

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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### MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The whole principle on which the Marriage Law of this land is based is involved in the acceptance or rejection of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. In all countries where the Marriage Law differs from our own in this particular it differs in others, not generally acceptable even to Marriage Law reformers, permitting marriage not only with a husband's brother, or a man and his stepdaughter, but between such near blood relations as uncle and niece. THOSE WHO DO NOT DESIRE TO SEE THESE CHANGES SHOULD DO THEIR UTMOST TO MAINTAIN THE LAW AS IT IS.

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### MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Marriage with a deceased wife's sister is permitted by every Christian State in the world, England allowing it in her Colonies.

None of these States desires to re-impose the restriction maintained in the United Kingdom. The people would in no instance consent to such a reversal of the law.

The House of Commons has seven times, by large majorities, passed a Bill through all its stages with the object of legalising marriages of this kind in England.

A considerable majority of the 670 members in the present Conservative House have either voted for such a change or expressed their strong sympathy with it.

The number of living Peers who have at any time supported the Bill much exceeds the number of those who have opposed it.

An alteration of the law is advocated in the interests of young children, and, on high moral and philanthropic grounds, an earnest appeal is made to mothers in every section of society for their co-operation in this work.

MARRIAGE LAW REFORM ASSOCIATION, 21, PARLIAMENT-STREET, S.W.

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position changed? *Prima facie*, the money is still hers. The amount has nothing to do with the case. Why should I assume that the money is her husband's? It was not deposited from time to time, and there is some evidence that some of her relations used to give her money. There is absolutely nothing to show that she was not absolutely entitled to the money. It could not even have been withdrawn without her consent, and she drew the interest." Judgment was given against the representatives of the husband, and the money allotted to the executors of the wife's will.

THE strike of the match girls in Messrs. BRYANT and MAY's factory has had a happy termination. The girls have obtained the redress of the grievances of which they complained, and the employers have met their demands with a good grace. A trades union has been formed under the title of the Matchmakers' Union, which affords to its members the usual advantages of such societies, and by the agency of which matters of difference may be adjusted in future without resorting to a strike.

For an unorganised body of workwomen the match girls appear to have exercised a remarkable influence on public opinion. They have ere now upset a budget and disconcerted a Chancellor of the Exchequer, and they have in the recent controversy been able to enlist in their support the powerful trades council of men which has intervened so successfully in their behalf.

MEMORIAL TO MR. W. H. SMITH.

The following memorial to the First Lord of the Treasury has been signed by 169 members of the House of Commons, and was presented on July 13th:—

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE W. H. SMITH, M.P., FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.

We, the undersigned members of the House of Commons, who are favourable to the principle of women's suffrage, desire to bring to your notice the circumstances under which the opportunity for moving the second reading of the Bill on June 6th was lost.

The place obtained in the ballot was second order, but the first order, if not actually withdrawn, would have probably occupied but a very short time, so that the supporters of this Bill had every reason to hope that they would have been able to discuss the question and take a division.

This was frustrated by the operation of the new rules, under which five Bills took precedence, a circumstance which could not possibly have been foreseen by Baron Dimsdale when he fixed the second reading for 6th of June.

There is a clear majority of members in favour of the principle of the Bill, no fewer than 350 having at various times so expressed themselves.

For these reasons, amongst others, we respectfully urge the Government to provide a day during the present session for moving of the second reading and taking a division.

The memorial was signed by the following members:—

ABRAHAM, W. (Rhondda) ABRAHAM, W. (Limerick)

AGG-GARDNER, J. (Cheltenham)  
AINSLIE, WILLIAM G. (Lancashire N., Lonsdale)  
ANSTRUTHER, Col. R. LLOYD (Suffolk, Woodbridge)  
AUSTIN, JOHN (York W.R., Osgoldcross)  
BANES, Major G. E. (West Ham, South)  
BASS, HAMAR (Staffs., W.)  
BECTIVE, Earl of (Westmorland, Kendal)  
BIGGAR, J. G. (Cavan, W.)  
BIRKBECK, Sir E., Bt. (Norfolk, E.)  
BORTHWICK, Sir G. (Kensington, S.)  
BRADLAUGH, C. (Northampton)  
BRIGHT, JACOB (M'chester, S.W.)  
BROWN, ALEXANDER L. (Hawick, &c.)  
CAINE, W. S. (Barrow) (Glasgow College)  
CAMERON, CHAS. (Glasgow College)  
CAMERON, J. M'DONALD (Wick, &c.)  
CAREW, J. L. (Kildare, N.)  
CHARRINGTON, SPENCER (Tower Hamlets, Mile End)  
CLANCY, J. J. (Dublin Co.)  
CLARK, J. B. (Caithness)  
COBB, HENRY P. (Warwick, S.E.)  
COLERIDGE, B. (Sheffield, Attercliffe)  
CONYBEARE, C. V. (Cornwall, Cambourne)  
COTTON, Capt. E. T. D. (Cheshire, Wirral)  
COURTNEY, LEONARD (Cornwall, Bodmin)  
CRAVEN, JOSEPH (York W.R., Shipley)  
CRAWFORD, W. (Durham, Mid)  
CROSSLEY, EDWARD (York W.R., Sowerby)  
CROSSMAN, Gen. Sir W. (Portsmouth)  
DEASY, JOHN (Mayo, W.)  
DE COBAIN, EDWARD S. W. (Belfast, E.)  
DICKSON, Major R. G. (Dover)  
DICKSON, THOMAS A. (Dublin, St. Stephen's Green)  
DILLWYN, L. L. (Swansea)  
DIMSDALE, Baron R. (Herts., Hitchin)  
DIXON-HARTLAND, F. D. (Middlesex, Uxbridge)  
DONKIN, R. S. (Tynemouth)  
DORINGTON, Sir J. E., Bart. (Gloucester, Tewkesbury)  
DUGDALE, J. S. (Warwicksh., Nuneaton)  
DUNCAN, Col. F. (Finsbury, Holborn)  
DUNCOMBE, ARTHUR (York, E.R., Howdenshire)  
ELLIS, JOHN E. (Notts, Rushcliffe)  
ELLIS, THOS. E. (Merioneth)  
EVANS, FRANK H. (Southampton)  
EYRE, Col. HENRY (Linc., Gainsborough)  
FARQUHARSON, R. (Aberdeenshire, W.)  
FENWICK, CHAS. (Northum., Wansbeck)

