

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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JANUARY 1, 1885.

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Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

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

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

**ST. HELENS.**—A Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, St. Helens, on Friday, January 9th. Miss Becker and Miss Caroline Biggs will attend as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. The Chair will be taken at eight o'clock by the MAYOR (Mr. Alderman Cook). Admission Free.

**HULL UNITED LIBERAL CLUB.**—A Lecture will be delivered by Miss BECKER on behalf of the National Reform Union, on Monday, January 12th, at the Hull United Liberal Club, on the right of women to the Parliamentary Franchise. Members may introduce their friends. Proceedings commence at eight o'clock.

**LITTLEBOROUGH.**—A Lecture will be delivered at the Reform Club, Littleborough, on Tuesday, January 20th, by Miss BECKER, on behalf of the National Reform Union, on the right of women to the Parliamentary Franchise. Particulars in local announcements.

**NOTTINGHAM.**—The Annual Meeting of the Notts Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Mechanics' Institution, on Wednesday, January 28th, 1885, at Eight o'clock. Miss Müller (London), Miss Florence Baggart (Scarborough), and other ladies and gentlemen are expected to be present. Further particulars in local announcements. Admission free.

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Just Published.  
**SUFFRAGE STORIES.**—MRS. MABURY'S PETITION, JANE CRUMP'S POLITICS, A WOMAN'S DUTY, by the author of "Rachel's Secret," "A Sylvan Queen," etc. To be obtained at the National Society for Women's Suffrage Office, 29, Parliament-street, London, W.; or 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester. 1d. each, or 6d. dozen, post free.

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

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CALENDAR** for 1885. Gives dates of historic interest, list of registered lady doctors, addresses of societies, and other information useful to women. Price 1d. each, 9d. a dozen; or on card, 6d. each. J. W. ARROWSMITH, Quay-street, Bristol, and all booksellers.

"An Almanac which the advocates of women's rights will find of the utmost service to them has been published by Mr. J. Arrowsmith, of Bristol, at the charge of one penny."—*Hereford Times*.

"Miss Helen Blackburn has compiled a Women's Suffrage Calendar for 1885 which reflects great credit on her industry and skill."—*Bristol Mercury*.

"The days are marked by the birth or death of eminent women, or by the passing of some event affecting them; and the general information includes a list of the registered lady doctors, and useful directions as to where and from whom inquiries can be made respecting employment, education, emigration, sanitary and dress reform, and last though not least clubs."—*Illustrated London News*.

**TO LET**, Furnished, till Midsummer, 51, THE LAWN, South Lambeth Road, ten minutes' drive from the House of Commons, the London residence of the late Rt. Hon. H. Fawcett, M.P., containing seven bedrooms and one dressing-room, three reception-rooms, and good servant's offices; with a delightful old lawn, and kitchen garden, about one acre in extent, well stocked. Low rent. Agents, GEO. WORTLEY & CO., 32, Lowndes-street, S. W.

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.**—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 29, Parliament-street, Westminster, London, S.W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Daily Votes and Proceedings.)

- Nov. 25. Representation of the People Bill, Petitions for amendment of, by extension of the franchise to women, of Inhabitants of LEEDS (4); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Corporation of PENRYN, and Inhabitants of LEEDS (16) and YEADON; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- Dec. 1. Representation of the People Bill, Petitions for amendment of, by extension of the franchise to women, of Meeting at TEWKESBURY, Inhabitants of LEEDS (7), RATHGAR, and DUBLIN, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 2. Representation of the People Bill, Petitions for amendment of, by extension of the franchise to women, of Meetings at EDINBURGH (4), and Inhabitants of EDINBURGH, and HATCHAM, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 4. Representation of the People Bill, Petitions for amendment of, by extension of the franchise to women, of Midcalder Conservative Association, Inhabitants of FOXROCK, TAVISTOCK, LEEDS (35), INVERNESS, DUBLIN, and LONDON, and persons signing; read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 5. Franchise, Petitions for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of LEEDS (4); read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- " 6. Franchise, Petition for the extension of, to women, of Inhabitants of LIMERICK, &c.; read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—For Extension to Women (No. 2) Bill.

THIRD REPORT.—Continued from last month.

- Nov.
- ©\*111 14 UXBRIDGE Branch of the Middlesex Conservative Association, Members of the, in meeting assembled; Francis H. Deane, chairman (Lord George Hamilton) ... 1
- ©\*112 17 BUCKINGHAM, Inhabitants of (Sir Robert Harvey) ... 34
- ©\*113 " EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Drawing Room Meeting held at 21, Windsor-street; Catherine Crawford, president (Mr. Dick Peddie) ... 1
- ©\*114 " DUBLIN Women's Suffrage Association, Members of the Committee of; Henry Wigham, chairman (Mr. Woodall) ... 1
- 115 " BIRKDALE, Inhabitants of (Mr. Woodall) ... 39
- \*116 " DUBLIN, Women resident in (Mr. Woodall) ... 43
- 117 " DUBLIN, Young Men Members of the Church of Ireland Association, Dawson-street (Mr. Woodall) ... 8
- 118 " DUBLIN, Young Men Members of the Church of Ireland Association, Dawson-street (Mr. Woodall) ... 7
- ©\*119 " BRISTOL, Members of the Bristol Association of Working Women, in meeting assembled at Saint John's Coffee Tavern; Fanny Paul, president (Mr. Woodall) ... 1

Total number of Petitions 55—Signatures 1,253

FOURTH REPORT, 19 November—2 December, 1884.

Brought forward, Petitions 55—

- Nov. Signatures 1,253
- ©151 19 EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at 5, Great Stuart-street; Elizabeth Hunter, president (Mr. Arthur Elliott) ... 1
- ©152 " STRATHPEPPER, Householders and other Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; J. M. Mackenzie, chairman (Mr. Munro-Ferguson) ... 1
- \*153 " LEWISHAM and other places, Inhabitants of (Sir James Clarke Lawrence) ... 70
- 154 " LOUTH, Inhabitants of the county of (Mr. Justin M'Carthy) ... 66
- 155 " LONGFORD, Inhabitants of the county of, and other places (Mr. Justin M'Carthy) ... 32
- \*156 " LONDON, Caroline J. Coxhead, resident at 47, Russell Square, and other Ladies of (Mr. Woodall) ... 7
- 157 " DUBLIN, Inhabitants of (Mr. Woodall) ... 133
- ©158 " STANNINGLEY, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled in the Lecture Hall of the Stanningley Liberal Club on the 11th October, 1884; Charles Dobbs, chairman (Mr. Woodall) ... 1
- ©159 20 EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Meeting held at 37, Candle-maker Row; Jane Seaton, president (Lord Elcho) ... 1

- Nov.
- ©160 20 CAMBRIDGE Association for Promoting the Women's Suffrage, Members of the General Committee of the, in meeting assembled; Anna Bateson and others (Mr. William Fowler) ... 18
- \*161 " BROMLEY, in the county of Kent, Female Inhabitants of (Sir Charles Mills) ... 22
- \*162 " EAST KENT and CANTERBURY Conservative Club, Members of the (Mr. Pemberton) ... 23
- \*163 21 HACKNEY, Inhabitants of the Parliamentary Borough of (Mr. Holms) ... 31
- ©164 " EDINBURGH, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at No. 15, Saint Bernard's Crescent; Esther L. Beattie Brown, president (Mr. Waddy) ... 1
- 165 22 WEXFORD, Inhabitants of the county of (Mr. William Redmond) ... 32
- ©166 24 INVERNESS, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; H. C. MacAndrew, provost, chairman (Mr. Mackintosh) ... 1
- Dec.
- \*167 1 LONDON, R. H. Crowhurst and other Inhabitants of (Sir Thomas Chambers) ... 9
- \*168 " LONDON, Agnes Johnson and other Inhabitants of (Sir Thomas Chambers) ... 7
- \*169 " LONDON, Pauline Hall and other Inhabitants of (Sir Thomas Chambers) ... 16
- \*170 " LONDON, Amelia Gutrie and other Inhabitants of (Sir Thomas Chambers) ... 11
- ©171 " MID-CALDER and KIRK NEWTON Conservative Association, Members of the; Peter Turner, secretary (Sir Stafford Northcote) ... 1
- ©172 " EDINBURGH, Members of the Conservative Working Men's Association of the city of, in meeting assembled; J. McKay, chairman (Mr. Woodall) ... 1
- 173 " LONDON, Mary Felkin and other Inhabitants of (Mr. Woodall) ... 23
- ©\*174 2 TEWKESBURY, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on Nov. 25, 1884; John H. Boughton, chairman (Mr. Richard Martin) ... 1
- 175 " DUBLIN, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Colonel King-Harman) ... 201

