franchise was extended to the ladies their votes would be exerted not in favour of the Liberal party. His argument was that they had no right to consider the question in that sense at all. (Applause.) They did not ask the agricultural labourers whether they would vote for the Liberal or for the Tory party; they gave them the vote because it was just they should have it. (Applause.) Having given the franchise to the meanest and humblest of her Majesty's subjects, it was a grave anomaly to exclude from its scope women, so many of whom were extremely qualified to take their share in expressing the opinion of the country. (Applause.)

The Countess of PORTSMOUTH, on rising to support the resolution, was received with loud applause. She said she would do her best to support it for two reasons. First of all it pleased her to be present, because of her connection with the local branch of the Women's Suffrage Society. She was also pleased to speak in favour of the movement, as everyone was pleased to assist to promote any object which their judgment and feeling helped to make them strong and willing to support. This was her case simply and entirely, because she considered that the resolution embodied the principles of true, unadulterated—it might be bare—of absolute justice. (Applause.) In the present condition of things there was an anomaly, and a very strong one. They might have a woman householder, head of the household, possessing property, living on it, paying her rates and taxes with what she had heard called a woman's conscience, because she was so scrupulous and exact—(applause)—she was a loyal and law-abiding woman, whose life was pure and blameless. By her side might be property in the possession of a man—she did not wish to say anything against the men—(laughter)—who had none of those scruples of conscience at all. He might have been a convicted law-breaker, he might be a danger to society, and a great anxiety to all his neighbours around him. His private life might be the reverse of honourable, and yet this owner—this head of a household—might appeal for the removal of any burden or the confirmation of any interest. (Hear, hear.) Was that fair or just? (No, no.) Which was the best citizen, which was the most excellent and desirable subject, and which had the most right to look for support from the Constitution? (Applause.) The arguments against the movement were dying out. (Hear, hear.) They would grow feeble. (Applause.) They could be easily answered, and gradually they would pass away and they would be forgotten, and a better judgment would be formed, and people would wonder that they had been advanced at all. (Hear, hear.) Two of them were appeals rather than argument to the feelings of women, and they came from opposite quarters. On the one side the appeal was as it were from men to women, and on the other side an appeal to the opinion of women of women. A great many represented that it was unseemly and unnecessary for women to seek direct justice from the country and the Constitution in this matter, after they had experienced the good effects which had accrued to them from the efforts of generous impulse and noble instincts in man. (Applause.) Undoubtedly those generous impulses and noble instincts had done great things for women, and they felt grateful to the men who brought them about. (Applause.) But

these men did less for women than for civilisation. (Hear, hear.) Those generous impulses and noble instincts were part of one great law of justice which guides great and small as one law rules avalanche and feather. (Applause.) Women would act more prudently and honestly in seeking justice—perhaps a bare justice—from the Constitution of the country than by waiting for any favour, however gracious and good itself. (Applause.) Another argument used was that very few women cared for the franchise, or that if they did, they would not care to use it. She thought the attendance there that night answered that argument. She thought that every year, and particularly during the last five years, the number of women who earnestly thought of and desired the suffrage was increasing, and therefore the force of that argument was diminished. In every town and country village there was a growing appreciation for the higher education of women, and from high schools and elementary schools hundreds of young women were pouring out to commence life in the world and to gain their own maintenance, and it might be to support dependent or delicate relations. In most of these schools a good liberal education was given to women, and their recreation was conducted on a better system. In the elementary schools little Jane came to school just as early, and worked as industriously, and read the same books as her brother Johnny, and every year thousands of women were going out into the world to gain their own living, and often to support aged or dependent relations. (Hear, hear.) Now because they were women they did not find that bread was made a bit cheaper to them than it was to their brothers. (Applause.) They could not break the laws in any way without the same risk as their brothers. People were afraid that the suffrage would make women something less than women. The people who said the franchise would make women less feminine adduced a curious and weak argument. How could any one little step in the path of civilisation be sufficient to upset one of the oldest laws of the universe? It was a very curious idea—but surely women, mothers, wives, and daughters were created long before the subject was thought of, just as men, fathers, and brothers were created long before any sort of Government was thought of. (Hear, hear.) She also felt that the true daughters of England bore in their hearts exactly the same love for their mother country as her sons, and that her peace and prosperity were just as sacred to them as to their brothers and fathers. (Applause.) The best words with which she could conclude what she had to say were in the familiar but the old and grand Scriptural phraseology, "The throne was established on righteousness." (Applause.)

Mrs. ASHFORD (Birmingham) supported the resolution.

The Rev. A. N. BLATCHFORD also supported the resolution, and said one found oneself on that question every now and then surrounded by thoughts which savoured on the one side of very unreal sentimentalism, and on the other side of the strongest unreasonableness. (Applause.) Those who were endeavouring to advance that cause were not blind to the power of sentiment, which they said was a remarkably good thing, only, in common with certain things which they saw displayed on the counters of enterprising tradesmen, "When you ask for it see you get it, as counterfeits are in existence." (Laughter and applause.) The sentiment of those who opposed the cause they were met to further was not of a real kind. (Hear, hear.) It was not the sort that would bear examination. (Applause.) As long as they taxed a woman's property, they must in common consistency allow her a voice to say how it should be dealt with. (Applause.) If woman's voice were heard the whole land through, there would be less chance of such news coming home to them from abroad. (Cheers.) He appealed to them, not only in the interests of their sisters, but in the interest of that peace which men so love and strive for. (Applause.)

Miss ORME having supported the resolution, it was carried, with only about half a dozen dissentients.

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Killigrew Wait was to have moved the next resolution, but he had been compelled to leave. In his absence Mr. W. S. Clark would do so.

Mr. W. S. CLARK (Street) moved, "That this meeting adopt petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, to be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting." He said he was glad of having an opportunity of speaking, as he was thoroughly convinced of the justice of the cause. (Applause.) It was, he argued, the duty of every man and woman in England to take a real and intelligent interest in politics. (Hear, hear.) It would be good for

England if every woman was an earnest politician, and saw that her children took an interest in politics, for it was only in that way that they could get them raised from the degradation of the past. (Hear, hear.) There was not an argument against giving the franchise to women that would hold water. (Applause.)

Mr. A. HARRIS (president of the Bristol Trades Council) seconded the motion. He said that his connection with the working-class population of this city enabled him to say that a very large proportion of the thoughtful people were distinctly in favour of conferring the right which they themselves possessed upon the women. (Hear, hear.)