FIRTH, J. F. B. (Dundee)  
FITZGERALD, R. U. PENROSE (Cambridge)  
FITZWYGRAM, Gen. Sir F. W. (Hants, Fareham)  
FLYNN, J. C. (Cork N.)  
FOLEY, P. JAMES (Galway, Connemara)  
FOWLER, Sir R. N., Bt. (London)  
FRASER, Lieut.-Gen. CRAUFORD (Lambeth, N.)  
FRY, LEWIS (Bristol, N.)  
FRY, THEODORE (Darlington)  
GEDGE, SYDNEY (Stockport)  
GENT-DAVIS, R. (Lambeth, Kennington)  
GILHOOLY, JAS. (Cork, W.)  
GLADSTONE, HERBERT (Leeds, West)  
GOURLEY, E. T. (Sunderland)  
GRAHAM, R. CUNNINGHAM (Lanark, N.-West)  
GROTRIAN, FRED. B. (Hull, East)  
HANBURY-TRACY, Hon. F. (Montgomery, M.)  
HAYNE, CHAS. SEALE (Devon, Ashburton)  
HEALY, M. (Cork)  
HEATH, ARTHUR R. (Lincoln, Louth)  
HEATHCOTE, J. H. EDWARDS- (Staffordshire, N.)  
HILL, A. STAVELEY, Q.C. (Staffs., Kingswinford)  
HINGLEY, B. (Worcestershire, N.)  
HOULDSWORTH, Sir W. H., Bt. (Manchester, Central)  
HOWORTH, HENRY H. (Salford, S.)  
HOZIER, J. (Lanarksh., S.)  
HUGHES, EDWIN (Woolwich)  
HUNTER, Sir W. GUYER (Hackney, Central)  
ILLINGWORTH, ALFRED (Bradford, W.)  
ISAACS, LEWIS HY. (Newington, Walworth)  
JACOBY, J. A. (Derbyshire, Mid)  
JOHNSTON, W. (Belfast, S.)  
JORDAN, J. (Clare, W.)  
KIMBER, H. (Wandsworth)  
LAFONE, ALFRED (Southwark, Bermondsey)  
LANE, W. J. (Cork Co.)  
LAURIE, Col. R. P. (Bath)  
LAWSON, H. L. W. (St. Pancras, W.)  
LAWSON, Sir W., Bt. (Cumb., Cockermouth)  
LEAHY, JAS. (Kildare, S.)  
LEAKE, R. (Lanc. S.E., Radcliffe)  
LECHMERE, Sir E. (Worcestersh., Bewdley)  
LETHBRIDGE, Sir R. (Kensington, N.)  
LEWIS, Sir CHAS. (Antrim, N.)  
LEWIS, THOMAS (Anglesey)  
LOCKWOOD, FRANK (York)  
LOWTHER, Hon. W. (Westmorland, Appleby)  
M'ARTHUR, ALEX. (Leicester)  
M'ARTHUR, W. A. (Cornwall, St. Austell)  
M'CARNEY, JUSTIN (Londonderry City)  
MAHONEY, PIERCE (Meath, N.)

MACINTOSH, C. FRASER (Inverness-shire)  
M'KENNA, Sir J. (Monaghan, S.)  
M'LAGAN, PETER (Linlithgowsh.)  
M'LAREN, W. S. B. (Cheshire, Crewe)  
MACLURE, J. W. (Lanc., Strtford)  
MACNEILL, J. G. SWIFT (Donegal, South)  
MALLOCK, RICHARD (Devon, Torquay)  
MATTINSON, MILES (Liverpool, Walton)  
MONTAGU, S. (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel)  
MORGAN, O. V. (Battersea)  
MURDOCH, C. T. (Reading)  
MURPHY, W. M. (Dublin, St. Patrick)  
NORTON, R. (Kent, Tunbridge)  
O'BRIEN, WM. (Cork Co., N.E.)  
PEARCE, Sir W., Bt. (Lanark, Govan)  
PICKERSGILL, E. H. (Bethnal Green, S.W.)  
PLOWDEN, Sir W. (Wolverhampton, West)  
PLUNKETT, J. W. (Gloucestershire, Thornbury)  
POMFRET, W. POMFRET (Kent, Ashford)  
POWELL, W. H. (Carmarthen, West)  
PRICE, GEO. E. (Devonport)  
PRICE, T. P. (Monmouth, N.)  
PULESTON, Sir J. H. (Devonport)  
RASCH, Major (Essex, S.E.)  
RANDELL, D. (Glamorgan, Gower)  
RANKIN, JAMES (Herefordshire, Leominster)  
REDMOND, WILLIAM (Fermanagh, N.)  
REED, H. BYRON (Bradford, East)  
RICHARD, HENRY (Merthyr Tydvil)  
ROBERTS JOHN (Flint, &c.)  
ROE, THOS. (Derby)  
ROLLIT, Sir A. K. (Islington, S.)  
ROSCOE, Sir H. E. (M'chester, S.)  
ROSS, ALEX. H. (Maidstone)  
ROUND, JAS. (Essex, Harwich)

ROWNTREE, JOSHUA (Scarborough)  
RUSSELL, Sir GEO., Bt. (Berks, Wokingham)  
RUSSELL, T. W. (Tyrone, S.)  
SCHWANN, CHAS. E. (Manchester, N.)  
SETON-KARR, H. (St. Helens)  
SHAW, THOS. S. (Halifax)  
SIMON, Sir J. (Dewsbury)  
SLAGG, JOHN (Burnley)  
SPENCER, ERNEST (West Bromwich)  
STANSFELD, Rt. Hon. J. (Halifax)  
STEPHENS, HENRY C. (Middlesex, Hornsey)  
STUART, JAS. (Shoreditch, Hoxton)  
SULLIVAN, DONAL (Westmeath, S.)  
SULLIVAN, T. D. (Dublin, College Green)  
SUMMERS, W. (Huddersfield)  
SUTHERLAND, ANGUS (Sutherland)  
SWETENHAM, EDMUND (Carnarvon, &c.)  
SWINBURNE, Sir J., Bt. (Staffsh., Lichfield)  
TAPLING, T. K. (Leicestersh., Harborough)  
TANNER, C. K. D. (Cork, Mid)  
TEMPLE, Sir R., Bt. (Worcestersh., Evesham)  
THOMAS, ALFRED (Glamorgan, E.)  
THOMAS, DAVID A. (Merthyr Tydvil)  
THORNBURN, W. (Peebles and Selkirk)  
TUIE, JAMES (Westmeath, N.)  
WATKIN, Sir E., Bt. (Hythe)  
WAYMAN, THOS. (York W.R., Elland)  
WILLIAMS, A. G. (Glamorgan, S.)  
WILSON, CHAS. H. (West Hull)  
WILSON, H. J. (Holmfirth)  
WOODALL, W. (Hanley)  
WRIGHT, CALFEB (Lanc., Leigh)  
WRIGHT, H. S. (Nottingham, S.)  
YERBURGH, R. (Chester)

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The annual general meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held on Tuesday afternoon, July 17th, at the Westminster Town Hall, Mr. WILLIAM WOODALL, M.P., presiding. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, which included General Sir F. FitzWygram, M.P., Mr. Byron Reed, M.P., Mr. R. B. Haldane, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Joshua Rowntree, M.P., Mr. Walter S. B. M'Laren, M.P., Mrs. L. Jacobs, the Rev. R. Baggiani, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Jane Cobden, Miss Becker, Mrs. Sharman-Crawford, the Misses Davenport Hill, Mrs. Garrett-Anderson, Mrs. Charles, Miss Arabella Shore, Miss Lucy Wilson, Mrs. Frank Morrison (treasurer), and Miss Florence Baggiani (secretary).