Total number of Petitions 80—Signatures 1,970

The Petitions marked thus (\*) are similar to that from Broughty Ferry (APP. 12). The Petitions marked thus (©) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

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

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,  
That your petitioners are of opinion that the exclusion of duly qualified women from the Parliamentary franchise is unjust to those excluded and injurious to the welfare of the nation at large.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a Bill entitled "A Bill for Extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women."  
And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

Petitions may also be sent to the House of Lords. The following form may be used:—

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,  
That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes ought to have votes for members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will pass a measure for the exercise of the franchise by duly qualified women.  
And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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THE Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, which stood for second reading on December 9th, was postponed owing to the adjournment of the House of Commons. Mr. WOODALL has set it down for Wednesday, March 4th. It is not, however, the first order of the day, consequently there is some uncertainty as to whether it can then be brought on for second reading. Our friends should, however, be prepared with their petitions, and use their utmost diligence in pressing the importance of a settlement of the question during the present session, in order that the great measure of reform which will come into force next year may be a complete measure of household suffrage, leaving no homes unrepresented in Parliament.

THE debate on the Franchise Bill in the House of Lords marks a distinct step towards the legislative recognition of the principle of women's suffrage. An amendment having that object stood in the name of Lord DENMAN, and although it was understood that this proposal would not be carried, inasmuch as it had been agreed that the Franchise Bill should be passed without alteration, the occasion called forth some declarations of opinion from noble lords of the highest significance to the progress of the movement.

Lord BRABOURNE said that he wished it to be distinctly understood that they who were favourable to the principle of the noble lord's amendment did not, in abstaining from giving it their support that night, preclude themselves from urging it at a more fitting time. He hoped it would not be long before the claim of duly qualified women to exercise the franchise was recognised.

The Earl of CARNARVON said that though he should be averse from suggesting the introduction of new matter into the Franchise Bill, he agreed that the time was rapidly approaching when the claim of women should be recognised. There was little to be said on behalf of the numerous classes they were now about to enfranchise that

could not be said with equal and in many cases with much greater force on behalf of duly qualified women.

Lord DENMAN, in moving his clauses, said the noble marquis (the Marquis of SALISBURY) was pledged to shorten the passage of the Franchise Bill, and he could not expect his support, however much he might agree with the principle of the proposal. Under the circumstances he would not press the clause.

The Marquis of SALISBURY said that his own judgment leaned to some relaxation of the law in that respect, though he was not prepared to go all the lengths to which some of the advocates of the proposal go.

From the tone of the debate, and from other indications of opinion, it is inferred that a measure for the enfranchisement of duly qualified women, if submitted to their Lordships as a separate measure, would receive favourable consideration.

MANY public meetings have been held during December. At Gravesend, Mrs. FENWICK MILLER and Miss MULLER addressed a meeting in the Public Hall. At Rochester, a meeting was held in the Corn Exchange at which Miss ORME and Miss FLORENCE STACPOOLE spoke. At Wisbech, Mrs. ASHTON DILKE and Miss CAROLINE BIGGS addressed a meeting in the Public Hall. At Brentwood, Mrs. JOHN HULLAH and Mrs. ASHTON DILKE spoke at a meeting in the Town Hall. Meetings have also been held at Calne and Chippenham, addressed by Miss BLACKBURN and Miss J. G. WILKINSON, and Miss WILKINSON has given a lecture at Merthyr Tydvil.

A drawing-room meeting was held, by invitation of Mrs. BYRNE, at Tekels Castle.

The annual meeting of the Edinburgh Branch of the Society was held at Edinburgh under the presidency of Mrs. WELLSTOOD. It was addressed by Miss ELIZA WIGHAM, Mrs. LINDSAY, and others.

Other meetings not specially connected with the Suffrage Society, but in which the subject was discussed,

have taken place. The Women's Liberal Association of Darlington had a meeting under the presidency of Mr. THEODORE FRY, M.P., for the purpose of hearing addresses from Mrs. EVA M'LAREN and Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE. A resolution urging the necessity for the immediate enfranchisement of women was adopted and ordered to be presented to the PRIME MINISTER, and Mr. GLADSTONE, in reply, stated that he should be glad if the subject were to receive full and dispassionate consideration.

At a Liberal meeting at Geddington, called for the purpose of discussing several of the topics of the day, a lady—Mrs. COLLYER—was, on the motion of her husband, voted into the chair, and, from the report, appears to have conducted the meeting with marked ability. The resolution approving of women's suffrage was moved by Mrs. JOHN WALLIS, and seconded by Mrs. DAVIS GOTCH, and was carried enthusiastically without dissent.

THE newly-enfranchised women electors of Washington Territory exercised their right for the first time in the recent Presidential election with a result of an eminently satisfactory character. The *New North West* says that women have voted at this their first opportunity more numerous than suffragists expected, and have so conducted themselves as to win the approval of the press of the Territory. Their influence on the canvass, and particularly at the polls, has been healthful and purifying, and they have been treated everywhere with the utmost courtesy and respect, a deference all the deeper because they can now quietly give telling expression to their opinions. The common objections to women's suffrage have all been swept away by this election.

The Governor of Washington Territory, Mr. WATSON SQUIRE, states, in his annual report to the United States Secretary of the Interior, that the law allowing women to vote meets with the approval of the majority of the Territory. He adds that women themselves strongly favour the continuance of the law, and that its operation is attended with no unfavourable results for the welfare of the people.

The testimony of Governor SQUIRE, of Washington Territory, thus stands side by side with that of Governor HOYT, of Wyoming Territory, in proof of the success of women's suffrage in lands where it is in full practical operation.

Of the three Territories of the United States in which the franchise is accorded to women, Washington Territory

is the most important. It is situated in the extreme north-west of the continuous territory of the United States, and adjoins British Columbia in the Dominion of Canada. Washington Territory is knocking at the door for admission as a State—a demand which must sooner or later be accorded—and once the principle of the enfranchisement of all citizens without distinction of sex is recognised in any sovereign State of the Union, the exclusion of citizens in other States will be difficult or impossible to maintain. It will neither be possible to deny admission to Washington Territory because of its having adopted universal suffrage, nor to disfranchise any portion of the people as a condition precedent to admission within the Union. It is, therefore, probable that the concession of the franchise to the women of Washington Territory may be the means whereby the enfranchisement of women may be ultimately established throughout the United States.

SPORTING clubs of one sort or another are common enough, some of whose objects, such as pigeon shooting and rabbit coursing, do not invariably commend themselves to persons of humane disposition. But even the most pronounced upholder of the cultivation of the free instincts of savage man would admit that a line must be drawn somewhere, and would allow that the object of a club which has recently been brought into notice in the course of some proceedings in the Bolton Police Court transcends the limits of legitimate sport. This is no other than a club for the encouragement and protection of wife beating. The members appear to practise their favourite amusement at their discretion, calculating probably on the proverbial reluctance of their victims to appeal to the law for protection, and securing themselves further against unpleasant consequences by raising a fund from which the fines are discharged of any of their number who may be unlucky enough to incur such a penalty.

The existence of this club was brought under public notice by the wife of one of the members, who took proceedings in the Bolton Police Court to recover the arrears of eight shillings a week which had been awarded to her on a decree for a separation order granted after an aggravated assault by her husband. She declined to give her husband time to pay the money on the ground that she was still disabled from the effects of the assault. When she had asked him for the money, he had "jumped upon her." The fines and costs of the assault had been paid

out of the funds of the club of convicted wife beaters, of which her husband was a member.

