

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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As the season approaches for Parliamentary action, it behoves all supporters of the movement to use their utmost exertions to promote the cause. Petitions should now be signing in every district where there is a local committee, or a single active worker, and these should begin to be sent in about the middle of February, and continued without intermission so long as the Bill is before the House of Commons. Mr. JACOB BRIGHT has signified his intention of introducing the Bill immediately on the opening of the session; and as soon as it has been read a first time, of which due notice will appear in the newspapers, petitions sent to the House of Commons will be recorded in its favour. We beg to call attention to the form and directions for preparing petitions given in another column, and to exhort our friends everywhere to avail themselves of this simple and effective method of supporting their Parliamentary leaders.

The past month has been marked by many indications of energy and earnestness on the part of the friends of the cause. Many public meetings have been held, and others are in prospect. Old committees have resumed active operations for the season, and many new ones have been formed. The Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage has held its first general meeting and elected its executive. The gathering was in every sense an important one. Assembled under the presidency of the Parliamentary chief, who was supported by his coadjutor Mr. EASTWICK, the meeting was one representative of the movement throughout the country, and comprised some of the ablest supporters of the cause. A report of the proceedings will be found in another column, and we cannot but congratulate the Society on so successful an inauguration of their work for the season.

The past month has also afforded some remarkable examples of the manner in which existing law bears hardly on women in the three aspects of personal, property, and political disabilities. The first case comes from India, and is another example of the *dictum* enunciated

by Mr. Baron BRAMWELL on a recent occasion respecting the custody of a widow's daughter: "As to the mother's rights, they might be considered *nil* in the matter." On this case the *Pall Mall Gazette* remarks: "The recent decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on appeal from the High Court of the North-Western Provinces of India, in the matter of VICTORIA SKINNER, a minor, turns on points of such high importance in English jurisprudence and social morality as to deserve more deliberate attention than the public in this country may be on the first impression disposed to give it. The immediate effect is to hand over a girl of fourteen from the care of a Mahometan widow mother, with whom she had been bred from the day of her birth, to that of a Christian schoolmistress; her property to a male guardian named by the High Court." "Our dissatisfaction is not with them (*i.e.*, the legal tribunals) but with the laws they administer. They acted apparently on a principle which may be admitted by lawyers, but in the eyes of those who look beyond the limits of English law books, that principle leads to strange and revolting consequences." "The wish of the living wife is controlled by the mere shadow of a shade—the legal presumption that a man of mixed blood who passed in name for a Christian, but never was known to express an opinion on the subject, who married a Mahometan, entertained an intelligent preference for the education of his daughter as a Christian, apart from her mother. Such is the doctrine that has prevailed. The girl is taken from behind the 'purdah' and handed over to a British schoolmistress somewhere up the Hills, her mother being graciously allowed 'access' to her."

From the same paper we quote elsewhere an account of the case of Mrs. SHILLITOE, whose property, amounting to £500, was confiscated after her husband's death to pay his debts contracted before marriage—the principal creditors being his father and brother. In contrast to the principle involved in this decision we may set the recent action of the

Legislature in relieving the husband from liability for his wife's antenuptial debts, and at the same time endowing him with her property.

The third case is one more directly bearing on the suffrage question than either of the foregoing; it is that of the women ratepayers of Bridgwater, who have just been mulcted to the extent of three shillings in the pound on their rental, on account of the electioneering mal-practices of their male fellow-citizens. It will be remembered that after the general election of 1868, a commission was appointed to investigate alleged cases of bribery. The commission reported the existence of wide-spread electoral corruption, and the borough has since been disfranchised. The expenses of the commission were met by a rate levied on the inhabitants; and the women ratepayers complain that while they are excluded from the franchise, and therefore could have had no part in the offence which has led to the imposition of the rate, they are required to pay the heavy taxation which has followed it. They have addressed a memorial to Mr. GLADSTONE setting forth their grievance, and have received a reply from Mr. Secretary BRUCE, to the effect that "it is not in the power of the Secretary of State to exempt women owning or occupying property from the local and Imperial taxation to which the property is liable." Herein Mr. BRUCE is undoubtedly right, for neither he nor the Government have the power to remit the burdens of taxation for women. But the Government has the power to support the proposal to give to women owning or occupying property, the representation which that property carries with it along with its liability to local and Imperial taxes, when it is owned by men. The Government, through Mr. BRUCE, has already supported the grant of local representation to women who contribute to local taxation. It is now asked to carry this principle to its natural conclusion by giving to the same women who have the local vote in virtue of local taxation, the Imperial vote in virtue of Imperial taxation. Lord CAIRNS, in the debate in the House of Lords on the Bill giving the Municipal Franchise to women, said—"As an unmarried woman could dispose of her property and deal with it in any way she thought proper, he did not see why she should not have a voice in controlling the municipal expenditure to which that property contributed." Neither the Government nor the House of Lords could refuse to assent to that simple proposition. But if it be just and right that a woman should be able to control the municipal expenditure to which her property contributes, should she not have a right to control the Parliamentary ex-

penditure to which her property contributes? The local expenditure of the country amounts to about £20,000,000, and the Imperial expenditure to about £70,000,000—if justice requires that she should have the opportunity of controlling the expenditure of the smaller sum, it is surely unjust to deprive her of the means of controlling the larger.

But the cases of hardship under existing laws which we have quoted, and others which are daily arising through the inequality of the laws affecting men and women, prove that women need votes for something else than merely to control expenditure. Parliament deals with liberty and life, and passes laws affecting the happiness of the home in every cottage in the land. So long as property is the basis of representation, women owning property stand on the same basis as men. Inasmuch as the life, liberty, and welfare of the people are objects of legislation, women have the same interest in Parliamentary action as men. While the conditions of legislation continue what they are in this country, that portion of the people which is under electoral disabilities will be less cared for than the portion which can vote. No one knows this better than the statesmen who have been foremost in promoting measures for reform in the representation of the people, among whom we must class members of her Majesty's Government. We trust that they will perceive the applicability of the principles on which their own efforts for the enfranchisement of the people have been founded, to the question now in hand, and that when it next comes before the House of Commons the assent, if not the support, of the executive Government may be given to the principle of the Women's Disabilities Bill.