Miss FLORENCE BALTHAM (secretary) stated that she had received several letters from ladies and gentlemen who, from various reasons, were unable to be present that afternoon. They were Viscount Wolmer, M.P., Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Mr. Charles M'Laren, Mr. Frank H. Evans, M.P., Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, M.P., Captain Edwards Heathcote, M.P., and Colonel Duncan, M.P. Baron Dimsdale had also written. He said

he was detained in the House of Commons by clauses in the Local Government Bill, but he would endeavour to be present at that meeting if it were only for a few minutes.

The report and balance sheet of the executive committee for 1887-8, which had been printed, were taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, said although the report which had been freely circulated was taken as read, the references which it contained would naturally constitute the topics of the speeches which would be addressed to them in the course of the afternoon. In the few words which he had to say to the meeting he should not attempt to occupy their time by offering any arguments to such an audience in favour of women's suffrage. He should indeed despair of finding anything which, to them at any rate, would be new on the subject. There were still opponents of the measure, but they were not quite so easy to find as was the case once upon a time. Those opponents did not help them very much by raising objections which they could meet with arguments. On the other hand, there were constantly recurring evidences of the wrong which was being done by the exclusion of women from what they regarded as their just rights as citizens. They were constantly reminded of the anomalous condition of things against which they were contending. The poorest peasant, who in the hour of weakness was dependent upon the poor law for his relief, was not on that account thought to be other than a "capable citizen." The police, who had to guard the ballot boxes and the approaches to them, and to maintain a severely non-political frame of mind, had also had their disabilities removed, while the great army of civil servants had been enfranchised to an extent which enabled them to realise constantly how large a political force they were able to bring to bear in furtherance of their own special interests. Still, those who were qualified as landholders, as local leaders, as occupiers, as taxpayers, as ratepayers, were merely on the ground of sex yet kept outside the pale of the constitution. He had said he thought they were right in claiming that the battle of argument in this matter was won. Not only so, but in counting heads in the House of Commons they were able to claim an assured majority. In the last Parliament, they would remember, the second reading of the Bill entrusted to his hands was carried under circumstances of great significance by a very decisive majority. Why then, they might ask, were they met there year by year apparently no nearer to the goal, but still with their hope deferred, though, he was happy to say, without any evidence of sickness at heart? (Hear, hear.) Well, the answer to this would be readily present to their minds. They had abundant evidences, not only in regard to their own particular measure, but in regard to almost every scheme of legislation which was in the hands of private members, of the difficulty of getting them passed into law. Time was when a private member of the House of Commons was able to enrich the statute book by many measures in the course of his political life—the result of his own individual energy. Now not only did it require an amount of almost preternatural acuteness and knowledge of Parliamentary business, but it also required some very exceptional stroke of luck to enable a non-official member to carry any project in the House of Commons. He had only to call their attention to many other measures upon which there was an assumed majority—Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, the Sunday Closing Bill, and measures of that kind as to which there were decisive majorities—in order to show them that those projects of legislation were no nearer accomplishment than was women's suffrage. So it came about, session by session, after doing what could be done to obtain a favourable day, they were obliged to recognise the fact that without the assistance of the Government there was no hope of achieving their object. Some of them thought they fared rather ill at the hands of the Liberal Government. A Conservative Government had had its opportunity now, and yet they were no better off. They prepared and signed influential memorials, in which they asked the leader of the House of Commons to give them the opportunity of bringing their measure to the test of a second reading, and they had not even been as fortunate as were the supporters of Sunday closing; they had not been able to procure a day, a period, for second reading, and so they had to look forward to another session, because they could readily imagine all hope of making further progress this year was now abandoned. The Bills which Baron Dimsdale and his (the chairman's) friend, Mr. Walter M'Laren, had charge of this year were only awaiting the

stage of being discharged. Hence they would see that the work of influencing public opinion to the point of exercising greater energy upon their representatives in Parliament and, through those representatives, upon the Government of the day was more and more necessary; and hence the urgency and importance of sustaining the society in whose behalf they met that day with evidences of personal interest, and with that which it sorely needed—larger funds. The report related how much active work had been undertaken and accomplished during the past year: public meetings in all parts of the country, and the distribution of literature which had contributed very largely indeed to the extension of intelligent and sound opinion upon the subject. Lectures had also been given to political associations and clubs of both parties, and all this, as they were aware, cost money. The society had had to draw upon its reserves until now, he was afraid, it had no further reserves to draw upon, and it had an adverse balance then to meet. In addressing such an audience as that, he felt it was unnecessary for him to enlarge upon these points. They did not require to be informed in what way they could best contribute to the accomplishment of the end they had in view, and how to put their hand to the work in order to have it done. (Applause.) He had great pleasure in moving: "That this meeting adopt the report and statement of accounts, and direct that they be circulated."

Mr. JOSHUA ROWNTREE, M.P., in seconding the motion, said that in a certain town in Yorkshire (Scarborough), which had been poorer since it was robbed of their secretary (Miss Balfour), he had sometimes heard a couplet to this effect:—

What the good man says, so say we;  
But what the good woman says, so we mon dee.