The magistrate in this case sentenced the man to one month's imprisonment.

PERSONS who have turned their attention to the literature of vivisection must be familiar with statements that numbers of dogs and monkeys have been "used" for experiments which, whatever be their scientific value, and of this we do not profess to have the means of forming an opinion, are undeniably hideous and horrible. But a late development of the study of experimental physiology may startle even those who are accustomed to what has gone before, and it is a point on which the mothers of England, who are by law deprived of all right to the care and custody of their offspring, should have something to say.

We learn from a pamphlet recently published by Dr. STANFORD HARRIS, quoting from Dr. RINGER'S handbook of therapeutics, that two doctors have been making some investigations concerning the action of a certain drug on the human body, "using" for their experiments healthy children, to whom they gave doses sufficient to produce symptoms of poisoning. The symptoms as described by the doctors were severe pain and other distressing manifestations.

We should have supposed that such an administration of a powerful drug to a healthy child was an unlawful act, but if this is not so, and if healthy children may be lawfully "used" for the purpose of making experiments as to the effect of such drugs on the human body, this appears to be a very serious condition of things and one which demands the immediate attention of the legislature and the country.

#### THE HON. A. F. EGERTON ON THE FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

At a soirée under the auspices of the Wardle Conservative Association, on November 29, the Hon. Algernon Egerton, M.P., began his address by saying he was glad to see amongst the audience so large a number of ladies. It was very desirable that ladies should take an interest in politics. During his Parliamentary life he had never advocated giving the franchise to women, but he ventured to think that circumstances had now very considerably altered, and, as there was to be a very large addition made to the aggregate number of voters, he did not see why women who possessed property should not be given the vote. (Hear, hear.) In his opinion that change in the constitution would soon become law.

#### MR. JACOB BRIGHT, M.P., ON THE OMISSION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE FROM THE FRANCHISE BILL.

At a meeting of the Manchester Liberal Association on December 18th, speaking to a resolution expressing among other things satisfaction with the Franchise Bill, Mr. Bright said:—There had

been a general acquiescence in the wisdom of that Bill, and there is probably not much disposition to criticise it. I should be amongst the party, be it small or large, which would criticise the Bill in one respect. There are many men in the House of Commons, there are many men out of it, who wish that the Bill had been somewhat more just. They would have desired that it had been really a Household Suffrage Bill. They would also have wished that the question of the suffrage should have been settled once for all on this occasion—(applause)—and that every householder should have had a vote. (Applause.) These men, and I am one of them, cannot recognise the justice of passing over a home and denying it political representation because a woman happens to be at its head. That question no doubt will be settled sooner or later—one cannot exactly say when. With that exception I am fully satisfied with the Franchise Bill. (Applause.)

#### LORD SALISBURY AND THE FRANCHISE.

Lord Clifton having written to Lord Salisbury calling attention to the exclusion from the franchise of a very large number of adult men who are every wit as "capable citizens" as those who are to be enfranchised, but who do not happen to be householders, received the following reply:—

"20, Arlington-street, S.W., December 3.  
"My dear Lord,—I do not doubt that there are many who will not receive the franchise under the present Bill, but who are as fit as those that will. This is the case with respect to many women, as well as to many men, who do not occupy separate tenements or lodgings. There may possibly be some alteration of the law in respect to women in the next two or three years. For the rest, Parliament has shown a general disinclination for what are called fancy franchises, and the advocates of universal suffrage are at present few. The Government, I believe, are quite resolved not to extend the purview of the Franchise Bill which is now waiting for committee in the House of Lords.—Believe me, yours faithfully,  
"SALISBURY."

#### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF LORDS, Monday, December 1st.

##### PETITIONS.

Petitions praying that the Parliamentary franchise be conferred on duly qualified women were presented by Lord Cork (for Lord Calthorpe), from Sophia Moss and other ladies, of Rathmines, Rathgar, &c., County Dublin; by Lord Sudeley, from inhabitants of Tewkesbury; and by Viscount Powerscourt, from inhabitants of Dublin.

December 2nd.

The Earl of Carnarvon presented petitions from ladies in Edinburgh praying that duly qualified women may be admitted to the franchise.

The Earl of Lathom presented a petition from sundry persons in favour of woman suffrage.

Lord Thurlow presented petitions from three meetings held in Edinburgh in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

December 4th.

The Marquis of Salisbury presented petitions from Mrs. McCormick and others, from inhabitants of Leeds (18), and from a public meeting at Inverness in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women.

The Earl of Shaftesbury presented petitions from Brookford, Coleford, and Leeds, in favour of woman suffrage.

Lord de Ros presented a petition from the Mid Calder and Kirknewton Conservative Association in favour of female franchise.

Viscount Powerscourt presented petitions from inhabitants of Foxrock in favour of the franchise being granted to women householders, and from inhabitants of Dublin to the same effect.

The Earl of Northbrook presented a petition from Mrs. Turner and others living in West and South Kensington in favour of the extension of household suffrage to women.

December 5th.

Lord de Ros presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Leeds in favour of women suffrage.

December 6th.

Lord Sudeley presented a petition from women in Limerick, Maryborough, &c., praying that the Parliamentary franchise should be conferred on duly qualified women householders.

Thursday, December 4th.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.  
THE WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

On the motion of the Earl of KIMBERLEY to go into Committee on the Representation of the People Bill, after a few words from the Earl of WEMYSS,

Lord BRABOURNE drew attention to an amendment standing on the paper in the name of Lord Denman, namely, "After clause 3 to insert clause D. All women not legally disqualified who have the same qualifications as the present (or future) electors for counties and boroughs shall be entitled to vote for knights of the shire and burgesses for boroughs at every election." He said: I have been given to understand that the leader of the Opposition (the Marquis of Salisbury) will vote against the amendment, and, if that be so, I am inclined to believe that it will not be for the reason that the noble marquis is against the principle of the proposal to extend the franchise to women. It will be, I take it, that he wishes to express the opinion that this is not an opportune moment to bring the question forward. That, I think, is an intelligible standpoint to take up. I wish it, however, to be distinctly understood that we who are favourable to the principle of the noble lord's amendment do not, in abstaining from giving it our support to-night, in any way preclude ourselves from urging it at a more fitting time. There are other points which are also omitted because of the general desire to pass this Bill as it is. This question, however, is one which has come into great prominence of late years, and I hope it will not be long before the claim of duly qualified women to exercise the franchise will be recognised. (Hear, hear.)

Earl FORTESCUE having spoken upon other points, The Earl of CARNARVON said: I had not intended to say anything on the motion for going into Committee, but some remarks have been made by the noble lord on the cross benches (Lord Brabourne) which make me feel that personally, at all events, it is desirable that I should add a few words to those which have fallen from the noble lord. I am quite aware that it is desirable on all accounts to pass the Bill substantially in the same condition as it has come before your lordships, and for that reason I, for one, should be averse to suggesting the introduction into it of any new matter which might endanger it; but I agree that the time is rapidly approaching when the claims of this very important section of the community—duly qualified women—to exercise the franchise must receive the attention of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) It is of no use to put the question aside by a bad joke. The matter is one which must be argued and decided on its merits. I consider that all the arguments that have been used, whether logical or practical, really point to the admission of duly qualified women. There is very little indeed to be said on behalf of the numerous class that you are now about to enfranchise which cannot be said with equal and in many cases with much greater effect on behalf of duly qualified women. Having said that I do not desire to raise a discussion on the point. I only desire to express this as a personal opinion of my own; nor do I wish to make a motion on the subject.