#### THE WORK OF LOCAL COMMITTEES.

We desire to urge on our friends in every district the importance of forming local committees. The difficulty in many places is, not so much want of zeal, or of willingness to help the cause, as a want of a clear appreciation of the importance of the work to be done, and of a distinct idea how to set about performing it. We therefore offer to our friends some practical hints as to the constitution and organisation of a committee and a sketch of the work it can accomplish. We desire first to impress the fact that the work of a local committee which merely extends over a particular district, is neither difficult nor costly, nor arduous, that it involves no great sacrifice of time nor interference with other occupations, and that it is not disagreeable, but on the contrary often most interesting work—next that this work, which can be given with so slight a sacrifice, has a value and effect out of all proportion to the effort required. Could we have, in every Parliamentary borough, a small but vigilant committee to keep the question before the minds of the people and of the members, it would not be long before we carried our bill. We

therefore trust that where a committee is at present organised it will, if not already in full work, immediately begin a career of activity such as we indicate—and that wherever there are two or three friends of the cause in districts without a local committee, that they will unite in taking steps to form one. The following hints are offered for the guidance of those who have as yet no practical experience how to form and work a committee. The first and absolutely essential point is, that the committee should meet periodically at fixed intervals, especially during the time when the Bill is before the House of Commons. On the nomination of a committee some one should be appointed to summon the first meeting—at which meeting future action can be arranged.

#### SUGGESTED RULES.

The Committee should meet on the —th —day in each month, and at more frequent intervals during the working season if requisite. Notice in writing of the time and place of meeting should be sent to every member by the Secretary.

At its first meeting the Committee should appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer.

A minute book should be provided in which the proceedings of each meeting should be recorded—and at the succeeding meeting the minutes should be read over, and, after being approved as correct should be signed by the Chairman.

If no permanent president be elected, the Committee when a quorum is assembled, should elect one of the number then present to be chairman for that meeting.

Resolutions should be reduced to writing and formally moved, seconded, and put to the committee by the chairman. There is great temptation to those who are inexperienced in public work, to conduct the business of a committee in an irregular or informal manner, but this should be avoided, as it leads frequently to inconvenience, and even sometimes to disorganisation of a committee.

The efficient working of a committee depends mainly on the energy and discretion of the Secretary. The appointment should be most carefully considered, as the success or failure of the local agitation may be entirely dependent on it. When a lady qualified for the position can be found, it is usually desirable to choose a lady, as women can be reached more readily through the agency of one of their own sex—but this is not a material circumstance, and the best available worker should be selected irrespective of sex.

The Secretary should prepare business for the Committee—should be on the watch to take advantage of every local occurrence that can be turned into account in promoting the cause—should enter into correspondence with as many persons as possible who may be interested in the matter—should endeavour to arrange public meetings—should cause members or candidates to be questioned—should see after the collection of signatures and the presentation of the petitions—should take care that the local members are written to when the division on the Bill is about to take place—should keep up communication with the Central Committee—and in every practicable way organise the work for the promotion of the cause, in modes such as those described below, or any other that may be found desirable.

#### LOCAL COMMITTEES CAN AID THE MOVEMENT.

1. By collecting signatures to the petition. This should be accomplished by a systematic canvass—door to door visitation, either by volunteers working in districts, or by a trustworthy paid agent.

2. By causing the delivery of lectures, or the holding of public meetings, for the explanation and discussion of the object of the society. Most of the leading centres would be

willing to send speakers or deputations for this purpose, if invited by a local committee.

3. By writing letters to the local members of Parliament urging them to support the Women's Disabilities Bill. This is especially desirable about the end of April, in anticipation of the second reading, which takes place early in May.

4. By causing questions on the subject of electoral disabilities of women to be put to the local members whenever they appear before their constituents, and in case of an election, calling on every candidate to declare whether he will, if returned, vote for the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

5. By trying to procure the insertion of facts and arguments bearing on the question, in the local press; and by writing letters to newspapers explaining and advocating the views of the Society.

6. By endeavouring to increase the number of members of the Society. Approval of its object, and a subscription to any local committee, constitutes membership of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

7. By extending the organisation of the Society through the establishment of new committees in surrounding districts. This can often be done, after a lecture or a meeting has taken place.

8. By sending deputations or delegates to the Conference in London of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, at which a full representation of every district in the country is desired.

9. By collecting funds for the general or local agitation.

#### MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.

The following commentary on a recent case in the law courts is taken from the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—"It is to be hoped that women will not read the case of *Shillitoe v. Shillitoe*, which came before Vice-Chancellor Wickens on Saturday, for it will give them a real grievance with which to make themselves and others uncomfortable, instead of those imaginary grievances that occupy so much of their time and attention. It seems that no settlement was executed on the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Shillitoe. At the time of the marriage, Mrs. Shillitoe had a sum of £500 at the Selby Bank in her maiden name. Soon after the marriage, at her husband's request, she drew this sum out of the bank on a cheque of her own, and brought it home in order to pay rent and other specific sums with it. Two days after Mr. Shillitoe died. No rent was paid, and Mrs. Shillitoe for the first time ascertained that her husband was indebted to his father and his brother and to other persons, and was so when they married. His estate was being administered, and she was called upon to account for the £500 as part of her husband's property, without which sum the assets would be insufficient to pay the creditors. She declined to account or to pay over the money, and claimed it as her own by right of survivorship. It was insisted on behalf of the creditors that there had been a good reduction into possession of the £500 in the lifetime of Mr. Shillitoe, and that his widow could not retain it. On the other hand, Mrs. Shillitoe's counsel urged that the bank paid the money to that lady as hers, and would not otherwise have paid it at all; that it was in equity hers, for if she had known her husband's actual position at the time of the marriage she would have insisted on a settlement of this money, and could have done so at any moment if he had refused. If this fund were taken from her, she would have only £4 10s. a year to live upon. The Vice-Chancellor decided that there had been a perfectly good reduction of the money into the possession of Mr. Shillitoe, and that the widow must hand it over to his executors. The case was no doubt a hard one for her, but the law—and most important it was—was too clear on the subject."

THE WOMEN OF BRIDGWATER AND THE  
ELECTION INQUIRY COMMISSION.

The following petition has been addressed to the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone, Premier of England, and has received a large number of signatures:—"We, the undersigned widows and unmarried women of the town and borough of Bridgwater, in the county of Somerset, householders, beg to lay before you as First Lord of the Treasury, the grievance of most heavy and unjust taxation, which has been levied on us, in common with the other householders of this disfranchised borough, for the payment of a prolonged commission respecting political bribery. We feel it to be unjust and oppressive, inasmuch as not exercising the franchise, nor being in any way directly or indirectly concerned in the malpractices which led to the issuing of the commission, we are nevertheless required to pay not less than three shillings in the pound, according to our rental. Many of us the undersigned, are quite unprepared to meet the demand, finding it already a struggle, from the high price of provisions, the stagnation of trade, and the amount of our local taxes, to maintain our positions in society (which some have to do by our own unaided exertions) with probity and respectability. And the burden falls upon us with peculiar weight, as some of the most guilty parties are exonerated from their share of it, by having left the town, and others by residing without the borough boundaries, so that in fact the innocent and helpless suffer, while the bribers and bribed have escaped all punishment, beyond the disgrace attached to their names. We, therefore, most respectfully and earnestly entreat your kind and immediate consideration of this subject, as notices have been given us, and we shall shortly be called upon to pay."