(Laughter.) He thought that was the best excuse some of them could make for being absent from their Parliamentary duties that afternoon for a short time. He had much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report. If it were no record of any great victory, which came to them but seldom in life, it was surely a record of real and substantial progress and of much solid and careful work; and, after all, though the suffrage itself might rightly be said to be the end of that society and its organisation, he supposed almost all of them viewed even the suffrage not as an end itself, but simply as a means to greater ends which they believed would be beneficial to their country at large. An argument mentioned as being to be drawn from the Local Government Bill, at present before the House of Commons, might well, he thought, be pushed even further than it had been in the society's report. Let them take, for instance, two of the questions which had occupied many evenings of the time of the House of Commons, recognised to be of very great importance. They had had it stated in the Local Government Bill that the licensing question, in almost all its bearings, was a fit subject for the decision of the people in their different counties, and the people who were to give their decision upon it included the women householders now upon the register of the different municipalities. The only alternative to that was this: that these questions—one of the leading ones being the question of Sunday closing—should be referred back to the Imperial Legislature. But surely if the women householders in their towns were competent and suitable persons to give their decision through the mouth of the county council, how could it be suggested that they were not suitable and competent to give their voice through the House of Commons sitting at Westminster? (Hear, hear.) And he could scarcely imagine there was anyone in this country who could suggest or wish to suggest that the voice of the women should not be heard upon this and cognate questions. Let them take another question which occupied, and rightly occupied, a large share of attention, and that was the question of pauperism with its accidental advantages and disadvantages of outdoor and indoor relief. He thought almost everyone who had looked carefully into this matter would say that the opinion of many numbers of women up and down this land would be far more valuable on this question than the opinions of a vast number of men. He unhesitatingly said that for very many years the town of which he was a native had done no better thing for itself than by sending two women to its Board of Guardians. That was now generally recognised by the very men who were strongly opposed to this innovation four years ago. These social questions were pressing forward. He felt that they had the forces of time on their side which must lead that

society to victory ere long. They knew perfectly well that for a long time back this proposition had met with the universal agreement of all mankind; that women were fully and absolutely entitled to share with men all the common tasks and daily round of every-day life, whatever drudgery and dreariness accompanied it, and happily now it was also universally admitted that women should also share in the highest intellectual pursuits and enjoyments of the age. Social and philanthropic questions—questions affecting the well-being of the community—needed the thought and help which women could alone give them, as much as they needed the thought and aid of men. He happened to belong to a small society—the Society of Friends—in which the education of girls was substantially the same as that given to boys, and in which the responsibilities of the public life of the society were held to be equally resting upon the women as upon the men. Whatever might be the demerits of the Society of Friends, it could not be said of them that there had been any lack on the part of the womanhood of that society, any shortcomings in the happiness of the homes of that society, and in all that made home a blessed and happy institution to them. He felt confident that the complete enfranchisement of women would be for the welfare of the whole community, and he believed that the entire country would gain by the fulfilment of the object which that society was now doing its best to promote. (Applause.)

Mrs. FAWCETT, who supported the motion, said she knew it was very easy on such occasions as that to speak only in terms of congratulation, and to dwell more especially upon the points upon which they had reason to congratulate themselves. Those points had already been alluded to by their chairman, who had reminded them of the Local Government Act and the Municipal Electors' Act, and also of the assured majority which they believed they had in the House of Commons. But, notwithstanding all these satisfactory evidences of their situation, she could not help feeling a sense of discouragement and disappointment that this session had passed without any move being made in the House of Commons to get an expression of opinion upon the question of women's suffrage. She knew very well there was no one to blame in this matter, for the difficulties were indeed very great, as the chairman had said, for a private member to make way, yet it was exceedingly disappointing when they saw a measure as great and as important as that which they were then met to advocate, supported as it was, she thought, almost unanimously by the good sense and the common sense of the country, unable to make any way in Parliament. She earnestly urged their Parliamentary friends when the next session came, if they felt it was impossible to get a day for second reading, to raise the question in another form so as to obtain an expression of opinion upon it. She thought if such an expression of opinion could be taken and the Government of the day be shown that there was in the present Parliament a substantial majority in favour of women's suffrage, they would then have a much stronger position than they now held for approaching the Government, and asking them to grant facilities for the further progress of the question. It seemed to her that their present position was very much like that of the poor man waiting at the edge of the Pool of Bethesda. Some one stepped down before them and took their place, and no angel descended to trouble the waters for them. (Laughter.) She considered that among the new satisfactory elements of the situation none was more satisfactory than the formation all over the country of women's political associations, not only belonging to one party, but embracing all the principal parties in the state. She thought that these associations would do good in removing any factious opposition such as they had met with in Parliament in recent years. A machine, besides requiring motive power to work it, required also to be well oiled to work easily, and she thought women's political associations would apply the oil needed to facilitate their movement. Having regard to these associations, she believed that members of Parliament who were disposed to be unfriendly would think once, twice, or thrice before they rushed into the fight and proclaimed themselves opponents of women's suffrage. It was for them to see if they could not apply the motive power needed, and thus get the well-oiled Parliamentary machine set to work. If they looked at other aspects of the question, so far as the material of the question was concerned she thought they had no lack of that in one way or the other. Neither in the way of women's rights or wrongs was there any lack of subject. Referring first to the more painful part of the subject—that of women's

wrongs—they who had been working so long in this question needed not to be reminded of a case which had lately appeared in the papers, where a lady of exalted rank, Queen Nathalie of Servia, had had her child taken from her, almost by force, at the will of the father who had proved himself a faithless husband, and a dissolute man. This case was not needed to remind women, not only in this country, but all over Europe, of the fact that they had not yet succeeded in gaining for themselves that fundamental right of guardianship by the mother of the children to whom she had given birth. On the question of women's rights there was no lack of subject on which to dilate. She mentioned the remarkable case in which a young Hindoo lady had so distinguished herself in University examinations that she had been appointed tutor in the college at Hyderabad, and this in a country where the elementary education even of little girls was not entrusted to women. So strong were the anomalies they saw in these old countries of the attempt to put new wine into old bottles. Mr. Rowntree had spoken of the effect and satisfactory results gained by the work of women upon Poor Law Guardian Boards. She met a lady in the country who was active in this kind of work, and she told her that they had not now got one little girl left in their union workhouse. They had, she said, so well organised the care of their pauper children that they had succeeded in completely emptying the union workhouse of them. Mrs. Fawcett thought nothing could speak better for the work of women in regard to pauper girls than such an accomplishment as that. Another good piece of work in which she was glad to see a woman had had a hand was the abolition of the institution of slavery in the Empire of Brazil. The agitation for the abolition of slavery, from the time it was first started, was one in which women had taken a famous and leading part. Not much more than fifty years ago, Prudence Randall, and Lucretia Mott, and other women risked life and property in the determined war they made against slavery in the United States; and it was very satisfactory to find that the path in which those women of humble birth showed them the way had now been trodden by the Princess Regent of Brazil. Very much owing to her initiative and hearty sympathy, the crowning triumph of the abolition of slavery in the Brazilian Empire had been accomplished, and an end had been put to slavery as a legal institution all over both continents of America. It was sometimes said by those who opposed women's suffrage that they did nothing to uphold government or maintain law; but women could do something to uphold government and maintain law—they could make government and law correspond with the moral sense of the community. They could and had done this in a vast number of cases, and she hoped it was in this direction especially that women's influence would always be exercised and felt. Not very long ago a leading weekly newspaper—not a supporter of women's suffrage—speaking of a lady who had recently died, said of her "It cannot be doubted that if we had one character such as hers in every county of England, the English nation would be vastly more competent than it is for every great and good work." If this could be said, and said without exaggeration, she thought it was the best claim women could make for a share in the government of their country; that their influence should be recognised, and that they should be admitted to the citizenship of this great country. She had much pleasure in supporting the resolution. (Applause.)