Their lordships then went into Committee on the Bill. Lord DENMAN: I maintain that the passage of the Bill need not be imperilled by the adoption of my proposal. If the clause is accepted by your lordships and rejected by the House of Commons it could be reinstated again here, and there would be plenty of time left to make it the subject of a free conference. The sitting might be thrown later, but not so late as to be without precedent. In the 43rd year of the reign of Elizabeth Parliament met on the 27th October and sat, with few interruptions, until 19th December. Such a course might have been followed on this occasion—at any rate in regard to the late period of rising. But the noble marquis (Lord Salisbury), whose ancestor, I may remind your lordships, was a member of a Committee for the Safety of the State, is pledged to shorten the passage of the Franchise Bill, therefore I

cannot expect his support, however much he may agree with the principle of my proposal. Under the circumstances I shall not press the clause.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY: I will imitate the example of the noble earl opposite (Lord Brabourne), who has just now alluded to the subject by declining to go into it. My noble friend opposite has laid great stress upon the fact that there is no reason why duly qualified women should not vote. By that I suppose he meant that he considers the question as to women who pay rates settled, and that the large class of women who happen to be married are to have no consideration at all. As to the general question, I do not wish to express any opinion personally, but I hope your lordships will not agree to the amendment.

The Marquis of SALISBURY: My own judgment leans, certainly, to some relaxation of the law in this respect, though I am not prepared to go all the lengths to which some of the advocates of the proposal go. But I agree with the noble earl that this is not a suitable time—not suitable in the interests of women's franchise itself—to press the amendment, because, if it were to go down to the House of Commons, many members otherwise favourable would now vote against it. There would be no practical advantage, therefore, in putting it into the Bill, because there is no doubt that the House of Commons would throw it out, and thus, instead of forwarding the matter, we should injure it.

The amendment was negatived.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

### GRAVESEND.

A public meeting was held at the Public Hall, New Road, on December 4th, when Mr. I. C. Johnson, J.P., presided. Mrs. Fenwick Miller moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." In doing so, the speaker dwelt at great length on the injustice to the female sex in not being included in the Franchise Bill. Dr. Mitchell (a lady) seconded. Miss Müller moved "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted, and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that a memorial to Sir Sydney Waterlow, member for the borough of Gravesend, asking him to support the Bill to be moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Woodall, be also adopted and forwarded." This was seconded by Mr. Edward Porter. Both resolutions were carried unanimously. At the close a vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mr. G. C. Hammond.—*Gravesend and Dartford Reporter*.

### ROCHESTER.

A meeting was held in the Old Corn Exchange, Rochester, on Dec. 12th, in furtherance of the claim of women to the suffrage. Most of those present were ladies. Miss Orme and Miss Florence Stacpoole were the special speakers, but the chair was taken by the Ven. Archdeacon CHEETHAM, while there were also on the platform the High Constable of Chatham (Mr. W. Phillips), Mr. Adam Stigant, Mr. F. Wheeler, and Alderman Belsey, the last-mentioned gentleman arriving late. Among the other few gentlemen present we noticed Mr. W. Homan, J.P., Mr. A. Horsnaill, and Mr. C. Bird, B.A.

The Ven. CHAIRMAN said the question of the enfranchisement of women was no longer a laughing subject; it was a grave one, and in the present day was treated as such. Although the question was necessarily a political one it was no longer a party question. When parties were so completely mixed on the subject as they had been lately—for which he did not altogether commend them—it was certainly by no means a party question. They had not only leading Liberals on the side of admitting women to the franchise, but also the late Lord Beaconsfield, Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Gorst. Lord Carnarvon had argued "When you are enfranchising persons who cannot, many of them, be supposed to be either very distinguished in intelligence or very highly qualified in respect of intelligence, why should you disfranchise a large number of persons, many of whom are very intelligent and who are qualified as possessors of property or as householders?" What was asked was simply that women who were in the same position as

male voters should have votes. Was there any reason why a respectable woman householder should not vote for a member of Parliament as well as a respectable man householder, and was there any reason why a lady who happened to be a great land owner should not have a vote as well as a man who happened to be a great land owner? In municipal matters, women who were heads of households and paid rates had votes, and he saw no reason why the same principle should not be extended to national matters. Of course he was not going in for universal suffrage, but he had had occasion to see that women of any class were quite as capable of grappling political problems as were men of the same class. The present condition of things was altogether illogical, for no one could maintain that a woman was fit to assist in electing a person to manage the affairs of a city and yet was not competent to assist in the election of a person to manage the affairs of the State. The burden of proof lay with those who denied the ability of woman.

The HIGH CONSTABLE of Chatham then moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." The worthy High Constable said he had thought for a long time that women should have the franchise, and he had found in canvassing for votes at different times that women were often capable of influencing their husbands as to their votes. A woman had the same opportunity as a man of taking up a newspaper, and seeing how matters were going on.

Miss ORME seconded the resolution in a well-considered speech. She admitted that all extension of the franchise would encourage increased interest in politics among women, but she denied that this is a thing to be feared, and said it was only so considered now because the law implied that it was a wrong thing for a woman to have a vote. It was unjust to say that women were frivolous and would lower the tone of what ought to be a very serious thing. Women must not be judged in this matter by their recreations, but by the work they did—nursing the sick, visiting and comforting the sorrowing, often supporting homes, and so on. In all the great questions of legislation which were constantly arising, there were surely some in which women had an interest—the law of guardianship of children, and philanthropic work. Had Mary Carpenter been told to keep by her own fireside and not meddle with affairs of state we might have had to wait many years for our reformatory school. Those who were doing the best work now were the best supporters of this franchise extension—Miss Nightingale, Octavia Hill, and many others. Of course there were women who had given no thought to it and who did not want the vote; it was not so important to know what the bulk of women thought as what the best women thought, and the verdict of the best women was in favour of the extension.

Mr. STIGANT moved "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the previous resolution, be adopted and signed by the Chairman in behalf of this meeting, and that memorials to Sir Arthur Otway, Bart., Mr. Roger Leigh, and Mr. Gorst, members for Rochester and Chatham, asking them to support the Bill to be moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Woodall, be adopted and forwarded to them." Mr. Stigant said he considered it an incontestable argument that it was the natural right of female householders and owners of property to have the vote equally with men, but he also advocated the extension in the interests of society at large. Considering that we had had a measure lately passed which would greatly extend the basis of Parliamentary representation, there could be no doubt that social questions of the greatest importance to the people would come before the legislature, and he could see many directions in which the power of women's votes could be most beneficially exercised in the interests of the community. The way in which women exercised the municipal and parochial vote could only encourage everybody to give them the Parliamentary vote. As a poor law guardian he had seen how advantageous it would be if women took greater part in public life in connection with our workhouses. If there were more ladies on boards of guardians the neglected children in workhouses would not be worse, but better attended to. The question of temperance was one which greatly affected women, who were sufferers from the excessive drinking habits of men. If women had votes these matters would have more attention from the legislature, and society would be benefited. One of the greatest blessings to society would be the closing of public-houses on

Sunday; and this was a question that especially concerned women, whose husbands' wages were spent in the public-house on Sunday. The question of woman suffrage was not now, if it ever had been, a party question, and among others Lord Beaconsfield had pointed out the inconsistency of making householding or the possession of property the basis of the right to vote, and yet withholding the vote from women who held these qualifications.

Miss STACPOOLE seconded the resolution, and it was carried. Alderman BELSEY was one of the subsequent speakers, his arguments being much the same as those of Mr. Stigant. The meeting was unanimous, and the observations of the speakers were frequently applauded.

### WISBECH.

A very large and interested meeting assembled at the Public Hall on December 15th to hear what the ladies themselves had to say on the question of women's suffrage, and so convincing were the arguments brought forward that the resolutions submitted were passed almost unanimously. Mr. GEORGE DAWBARN, J.P., occupied the chair, and the National Society for Women's Suffrage was represented by two lady orators, Mrs. Ashton Dilke and Miss Caroline Biggs. There were also on the platform Mrs. Edmund Dawbarn, Miss Moore, the Revs. J. Bentley and B. C. Matthews, and Messrs. Allen Cooper (Cambridge), A. E. Clarke, J. Crabtree, W. S. Collins, E. Dawbarn, J. Mehew, and J. F. Tyars.