Miss BIGGS, in supporting the resolution, asked them to give it, by an emphatic assurance, all the approval they could at that meeting, because next week Parliament would meet again, and they had reason to believe that it would be almost as exciting as the beginning or the termination of last session. They were told when they put forward their claims that they were women, and they must stand aside in favour of the more fortunate possessors of the claim—the men—and wait. She could speak earnestly on behalf of herself and many ladies who had been working for the franchise, that they did not grudge the possession of the franchise to those two millions of men to whom it had just been granted. Perhaps they sympathised more truly with their claim than many of the men did who pretended to sympathise—for they had worked year after year and knew what it was to wait. But she did say emphatically that the women had worked harder during the last seventeen years, and had gone through greater sacrifices to acquire the vote, than the majority of the two millions of men had. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried by a large majority.

Miss WILKINSON moved a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. W. TRIBE seconded the vote, and remarked that they were glad in Bristol to have both their members right on this question.

The resolution was carried with acclamation, and Mr. FRY, in acknowledging the compliment, said the question was one outside party politics.

HYDE.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HYDE BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY.

Under the auspices of the Hyde auxiliary of the above society, a largely-attended public meeting in support of the Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Hyde, on February 12th, Mr. CHARLES HIBBERT, J.P., occupying the chair. He was supported by Miss Becker and Mrs. Louisa Herford, of Manchester, as the deputation from the National Society, Alderman T. Thornely, Mr. E. W. Smith, Mr. J. Rowcroft, Mrs. Dowson, Mrs. Alexander T. Hibbert, Mrs. F. Thornely, Mrs. Joseph Hibbert, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Tweedale, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Thorley, Miss Hibbert, president, and Miss Smith, secretary of the Hyde Branch.

After some observations by the Chairman, the first resolution was moved by Miss ELLEN HIBBERT: "That in the opinion of this meeting women who possess the qualification for the Parliamentary suffrage should no longer be denied the right of voting."

Mr. W. H. HERFORD, M.A., seconded the resolution, which was supported by Miss BECKER, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. DOWSON moved the next resolution, which was as follows: "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted, and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; and that a memorial to William Cunliffe Brooks, Esq., and W. J. Legh, Esq., members for the Eastern Division of Cheshire, requesting them to support a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, be signed by the chairman, and forwarded by him." The speaker observed that she was glad to say that one of the members for East Cheshire, Mr. Cunliffe Brooks, had given the assurance of his support on this question of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women.

Mrs. MOSS seconded the resolution. She said the question had often been asked what benefit the Parliamentary vote would be to women. They might answer that in a very short way, though it would be no answer at all, by saying it would be just the same benefit as it was to men. All historians, Macaulay in particular, had stated that the Parliamentary vote had elevated men and given them an increased interest in the State, and it would do exactly the same for women. She believed most women wanted the franchise, although a few might not. She remembered going with the Secretary to an outlandish place in the district, and came across

an old woman of seventy whose demeanour showed she had never gone beyond her own home. When the subject was introduced she tersely replied, "Nowt to do with it; the men have done for me seventy years, and they may do it out." (Laughter.) Women hitherto had taken no interest in politics, because they were not allowed to have a vote, but were not they very ready to learn. They wished the men and women of this country to move side by side. (Applause.) One of Her Majesty's Inspectors of schools, when examining a class in geography, asked the name of an island in the Irish sea, referring of course to the Isle of Man. The lads did not seem to comprehend the question, and to aid their memories the Inspector asked what the island would be called if it was inhabited solely by men, and not a woman among them. One boy replied, "Please sir, Scilly Isle." (Laughter and applause.) That boy's geography was bad, but his philosophy was glorious. (Laughter.)

Mrs. HERFORD supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mrs. THORLEY moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, to whom she said the women of Hyde owed a debt of gratitude, and perhaps some November day they would be able to pay it. (Applause.)

Mr. E. W. SMITH seconded, and the adoption of the resolution brought a successful meeting to a close.

MITCHAM.

On February 21st a well-attended public meeting was held at Mitcham, under the auspices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, in support of the Bill now before Parliament for extending the franchise to women. Mr. G. P. Bidder, Q.C., occupied the chair, supported by Mr. C. H. Hopwood, Q.C., M.P., Miss Eliza Orme, Mr. Sidney Gedge, Mr. E. A. Hadley, and others. The chairman having briefly opened the proceedings, Miss Orme moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications that entitle men to vote, or who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." Mr. Sidney Gedge seconded the motion, which was put and carried unanimously. Mr. Hopwood, M.P., who was warmly received, moved: "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that memorials to Sir Trevor Lawrence and Sir John Whittaker Ellis, the members for Mid-Surrey, asking them to support the Bill to be moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Woodall, be also adopted and forwarded to them." Mr. A. H. Lawrence seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and Mr. Hopwood closed the meeting.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.

MEETING AT MOLESWORTH HALL.

On the afternoon of February 5th a meeting to promote the extension of the franchise to women ratepayers was held in the Molesworth Hall under the auspices of the Women's Suffrage Association. There was a crowded attendance, the great majority of those present being ladies. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Dr. CARMICHAEL. The following were amongst those present:—Mr. W. Carthy, Mr. Johnston, Mr. A. Webb, Mr. H. Wigham, Mr. S. Sandys, M.A.; Rev. Dr. Rice and Mrs. Rice, St. Columba; Mr. Hamilton, Mr. D. Sherlock, Rev. H. A. M'Kee, D.D.; Mr. Henry Wigham, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. C. H. Oldham, Mr. W. T. Bailey, Rev. S. J. Whitmee, Mr. J. Bennett Little, Mr. Murrrough O'Brien, Mrs. Robert Longworth Dames, Miss Barrett, Mrs. Rooke, Mrs. John Webb, Mr. R. Shackleton, Miss Tuthill, Miss Merrick, Miss M'Dowall, Mr. M'Comas, J.P.; Mr. Haslam, Mrs. Haslam, Rev. Mr. Askin, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P.; Mr. W. Redmond, M.P.; Mr. R. P. Blennerhassett, M.P.; Rev. Dr. Webster, Cork; Prof. Barrett, Mr. John Casey, Mr. R. D. Barbor, Mr. Wm. Johnston.

The SECRETARY (Mrs. Haslam) said that letters of apology for non-attendance and expressive of sympathy with the object of the meeting had been received from Lord Powerscourt, Lord and Lady Brabazon, Colonel King-Harman, M.P., Justin M'Carthy, &c.