The resolution was then adopted. Mr. BYRON REED, M.P., moved: "That this meeting express their cordial satisfaction at the recognition of the electoral rights of women in the Local Government (England and Wales) Electors' Act, 1888, and while thanking the Government for their recognition of the principle of women's suffrage, they would urge the further extension of this principle to the Parliamentary franchise." His presence there that afternoon, he said, was inspired by a simple desire for justice. He was not there as an advocate of what was commonly called "women's rights." In connection with that subject he might possibly find himself very much at variance with some ladies and gentlemen present, but as one who believed in the great representative assembly of the nation—the House of Commons—being constituted of members elected by the best persons to be found to return them, he was in favour of the principle of women's suffrage especially in regard to the Parliamentary vote. He was aware that that was no occasion and no question of party politics, and he very much rejoiced in that fact. (Hear, hear.) He was bound to say that in the past there had been some who, like himself, were

members of one political party in the state, were afraid that too great a tendency had been given to the women's suffrage movement to make it the appanage of one political party. If he thought that were the case in the present instance, or if he thought it were the tendency of the movement in a broad sense, he should certainly take no place upon that platform. But he brought himself face to face with this proposition: that a considerable number, a minority, of the most capable citizens—that was of persons whom the state recognised by recent legislation to be capable citizens—was debarred from the exercise of the franchise privileges of citizenship. The present condition of their Parliamentary franchise had no ideal for its basis. If, indeed, it were a question of political, constitutional ideal, then he thought a great deal might be said to opponents of women's suffrage in regard to the Parliamentary vote, but they had by legislation of late years utterly cast to the four winds of heaven any such ideal. They had bestowed the vote of late, not upon the individual, but upon the resident in consideration of the capacity of the individual to contribute to public purposes. That being the case, the old ideal being shattered, he saw no reason why those, at any rate not amongst the least respectable and least law-abiding and least competent of Her Majesty's subjects, should be debarred from that privilege which Parliament would have conferred upon them if they belonged to the other sex. He had said that this was no matter of political partisanship. He knew not, neither did he care, whether the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women householders would benefit his party or the party to which their chairman belonged. He had no means of knowing, nor no present care how that might be. If the majority of women householders should give—as he ventured to hope and believe they would—their votes to the party to which he belonged, so much the better for that party—(laughter)—but if, on the other hand, they were to cast their votes in favour of the other side of the House, he would still say they were exercising a right more than a privilege, which the state too tardily conferred upon them; and he should do what all good subjects and sound politicians ought to do—endeavour to bring them to a more excellent way of thinking. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He saw no cause to despair for the future of that movement. On the contrary, he thought they had every reason to hope and believe that they were on the eve of thorough and complete success. Their chairman knew far better than he did, or perhaps better than any one in that room could know, how tortuous and uncertain were the ways of the House of Commons, how the best measures were too often cast aside, while the worst measures were too frequently pushed to the front; and how manipulating—not always of the most straightforward or above-board kind—was necessary in order to bring a question, not of the most pressing importance, to the front. Having regard to ordinary Parliamentary manipulation, he should not be particularly or peculiarly hopeful as to the immediate success of their movement, but he believed that where both sides of the House of Commons contained a large number of members who were agreed upon this question and their constituents supported them in their views, there must be, there ought to be, and, as far as some of them could ensure it, there should be, a way of enforcing their views upon those having authority. Speaking of the support of constituents, he said that in every one of his election speeches he had declared plainly and constantly that he was a believer in woman suffrage. (Applause.) The resolution which he had to propose was one expressing satisfaction at the recognition of the electoral rights of women already made, and urged the further extension of the principle to the Parliamentary franchise. The latter part of the resolution was an incentive to fresh action. He could only say that, so far as any help which an humble unit of the House of Commons could give could be of service, that help should be forthcoming from him. He should be willing to serve as the humblest private in the ranks under the leadership of a political opponent who had done so much good service to the cause in endeavouring to bring it to a successful issue. He hoped that at no far distant time it might be his (Mr. Reed's) privilege, not only to congratulate them upon the successful issue of their efforts, but also to avail himself of the votes which, he was sure, the women of the eastern division of Bradford would give him. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Byron Reed is quite right in saying we have no party preferences here. On the contrary, we are only too delighted to be able to show how much support we have from all

political parties in the House of Commons, and this resolution commended to you by the hon. member sitting on one side of the House will be seconded by one of the most honoured members sitting opposite to him, I mean Mr. Haldane. (Applause.)

Mr. HALDANE, Q.C., M.P., in seconding the resolution, said he quite concurred in the pious wish with which his colleague, who had just addressed them, concluded his speech. He was not perfectly Tory—(laughter)—but in this he found himself entirely in harmony with Mr. Reed. He desired to describe in a few words the grounds upon which he found himself standing there to second that resolution. Like Mr. Byron Reed he was indifferent to the ends for which the desired extension of the franchise might be used as means. He did not think those ends concerned them. It seemed to him that they had no right to busy themselves about them, and it was just because, as it appeared to him, public opinion had been allowed to stray away much from the principle which underlay their contention, to the end which certain people hoped to gain by its adoption or rejection, that they found themselves not in the strong position in which they might otherwise be that day. There was a principle involved in the last extension of the franchise which, he believed, might be said to be cordially adopted by every political party in the state. He meant this: that the ground of that extension was not expediency but justice, and it was because he believed that the same irresistible principle lay at the basis of the proposition which was before that meeting, he rose without the smallest doubt or misgiving to second it. There were a certain number of objections raised to the extension of the franchise to women which deserved consideration because they were supported not merely by individuals here and individuals there, but by some of the most prominent members of certain—he might say nearly all—of the most influential parties in the state at the present moment. Of course, if one were dealing with the objection urged by what might be called “the old-fashioned Tories of the day before the Reform Bill,” that the proper way of exercising the franchise was to vest it in certain persons as trustees for the entire community in the belief that they would exercise their trust with a due regard to the interests of all concerned, if one thought that was a proper position to take up in reference to the franchise, then it seemed to him the question before the meeting would be one which would be approached by a very different degree of confidence. But he took it they were all agreed in giving up that principle, that they had affirmed—whether they were Conservative or Liberal, Tory or Radical—the proposition that now and for all time in the future, so far as they were concerned, the principle which should guide them should be as extensive, through the form of representative institutions, as the class governed. Of course there were exceptions, such as criminals, lunatics, and infants. With those exceptions he thought they were all pretty much agreed in the principle governing or defining the basis of their political constitution. But if that were so, if they had got rid of the old class of objection, how did they stand with reference to the new? There were two classes of opponents of women's suffrage, who based their opposition to it on different grounds. There were those who maintained the theory of “natural rights,” and who maintained there was some natural right in man which did not exist in woman. He should like, in this connection, to hear the opinion of a moralist on the use of the word “natural,” and of a lawyer upon the expression “right.” To him the words were absolutely meaningless. They had admitted in local government—in school board elections and in many municipal franchises—the right of women to participate as freely as any others concerned. He asked upon what principle of justice, when they came to Imperial matters—when they came to those concerns which were wider and penetrated more closely into the inmost recesses of home life—did they refuse to concede the right which would enable women to take part in affairs that were so closely theirs? There was another class of objectors, politicians who based their opposition to the extension of the franchise to women upon the ground of expediency, who frankly and cynically told them that they would have nothing to do with it, because they did not think it would serve the purposes of the party to which they belonged, or because they thought it was inconsistent with the genius of the British electorate. This position was consistently maintained because it came in contact with no valid reason against it, and because there was no touchstone by which it could be brought to the test of