The CHAIRMAN said the question they had before them that evening was one of no secondary importance to the welfare of this country. They had been passing through a very grave crisis lately in the constitutional history of England. There had been made one of the greatest changes in our electoral system and the constitution of this country that had occurred since the days of Cromwell or William and Mary. Those revolutions were effected by physical force, but this one had been accomplished by common sense and patriotic feeling, party spirit having given way to a desire for the general weal of the country. (Hear, hear.) Unfortunately the measure just passed did not confer the right upon women to exercise the suffrage. He believed there were 400,000 unmarried women in this country who to a certain extent were intelligently carrying out the duties of owners of property. He believed he was also right in saying that nearly 40,000 females were farming in this country, either their own land or as tenants, and according to the present law of the land the shepherd and labourer would have the vote while their employers would be a nonentity. He thought such an anomaly did not commend itself to common sense, and that they were justified in giving the vote to unmarried women. (Hear, hear.) They had ladies present that evening who had given this question grave consideration and were able to state their views to the meeting; he would therefore ask Miss Biggs to address them. (Applause.)

Miss BIGGS said the resolution put into her hands was as follows:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." That resolution spoke for itself, and anyone who read it carefully would see what they meant. The women for whom they asked the Parliamentary franchise were ratepayers, occupied the position of heads of households, and, in any local voting, had the same right of giving a vote as men occupying the same position in that district. In electing school boards, town councillors, poor-law guardians, boards of health, these women who were taxpayers and heads of households had just the same right to vote in all matters in which that house and those taxes would entitle men to vote. They were asking, then, that the country should press upon the Government the necessity of extending to those women who have so long been fulfilling these public functions the Parliamentary vote, and they asked it with great confidence in the justice of their claim. (Applause.) In concluding her address, Miss Biggs said they were very much disappointed in finding the Franchise Bill passed without women's suffrage. They were told that the Bill was as heavily packed as it would carry, but if it would carry two millions of men they thought it might bear half a million of women. (Applause.) Now they were asked to wait till the franchise controversy was settled, and then their wants should be attended to; but surely when they had settled the matter they would be very unwilling to reopen it. To ask women to wait till things were quiet was as if the mistress of a house in which the carpenters, and bricklayers, and other men had been at work were

to ask her husband whether she might have the sweeps, and he were to say, "Wait till we get the house cleaned up, dear, and then you can have the sweeps if you like." (Laughter.) In a woman they would excuse a domestic simile, but would it not have been wiser to have had the sweeps at the same time. Miss Biggs concluded by moving the resolution, and resumed her seat amid much applause.

Mr. A. E. CLARKE seconded the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN, in putting the resolution to the meeting, said he felt thoroughly convinced that the admission of women to the franchise would be for the general weal of the country. He regarded it merely as a question of expediency, and it was one upon which he could conceive that there might be a difference of opinion, but he thought upon all the social and moral questions upon which the prosperity of this country mainly depended the women's vote would go right. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting, a large majority voting in its favour. Many of the audience were neutral, and about twenty hands were held up against it.

Mrs. ASHTON DILKE then rose to move the following resolution:—"That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based upon the foregoing resolution, be adopted and sent by the chairman, and that memorials to the members of Parliament for the county asking them to support the Bill to be moved by Mr. Woodall be also adopted and forwarded to them."

Mr. ALLEN COOPER, of Cambridge, seconded the resolution. He gave three reasons for supporting women's suffrage. First, there was no subject on which men were called to vote at a general election (taking the last as an instance) which women could not apprehend equally well. Secondly, there was no single reason why the franchise should be extended to the agricultural labourer, which did not equally apply to extending it to women. Thirdly, the educative influence of the vote upon women would be very advantageous. For these three reasons, if for no others, he thought it was only right to give the vote to female householders.

The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was passed with not more than six dissentients.

Mr. DAWBARN said this question had been before the country seventeen years, and he thought all would admit after hearing that statement, that England was a Conservative country and did not like change. (Laughter.) This was a most important question, and he asked all present to give it their support not only by an expression of feeling but out of their pockets. The work could not be carried on without money, and he should be very glad to be the medium for forwarding their subscriptions.

The Rev. E. C. MATTHEWS then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which the Rev. J. BENTLEY seconded, and

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging it, said they were all very much indebted to Miss Biggs and Mrs. Dilke for their addresses, and he thought he might tender the thanks of the meeting to those ladies.

Miss BIGGS thanked the meeting for the compliment. Wisbech was pledged in a measure by its antecedents to support the cause of freedom for which their townsman, Clarkson, had so nobly contended, and she hoped they would do as he had done, stand up for the oppressed, not now for slaves, but women. If they did so, the women would stand by them until justice was done to the very meanest in the land.

The meeting then separated.—Abridged from the *Wisbech Advertiser*.

#### BRENTWOOD.

A meeting promoted by the Brentwood Liberal Association, and held under the auspices of the Women's Suffrage Society, took place at the Town Hall on December 17th, 1884. The fact that the meeting was to be addressed by two ladies—Mrs. Hullah and Mrs. Ashton Dilke—excited some curiosity, and there was a fairly good attendance, a few ladies being among those present. Mr. E. RIDER COOK presided, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. J. Hullah, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, another lady, and Messrs. J. M. Cook, J. Haltridge (hon. secretary of the local Liberal Association), J. Ruggles, and C. J. Smith (Harold Wood). Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from Mr. Woodall, M.P., Mr. G. Courtauld, M.P., Mr. Andrew Johnston, Mr. A. Spicer, Mr. C. A. V. Conybeare, the Rev. W. Legerton, and Messrs. J. Biggs and S. J. Nash.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said that when he was

asked to take the chair he was one of the Liberal candidates for South Essex, but now he supposed he could hardly call himself a Liberal candidate for South Essex, for unless some accident happened within twelve months there would be no more elections in this division as South Essex. He had, however, become so attached to the constituency that whatever might take place he should always be pleased to help forward Liberal movements, whatever they might be. Referring to the local Liberal Association, and speaking of the difficulties with which it had to struggle in the very depressing town of Brentwood, he said he was glad it had grown into something like life, and now he hoped to see it backed up by a number of those who were about to receive the franchise, so that it might become a mighty engine for good. (Applause.) He did not know much about the woman's suffrage question, as it was a question he had little studied. At a large meeting at the Town Hall, Stratford, on the suffrage question, some ladies moved a resolution urging the Stratford people to press forward woman's suffrage. He was wicked enough to do all he could to prevent that motion being carried, because he had just then been struck by the appeal of Mr. Gladstone to the Liberals, in introducing the Franchise Bill, not to endanger the Bill by bringing in any side issues. The meeting adopted his views and did not pass the motion, and he was now present to make amends for what he had done. (Applause.) It was a mark of intelligence to look upon women as equal to men, and as a nation increased in civilisation and intelligence the regard for women increased. (Hear, hear.) Urging that there should be no difference in the sight of the law between man and woman, he said that women who were doing the practical work and duties and fulfilling the obligations to society that men ordinarily did ought not to be denied the right that men commonly enjoyed. (Hear, hear.) He knew ladies were successfully conducting large businesses; they had premises of their own, large staffs; they bought and sold, and paid rates and taxes, and he did not see why they should not have a voice in the government of the country. (Applause.)

Mr. J. M. COOK proposed "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise ought to be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right to vote."

Mr. J. RUGGLES, in seconding the resolution, said the movement had the hearty support of the Brentwood Liberal Association. (Applause.)

Mrs. J. HULLAH supported the resolution in a speech of considerable power.

The resolution was carried, only two hands being held up against it.

Mr. C. J. SMITH then proposed "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 forwarded to Mr. Baring and Colonel Makins for presentation in Parliament."

Mr. HALTRIDGE seconded the resolution.