The following letter was read:—

"Rockingham, Boyle, January 10th, 1885.

"Dear Madam,—I regret extremely that it will not be in my power to preside at your meeting, February 5th. My health has

suffered severely from overwork; and, by my doctor's advice, I have arranged to leave England on the 26th for a sea voyage. I need not say that my sympathies are entirely with you in your efforts to obtain the franchise for women, and that I shall support this most just and logical demand in every way in my power. I think you are perfectly right to enlist the advocacy of members of Parliament of all shades of politics. I believe myself that the conferring of the franchise upon women will be a gain to the Conservative cause, but were I assured that my belief is erroneous, I should still vote for the measure, as a matter of common sense and common justice.—Yours faithfully,
"E. R. KING-HARMAN.

"Mrs. A. M. Haslam."

The CHAIRMAN said he felt greatly honoured at being called on to preside over such a meeting as that. The cause of the political emancipation of women was one which had triumphantly survived the ridicule with which it was once assailed, and it now occupied a place in the front in the region of practical politics. (Applause.) The demand that the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications justifying men to vote could hardly be refused when ladies were taking the highest prizes in literature and art which were open to them, and were proving their thorough capacity for all educational and social work, such as quickens the life and hastens the progress of the nation. (Applause.) They might be certain that it would soon become an unanswerable appeal to the national conscience that intelligent women should not be refused those political privileges which the most illiterate and ignorant peasant would soon enjoy. (Applause.)

Professor CHARLES CAMERON proposed the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should now be extended to all unmarried women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote." He said he had always been an advocate for its object, namely, the removal of the very unfair disabilities under which women in all parts of Europe and America had long suffered. He believed that the removal of every one of these disabilities, so as to place women on an equality with men, was a cause that was advancing in the paths of justice, morality, wisdom, and social civilisation. (Applause.) He thought that the measure of civilisation in a country was to a great extent the condition in which they bound the women. If they went into any barbarous country they found women degraded, and rendered almost little better than beasts of burthen. And, even in their own country, in former times, even in the so-called age of chivalry, they would find that the women seemed to be little better than that of a superior order of menial. Now, for the first time, women appeared to be getting into their fair position. Man was stronger than woman, and he was almost ashamed to say that men had made use of their physical superiority for the purpose of, he might say, tyrannically placing women in an inferior position. As a physiologist, he could not agree with the belief that women were intellectually decidedly inferior to men. That they were physically inferior there was no question, but intellectually he was prepared to deny that they were inferior. Judging by the physiological test, the brain capacity of women appeared, indeed, to be slightly greater in proportion to the weight of the body as compared with men. It might be said that women had not shown themselves equal to men; but it would not be reasonable to expect it, for the simple reason that they had not had the same opportunities. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to see that a better state of things now prevailed. In the profession to which he belonged he was glad to say the Royal College of Surgeons had recognised that women were intellectually the equal of men. (Applause.) They had gone further than any other medical corporation in the kingdom—(applause)—and had so far enfranchised women as to make them eligible for the highest offices, even that of presidency. As an Irishman he was proud of this—(hear, hear)—and with such a theme, and with an audience composed of a very substantial portion of the beauty of Dublin—(applause)—he could go on speaking for ever so long, but he would conclude by again expressing his complete sympathy with the object of the meeting. (Applause.)

Mr. DAVID SHERLOCK, B.L., seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mrs. ASHTON DELKE, and carried.

The Rev. Mr. WHITMEE moved: "That this meeting rejoices to learn that Mr. Woodall has introduced a Bill to confer the franchise upon all duly qualified women and directs the chairman to sign petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour thereof on behalf of this meeting."

Mrs. HAMILTON seconded the resolution.

Professor MIR AULAD ALI supported the resolution. They had heard so much in praise of the fair sex—(laughter)—that it would be as well, if only for a relief, he should say a few words on the other side. (Laughter.) The greatest mistake which had been made that day was to ask him to second that resolution. He had been opposed to this movement from the beginning, but he would acknowledge that he had changed his opinion since he had heard some time ago in that hall female suffrage advocated. (Applause.) It was said that a woman's brain was lighter than a man's, but what did that matter so long as the woman's brain was not mixed with water saturated with alcohol? (Laughter.) He did not agree with those who said that it was a brutal force which all this time had kept women down. A brutal force was the worst possible means of stopping any movement; if it were otherwise the lions and tigers would have been the rulers of mankind. In some countries women were not educated, and could not expect to take part in public affairs, but in these countries where they were highly educated the matter was different. Women had achieved distinction in many of the colleges of both England and America, and were therefore, in his opinion, perfectly qualified to take part in the election of members of Parliament. He was aware that women were advocates of temperance, for his window in the college was opposite a public-house—(loud laughter), and he could assure them that not one woman for every ten men visited the place. (Applause.) What had Mr. Fawcett done? He had appointed a number of women to positions in post offices and telegraph offices, and it would be found they did their work well—(applause); and when they finished their work he supposed they amused themselves sending love messages. (Laughter.) The speaker concluded by saying that he hoped that women would not be much longer debarred from giving their votes for members of Parliament. (Applause.)

Miss I. M. S. TOD supported the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

Mr. JOHNSTON, Inspector of Fisheries, said, in moving a vote of thanks to the ladies who had come to Dublin to advocate the cause of women's suffrage, during the time when he had been a member of the House of Commons as the representative of Belfast he had always supported this cause. If it should ever be his good fortune again to re-enter the House of Commons he would give this subject his most strenuous support. (Applause.)

Mr. HENRY WIGHAM seconded the resolution, and said that, with the permission of the meeting, he would include the chairman in the vote of thanks.

MEETING AT SACKVILLE HALL.

On the evening of February 6th a public meeting was held in the Sackville Hall, Upper Sackville-street, for the purpose of promoting the extension of the franchise to women. Mr. ABRAHAM SHACKLETON, J.P., T.C., was unanimously called upon to preside. Amongst those present were Alderman Dillon, W. Redmond, Esq., M.P.; William Johnson, Esq.; David Sherlock, B.L.; Henry Wigham, Esq.; C. H. Oldham, B.A.; W. F. Bailey, Esq., B.L.; T. J. Haslam, Esq.; Rev. S. Sandys, M.A.; Rev. Watson King Ormsby, M.A.; Rev. Hope M. Waddell, P. J. Quinn, Esq.; A. J. Nicolls, Esq.; Mr. W. Shackleton, Mr. Devey, Mr. J. Gough, Mr. W. F. Cox, M.D.; P. J. O'Neill, Esq.; A. Webb, Esq.; Henry J. Allen, Esq.; John A. Davis, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Miss I. M. S. Tod, Mrs. A. M. Haslam, P. A. Tyrrell, Esq.; Miss M'Donnell, Miss Justin M'Carthy, Mrs. Shackleton, Mrs. Gough, Mrs. Murphy, Miss Davitt, Miss Smithson, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Webb, Miss Shackleton, Miss Lamb.