truth. But was that principle one which could, with any hope of success, be put before the British electorate, which, with all its faults (and they all knew that democracy was no better or worse than other classes of individuals, and the reason why they confided their interests to them was because they thought that, on the whole, if they enlarged the class to which they would appeal they minimised the chances of error)—he said, with all its faults, was that an argument which they could put confidently before the British electorate, put forward before audiences of the type of the political audiences of to-day with any hope of its acceptance or of showing it to be consistent with the professions of those who advocated the enfranchisement of the agricultural labourers? It appeared to him that, upon whatever grounds they based them, the objections raised against this matter in principle must prove untenable. It was not, however, for the supporters of that movement to rest their case upon the mere ground of the weakness of their opponents. They must meet them on the basis of a positive justification, and to him there seemed ample justification in the circumstances of political parties at the present time. They had arrived at a period when the work of all of them, be they Conservatives or Liberals, was no longer the work of trying to get rid of abuses, of seeking to make only certain obstacles in the path of the general well-being less than they were before, and of removing them from their way; but they had affirmed in the Acts which they had passed through Parliament, in the Bills before Parliament, and, he thought, still more in movements outside of Parliament, the proposition that politics had now passed into what might be called the “constructive period”—that they had not now merely to pull down, but to build up. There was a class of social questions with which they were face to face, and with which they must deal immediately and without delay. For example, there were the questions of the housing of the poor, the education of the poor, and the rights of many of their fellow-citizens to a better chance in life for themselves and their children than had hitherto been theirs. And, he would ask, what class was there more suited to take an interest in these subjects and to work at them than that great class of women who would do so, if the law was as they would fain see it? How was it that with so strong a case they had not yet attained their object? He thought Mrs. Fawcett, in her remarks, went to the truth of the matter. They might depend upon it they would never excite great enthusiasm about the women's suffrage question so long as they made it a question standing by itself, and in which women alone were concerned. If they wished to succeed and force themselves forward—and they could do nothing now-a-days without forcing themselves forward—they would take part not merely in the agitation of that, but of all public questions. They would form themselves, not, he hoped, into associations which might be derided from want of seriousness, but into real political organisations, which would take their part, on both sides, in the great questions of the day. This done would show—whether women had the Parliamentary franchise or not—that they were determined to assert themselves as a great political power in the state. The more they acted in earnest about those questions, and adopted those methods which secured so rapidly and decisively the extension of the franchise to the working classes, the more certain would they be of success within a limited period. They were standing at a time when they should not hesitate. It was thrown in their teeth that there was no other great democracy which had taken this step, and that the democracy of Britain alone were invited to place themselves in an altogether exceptional position. To him, at least, that argument carried no terrors. He imagined that it was our pride as a democracy to be in advance of all other nations in the freedom of our political institutions. (Applause.) It seemed to him as right that, as we had set an example in the past to the nations of the world, we should in this matter also set them an example in a cause which was one of liberty and justice, and depended upon a principle which Radicals at least could not ignore. Personally, at all reasonable times and opportunities, in Parliament or out of it, he was prepared to support the claim—the right of women to the Parliamentary suffrage. (Applause.)

Miss BECKER said she had great pleasure in supporting the resolution which had been so ably moved and seconded by two of those gentlemen in whose hands the fate of their question rested. She thought they had been fortunate that day in being favoured with the presence of so many members of Parliament, especially

at a time when their duties in Parliament made such pressing calls upon their time. The resolution expressed their thanks to the Government for having recognised the principle of women's suffrage in their Local Government Electors' Act. That was a very substantial advantage to them, for which, she thought, Her Majesty's Government deserved their cordial thanks. At the time when they heard this measure was about to be introduced it was an anxious question with them whether women householders would be included in it. They felt that the Bill would either advance their cause or throw them back for years, and, although they did not see how it was possible, when the Government was extending municipal institutions all over the country, they could disfranchise the women ratepayers, yet things were never certain in this world. Had the Government limited the voting power to male citizens only, they would have created an obstacle in the path of the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women, which it would have been very difficult for them to have overcome. Hence they were very thankful the Government took the right and just course of conferring the vote upon ratepayers in the counties irrespective of sex. This result was all the more satisfactory because it was the natural consequence of something which was done nearly twenty years ago. In 1869 the municipal franchise was extended to women in the great cities. She was reminded of a story of Sir Walter Scott's, in which an old Scotch laird enjoined one of his men to “go and stick in a tree, it will be growing while ye were sleeping.” Now in 1869 they planted that tree. Since then they had not by any means been sleeping, but working in another direction, while the fruits were growing which that tree had borne forth. The first fruit was the School Board Franchise in 1870, and then out of that had grown the greater participation of women in local affairs, in Guardians' and School Board work, and in other matters. And now, what was this recognition of women's franchise in the County Government Bill but the natural and necessary fruit, according to the great principle of evolution and survival of the fittest, of the tree planted in 1869? (Laughter and applause.) The last speaker spoke of our setting an example to other countries. We did that in this matter of local government. It was rather remarkable that at this time the Italian Government were engaged in discussion on a Local Government Bill. Although women could not congratulate themselves on having achieved a victory, the discussion showed substantial progress. Signor Perruzzi, a former member of the Government and of the Right, brought forward a motion to extend the franchise in local government to women, but the Prime Minister, Signor Crispi, was not prepared to accept this. He thought it would be an innovation; that it was not expedient, or in conformity with public opinion, but he left the Chamber free to vote as they thought best, and, after an animated debate, the motion was rejected by a narrow majority. That, she thought, was very good for Italy, and most likely when the question was next discussed, the minority would be converted into a majority. In the matter of local government, Her Majesty's ministers had set the Italian Government an example which they might have followed. The difficulties which had now to be faced in the House of Commons were rather in the forms of the House than in the members. When they looked back at the progress they had made they found a constantly increasing number of members who had declared these opinions in favour of their Bill. At the present time there were 359 members who had declared themselves in favour of the Bill. This gave them in the present House of Commons an actual majority of forty-eight in the whole House. However they might congratulate themselves upon this fact, they must beware lest it led them into a sense of false security. She had recently a conversation with one of their Parliamentary friends who had had an interview with the leader of the House of Commons. He expressed confidence to Mr. Smith that their Bill would be passed if it could be brought on, when the latter replied that he had often seen measures that professed to have a majority of the House for them stick and fail in a remarkable way. This was, therefore, a reason why they should determine that their measure should not stick or fail. It was a reason for maintaining their organisation in full working order, and a reason why all the friends of the cause should rally round them until victory crowned their efforts. Therefore, she hoped that their friends would take this to heart, and would not think that because they had a majority in the House of Commons, and so were near victory, they did not require such energetic support as in former years. Besides their own Bill there was another way in which it was possible the