The following reply, dated from Whitehall, and signed by S. F. O. Liddell, has been received to the above memorial:—"I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bruce to acknowledge the receipt of a memorial, addressed to Mr. Gladstone, from certain widows and unmarried women of Bridgwater, complaining of the heavy rates being levied to pay for the expenses of the Bridgwater Election Inquiry Commission; and I am to express his regret that the malpractices of a portion of the inhabitants of the borough should have necessitated the imposition on that town of the discredit and expense of the Royal Commission referred to, but it is not in the power of the Secretary of State to exempt women owning or occupying property from the local and imperial taxation to which the property is liable."

MARRIED WOMEN AND THE MUNICIPAL  
FRANCHISE.

*Court of Queen's Bench, Westminster, Jan. 22.*

## IN THE MATTER OF A MUNICIPAL ELECTION AT SUNDERLAND.

This case raised a question as to the right of married women to vote at municipal elections. The applicant had lost his election as town councillor by a majority of one, and he impeached several of his opponents' votes, especially the votes of two married women—Nancy Ball, who married just before the election, and Nancy Thompson, who was separated from her husband, and carried on a separate business. They were both on the burgess' list, and the former was on the list before her marriage, and remained on the list in her maiden name at the time of the election. It was contended on their behalf that under the Act of 1869, 33 Vict., c. 55, they had a right to vote.

Mr. Herschel was for the applicant; Mr. Crompton was against him.

It was admitted that no married woman had ever yet been allowed to vote, but it was insisted that this was only because before the Act no woman could vote.

The Lord Chief Justice, however, observed that it was because they were married women they could not vote. The Act did not do away with the necessity for a property qualification; and Mr. Justice Mellor observed that it had never yet been suggested on the part of the advocates of women's rights that married women could vote, but only widows and spinsters.

The Court were clearly of opinion that one of the married women had no right to vote, the one who was married when registered; and they were strongly of opinion that the other also was disqualified. At Common Law married women could not exercise political functions, as their legal existence was merged in that of their husbands. The Act of 1869 only gave women the right to vote where men would be entitled to vote—that is, where they had the requisite property qualification, and the Legislature by their enactments as to the property of married women, never intended, by a side wind, to alter the whole law on the subject. As to the other case, the case of the woman registered while she was single, his opinion was that her *status* was altered by marriage, and that she became then disqualified from voting. The rule, therefore, would be absolute for a *quo warranto*.

## THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1871.

We take the following from the *London Gazette*:—

Whereas due proof has been made to the satisfaction of me, the undersigned, Henry Austin Bruce, one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, that the nature of the business of the trades carried on in factories and workshops, specified in the schedule hereto, depends upon the weather and the seasons of the year, and requires that young persons of at least 14 years of age and upwards, and women working in such factories and workshops, should be employed in the manner hereinafter mentioned: Now I, the said Henry Austin Bruce, in pursuance of the powers vested in me by the 1st and 2nd articles of the schedule annexed to the Factory and Workshop Act, 1871 do, by this my order, give permission to occupiers of the said factories and workshops to employ young persons of at least 14 years of age, and women working in such factories and workshops, for a period not exceeding 14 hours in any one day. Provided that:

1. They shall not be so employed except between the hours of six in the morning and eight in the evening, or where permission has been given by the Secretary of State to work between the hours of seven in the morning and seven in the evening, or of eight in the morning and eight in the evening; then, except between the hours of seven in the morning and nine in the evening, or eight in the morning and ten in the evening, as the case may be.

2. In addition to the time allowed for meals, they shall be allowed half-an-hour for a meal after the hour of five in the evening.

3. They shall not be so employed for more than 96 days in any period of 12 months, or for more than five consecutive days in any one week.

4. They are not so employed at any one time for more than one month from the date of a notice signed by the inspector of factories for the district, and hung up in the factory or workshop.

Schedule.—Tailors; dress, mantle, and paletot makers; milliners; hat, cap, and bonnet makers; shirt collar makers; boot and shoe makers; braid, fringe, and fancy trimming makers; artificial flower makers; bon-bon and Christmas present makers; valentine makers; fancy box-makers; almanack makers and finishers; firewood makers.

(Signed)

H. A. BRUCE.

Whitehall, Dec. 28, 1871.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

A general meeting of members of the Central Committee and of subscribers to its funds was held at the Langham Hotel, London on January 17th. Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P. occupied the chair, and among those present were Mr. E. B. Eastwick, M.P., The Misses Ashworth (Bath), Mrs. Wm. Hargreaves, Mrs. A. W. Paulton, Mr. Alderman and Mrs. Pochin, Mme. Venturi, Mr. White (Glasgow), Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Arnold, Mr. Wm. Shaen, Mr. William Michael Rossetti, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bright, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kingsley, Mr. Andrew Leighton (Liverpool), Mrs. (Augusta) Webster, Mr. William Pare, Miss Rhoda and Miss Agnes Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. F. Pennington, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Malleon, Mrs. Frank Malleon, Mrs. George Sims, Mr. James Hoskins, Sir James Duke, Miss Becker (Manchester), Mr. Charles Hopwood, Miss Babb, Miss Courtenay, Miss F. Power Cobbe, Mr. Mottershead, Dr. Knighton (Rochester), Mr. Frederic Bell, Mr. E. M. Ward, R.A., Professor Amos, Mrs. F. W. Chesson, Mr. Felix Moscheles, Mr. Charles Holland, Miss Frances Morgan, M.D., Mrs. R. Glover, Mr. Wm. Ashurst, Rev. W. Dinwiddie and Mrs. Dinwiddie, Dr. Hardwicke, Miss Pung (King's Lynn), A. J. Williams, Esq. and Miss Williams, etc., etc.