It was supported at some length by Mrs. ASHTON DILKE, a lady with a sympathetic and persuasive voice and manner. After referring to the useful work which ladies had done on school boards and boards of guardians, Mrs. Dilke said no one now contested the value of women on school boards, and their number increased at every election. (Hear, hear.) At some school board and municipal elections the number of women who went to the poll was as large and in some cases larger in proportion than the number of men. Their society was non-political, and it received support from every side. Its members comprised Conservatives and Liberals, and Home Rulers, and increasing support was obtained from the Conservative side. Women were bound to be orderly and obey the law, and therefore it was in the best interests of the country that the extension should be granted. (Hear, and applause.) The women householders who would obtain the vote were in every class of the community. There were the lady landowners and the women farmers, of whom the latter were said to number something like 30,000. The number had a tendency to decrease because landlords said they could not let farms to people who had no vote. She was told it was very common when a farmer died for the landlord to refuse to renew the lease to his widow because she had no vote, although she might have lived for years on the farm and be capable of carrying it on. Then look at the number of women who were tradespeople in every town. It was for these she asked for the franchise. (Applause.) She believed such a measure would tend

to heighten the wages of women. In the course of further remarks, Mrs. Dilke said the college at Eton was originally intended for boys and girls, but the girls had been deprived of their privileges. She also argued that women got less justice than men.

The resolution was carried with only three dissentients.

Mr. MICKLEFIELD proposed and Mr. BROADBRIDGE seconded a vote of thanks to the chairman and the ladies who had spoken.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the compliment, bore testimony to the ability with which the ladies had stated their case, and said the measure sought for ought to be passed not only for the right but for the expediency of it. If the men were not an arrant set of cowards they would set about it at once. (Hear, hear.) After all, they would only enfranchise some 600,000 women, whereas when the Franchise Bill came into operation there would be some five millions of men enfranchised, and if five million men could not get their own way again 600,000 women we should have to admit that we were under petticoat government in England. (Laughter.) Until a class was represented in Parliament the rights and wrongs of that class were never considered. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the brutal treatment which women often received and to the inadequate punishment for such offences, he said these were things which would not be tolerated when the voice of the women could be heard in Parliament through their representatives. (Applause.)

The meeting then terminated.

#### CHIPPENHAM.

A public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Chippenham, on November 27th, in support of the claim of women to the franchise, the Rev. H. Bardwell presiding. A resolution that the exclusion of women from any share in Parliamentary representation is unjust, and that petitions to the Houses of Parliament be adopted by the meeting, was moved by Rev. W. J. Rees, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously. Miss Wilkinson and Miss Blackburn attended as a deputation from the Society. At the close of the meeting a number of persons signed the petitions.

#### CALNE.

A meeting in support of the claims of women to the franchise was held in the Iron Room attached to the Peach Tree Coffee Tavern, Calne, on November 28th, Dr. Bishop, ex-mayor, presiding. After addresses from Miss Wilkinson and Miss Blackburn, which were well received, Mr. J. Chappell proposed the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of duly qualified women from any share in Parliamentary representation is unjust." There was a matter stated by Miss Wilkinson that all felt a great interest in—that of ejecting tenants when not competent to give a vote. This, they were all aware, had been the case lately with a tenant of Mr. Sotheron Estcourt, one of the present sitting members for North Wilts. If Mr. Sotheron Estcourt wanted the vote, why did he not strive to obtain women's suffrage, and not act in the manner he had by turning out a tenant, thereby depriving her of the subsistence which the widow and her family would otherwise have had. When matters such as these occurred so close home, it was time the matter was further considered, and he trusted it would not be long before the women had their rights.—Mr. W. Carpenter then rose to second the resolution, stating that he had been much enlightened on the subject of women's suffrage that evening, and from what he had heard from the lady speakers, he thought that women should be entitled to their vote as well as the men.—A vote of thanks to Miss Wilkinson and Miss Blackburn was then proposed by Mr. T. Harris, seconded by Mr. Dewett, for the excellent address they had each given. This was carried unanimously.—A vote of thanks was also unanimously tendered to Dr. Bishop for his services in the chair, who, in responding, said that he had long been opposed to women's suffrage, but since he had come to look more closely at the question, he had felt it was right and a thing that ought to be.

#### MERTHYR TYDVIL.

On Tuesday evening, December 16th, an intelligent and forcible address on "Women and Politics" was delivered at the Abermorlais Hall, Merthyr, by Miss J. G. Wilkinson, on behalf of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage. There was not a very large attendance, but the unpropitious condition of the weather undoubtedly accounted for the size of the audience. Mr. C. H. James, M.P., presided, and was supported by the Rev. Rees

Evans, Dr. J. W. James, and Mr. D. Davies, Glebeland. In introducing the lectress, Mr. James said that he had always held the opinion that women had been very badly treated by the laws of England, and he was glad to see that as far as the laws of property were concerned they were now placed upon an equality with men. He was almost ashamed to confess that the action of the members of the House of Commons had recently been a little bit, if he might use the term, zigzaggy. But he did not think they could help it. A good many of them had been voting for the suffrage of women, and they thought it might be introduced into the great Franchise Bill, but their leader said that if that were done he would have nothing more to do with the Bill. That was a strong announcement, but they thought Mr. Gladstone knew best, and consequently they did what seafaring men did when there was an adverse wind, they "tacked," so as to get into port by a little longer but safer route than that suggested. (Hear, hear.)—Miss Wilkinson then delivered her address, moving, at its conclusion, "That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of women who pay rates and taxes from a share in the Parliamentary representation is unjust, and this meeting adopts petitions to both Houses of Parliament praying for the extension of the franchise to women—the petitions to be signed by the chairman of the meeting."—Dr. J. W. James seconded the motion, which was agreed to.—A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding brought the meeting to a close.

#### DARLINGTON WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

A public meeting, under the auspices of the Darlington Women's Liberal Association, was held in the Mechanics' Hall, Darlington, on December 9th—Mr. THEODORE FRY, M.P., presiding—for the purpose of hearing addresses from Mrs. Eva M'Laren, a member of the Bradford Board of Guardians, on "The Influence of Women in Public Life," and Miss Florence Balgarnie, a member of the Scarborough School Board, on "Woman in Politics." There was a large attendance. Amongst those on the platform, in addition to the two ladies already mentioned, were Mrs. Fry, Mrs. Blumer, Miss Lucas, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. S. T. Shewell, Miss Shewell, Mrs. Kendall, Mrs. Forster, Mrs. Eden, Mrs. Walford, Miss Walford, Mrs. Henry Vincent (London), Mr. W. C. Parker, Mr. Samuel Hare, Mr. S. Fothergill, and Mr. S. T. Shewell.

Mr. FRY, M.P., who was received with applause, said he was quite sure he might on their behalf give a very cordial welcome to a Darlington platform to the two ladies who had come that evening in order to endeavour to interest them upon these questions in which the women of this country especially feel an interest, politically as well as socially. (Applause.) It was impossible to shut their eyes to the fact that the time was fast advancing when properly-qualified women ratepayers would be admitted to the suffrage. (Applause.) He did not know any question which had made such rapid strides in the same time as this question. It had been before the country a very few years, and it had made very considerable strides indeed in the country; yet they knew that there were leading statesmen on both sides the House in both Houses of Parliament who have pledged themselves to do whatever they could to bring this question to a successful issue, and they could be sure that it would not be very long delayed. (Applause.) During what might be called the present session of Parliament—next year—the question would be fully debated in both Houses of Parliament, and whether that debate was successful or not, they knew assuredly that it would not be long before they gained the day. (Applause.) After announcing that letters of apology for absence had been received from Mr. D. Dale, president of the Darlington Liberal Association (who was at Barrow); Sir H. Havelock-Allan, Mr. Spafford, M.A., and the Rev. C. T. Coubeek, Mr. Fry concluded by calling upon Mrs. M'Laren to move the first resolution.