suffrage might come to them. Lord Kimberley had pointed out in the House of Lords that much dissatisfaction existed with the complicated system of registration introduced by those Local Government Bills. There would be three different electoral lists: a list of persons who had both the county and Parliamentary vote; another list of persons who had the county and Parliamentary vote and not the county vote; and a third list, which would be comprised mostly of women, of those who had the county vote but not the Parliamentary vote. Now when the time came when Parliament in its wisdom should realise that men and women who were qualified to vote in the county elections and in local affairs were also qualified to vote at Parliamentary elections, when the time arrived for amalgamating all these lists for all electoral purposes in the county or community, this could not be done without the full recognition of the principle for which they contended, namely, that the qualification, be it what it may, should enfranchise without fear or favour men and women alike. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously. Miss JANE COBDEN moved the appointment of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. WALTER B. M'LAREN, M.P., in seconding the motion, said there were two points upon which he desired to say a word or two. One was with reference to what Mr. Haldane said and what another speaker referred to regarding the influence of women's political associations upon this question. He believed there had been nothing which had so helped to advance the cause of women's suffrage during recent years as political associations on both sides of politics. Although these associations had not in every case or, perhaps, even in the majority of cases adopted women's suffrage as part of their programme, still they were reducing the whole system of the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary franchise to a perfect absurdity. From a conversation he had with a gentleman who had taken a leading part in the organisation of the liberal party, he learnt that the objections which many leading liberals felt to women's suffrage had been removed by the action of women on both sides entering into political life. There was a special point he wished to refer to in this connection; the most remarkable conversion he had seen for many years on this occasion was the conversion of the *Scotsman* to the women's side—a conversion due to the active part which women were now taking in politics. A fortnight ago Mrs. Fawcett, a distinguished member of the Liberal Unionist party, and other lady members, formed in Edinburgh a Women's Liberal Unionist Association, and the result was that the *Scotsman*, which had before always opposed women's suffrage, published an article the next day saying it was perfectly evident women were entering into political life, although for its part the paper would rather they did not, still as they could not be hindered from doing so, it was absurd to withhold from them the Parliamentary franchise any longer, and the sooner they got it the better it would be for the country. That was, he said, a remarkable conversion. He had always advocated this question on the ground that women had many grievances which could only be redressed when they possessed the suffrage. As an instance of this, he mentioned the fact reported to him by Mr. Fenwick, one of the miners' members, of the rejection by 20 votes to 5 of a clause in the Employers' Liability Amendment Bill, which proposed that the mother of an illegitimate son who might have contributed to her support should have some right to compensation in the event of his death. Until recently children born in wedlock did not belong to the mother, the father being the sole owner and guardian, the mother not having the slightest claim to the ownership or guardianship of the offspring to which she had given birth, in the event of the husband's death, if the latter had willed them away. That law was to some extent amended, but it was not yet satisfactory, and he believed that many grievances from which women now suffered would not be remedied until women had the Parliamentary franchise, which in justice should be given them without delay.

Miss DAVENPORT HILL, in supporting the resolution, said they had now a majority in their favour in the House of Commons, and yet they had not got the franchise. Difficulties were still in the way, and they must all put their shoulders to the wheel if they would have their efforts crowned with success. They had made progress during the last twenty years. Women now did a great deal more public work than formerly. They were members of School and Guardian Boards, and assisted in public affairs in other

ways. They had shown the world what they could do, and had lessened, if not entirely removed, the opposition to the measure that was manifested twenty years ago.

The resolution was carried nem. con. Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE moved: "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Woodall for presiding on the present occasion."

Miss SHARMA CRAWFORD seconded the motion. Mr. BYRON REED, M.P., in putting the resolution to the vote, bore his testimony to the able way in which their friend (Mr. Woodall) had fought their battle in the House of Commons, and he thought that before long, on one of those annually returning occasions, they might be able not only to congratulate him upon a good hope and prospect, but upon a victory really and truly won.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the vote, said he had been referred to as the Parliamentary leader of that movement. It was only just of him to say that the leadership at that moment was in commission, and he hoped none of them would forget the services rendered during the past session by Baron Dimsdale, who had been as attentive in the House in watching an opportunity to advance the measure as their late friend, Mr. Beresford Hope, used to be in opposing it. (Laughter.) With respect to the many gentlemen associated with him (the chairman) on the Parliamentary Committee and in other ways, he thought he might say, although it was not in mortals to command success, they were certainly doing their best to deserve it. He would like them to feel that, although it was irritating and disappointing to have to meet year by year as they did without being able to mark any definite progress in the accomplishment of that great measure of theirs, every year they had to acknowledge some important progress to which those associations had largely contributed.

SOUTHPORT.

Under the auspices of the Guild of the Unrepresented, a meeting to hear an address on "Women's Suffrage," by Mrs. Ashford, of Birmingham, was held at Southport on June 28th. The Mayoress (Mrs. E. J. Rimmer), who presided, said the female vote, taken as a whole, would be given in favour of morality, temperance, and justice. She moved an address of condolence to the Empress Victoria of Germany. Mrs. Oram seconded, and the address was adopted. The Honorary Secretary (Mrs. Sherbrooke) reported that the Guild numbered 220 ladies. A pleasing outcome of the meeting recently held in Liverpool was the very pronounced and spontaneous support to the movement given by the Liverpool press generally, five editorials appearing in the leading journals of the city. Mrs. Dale moved a resolution in favour of granting the franchise to female

ratepayers. Mrs. Ashford, in seconding, delivered an address reviewing the whole question. The resolution was then adopted, and the meeting separated.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

CROMWELL HOUSES.