Letters of apology were read from Lord Powerscourt, Lord Brabazon, the Provost of Trinity College, Col. King-Harman, M.P., Mr. W. Findlater, M.P., Mr. Charles Cobbe, Mr. Justin M'Carthy, M.P.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he was glad to find that they had such a large and representative meeting to consider this question. Women's suffrage was a question which had emerged from the position of "pious opinion," "amiable bad," to that of the region of practical politics. (Applause.) As long as men only represented in Parliament the humanity of the country, only one half of the country was represented. (Applause.)

Mr. ALFRED WEBB moved the first resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should now be

extended to all unmarried women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote." He said that he believed the question of women's suffrage was one which had already made itself felt, and he believed that the hour of their victory was close at hand. (Applause.) He asked them to consider the absurd state of things which would exist under the new Franchise Bill owing to the exclusion of women from the franchise. He knew that women of the highest education and intelligence who were householders and taxpayers would not have a vote, while the very gatekeepers who attended to the entrance of their residences would be entitled to exercise the franchise. This was not fair or just. (Applause.)

Mr. HENRY J. ALLEN seconded the resolution. He said that the *Freeman's Journal* of that morning—(hisses, cheers, and interruption)—contained a very remarkable article. (Renewed interruption.) There was no use in hissing, for no amount of hissing would alter the sentiments of those who conducted the *Freeman's Journal* or any other journal. (Applause.) The article to which he referred contained the following remarkable statement: "The time, we hope, is passed for discussing the right of women to exercise the franchise. (Applause.) The right is theirs, and all that remains is to secure it to them." If this was true, it was none the less true because it appeared in the *Freeman's Journal*. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Their meeting that night had for its object the endeavour to carry this sentiment into practical effect. (Applause.) If women were qualified to exercise the franchise it was unjust to deprive them of it. (Applause.)

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE supported the resolution.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Miss J. M. S. TOD, of Belfast, moved: "That this meeting rejoices to learn that Mr. Woodall has introduced a Bill to confer the franchise upon all duly qualified women, and directs the chairman to sign petitions to both Houses of Parliament in favour thereof, on behalf of the meeting."

Mr. BAILEY, B.L., seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Rev. S. SANDYS, M.A., and passed unanimously.

Mr. CHARLES HERBERT OLDHAM moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Ashton Dilke and Miss Tod for their presence and assistance, and to Mr. Shackleton for his services in the chair.

Mr. W. REDMOND, M.P., in seconding the resolution, referred in complimentary terms to the services which the two ladies referred to had rendered to the movement. He confessed that he had a very great sympathy with all people who might be termed agitators.—(applause)—and he, for his part, wished their cause every success. (Applause.) From time immemorial there had been women possessed of a greater amount of brain power than the average man—(applause)—and when every class in the country were being represented he believed that it would be a great injustice to exclude women. (Applause.) The effect of women's suffrage would, he believed, be to purify the political life of this and other countries. He would defy any person to deny that the institutions in any part of the world would not be largely benefited by the assistance of women. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

BELFAST.

NORTH OF IRELAND ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE: ANNUAL MEETING.

On February 12th, at twelve o'clock, the annual meeting was held in the Assembly's Hall, Belfast. The attendance was exclusively composed of ladies, a very large number being present.

Mrs. LINDSAY presided, and opened the proceedings by reading from the Psalms, after which Mrs. BYERS led the meeting in prayer.

The President having opened the proceedings, Miss Tod, who was applauded on rising, said that letters of apology were received from Lady Arthur Hill, Mrs. Ker (Montalto), Miss Nicholson (Lisduh), Mrs. Richardson (Springfield), and Mrs. Kinghan. Miss Tod then read the report of the Committee, from which we take the following: "With the exception of one gentleman—who, as a member of the Government, was not of course a free agent—not one Ulster member of Parliament voted against Mr. Woodall's amendment. During the short autumn Session Mr. Woodall introduced an independent Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, and it is down for second reading on the 4th March next. The other names on the back of the Bill are those of Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Coleridge Kennard, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Yorke, and Baron de

Worms. Its prospects are not only good in the sense that the very strong opinion of the country in favour of women's suffrage is at last clearly recognised by a majority of the House of Commons, but also in the sense that various Parliamentary difficulties are understood to have been removed, and that support may be counted upon from the Treasury Bench and from the front Opposition Bench."

The statement of accounts showed that the receipts, including subscriptions, amounted to £26. 12s. 6d., and that after paying expenses there was a balance in hand of £11. 2s. 1d.

Miss HARDY moved the adoption of the report and the reappointment of the committee.

Mrs. W. B. RITCHIE seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mrs. HENRY THOMPSON moved: "That the exclusion from the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise of women who possess the statutory qualifications is in the highest degree injurious to those excluded and to the best interests of the community."