The CHAIRMAN in opening the proceedings said: The meeting over which I have now the honour to preside will I believe in a short time be remembered as one of unusual importance. You are assembled together to establish for the first time in England a powerful union in aid of the political claims of women. It seems to me that the work in which you are now engaged is a necessary, in fact an inevitable step in the progress of any agitation which intends to be successful. There are throughout Great Britain and in some parts of Ireland active local committees, but in all political agitations much work has to be done which can never be done by local committees. Much has to be done in London, for instance, which requires the concentration of the efforts of all persons interested in the movement, and I do not see how it can be done unless we have a central representative committee such as that we are now called together to form. The suggestion that we should have such a central committee was made last spring, and the necessity for it seems to have been largely appreciated, for nearly every local committee with the exception of two or three, have already associated themselves with it. For the first time then we have to-day to congratulate ourselves upon the union of our forces, and this union will, I believe, everywhere give new strength to the movement. Mr. Bright after referring to the encouraging support which the Bill received in the House last Session from both political parties, strongly urged the necessity of continued exertion on the part of the various Committees, as it was useless to hope that so important a question could be carried without the expenditure of great labour and thought. In conclusion he pointed out the strong impression which the political action of women had already produced on the minds of M.P.'s and Cabinet Ministers and added that if the views of women are recognised as of value on matters of legislation, it is impossible to assert the desirability of longer excluding them from the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. EASTWICK, M.P., moved "That this meeting approves the general course pursued by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage." This resolution, he said, seems to be called for by necessity and a sense of justice. That a Central Committee is an absolute necessity is a self-evident proposition. The various local committees require some

means of intercommunication, some advice, some encouragement, some assistance, and these cannot be given without a central body through which they can be dispensed. A person who acts without reason or system is called an eccentric person, but when we speak of concerted action on the part of a body of people we call it concentrated effort. Every body of persons having a common object must to be successful be able to concentrate their whole power in one focus such as this Central Committee we have met to form; and in this way we hope our movement will be carried on with the greatest wisdom and the greatest forbearance as regards the scruples and difficulties of others. The ladies and gentlemen forming this committee will sacrifice a great deal of their time and energy for the cause and we are bound to approve of their proceedings thus far in our own self-interest. Unless we are in strict harmony we cannot expect those successes we hope for. I therefore submit this resolution with entire confidence.

Mr. SHAEN in seconding the motion in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Gilpin M.P. said: A central committee is necessary, not only to collect the feeling of the country upon a question, but to see that the expression of opinion so collected is used in London, in the most effective manner, and especially during the session of Parliament. A central committee can arrange for the presentation of petitions itself, or, by communicating with local committees, explain to them what is the best time and the best mode of presenting petitions. (Hear, hear.) In the circular issued by the Central Committee whose action you are invited by this resolution to approve, the Legislature is called upon to remove the political disabilities of women. It must not be supposed for a moment that this is a small matter. It is the very central point of woman's rights. Once remove the political disabilities of women and you will create a complete change in all the laws of the country which affect women. The necessary result will be that the laws from that time will be upon the whole a representation of the average views of men and women instead of being as at present a representation of the views of men alone. We should bear in mind that whether we succeed sooner or later we are during the progress of our agitation engaged in carrying on a great educational process, the result of which will be to teach the men that they are to look upon the women of their own nation, not as fit to be classed with children imbeciles and lunatics, but as equal citizens with themselves, entitled to an equal voice in making the laws which they are called upon to obey, and in voting the taxes to which they are called upon to contribute. (Cheers.)

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

Miss LILLAS ASHWORTH of Bath moved the second resolution as follows:

"That an Executive Committee be constituted with all the necessary powers for promoting the movement subject to the control of the Central Committee; to consist of the following persons:—Professor Sheldon Amos, Mrs. Amos, Mr. R. Arthur Arnold, Mrs. Arthur Arnold, Mr. Ashurst, Mr. Edwin Arnold, Miss Caroline Biggs, Mrs. Jacob Bright, Mr. Percy Bunting, Mrs. Chesson, Miss Courtenay, Miss Francis Power Cobbe, Miss Agnes Garrett, Miss Rhoda Garrett, Miss Katherine Hill, Mr. Frederic Hill, Mr. James Heywood, Mr. Henry Hoare, Mrs. Duncan Mc Laren, Mr. W. Malleon, Mrs. W. Malleon, Mrs. Frederic Pennington, Mr. Edwin Pears, Mrs. Pochin, Mrs. Peter Rylands, Dr. Humphrey Sandwith, Mrs. James Stansfeld, Mrs. Venturi, Miss Williams, and of the following ex-officio members:—

"1. All members of Parliament who are members of the Central Committee.

"2. Such delegates as the Committees in connection with the Central Committee may appoint. The following have already been appointed:—Bath, Lady Anna Gore Langton; Belfast, Mr. W. Johnston, M.P.; Birmingham, Mr. Frederick Pennington; Bristol, Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P.; Chatham, Dr. Knighton; Edinburgh, Mr. Duncan McLaren, M.P.; Galloway, Mr. Frederick Pennington; Leicester, Miss Ashurst Biggs; Leeds, Mr. A. J. Williams; Liverpool, Mr. C. H. Hopwood; Manchester, Miss Becker; Monmouthshire, Mrs. Green; North London, Mrs. R. Glover.

"3. All members of Executive Committees in connection with the Central Committee."

And then said: The Bristol and West of England Society of which I am a member, has long felt the necessity for an active central committee, and I am sure the confidence the central committee has inspired throughout the country is a sufficient guarantee for the efficiency of the executive committee I have now the honour to propose, for I find that all the names in this resolution composing the executive committee except one, are at present upon the provisional committee. As regards the length of time it may be expected the agitation will continue I am sure that however long it takes none of those who are working in the movement will fail to continue their exertions until they are crowned with success. I should add for our encouragement that wherever meetings are held in the country we always find a great deal of interest created in the movement, and immediately the importance of our undertaking is appreciated, the greatest sympathy is felt with those who give up their time to the work. (Cheers.)

Dr. KNIGHTON of Rochester seconded the motion and said: When our members last addressed their constituents I asked their opinion on this question. Mr. Goldsmid honestly and straightforwardly said he would oppose us because he believed the great majority of women in the country did not desire the franchise. Of course it is impossible to tell what the great majority of the women of the country desire or do not desire because they have never been asked, and we have no means of ascertaining their views. Mr. Wykeham-Martin was more cautious. He said my question had taken him by surprise, that he had not been able to make up his mind on the subject, but that the ladies with whom he associated were decidedly opposed to us. His impression was that he should accompany his friend Mr. Goldsmid into the lobby. The managers of the Liberal party in Rochester too seem rather against us. They tell me the ladies would be very difficult to manage and that a majority of them would vote with the Conservatives. The Conservatives on the other hand hold themselves aloof because they fear women would vote with the Liberals, and they say that to give women the franchise would be to take them out of their proper sphere. This is exactly what the people of Bengal used to say to me when I advocated the education of Indian women. Our literature in Rochester is of a very mild character and consequently the majority of the people of the district are by no means well informed respecting this question. It is the same I believe in most country places and as it is probable the action of the central committee may tend to instruct people on the subject, I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution.