At the invitation of Mrs. Frank Morrison, a drawing-room meeting was held on July 10th, at 8, Cromwell Houses, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, to further the interests of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Morrison presided, and, after some brief introductory remarks, Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P., moved a resolution in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote. Mrs. Ashton Dilke seconded the motion, giving an interesting account of her visit to the recent Women's Congress at Washington. The resolution was carried. Mrs. J. Wynford Philipps next moved: "That a petition to the House of Commons, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted, and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and be sent to Sir Algernon Borthwick, M.P., for presentation in the House of Commons."

Taking first the broad ground that the privileges of citizenship should follow the discharge of its obligations, she passed to the alleged disqualification of sex. Great as were the uses of the franchise it was on social grounds that equality was most needed. Women had been called the problem of the nineteenth century, and it was only right, then, that she should take part in solving it. It was not right that women should be chained Andromeda-like to the rock of antique customs and laws till some political Perseus rescue her. Clever women, geniuses, triumphed over the obstacles put in their way as women, but what could the poor do? All that was asked was that they should start equal. As to the physical-force argument, it was not true that the stability of a State rested on physical force. That could destroy, but could not make a State. The more civilisation advanced the more was taken from the physical and given to thought. Miss Florence Balgarnie seconded the resolution. Miss Barber, of Edinburgh, said a few words in support of the resolution, which was carried. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Morrison was proposed by Mrs. Ashton Dilke and seconded by Mrs. Duncan McLaren, and the meeting separated.

The company then adjourned to the dining-room, where an elegant and profuse display of choice fruit and flowers accompanied the tea and coffee and other refreshments. Miss Mabel Holland presided at a stall in the hall, where various fancy articles were disposed of for the benefit of the funds of the Society. QUEEN ANNE'S GATE. A drawing-room meeting of the National Society for obtaining Women's Suffrage was held on July 24th, by the invitation of Mrs. J. Passmore Edwards, at her residence, 20, Queen Anne's Gate. Mr. J. Passmore Edwards presided. A resolution was proposed by Mr. Lafone, M.P., and seconded by Mrs. Fawcett, expressing the opinion that women should possess the same qualification for voting as men. Mr. Lafone declared that by degrees the cobwebs were being cleared away from the mental vision of the enlightened. The true relations that subsisted between the sexes were becoming recognised. Women were as intelligent, fluent, and able to take their places in the House of Commons as men. Mrs. Fawcett said it was not a question whether women should undertake political duties, but whether they should be driven helplessly from side to side of parties, or whether they should bring to bear on political matters those qualities of mercy, pity, purity, and love which they brought to bear on other questions. A second resolution, proposed by Mr. Woodall, M.P., and seconded by Miss Florence Balgarnie, empowering the chairman to draw up a petition based on the first resolution, and to be presented to the House of Commons through Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.P., was unanimously adopted. A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman for presiding. Miss Edwards was in charge of a stall containing various articles for sale in aid of the funds of the society.

WOMEN'S LIBERAL UNIONIST ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the Women's Liberal Unionist Association was held in July, at the house of the Dowager Lady Stanley of Alderley, in Dover-street, under the presidency of Lord Stalbridge. There was a large attendance. The principal speaker was the Duke of Argyll, who made the Irish question his theme. Several ladies

spoke, the Countess of Portsmouth urging steadfastness of purpose, and Mrs. Fawcett arguing that the question should be dealt with as moral rather than political. The Rev. R. Lynd, Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church, and Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., also took part in the proceedings.

THE POOL OF POLITICS.

There are men who dislike to hear anything in favour of women voting, because they would then "lose their softness." Women are "too fine for anything so coarse as politics," they say; but it never offends them to see women down on their hands and knees scrubbing out men's dirty offices. They are not too fine for that. If the "pool of politics" be any dirtier than their floors, I for one am not aware of it. Whenever I see the scrub women toiling away, I think of these thoughtful souls who want to protect women from everything save work too menial for men to perform.—New North West.

CORRESPONDENCE.

RETURN OF OVERPAID INCOME TAX.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—I noticed in the Journal a complaint from a correspondent about the expense incurred in recovering income tax. I have had no difficulty, and beyond my first year have not even had to expend a penny stamp, as the necessary official envelope for future application has each time been enclosed with the payment order.—Yours, &c., C. R.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

A petition was presented on June 5th by the Earl of Wemyss from trade societies of the United Kingdom assembled at the fortieth annual meeting, on April 18th last, in favour of amending the law so that a married woman may be made liable on her contracts—in other words, that distinction between a married and unmarried woman be abolished, so that she may have the like responsibilities as a man in respect of her contracts.

WOMEN AND THE TRUCK SYSTEM IN SHETLAND.

The truck system was abolished by Act of Parliament, but the women who knit the Shetland hosiery are paid in kind instead of in money, and they and the fishermen are practically compelled, on pain of eviction, to work only for their landlord, who usually has one or more shops where they are obliged to deal, and where care is taken that they shall always be in debt. The landlord makes one profit on the goods he exchanges with them, and another on exporting for sale their hosiery and fish.—Newspaper correspondent.

FEMALE LABOUR IN THE NORTH.

Miss Black and the Women's Protective League should direct attention to the way in which female labour is treated in the North. At Manchester (where Miss Lydia Becker's influence is felt) an advance in wages of 5 per cent to cotton-spinners has been given where the Oldham price-list is not adopted, as well as the same better rate of remuneration to card-room hands, male and female; while at Blackburn the male card-room workers made the extraordinary demand of twice as much increase of wages as for the females!—Labour News.

Obituary.

Mrs. HARRIET G. BROOKS.—We regret to record the death, on June 27th, of this able and energetic lady, after a painful illness. Mrs. Brooks was prominent in the early stages of the women's suffrage movement in Michigan from 1856 onwards. She was for years secretary of the local and state suffrage associations, and during the years of her residence in Chicago she attended the meetings of the National Association at Washington. During her subsequent residence in Nebraska she continued

her active work, and in 1882 she pleaded for women's suffrage before the legislature of the state. She was also a leader in other social questions, and was engaged in literary pursuits. Her loss will be widely felt by a large circle of friends.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JULY, 1888.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for July 1888, including names like Miss Todd, Misses Ford, Mr. Philip Goldschmidt, etc., with amounts.

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JULY, 1888.

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BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

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