Mrs. KNOX seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mrs. ACHESON (Portadown) proposed the next resolution: "That the extension of the franchise to all other householders, by the recent Franchise Act, not only offers a wise opportunity for including the women householders of the kingdom, but imperatively requires this act of justice." One of those side arguments with which they were all so familiar, and which, though too old and worn to defeat them, were yet counted sufficient to deal them an awkward blow, was that women know and care nothing about politics. Now that, as a general statement, she simply denied. Some women, it was true, do not interest themselves in the affairs of the nation, and of a number of men the same may be said. But if any citizen, man or woman, was ever roused simply to watch as ever so passive an onlooker the great political movements of the day, it was impossible for that individual to go to sleep again. (Hear, hear.) It was a very serious accusation to bring against any British woman that she cared nothing about politics. Analysed, and what did it mean? That she did not care whether or not her country be happy or miserable; whether liberty was advanced or tyranny upheld. Whether it was Britain's dealings with foreign nations, it might be said of their beloved land that her hands were pure, her heart clean, and that she hath not lifted up her soul unto vanity. It meant all that, and far more. (Applause.) If women loved their country, it must become a matter of deep-seated interest to them whether the country acted righteously or unrighteously; whether her poor were fed, her children taught, and whether the downward or the upward path was made easier for the people. (Hear, hear.) Why trouble to teach their girls history, if in after life they were to take no interest in politics? As a rule history was the favourite study with school girls. Was it not because a deep and natural love of politics was showing itself even thus early? (Hear, hear.) For what was history but old-time politics, and what were politics but history in the making? The drama written or the drama acted, which on the face of it has the greater charm? (Hear, hear.) Now, it was curious that the very same people who maintain that women care nothing about politics were those who asked, almost in the same breath too, why could women not be content with using their very powerful private influence. If they were so ignorant and indifferent on the subject, how could they be expected to use that influence wisely or well? (Hear, hear.) An irresponsible and thoughtless adviser may influence indeed, but will it be for good or for evil? Even in this province of private influence, then, it was essential that women should keep themselves up in all the political and social problems of the day. (Hear, hear.) That they should read and think, and converse freely on politics, and that not as a duty or as a training conscientiously self-imposed, to fit them for their rather vague and uncertain work of influence, but because they love the subject, as it had to them a true and living interest. (Applause.) Now, one of the surest ways to awaken an interest in any subject was by introducing the element of responsibility. As an educating influence responsibility could work wonders. Let a woman know she had a vote and she would at once begin to ponder on which side of the scale she should deposit its weight. She might decide wrong, but she had less temptations to an abuse of the suffrage than men had. A man was often swayed by personal ambition or business interests. A woman had not these temptations. Besides, women felt more keenly and deeply than men the

terrible evils of drink and vice. If they knew it they would not vote for any legislation whose principles were not sound on the burning question of social reform. And legislators, on the other hand, would surely turn aside to think now and then of some of the subjects on which so considerable a portion of their constituents are so importunate. Cases have been known where in municipal elections the votes of women householders, given solidly on the side of a good man, have routed a bad man completely out of the field. Nor is there anything wonderful in this unanimity which women show on the side of social reform. It was they who were chief sufferers by two evils which the law so often touches only to aggravate in their own experience of those dearer to them than life. But, while the benefit arising to the community from such votes as these was evident, there was another important fact behind. The vote would be a positive protection to a woman's personal and private interests. The voteless tenant had before now been ejected by landlords with political aims; and there were other ways in which a vote would procure for a woman more practical help and consideration than the much-boasted feeling of chivalry ever secured to her. (Applause.)

Miss WILKINSON seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Miss TOD moved the adoption of a petition to the Houses of Parliament in support of Mr. Woodall's Bill.

Mrs. HYNDMAN seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

A vote of thanks to the President brought the meeting to a close.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

PADDOCK LIBERAL CLUB.

At a meeting of the members of the Paddock Liberal Club, near Huddersfield, held on January 28th, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary suffrage should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right to vote."

ARMLEY PROGRESSIVE CLUB, LEEDS.

On February 10th a paper was read to the members and friend of this club, by Mrs. Agnes Sunley, on "The Need of the Parliamentary Franchise for Women." An animated discussion followed, in which Miss Goodall, Mr. Tom Walker, and others took part, and Mrs. Sunley answered questions and objections. The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Brown, the president of the club, and seconded by Mr. Appleby, was carried unanimously:—"That in opinion of this meeting, all women who pay rates and taxes ought to have votes for members of Parliament."

PRESTWICH LIBERAL CLUB.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the above club, held in February, it was resolved by a majority of those present: "That this executive gives its hearty support to the Bill to be introduced by Mr. Woodall, M.P., for the enfranchisement of women, and hopes it will soon become law."

LIBERAL CLUB AT HARWOOD.

On February 7th a meeting took place in Walsh's Institute, Harwood, near Bolton, to celebrate the opening of a Liberal club in that township. Mr. T. Bromley, in the course of the proceedings, after referring to the extension of the franchise in country districts, said he would never rest until women householders had votes. If it were an act of justice to give a man a vote, it was only justice that women should have a vote also. The women franchise was a hard pill to swallow for the Radical party, because they thought the women would vote against them, but they must educate them to vote intelligently.

PADDINGTON LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. Charles, well known as a poor-law guardian in Paddington, Miss Lucy Johnson, Mrs. Woolcott Browne, Miss Maud Perry, and Miss Lily Staapole have been elected members of the general council of the Paddington Liberal Association, and as such will have votes in the selection of candidates for the Parliamentary election in the district.

THE JOHN BRIGHT CLUB, PADDINGTON.

At a meeting of the John Bright Club, Paddington, on January 26, E. Colston Keevil, Esq., in the chair, a resolution in favour of granting

the Parliamentary suffrage to women was moved by Mr. E. Hopes, vice-president of the club, and supported by Mr. John Early, Mr. Henry Warner, Mr. Stearn, Mr. Edward Daine, and Mr. R. Cuere. Mrs. Charles, poor-law guardian, Paddington, was present and also supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the chairman requested to sign a petition to Parliament on behalf of the club.

LECTURES.

LONDON.

At a meeting of the members of the Balloon Society, at the Royal Aquarium, on January 30th, under the presidency of Mrs. Ashton Dilke, a lecture, entitled "Taxation without Representation," was delivered by Miss F. Henrietta Muller. At the conclusion of the lecture, Mr. Wilson moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary suffrage should be extended to duly qualified women, and that the Bill introduced by Mr. Woodall to this effect should receive the support of all friends of Parliamentary government." Mr. Coiner seconded the resolution. Captain Dumaresq de Carteret-Bisson, having in a humorous speech expressed his dissent from the principles of the resolution, was followed by Mrs. Elizabeth Hoggan, M.D., and Mr. Merrett, and the resolution was then carried, although a considerable portion of the meeting voted against it.

SWANSEA.

A crowded and highly-appreciative audience assembled in the Unitarian Schoolroom, Swansea, on January 29th, to hear a lecture from Miss J. G. Wilkinson on "Politics and Women." The Rev. R. D. Burnie, ex-mayor presided, supported by Mr. C. H. Perkins and others, who have identified themselves with the Women's Suffrage movement in Swansea. At the conclusion Mrs. Manning and other ladies and gentlemen spoke, and a resolution adopting petitions to both Houses of Parliament was unanimously carried.

DARTMOUTH.