Mrs. M'LAREN, who was heartily received, said to see what the influence of women upon public life had been they must go back eighteen or twenty years, to the time when the question of woman suffrage first came before the public. Up to that time women had taken no part whatever in public life, her work having been confined to home, and to that of a benevolent nature, such as that of Mrs. Fry, Miss Nightingale, and others like them. Since the time when Mr. John Stuart Mill brought forward his amendment to the Reform Bill of 1867, proposing to admit women to the suffrage, there had been few instances of women giving their lives voluntarily to work of this kind, with the exception of Miss

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Octavia Hill and Miss Alice Hopkins, but numbers had come forward into public life. She claimed that woman's influence on public life had been to advance women socially, professionally, and politically. Socially, they had made an immense advance in their liberties, in education, and in their relations to men. Professionally, the advance was not less marked, since all the professions were now open to women except four—the church, the law, the army, and navy. The two latter they had no hope for, except to see closed to both sexes. (Laughter.) Mrs. M'Laren moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the presence of women as representatives on boards of guardians, school boards, and other public bodies is useful to the other representatives of such bodies, and advantageous to the ratepayers, as well as a benefit to those affected by their administration." (Applause.)

The resolution was seconded by Mr. S. T. SHEWELL, supported by Mr. S. HARE, and carried unanimously.

Miss BALGARNIE then spoke on "Woman in Politics," dealing especially with the two objections frequently raised that woman was illogical and emotional. She moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is just, equitable, and expedient that the right now enjoyed by women of exercising the franchise at municipal, school board, and board of guardians elections should be extended to Parliamentary elections without further delay, and that copies of this resolution be signed by the Chairman and forwarded to the Prime Minister and to the borough and county members."

Mr. S. FOTHERGILL seconded, and the Rev. H. KENDALL supported the resolution, which was heartily carried.

In moving a vote of thanks to the lady speakers, Mr. W. C. PARKER paid a tribute to the lady member of Darlington School Board.—Mrs. VINCENT, of London, widow of the late lamented Henry Vincent, seconded the motion, and in a stirring speech hailed the signs on every hand of human progress—not the least hopeful omen of which was the growing influence of moral force and the exorcism of the demon of war.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, duly acknowledged, brought the proceedings of an interesting and protracted meeting to a close.—*Northern Echo.*

The following reply has been received from Mr. Gladstone (through one of his private secretaries) in answer to a resolution passed at the recent meeting at Darlington in favour of the Parliamentary suffrage being extended to women:—

"10, Downing-street, Whitehall, 13th December, 1884.

"Dear Mr. Fry,—Mr. Gladstone desires me to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution which you sent to him from Darlington in favour of women's suffrage, and to say that individually he will be glad if this subject receives a full and dispassionate consideration.—I am, yours faithfully,

"Theodore Fry, Esq., M.P."

"HORACE SEYMOUR.

#### LIBERALISM AT GEDDINGTON.

FREE TRADE AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE: CROWDED AND ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

(From the *Kettering News*.)

On Friday, November 28th, the return match in the game of politics was played at Geddington, when the Liberals had their innings; and, viewed from the Liberal standpoint, the scoring has been decidedly in favour of that party. The meeting, which was held in the Union Chapel, was organised for the purpose of replying to the speeches of Lord Burghley, M.P., and Mr. Stopford Sackville, in the Church Schoolroom the previous week, when the principal topics discussed were Free Trade and the Franchise Bill. On Friday evening children and youths were excluded from the chapel in order to provide accommodation for the adult portion of the community, and by the time announced for commencing the proceedings every available seat was occupied, and a considerable number of persons had to find standing room, where they patiently remained during the two hours and a half the meeting lasted. There were in addition to the speakers a few strangers present, but the great bulk of the gathering was composed of men and women belonging to the village, who manifested a keen interest in the criticisms passed on the Conservative speeches, and who enthusiastically cheered the various points made by the speakers. Punctually at half-past seven, Mr. W. Collyer explained that the

use of the building had been granted by the senior trustees, and moved that Mrs. Collyer be asked to preside on that occasion—a proposition which was readily seconded by a friend in the body of the meeting and unanimously acceded to. Mrs. COLLYER was loudly cheered on taking the chair, and she was supported on either side by Mrs. John Wallis, Mrs. D. F. Gotch, Mr. H. Standley, Mr. J. Toseland, Mr. T. Wallis, Mr. P. D. McGowan (Kettering), Mr. F. Barlow (Rothwell), Mr. J. Collyer (Brigstock), Mr. S. Taylor (Great Easton), Mr. J. Barratt (Little Oakley), and a number of local Liberals.

Mrs. COLLYER said they had met to consider questions of very great importance, affecting as they did the welfare of every man, woman, and child in the nation. (Hear, hear.) The matters to which she referred were Free Trade and the Franchise Bill. The other evening they heard them discussed from a Conservative standpoint, and now they were asked to look at them from a Liberal point of view. (Cheers.) It was, perhaps, well that there should be government by party, for the Opposition had been compared to the fly-wheel of a steam engine, which they were aware equalised the movements of the machinery. (Hear, hear.) It was not necessary that she should occupy more of their time, but she trusted that the best order would be maintained, and that the various speakers would have a fair and attentive hearing, as opportunity would be afforded those who might differ with the resolutions to move amendments. She would, therefore, at once call upon Mr. Fred. Barlow to move the first resolution, which was on the subject of Free Trade. (Loud cheers.)

After this resolution had been carried, a resolution of sympathy with the Hon. R. Spencer in his illness, and thanks for his vote on the Franchise Bill, was carried.

#### THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

Mrs. JOHN WALLIS, who was cordially received, said she had to move as follows: "That this meeting views with satisfaction the prospect of the Franchise Bill speedily becoming law, but considers that no measure of Parliamentary reform will be complete which does not include women householders." Continuing, Mrs. Wallis said that some hundreds of years ago Geddington had a Royal residence, in which Henry II., in the year 1188, held a Parliament for the purpose of raising money to promote an expedition to the Holy Land, and as the manor of Geddington at that time belonged to the Convent of Edmundsbury, they were justified, on the authority of an ancient historian, whom she quoted, in presuming that women were called to the King's Council. Abbesses sat in the Parliaments of 694 and 855, and also in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. Even as late as the sixteenth century women preserved some power in the state, for in 1572 Dorothy Packington appointed two burgesses for Aylesbury. After more than 200 years women were again found turning their attention to national subjects—not to obtain seats in the House of Commons, but to gain for women householders their political freedom. (Cheers.) Women householders, she contended, ought to possess the franchise on precisely the same conditions as men householders enjoy it, for taxation and representation ought to go together. (Hear, hear.) Women already had the right to vote at municipal, school board, and board of guardians elections; then why not in Parliamentary contests? (Hear, hear.) This was all they were contending for. They would be content with nothing less, and sooner or later they would have it. (Applause.) After quoting from a speech of the late Postmaster-General in support of women's suffrage, Mrs. Wallis remarked that the cause had lost in Mr. Fawcett one of its best friends, but there were still left many good men of the country, of the Parliament, and of the Government, who were anxious to secure the franchise for women. She thought no Liberal Government could in justice deny the claim after Mr. Gladstone's remarks when introducing the Representation of the People Bill. The principle of the measure was to give the heads of households a vote. Here then, said Mrs. Wallis, were 800,000 women householders—20,000 of them being women farmers—gallantly marched up to the very threshold of the franchise. Were they to stand by and see Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury throw wide open the doors to two millions of citizens and agricultural labourers, and be themselves shut out? ("No.") She would not believe it of those two statesmen. Having further quoted from a speech made by Mr. Gladstone in 1871, the speaker concluded by expressing the belief that the Prime Minister—the greatest living statesman—would at this

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fitting time, when a woman, a Queen, occupied the throne, admit women to the suffrage, and make it the crowning act of Victoria's glorious reign. (Loud applause.)

May children of our children say  
She wrought her people lasting good,  
And statesmen at her councils met,  
Who knew the seasons when to take  
Occasion by the hand and make  
The bounds of freedom wider yet,  
By shaping some august decree,  
Which kept her throne unshaken still,  
Broad-based upon the people's will,  
And compassed by the inviolate sea.

(Continued cheering.)