Mr. POCHIN supported the motion. He said: I look forward to the future in a hopeful spirit. It is no longer ago than the spring of 1868 that Miss Becker held the first public meeting to agitate this question in the Free Trade Hall in Manchester. As Mayor of Salford at the time, I presided upon that occasion, and I remember that instead of obtaining for our subject serious consideration we brought down upon ourselves a considerable amount of ridicule. That phase of the

question however has passed, and the fact of our meeting here to-day is a certain omen to my mind that we have to look forward to a great and speedy victory. (Cheers.) Let us look at the success of agitations which have had for their object any change in the law. For how many years was the repeal of the corn laws agitated before the pioneers of free trade made any way at all? How long was the Reform of Parliament an object to be striven for? Surely there never was an agitation which has met with so much success in so short a time as the agitation in favour of granting the franchise to women. The great difficulty seems to be to find an opposition. Where is that opposition to arise which is likely to become a formidable obstacle in our way? There is no formidable resistance on the opposition side of the House; there is no determined resistance on the Government side of the House, and if we look to the Government itself we find no uncompromising opponent there. If we turn to the public generally we find this question is making remarkable progress among the educated of both sexes, so remarkable indeed that I feel sure this central executive committee will not have long to labour. But if I am mistaken and if we have some years of work before us the time occupied by agitation will not be ill spent. If we have to meet here year after year to review the proceedings of the Central Committee we shall meet only to tell of success after success instead of meeting but once to celebrate an immediate victory. (Cheers.) The time has not yet come and perhaps it may never come when it shall be necessary to collect any very large sums of money to carry on this agitation, but if in the course of a few years we find the difficulties in our way increase, and money is needed to overcome those difficulties, I am satisfied the committee will be able without much exertion to raise even £100,000 for carrying on such an agitation. (Cheers.) This question has as good a foundation as the temperance question or as the free trade question; no one who has thought about it can doubt of its ultimate success, and I for my part am convinced that this meeting will be looked back to as marking a great epoch in the history of the Constitution of the British Empire. (Cheers.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Miss BECKER moved the third resolution as follows: "That this meeting urges upon all local committees and supporters of the Bill for the Removal of the Political Disabilities of Women, the necessity for increased effort by means of petitions, by public meetings, and by influencing members of Parliament and the press." She said that, seeing so many members of local committees present, she would venture to offer them a few suggestions how best to carry out the recommendation of the resolution. The first requisite for the success of a local committee was to hold periodical meetings. The Education Act imposed on all School Boards the obligation to hold at least one meeting in each calendar month, and she wished that every local committee would adopt a similar rule. More frequent meetings should be held during the season for active agitation. The preparation of petitions is a very useful and important work. Not only do the petitions themselves influence Parliament, but the collection of signatures is an educational process. A vast amount of information may be imparted by a person carrying a petition sheet down a street, and explaining to each person asked to sign it the object of the petition. The work of influencing the press is a very important one, and the best mode of doing this is to give the local papers something to report on the subject; a lecture or public meeting, or a demonstration of some kind in favour of our cause. Direct influence can also be brought to bear upon members of Parliament. Almost at the commencement of our agitation one of our Lancashire members was written to on the subject. For a time no answer was received, but at length he wrote saying

that he had visited his constituents and had not heard the question raised in one instance. He voted against our bill upon the next division, but he is the only member for a Lancashire borough who does so. Local committees can also do much good on the occasion of an election. Committees have been formed in almost all the Wick boroughs and the result of their labours has been felt by the candidates, for Mr. Pender has recently declared in favour of the principle of the bill. (Cheers.) The influence of our agitation upon Parliament has been shown in the most marked manner. In 1870 the bill was thrown out by a majority of 126; in 1871 that majority was reduced to 69, that is, reduced by 53 votes. If by continuing our efforts we can obtain the reduction of the majority to the same extent on the next division, if we can take 53 from the remaining 69 hostile votes we shall not have much more work before us; and I see no reason for doubting that this may be done. (Cheers.) Those gentlemen who are so ably conducting our cause in Parliament may rest assured that whether their labours are long or short they are supported by a band of earnest women who are resolved not to relax their efforts until they are crowned with success.

Mr. FREDERIC HILL: In seconding this resolution I am tempted to draw a comparison between the prospects of our agitation and the course of a similar struggle in Hungary, the only country where the suffrage has been conferred upon women. The agitation in Hungary lasted ten years; ours has already continued five, and if we have to go on for five more we should have little cause for dissatisfaction. Five years in advance seems a long time; in retrospect but a moment.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. HENRY KINGSLEY moved the fourth resolution as follows: "That a conference of supporters of the bill for removing the political disabilities of women be summoned by the Central Committee to meet in the latter part of the month of April or at such time as the Executive Committee may find it expedient." He regarded the movement as eminently practical, and expressed the opinion that if the women of France and Germany were polled we should have peace upon the continent for 30 years to come, and as a consequence economy and progress.

Mr. E. M. WARD, R.A., seconded the motion, which was also supported by Professor SHELDON AROS.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. C. H. HOPWOOD proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. Mr. JACOB BRIGHT said the second reading of the bill would come on probably early in May, and in the meantime much work should be done, especially in the matter of petitions. He urged the necessity also of public meetings addressed by ladies. People were getting tired of male oratory, and he had noticed that meetings were gathered together more readily and at less cost when ladies were expected to speak. He had listened with much pleasure to the remarks of Mr. Pochin. When he saw the intelligence exhibited by women in the conduct of this agitation, the faith they had in this cause, he believed as much as Mr. Pochin that success was inevitable. (Cheers.)

The meeting then dispersed.

#### WORCESTER.

On January 9th, the Worcester Debating Club met at the Guildhall, Mr. Pugh presiding. There was a good attendance, which included several ladies. The subject of debate was "The Political Disabilities of Women."

Mr. J. H. HODGES opened the debate with an able and exhaustive speech on the affirmative side of the question.

The proposition was supported by Messrs. Langdon and Airey in forcible speeches, after which, on the motion of Mr. Williamson, the debate was adjourned.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### EDINBURGH.

On January 22, a public meeting in favour of conferring the electoral franchise on those women who are qualified as being owners or occupiers of lands or houses in their own right was held in the Queen-street Hall. There was a large attendance, the majority present being ladies. The chair was taken by Sir Robert Anstruther, Bart., M.P. Amongst those present were—Mr. McLaren, M.P.; Mr. Miller, M.P.; Dr. Lyon Playfair, M.P.; Professors Calderwood, Kelland, and Masson; Bailie Marshall, Councillors Millar and Bladworth, Messrs. David Pryde, J. McLennan, J. Cox, A. Nicholson, advocate; W. A. Brown, advocate; D. McLaren, jun.; S. Wellstood, Mrs. D. McLaren, Mrs. Ord, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. McCrie, Mrs. Warren, Miss Taylour, of Belmont, Miss Wigham, Miss Hunter, Miss McLaren, Miss Burton, Miss Kirkland, Miss Walker, Miss Shepherd, Mrs. Robertson, &c.