Miss Williamson gave an address on February 6th in the Fairfax Hall, Dartmouth, Mr. W. H. Rees in the chair. After the lecture Mr. J. M. Close moved, and Mr. Percy Hochin seconded, a resolution adopting petitions, which was carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to lecturer and chairman closed the proceedings.

TOTTERDOWN (BRISTOL).

In connection with the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, Miss Williamson lectured on "Women and Politics" in the Baptist Chapel, Totterdown, on February 9th. The Rev. George Jarman occupied the chair. The lecture was followed by a short discussion and petitions adopted.

LEOMINSTER.

On February 10th a lecture on the social and political position of women was given by Miss Wilkinson in the Town Hall, Leominster, the Rev. D. A. Brown in the chair. After the lecture an animated discussion followed, in the course of which Mr. Ellwood observed that as an old electioneering agent he had found the difficulty was to get women to vote in the municipal elections. Miss Southall remarked that she knew very many ladies who came willingly and gladly to record their votes. The resolution, "That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of women who pay rates and taxes from all share of Parliamentary representation is unjust, and this meeting adopts petitions to both Houses of Parliament praying for the extension of the franchise to such women," was carried.

CHEDDAR.

A meeting was held at the Lecture Hall, Cheddar, on February 10th, under the auspices of the Cheddar Liberal Association. Although it was the first time a meeting on the question had been held in Cheddar, the hall was well filled with an enthusiastic audience. The Rev. T. Hanger presided. Miss Helen Sturge and Miss Helen Blackburn addressed the meeting as a deputation from the Women's Suffrage Society. After their addresses the Rev. J. Davies moved a resolution to adopt petitions to both Houses of Parliament for the extension of the franchise to women. This was seconded by Mr. Lewis, and carried unanimously.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

BAYSWATER.

A crowded and influential meeting in favour of women's suffrage, presided over by Miss Anna Swanwick, was held on February 13th, at the house of Mrs. Woolcott Browne, Bayswater. Miss C. A. Biggs moved "That as the present action of the Government tends increasingly to control the details of private as well as public life, it becomes the duty of women to claim the extension of the franchise, in order to maintain a due influence in social and political action; and this meeting pledges itself to aid, by every means in its power, the Bill before Parliament for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women." The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Charles, Poor-law Guardian for Paddington, supported by Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, and adopted. Addresses were also delivered by Miss Helen Taylor and Miss Balfour. Petitions were adopted.

CLAPHAM.

A drawing-room meeting to which board school teachers were specially invited was held on Saturday, Feb. 7th, by the kind invitation of Mrs. W. S. Caine, at 1, The Terrace, Clapham Common. The chair was taken by Miss Müller, and addresses were delivered by Miss Balfour and Miss Lord. A resolution was passed in favour of extending the franchise to duly qualified women, and it was resolved to forward memorials to the county members, Sir J. T. Lawrence and Sir J. W. Ellis. Towards the close of the meeting discussion was invited, in which the Rev. E. McClean, Dr. Hamilton, and others took part. Sir John Trevor Lawrence wrote in reply to the memorial: "It is my intention to vote for the Bill." Sir J. W. Ellis wrote: "Pray accept my assurance that I will not fail to give the subject my most favourable consideration when the subject comes before Parliament."

BOLTON GARDENS.

On Feb. 16th a very influential drawing-room meeting was held at the house of Henry Richard, Esq., M.P., 22, Bolton Gardens. Mrs. Lucas presided. Mrs. Brine, of Teignmouth, and Miss Balfour took part, and the resolutions were seconded by Dr. Janet Rushbrook and Dr. Kate Mitchell. Memorials and petitions were ordered to be signed. A vote of thanks to Mrs. H. Richard closed the proceedings.

CADOGAN PLACE.

A drawing-room meeting, which was largely attended by school board teachers, as well as other ladies, was held by kind invitation of Miss Müller, at 58, Cadogan Place, on February 14th. Miss King proposed the first resolution, "That as the present action of Government tends increasingly to control the details of private as well as public life, it becomes the duty of women to claim the extension of the franchise in order to maintain due influence in social and political action, and this meeting pledges itself to aid by every means in its power the Bill before Parliament for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women." This was seconded by Mrs. Stanton Blatch, and unanimously adopted. Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, and memorials to the borough members, and a vote of thanks to Miss Müller, were proposed and seconded by Dr. Frances Hoggan and other ladies.

HIGHBURY CRESCENT.

A drawing-room meeting was held on Feb. 20th, by the kind invitation of Mrs. D. R. Thomas, 8, Highbury Crescent. There was a large attendance. Mrs. Fenwick Miller presided, and Miss Tod, Miss Mills, Miss Balfour, and Mrs. Glover delivered addresses.

UPPER WOBURN PLACE.

A drawing-room meeting was held, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Capel, at 16, Upper Woburn Place, W.C., on Saturday, Feb. 21st. The chair was taken by Miss C. A. Biggs. The first resolution, which was most ably moved by Mr. Clayton, was: "That as the function of government tends increasingly to control the details of private as well as public life, thereby influencing education, industry, morality, and sobriety, it becomes the duty of women as Christians and citizens to exercise those votes which they already possess, and to claim the extension of the franchise in order to maintain a due influence on social and political action." This was seconded by Mrs. Brine, of Teignmouth, and supported by Miss Müller, M.L.S.B. The second resolution, in support of Mr. Woodall's Bill, was moved by Miss Lidgett, poor-law guardian for St. Pancras, and seconded by Mr. Percy Bunting. A cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. Capel concluded the proceedings.

SLOANE STREET.

A drawing-room meeting was held on February 21st, at 68, Sloane-street, S.W., by invitation of Drs. Julia and Kate Mitchell. Mrs. Bright Lucas presided, and, in opening the proceedings, drew attention to the great progress that had been made in matters affecting the employment, education, and property of women as more or less directly resulting from the women's suffrage agitation. Miss Tod (Belfast) moved the first resolution, which was: "That this meeting pledges itself to aid by every means in its power the Bill now brought before Parliament by Mr. Woodall, to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, and especially desires to make known the great meeting to be held in St. James's Hall on February 24th, in support of that measure." Dr. Mary Jane Hall seconded the resolution. An amendment was put by Mrs. Perrier to the effect that all duly qualified women should be allowed to vote, and that therefore married women ought not to be excluded. They were now excluded by the wording of the petition as she understood. She would support Mr. Woodall's Bill provided all duly qualified women were included. The amendment was seconded by a young lady. Miss Tod having remarked that the House of Commons was not ready to pass such a comprehensive measure as that suggested, the first resolution was passed with three dissentients. Dr. Janet Rushbrook moved the second resolution, which was "that in the opinion of this meeting taxation without representation is false in principle and unjust in practice, and that the thanks of this meeting are especially due to Miss Müller, M.L.S.B., and to those ladies who have had the courage to resist the payment of their taxes, and that every support should be given to them in their past and future action in this matter, and to any other ladies wishing to follow their example." Mrs. Florence Fenwick Miller, M.L.S.B., seconded the resolution. She gave her reasons, as a married woman claiming the franchise, for supporting Mr. Woodall's Bill as it now stood. She accepted it as a first instalment of justice. The second resolution was carried unanimously. Mrs. Lucas, after saying a few words in favour of women resisting the payment of taxes until they possessed the right to vote, and intimating her probable intention, should the Bill not pass this session, of doing likewise, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Lucas and to Drs. Julia and Kate Mitchell. Memorials to both Houses were adopted.