After some remarks by the Chairman—

Miss WIGHAM read the report for the year 1871. In presenting it, the committee claimed the continued and increased sympathy and help of their friends. Their operations during the past year had been similar in character to those adopted during previous years, but they had to report an increase in amount of work done, and a proportionate amount of successful results. The holding of jubilee meetings had again been adopted to a considerable extent. The series commenced with the great annual meeting in the Music Hall on the 12th January, 1870. This was followed during the year by fifty-six public meetings held in different parts of the country. Of the Scotch members, 25 voted for the bill, and 13 against it. During the session of 1870, 622 petitions, signed by 186,976 persons, were presented to the House of Commons in favour of women's suffrage. Of these petitions, 286 were sent from Scotland. The important position which the question of women's suffrage had now assumed had called for the organization of a representative society in London to watch over this question. This central national society numbered among its members forty members of Parliament, and a list of the most influential names. All local associations throughout the kingdom were invited to take a part by their representatives in the deliberations of this society, whose special function it was to watch the action of Parliament, and summon on occasions of importance the energy, strength, and co-operation of the provincial societies, thus forming at once a rallying point and watch tower for the whole country. Miss Wigham concluded with a feeling reference to the recent death of Miss Dick Lauder, an active and valued member of the committee. From an abstract of the state of the accounts it appeared that the income for last year amounted to £330. 13s. 6d., of which £295. 10s. 6d. was raised by subscriptions and donations, and £34. 17s. 9d. by collections at meetings. The expenditure amounted to £344. 19s. 3½d., leaving a balance due to the treasurer of £14. 5s. 9½d. Miss Wigham then moved the adoption of the report and the election of office-bearers.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Nicholson, and unanimously adopted.

Resolutions affirming the principles of Women's Suffrage, thanking Mr. Jacob Bright for his advocacy of the electoral rights of women, and adopting a petition in favour of the Bill, were supported by Mr. Miller, M.P., Miss Taylour of Belmont, Professor Calderwood, and Mr. W. A. Brown, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. DUNCAN M'CLAREN, M.P., a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

## KILBIRNIE.

A public meeting at which a petition for the Bill was adopted, was held on January 23rd, at Kilbirnie, Ayrshire. The meeting was addressed by Miss Craigen, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Alexander Lambert.

## PENPONT, DUMFRIESSHIRE.

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, Penpont, on January 3rd, Mr. Adam Black in the chair; when a petition was adopted with one dissentient in favour of the Womens' Disabilities Bill.

## GALSTON, AYRSHIRE.

A public meeting was held in the Evangelical Union Chapel, Galston on January 5th and a petition was adopted unanimously and signed by the chairman, Mr. Andrew Black, on behalf of the meeting.

## CATRINE, AYRSHIRE.

On January 8, Miss Craigen addressed a meeting in the Free Church School Room Catrine and a petition for the Bill was unanimously adopted, and signed on behalf of the meeting by the Rev. David Greenhill Minister of E. A. Church, chairman.

## NEW CUMNOCK, AYRSHIRE.

At a meeting held in the Free Church Schoolroom, New Cumnock, Ayrshire, on January 15, a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill was adopted and signed by Mr. David Brown, chairman, on behalf of the meeting.

## MAUCHLINE, AYRSHIRE.

Miss Craigen addressed a meeting in the Temperance Hall, Mauchline, Ayrshire, Mr. William Stevens in the chair, when a petition was adopted in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill.

## HAWICK.

Miss Craigen addressed a meeting in the Lodge Room High Street, Hawick, on December 20th 1871. Mr. Stephen Anderson in the chair. The room was not large but it was full, and a petition in favour of the Bill was carried unanimously.

## LANGHOLM.

A meeting at which a petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill was adopted was held in the Evangelical Union Meeting Room Langholm, Dumfriesshire on December 27 1871. Miss Craigen gave an address, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Robert Black.

## LONGTOWN, CUMBERLAND.

On December 30, 1871, Miss Craigen addressed a meeting in the Mechanics' Hall, Longtown Cumberland. Mr. Anthony Gibson in the chair, at which a petition was adopted for the Women's Disabilities Bill.

## NEWCASTLE ON TYNE.

A public meeting was held on December 10 in the Lecture Room, Nelson Street, Newcastle on Tyne to hear an address by Miss Craigen. Mr. T. J. Bayfield occupied the chair. The large room was full. The audience consisted entirely of working people and the meeting was most enthusiastic. A petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill was voted for without one dissentient, and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting.

## PADIHAM.

On January 9th Miss Becker addressed a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of about 600 persons, in the Assembly Room, Padiham, near Burnley. The Rev. B. Glover occupied the chair. After the lecture a petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill was proposed by Mrs. Cotton, seconded by Miss Sutcliffe, supported by another lady, and carried unanimously. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

## HEYWOOD.

A lecture was given by Miss Becker, on January 11th, in the Mechanics Institute, Heywood, near Bury, Lancashire. Mr. Francis in the chair. The large room was crowded with an attentive and enthusiastic audience, and the lecture was received with applause. A petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill was moved by a lady present, seconded by Miss Alice Shepherd, and carried unanimously. Votes of thanks were afterwards adopted to the lecturer and the chairman.

## HAMPSTEAD.

On January 15 a meeting convened by the London National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Holly Bush Assembly Rooms, Hampstead. Mr. W. D. Christie occupied the chair. A resolution in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women was proposed by Miss Beedy, seconded by Professor Hunter, and supported by Professor Robertson. A second resolution, for a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, was proposed by Mr. J. Macdonnell and seconded by Miss Blind. Dr. Lankester also supported the movement.

## ROTHERHAM.

Mrs. Ronniger, attending as a deputation from the London National Society for Women's Suffrage, delivered a lecture in the Mechanic's Hall, Rotherham, on January 14. The Mayor (J. M. Habershon, Esq.) occupied the chair, and there were also on the platform Ald. Guest and the Revs. W. Blazeby and P. C. Barker. The hall was moderately well filled. The lecturer delivered a most eloquent address, advancing many reasons why women should be entrusted with the franchise. At the conclusion several gentlemen delivered short addresses, and the proceedings concluded with votes of thanks.

## LAMBETH.

The London National Society for Women's Suffrage has held two more lectures, both in the borough of Lambeth. The first, on January 3rd, was delivered by Miss Mathilde Blind, in the National School-rooms, Lambeth Walk. Professor W. A. Hunter took the chair, and introduced the lecturer with a brief explanation of the objects of the society. Miss Blind dwelt chiefly on the great want which at present exists of employments for women; and quoted some striking facts which tended to show that in many cases where women are employed they are very insufficiently remunerated. A hearty vote of thanks concluded the proceedings, and several of those present signed the petition in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill. On January 5th, at the North Brixton Hall, Miss Beedy lectured on "The Desirability of Removing the Political Disabilities of Women." Mr. F. W. Chesson occupied the chair. After giving a sketch of the progress of the movement in England, Mr. Chesson drew attention to the increased support which Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill had received last session from both sides of the House. He said that, as the sitting members for Lambeth were opposed to the Bill, he hoped that several meetings of this kind would be held in all parts of the borough, in order that greater interest in the movement should be aroused. Miss Beedy urged the claims of women to a more thorough system of education, and to wider opportunities of earning their living. By a very logical and clear line of argument, she showed that such claims were not opposed to the interests of either sex, and that they could only be enforced when women were represented in Parliament. The lecture was received with great applause, and three or four of the audience spoke afterwards expressing themselves warmly in favour of enfranchising women householders. Several of those present signed the petition, and a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer.

## BRISTOL.

## MEETING OF THE CONSERVATIVE LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

On January 4th the first general meeting of the Bristol Conservative Ladies' Association, which was formed about a fortnight ago, was held at the Working Men's Conservative Association Committee-rooms, 4, St. Stephen's Avenue. Mr. C. T. Evans presided, and the majority of those present was composed of members of the fair sex.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the business of the meeting, said that the Conservative Ladies' Association was such a novel institution that the questions might not unnaturally be asked, "Why had it been formed?" and "What was its object?" Well, in answer to these queries, he would remind them that the Government had recently given the franchise to women; they paid rates, and they now possessed the power, which they did not formerly hold, of recording their votes as to who should direct how the money was to be expended. (Hear, hear.) When they considered the great number of lady ratepayers there was in the city of Bristol, he really believed that their association would be very strong (Hear, hear). He found that there were nearly 700 female taxpayers in Clifton; and in the parish of St. James there were 124 now on the register; but he had no doubt that there were several lady ratepayers whose names had not yet been enrolled (hear, hear). He considered that if ladies paid their fair share of the rates, they should have the power of saying how the money should be expended—(hear, hear)—and the power of voting for all civic officers, such as the Town Council and the School Board. (Hear, hear.) The legislature had, he thought, very wisely enacted that females might occupy places at the School Board, and many School Boards, including London, had at the present time lady members; but unfortunately this was not the case in Bristol, although it might have been so had the Conservative Ladies' Association been in existence at the time of the election of the School Board. (Hear, hear.) The feeling in favour of giving to women the suffrage was very strong throughout the country; and Mr. Jacob Bright had pledged his word to bring a Bill into the House of Commons providing that ladies should have the power of voting for members of Parliament. There was no doubt whatever in his mind that, before very long, ladies would enjoy the privilege of voting in Parliamentary as well as municipal elections. (Hear, hear.) Having counselled his hearers to bear in mind the old motto—"Unity is strength"—and advised them to combine together for the purpose of steadily promulgating Conservative and Constitutional principles, the Chairman called upon

Mr. P. J. DAVIES, who stated that he conscientiously endorsed every word that had emanated from the chairman. After briefly referring to the educational and other questions, he observed that the Ladies' Conservative Association would be of great assistance to Mr. Sholto V. Hare at any election which might henceforth occur, the speaker stated that heading the list of patrons to the society were the names of Mrs. Sholto V. Hare, and Miss Miles, of Kingsweston. (Applause.) In conclusion, he eulogised the indefatigable energy of Mrs. Savage, the secretary of the Ladies' Conservative Association, and sincerely hoped that the society would meet with the prosperity it so eminently deserved. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN having made a few remarks respecting the lady patrons of the association,

Mrs. STRATTON moved a resolution to the effect that a soiree be held at the earliest possible date, at the Victoria Rooms, to celebrate the restoration to health of the Prince of Wales.

Mrs. WALL seconded the motion, which was then put and carried unanimously.

The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding.—*Abridged from the Western Telegraph.*

## COMMITTEES.

## DUMFRIES.

The first meeting of the Dumfries Committee was held on January 9th, when officers were elected. It was resolved to join the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and to send a representative to the annual meeting. It was also resolved to canvass the town for signatures to a petition to Parliament, and to raise subscriptions to defray the expenses of the committee. The committee agreed to meet on the second Tuesday in each month.

The following form the committee:—

President: Rev. L. N. SCOTT.

MR. ROBERT CHALMERS	Mrs. M'CUCCLOCH
Dr. CUNNINGHAM	Mrs. M'KINNEIL
Mrs. FERGUSON	Miss MORISON
Dr. GILCHRIST	Mr. R. MUIR
Rev. M. N. GOULD	Rev. JOHN PARK
Mr. GREGAN	Mrs. PURVIS
Miss JANE GREGAN	Mr. REID, of Newtonreid
Mrs. HOWAT	Bailie SHORTRIDGE
Mr. JOHNSTON	Mrs. THOMPSON
Mr. KERR	Mrs. WALLACE

Hon. Secretary, Miss HARKNESS, 22, Castle Street.

Treasurer, Miss NOTT, Essex Park.

## PAISLEY.

President: Mrs. ARTHUR, of Barshaw.

Mrs. J. ANDERSON	Mrs. M'KEAN
Mrs. CALDWELL	Mrs. ROBERTSON
Mrs. PETER KERR	Mrs. WEIR

Treasurer: Mrs. S. ROBERTSON, Castlehead.

Secretary: Miss SHEPHERD.

## GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. JAS. ARTHUR, of Barshaw	Mr. WILLIAM ELDEY
Rev. JAS. BROWN	Rev. J. C. LEES, D.D.
Mrs. BROWN	Mrs. LEES
Mr. THOS. COATS, of Feruslie	Provost MURRAY
Mrs. COATS	Mrs. MILLAR
Bailie COCHRANE	Miss M. MACKEAN
Mr. JAS. COOK	Miss THOMSON
Mrs. COOK	Councillor WATSON
Mrs. DALZIEL	Mrs. WATSON
BAILIE EAGLESIM	Mr. WEIR

The Executive Committee has secured the services of Professor Sheppard, of Chicago, to give a lecture in the Old Low Church, about the middle of next month.

## ALLOA.

Rev. Mr. BRYSON	Miss M'DOWELL
Mrs. BRYSON	Mrs. A. MOIR
Mr. JAMES KIRK	Miss JANET MOIR
Rev. P. M'DOWELL	Rev. Mr. MATHISON

Hon. Sec. Dr. DUNCANSON.

Delegate, Mr. BRUCE.