MR. J. P. THOMASSON, M.P., AT BOLTON.

On February 16, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, M.P., attended a meeting of Church Ward electors in the new club premises in the ward. Referring to the question of women suffrage, he said he saw a statement made by Mr. Gladstone that he thought women ought to vote by proxy. It was a funny idea for a man of Mr. Gladstone's experience and knowledge of affairs, and after women had already voted for school boards and town councils, to say that they ought to vote by proxy for members of Parliament. Some people also professed to be very much afraid lest married women should be allowed to vote. (Laughter.) Well, he was not afraid himself, but it might be urged with some force that one vote was enough for one household, but he did not care whether the man or the woman voted. As for voting by proxy, he did see why a sailor or others going abroad should not have their wife's name inserted on the register instead of their own. He was sure Mr. Chamberlain would receive the support of all sailors' wives for his Bill. (Applause.)

MR. W. B. M'LAREN ON WOMEN CROFTERS.

At a meeting at Lairg, County Sutherland, on February 18th, relating to land law reform, Mr. W. S. Bright M'Laren, the proposed Liberal candidate for one of the divisions of Glasgow, said: "The present Franchise Act did not, however, give the crofters their full voting power. He was informed on the best authority that fully 40 per cent of the crofts were held by women, who, of course, had now no Parliamentary vote. This reduced the crofters' voting power enormously, and was besides grossly unjust to the women crofters, most of them widows. They were the class above all others who were weakest and most needed the protection and power of a vote, and he earnestly hoped the crofters would take up the matter and urge their present members to support the Bill for giving women ratepayers votes." (Applause.)

COMPARATIVE NUMBERS OF WOMEN AND MEN ON MUNICIPAL REGISTERS.

RETURN of Municipal Boroughs containing a Population of 10,000 and upwards not returning Members to Parliament, showing the Population, Number of Inhabited Houses; Number of Persons on the Burgess Rolls, distinguishing Men from Women; and the Proportion of Women to Men on the Burgess Rolls, arranged in the order of the degree of such proportion, beginning with those places which contain the greatest proportion of women electors.

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH.	Census, 1881.		Number of Persons on the Burgess Roll.		Proportion of Women to Men on the Burgess Roll.
	Population.	Inhabited Houses.	Men.	Women.	
Southport	32,206	5,872	3,534	1,357	1 to 2.6
Blackpool.....	14,229	2,952	2,424	847	1 to 2.8
Margate	16,030	2,837	1,882	575	1 to 3.2
Leamington	22,979	4,563	3,055	903	1 to 3.3
Louth	10,691	2,516	1,756	519	1 to 3.3
Ryde	11,461	2,330	1,534	423	1 to 3.6
Newbury (Berks.)	10,144	2,172	1,429	391	1 to 3.6
Penzance	12,409	2,284	1,351	362	1 to 3.7
Congleton	11,116	2,503	1,946	513	1 to 3.7
Glossop	19,574	4,108	3,121	735	1 to 4.2
Chorley	19,478	3,812	3,125	683	1 to 4.5
Hyde	28,630	6,037	4,521	989	1 to 4.5
Heywood.....	22,979	4,962	3,174	678	1 to 4.6
Lancaster.....	20,663	3,621	2,561	544	1 to 4.7
Over Darwen	29,744	5,983	4,473	930	1 to 4.8
Kingston-on-Thames.....	20,648	3,692	1,299	255	1 to 5
Chesterfield.....	12,221	2,316	1,871	363	1 to 5
St. Albans	10,931	2,222	1,697	339	1 to 5
Doncaster	21,139	4,513	3,185	623	1 to 5
Accrington	31,435	6,397	5,667	1,085	1 to 5.2
Keighley	25,247	5,250	3,664	687	1 to 5.3
Bacup	25,034	5,278	3,325	583	1 to 5.7
Great Yarmouth.....	46,159	10,104	6,511	1,104	1 to 5.8
Reigate	18,662	3,196	2,428	410	1 to 5.9
Luton	23,960	4,597	4,112	678	1 to 6
Beverley	11,425	2,609	1,889	295	1 to 6.4
Barnsley	29,790	5,954	5,012	651	1 to 7.6
Bridgewater	12,007	2,423	1,734	219	1 to 7.9
St. Helens	57,403	10,007	9,049	1,025	1 to 8.8
Bootle	27,374	4,309	2,685	299	1 to 8.9
Rotherham	34,782	6,720	6,160	683	1 to 9.0
Croydon	78,953	13,776	11,306	1,025	1 to 11
Burton-upon-Trent	39,288	7,291	6,260	559	1 to 11.1
Crewe	24,385	4,588	4,128	351	1 to 11.7
Jarrow	25,469	3,397	4,310	286	1 to 15
Barrow-in-Furness.....	47,100	6,762	6,235	397	1 to 15.7

The above figures, with the exception of the column headed "Proportion of Women and Men Electors," are taken from a return ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 20th August, 1883.

Obituary.

MISS KATHERINE HILL.—We record with much regret the death at Rome of Miss Katherine Hill. The deceased lady had been a member of the Central Committee since its establishment, and she and all her family were warmly in favour of the franchise for women. She was a daughter of Mr. Edwin Hill, and niece of Mr. Matthew Davenport Hill and Sir Rowland Hill.

MR. CHARLES ANTHONY.—We regret to record the death, in his 81st year, of Mr. Charles Anthony, the proprietor and editor of the *Hereford Times*. Mr. Anthony was the author of an able treatise, "The Social and Political Dependence of Women," published anonymously by Mr. Longman, in 1867, which attracted much attention and did good service. Mr. Anthony advocated the enfranchisement of women in the *Hereford Times*, and was connected with the society from the beginning of the movement.

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, FEBRUARY 20, 1885.

"Victor"	£100 0 0	Mr. Richard Thompson	£0 10 0
Mrs. C. M'Laren (from Special Fund)	10 0 0	Mr. Alfred Spence	0 10 0
Mrs. Barton Wright	1 2 6	Mr. Thomas Parker	0 5 0
Miss Saxton	1 1 0	Mr. William Empson	0 5 0
Miss Ryley	1 1 0	Mrs. H. M. Stephenson	0 5 0
Princess Mele Baresse	1 1 0	Mrs. J. Rotherford	0 5 0
Mr. J. A. Jacoby	1 1 0	Mrs. Worthington	0 5 0
Mrs. Jesse Haworth	1 1 0	Mr. J. Proctor	0 5 0
Miss Jaffrey	1 0 0	Miss Sophia Wilkinson	0 5 0
Mrs. James Eccles	0 10 6	Mrs. Fielden Thorp	0 5 0
Mr. G. B. Dalby	0 10 0	Mrs. Glaisyer	0 5 0
Mr. R. P. Hewitt	0 10 0	Mr. J. Hill	0 5 0
Mrs. W. H. White	0 5 0	Mrs. Edmund Clarke	0 2 6
Miss Pilcher	0 5 0	Mrs. H. Leatham	0 2 6
Mr. A. W. Pollard	0 5 0	Mr. H. M. Cross	0 2 6
Mrs. Belben	0 5 0	Mrs. Morrell	0 2 6
Mrs. Howell	0 3 0	Miss Mawson	0 1 6
Mrs. Stanton (Hyde)	0 2 6	Mrs. Jesper	0 1 0
Mrs. A. Sidway (Hyde)	0 1 6	LEADS (CONTINUED).	
Mrs. Green	0 1 6	Miss Carrie Walker	1 0 0
York.		Mr. Geo. Tatham	1 0 0
Mrs. E. W. Smithson	5 0 0	Mrs. Geo. Stead	0 10 0
Mrs. Gibb	2 0 0	Mrs. H. Ellis	0 1 6
Mrs. H. Richardson	1 1 0	Mrs. Evan Jones	0 1 6
Mrs. Mason	1 0 0	Mrs. Williams	0 1 6
Mr. Burt Jones	1 0 0	Miss Ash	0 1 6
Mr. Edward Hill	0 10 0	Miss Wilcock	0 1 6
Mr. E. T. Wilkinson	0 10 0		
Miss Anna M. Wilkinson	0 10 0		£18 19 0

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 23, JACKSON'S ROW, MANCHESTER.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM JAN. 23RD TO FEB. 28TH, 1885.

Contribution from Suffrage Ball	£135 9 9	Mrs. Beppard	£1 0 0
Mr. G. W. Stevenson	5 5 0	Miss Charlotte Lowe	0 7 6
Mrs. Ashton Dilke	5 0 0	"Z"	0 5 0
Miss Boddy	2 0 0	Miss Frances Sterling	0 5 0
Mrs. Menzies	1 2 6	Miss Blanche Hanbury	0 5 0
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tebb	1 1 6	Mrs. Ch. Daniel	0 5 0
Mrs. Slous	1 1 0	Miss Turla	0 2 6
Mr. A. W. Bennett	1 1 0	Miss S. A. Turle	0 2 6
Miss Von Wolfsked	1 1 0	Miss Polley	0 2 6
Mr. Owen Roberts	1 1 0	Miss Lewin	0 2 0
Mrs. R. C. Jones	1 1 0	Mrs. Hodgson	0 2 0
Mr. E. H. Smith	1 0 0	Mrs. Barretto	0 2 0
Viscountess Harberton	1 0 0		£161 5 9

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 29, PARLIAMENT-STREET, S.W.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FUND OF £5,000.

Mrs. Fawcett

LAURA M'LAREN, Treasurer, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM JAN. 22 TO FEB. 21, 1885.

Mr. Mills Baker	£5 0 0	Miss Waite	£0 1 6
Mr. R. Brewin (2 years)	2 10 6	BRIDPORT.	
Two Friends	1 10 0	Mr. R. L. Carpenter	15 0 0
Rev. T. E. Brown	1 0 0	Mrs. Colfox	0 10 0
Mrs. De l'Hoste (Portishead)	1 0 0	Mrs. W. Colfox	0 10 0
Miss Mylne	1 0 0	Mrs. Moulton	0 10 0
Mrs. Yardley	1 0 0	Miss Wansey	0 10 0
Mrs. May	0 10 0	Mrs. Rendall	0 7 6
Miss Bradley	0 5 0	Miss Gibson	0 5 0
Miss March-Phillips (Cheltenham)	0 5 0	Mrs. Reynolds	0 5 0
Mrs. Southall (Leominster)	0 5 0	Miss G. Stephens	0 2 6
Mrs. Cooper	0 2 6	Mrs. Bain	0 2 6
Miss Cooper	0 2 6	Mrs. Davies	0 2 6
Miss Amy Cooper	0 2 6	Mrs. Reid	0 2 6
Miss Rowland (Fishguard)	0 2 6	Mrs. Suttill	0 2 6
Miss Rowe (Plymouth)	0 2 0		£33 11 6

ALICE GRENFELL, TREASURER, 24, COLLEGE ROAD, CLIFTON. Office: 20, Park-street, Bristol.

PLYMOUTH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

Contributions towards the expenses of the recent meeting:—

John Bailey, Esq.	£2 0 0	Misses Bragg	£1 0 0
P. S. Maciver, Esq., M.P.	0 0 0	Miss Rooker	0 10 0
C. Radford, Esq.	1 1 0	Mr. F. P. Balkwill	0 5 0
Langdon H. Price, Esq.	0 10 6		
W. Collier, Esq.	1 0 0		
R. Reynolds Fox, Esq.	0 10 6		£7 17 0

MISS LATIMER, Hon. Sec.

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Your Name or Initials Embroidered on our Fine Cambric Tape in Turkey Red, which can be sewn on to any article of dress requiring to be marked.

Can be ordered of HOSIERS and DRAPERS everywhere. Samples and Descriptive Circulars free by post of
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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SORE THROATS CURED.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">EASY TEETHING.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SAFE TEETHING.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">BRONCHITIS CURED.</p>
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