## FALMOUTH.

Mr. WILLIAM CORNISH	Rev. R. G. MOSES
Mr. J. P. CREGOE	Mr. JACOB OLVER, J.P.
Mr. E. B. EASTWICK, M.P.	Mrs. EDWARD READ
Mr. R. N. FOWLER, M.P.	Mr. FREDERICK RENFREW
Mrs. GENN	Mrs. JOSEPH SHEDDEN
Miss KRABBE	

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: Mrs. HOWARD FOX.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TAXATION AND NON-REPRESENTATION. To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

MADAM,—In your issue of last November appeared a letter on the above subject, copied from the Englishwoman's Review, and signed "A Householder"—the writer stated that under a deep conviction "that the best, and perhaps the only protest, which women can make, to show their earnest desire for the suffrage, is to refuse to pay the State taxes."

In reference to the process of seizure and sale, "A Householder" says—"It would have been perfectly easy for me to let a friend buy in the goods at once, but I wished, as I believe I am the first woman making this kind of protest, that the matter should be completely carried out; though, of course, it makes the expense greater. I do not think that it would be again necessary to let the goods be taken away, as any future refusal would be only a continuation of the protest."

The experience of the last few years has shown how much mistresses are to be preferred to masters in elementary schools for boys, on account of their kindness of disposition, patience, and aptitude for teaching. In consequence of this the teaching has been entrusted to mistresses, even in the elementary boys school of the Incoronata.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN WYOMING.

The Legislature of Wyoming has passed a bill repealing the act entitling women to vote, over the Governor's veto, but it was lost in the Council. Both the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, and many of the best citizens also, have pronounced the experiment of women suffrage in that territory a complete success; but it is too much of an innovation for Democratic politicians, who fear what it may lead to.

Governor Campbell, of Wyoming, in his message vetoing the Act to repeal the Woman Suffrage law of the territory, says:—"In this territory women have manifested for its highest interests a devotion strong, ardent and intelligent. They have brought to public affairs a clearness of understanding and a soundness of judgment which, considering their exclusion hitherto from practical participation in political agitation and movements, are worthy of the greatest admiration, and above all praise.

JOHN WESLEY ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

A correspondent sends us the following quotation. John Wesley, who was a Tory, about a hundred years ago wrote a little pamphlet "On the origin of political power" in opposition to the doctrine that all power proceeds from the people. In it is the following passage. "I ask by what argument you prove that women are not naturally as free as men? And if they are, why have they not as good a right as we have to choose their own governors? Who can have any power over free, rational creatures, but by their own consent? And are they not free by nature, as well as we? Are they not rational creatures? But suppose we exclude women from using their natural rights, by might overbearing right, by main strength, (for it is sure that we have stronger limbs, if we have not stronger reason) what pretence have we for excluding men like ourselves? . . . The supposition then that the people are the origin of power is in every way indefensible. . . . If it be so, then it belongs . . . not to men only, but to women also. . . . But none did ever maintain this, nor I suppose ever will."

The world has moved in the hundred years since John Wesley's time. The principle that the people are the source of political power is the accepted basis of government, and the corollary from that principle, that no legitimate power can be exercised over free rational creatures but by their own consent, forms the ground of the demand for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women.

NOTTINGHAM.

Another conference in connection with the local society for promoting women's rights, was held on January 23, at the People's College, Nottingham. Mr. E. Gripper presided, and Mr. T. B. Smith read a paper on "The Rights of Women in their Educational Aspects." After the reading of the paper, a discussion arose, and Mr. Smith replied to a variety of objections raised against granting the suffrage to women; after which, a vote of thanks was awarded to him for the paper.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, 1871

Table with 7 columns: Name of Borough, Total No. of Persons on Register, No. of Women on Register, Proportion of Women to Men on Register, Total No. of Persons who Voted, No. of Women who Voted, Proportion of Women to Men who Voted. Lists various boroughs like Aberavon, Abingdon, Ashton-under-Lyne, etc.

Table with 7 columns: Name of Borough, Total No. of Persons on Register, No. of Women on Register, Proportion of Women to Men on Register, Total No. of Persons who Voted, No. of Women who Voted, Proportion of Women to Men who Voted. Lists various boroughs like Ruthin, Evesham, St. Ives, Salford, etc.

PETITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Women's Disabilities Bill will be re-introduced in the House of Commons at the earliest possible date after the opening of the session, and it is of the utmost consequence to strengthen the hands of our Parliamentary friends by a formidable array of numerous signed petitions. We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities, etc.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass the Bill entitled "A Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."

Write out the above form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper, obtaining as many signatures as you can to follow. After the written heading is signed extra sheets of paper may be attached to hold more names. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age whether householders or otherwise.

Write, and send along with the petition, a note (paid) asking the member to present it, and support its prayer. Petitions should begin to be sent in immediately after the Bill has been read a first time, which will probably be in the second week in February, and should continue without intermission during the interval between the first and second reading, which takes place early in May.

N.B.—The printed forms issued by the Society are used only for collecting signatures. Printed petitions are not received by Parliament, consequently, in using these forms, the printed part must be cut off, and the names attached to a written and signed copy of the petition.

Written petitions ready for signature, and printed forms for the collection of additional signatures will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED IN JANUARY, 1872.

Mrs. Dunville.....	£1	1	0
Miss Hall.....	2	2	0
Mrs. Holbrook.....	0	2	6
Mrs. Flint.....	0	2	0
Mrs. Müller.....	0	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis.....	0	2	0
Alex. Brown, Esq., M.P. (donation).....	20	0	0
Miss H. Blackburn.....	0	2	0
The Misses Priestman.....	1	1	6
Mrs. Charles Thomas.....	1	1	0
W. C. Cazalet, Esq.....	5	0	0
Mrs. Haslam.....	0	5	0
Mrs. F. Malleson.....	5	0	0
Mrs. Briggs.....	0	10	0
Miss Amy Gurney.....	0	2	6
Mr. and Mrs. P. Bunting (donation).....	1	1	0
(subscription).....	1	1	0
Countess of Mar (donation).....	1	1	0
Lady Bowring (donation).....	1	0	0
Madame Venturi.....	1	1	0
Mr. F. Banks.....	0	5	0
The Misses Southall.....	0	10	0
Lady Goldsmid.....	2	2	0
Mr. J. Biggs.....	1	1	0
Miss Ashurst Biggs.....	1	1	0
Miss C. Biggs.....	1	1	0
Miss F. Cobbe.....	1	0	0
Mrs. G. Hamilton Fletcher (donation).....	2	2	0
Wm. Clark, Esq., and Mrs.....	4	4	0
Mr. R. Arthur Arnold (donation).....	1	15	3
Professor Newman.....	2	0	0
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