Mrs. DAVIS GOTCH was asked to second the resolution, and met with a hearty reception on rising to deliver what proved to be a pointed and exhaustive, as well as a most interesting address. After replying to some good-humoured remarks made by a previous speaker, Mrs. Gotch turned to the subject matter of the resolution, and said that the work of Parliamentary reform could not be regarded as complete unless women were admitted to the suffrage. (Hear, hear.) Women, she believed, could understand politics as well as men, whom she advised to read the papers to their wives, and talk politics to their girls, and see if it was not as she said. Again, women had an interest in good government as well as the male sex. Did the men always show much interest in politics? She understood that was the first indoor Liberal meeting they had ever held—at any rate for a great number of years—at Geddington, so that the men had not shown a very keen or active interest in political affairs. And why? Simply because they had no votes, and it was only now, when they were about to be enfranchised, that they were bestirring themselves. Might not the same be equally true of women? Thirdly, women had to work. (A laugh.) Yes, they might laugh—men generally did when it was suggested that women did any work, but she asked them how they would like to change places with the woman in a family? The fact was woman's work was never done; many of them had to work hard all day, and sometimes all night as well, whereas men generally had but their regular hours of labour. (Hear, hear, and a voice: "Quite true.") It was far easier often for the man to earn the wages, than it was for his wife to make the best of the money he took home. (Applause.) Besides, large numbers of women had to work for wages, as well as the husband, in order to eke out a living for the family, and when a woman was left a widow with several children, how hard did she toil for their maintenance, rather than break up the home and allow them to go to the Union Workhouse. (Hear, hear.) Proceeding, Mrs. Gotch pointed out how women were affected by taxation, for if there had to be any pinching in necessities and common comforts of life done in a family, it was generally the mother who had to go short. The questions of war and peace were next referred to by the speaker. She was aware of the objection often urged, that women had not to go out to battle, but she asked them whether they thought it worse to go out to fight, or to stay at home and endure the anxiety and the weary nights of praying and waiting for the safety and return of the absent one. It was a hard matter for women when the lives of their dearest ones were sacrificed in war, or when their husbands returned cripples from the field of battle to be a burden upon them for the rest of life. Depend upon it, woman's voice was for peace. (Cheers.) She knew many of her sex were said to be fond of a red coat—(laughter)—but none of them liked war. Personally, the speaker thought the country would do better without an army, for just as a man who carried a pistol was tempted to shoot with it, so the nations who kept large standing armies were tempted to have a turn with them. (Cheers.) It was said sometimes that women had a great deal of influence, and that they ought to be content without having votes. Well, all non-voters had more or less influence, but were they satisfied with that? ("No.") Married women were not asking for a vote—they contented themselves with seeing that their husbands voted properly—but they asked for the enfranchisement of women householders, and when every man in the country had a vote, she would claim it for every woman also. (Cheers.) Mrs. Gotch then went into detail of a number of laws affecting women, which she declared were a disgrace to the statute-book, and pointed out with regard to compulsory vaccination that the mother had all the trouble of nursing for a fortnight after the operation, and if that was badly done, as was sometimes the case,

who was it that had the anxiety of the months of suffering, or perhaps the years of ill-health which might follow? Having spoken of the sacrifices made by mothers to give their children a good education, and the respect which the latter ought to pay to their parents, the speaker referred to legislation of a social character which closely affected her sex, notably the regulation of the drink traffic and the unequal marriage laws, and expressed the hope that if the suffrage was not extended to women by the present Parliament, that the new male voters would see that they soon had it. With regard to the manner in which women would use the vote, it was said by some that they would vote for the Conservatives. Well, she did not deny that there were foolish women in the world, for as one writer had it, they were made to match the men. (Cheers and laughter.) Mrs. Gotch concluded by seconding the resolution, which, like the other two, was enthusiastically carried without dissent.

Mr. JAMES COLLYER, in appropriate terms, moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Collyer and the ladies from Kettering, remarking that they had had a very unique meeting, and impressing upon the prospective voters the sacredness of the trust and the secrecy of the ballot. (Applause.)

Mr. S. TAYLOR seconded the proposition, and said he thought Mrs. Gotch had given the speech of the evening. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. J. BARRATT supported the motion, and urged his fellow working men not to be misled by the Tory cry of Fair Trade. (Hear, hear.)

The vote of thanks having been heartily accorded, Mrs. Collyer suitably responded on behalf of herself and lady friends, and the company dispersed, after giving three cheers for Mr. Gladstone, and for the success of the Liberal meeting at Geddington.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage held their seventeenth annual meeting on December 26th within the Bible Society's Rooms, St. Andrew Square. On the motion of Miss Burton, the chair was taken by Mrs. WELLSTOOD, who was supported by Mrs. Liindsay, Glasgow; Miss Wigham, Miss Hunter, Miss Maitland, Miss E. Kirkland, Mr. Walter M'Laren, Mr. David Dickson, Mr. George Watson, Mr. Hugh Rose, Rev. D. Masson, Rev. Robert Henderson, ex-Councillor Wellstood, and others.

Mrs. WELLSTOOD intimated apologies from the Rev. Dr. Cameron Lees, Professor Calderwood, Rev. David Macrae, Dundee; Mr. Robert Lockhart, Dr. Sophia Jex Blake, Mrs. Greig, Glasgow; Rev. A. Wallace Williamson, Miss Louisa Stevenson, Miss Flora Stevenson, Mr. R. A. Macfie, Mr. Addison Smith, and Councillor Walcot. She had hoped that Mrs. M'Laren would have been able to be present, but, in obedience to the request of her medical adviser, she had sent an apology for absence. They must all, she was sure, deeply regret the absence of Mrs. M'Laren, who had been so long a warm and tried friend of all movements that had for their aim the advancement of both men and women, but more especially of the latter. Instead of Mrs. M'Laren, they had, however, with them her son, and they knew all that lady's family were imbued by the same feelings that animated her. (Applause.) She had also to mention that Mrs. Walter M'Laren was unable at the last moment to be present on account of indisposition. As to the progress of the movement on behalf of which they were met, she could see, looking back on the years since 1867 when she joined the Edinburgh society, how much encouragement there was for them, how much popular feeling had grown, and how much the religious-thinking world had begun more and more to recognise this great principle of women's suffrage as one that deserved support, and to say that whatever advanced women would also advance men, and that the more both sexes began to see as one the more would their country be likely to advance. (Applause.) There were many earnest Christians desiring the advancement of their movement for the good of the people, and during the last years there had been many losses, of which the greatest was met in the death of Professor Fawcett, who was such a right, honourable, true-hearted man, that he was widely mourned. It seemed as if there had been a blow given to the cause which he set his heart so much upon. The

example he had set, and the works he had left behind, and the true devoted widow who mourned his loss were still left to them, and would encourage them. She trusted to carry on the work with greater vigour, so that, although Mr. Fawcett was gone, his influence would become stronger and stronger. (Applause.) Mrs. Wellstood, in conclusion, explained that in March last she represented the Scotch Society at the Convention on Women's Suffrage, held at Washington, and expressed her hope that, although great progress had been made with the movement in America, they in this country would obtain justice before them. (Applause.)

Miss ELIZA WIGHAM submitted the annual report, in which it was stated that the past year had been one of wonderful history and remarkable activity in their agitation towards the great end for which they were organised. The first matter which engaged their attention was an effort to procure the insertion of the names of women on Liberal organisations, and in this they were to some extent successful; but women had yet to be educated to enter into this new opening for influence, and they hoped ere long many would be willing to be enrolled on the committees which were open to them. Circulars had been sent out by the committee to the various Conservative as well as Liberal political associations, and the responses had been very favourable. In many cases, after fair discussion, petitions were sent to Parliament and the subject was well ventilated. It was satisfactory to find that the Trades Congress in Aberdeen passed a resolution in favour of women's suffrage by an almost unanimous vote. This was due to the determination of the women who were present at the meeting, proving the benefit of women taking up the battle for themselves. The enthusiastic demonstrations in favour of women's suffrage held in Scotland and England throughout the year had made quite a sensation in Parliament, and hopes were high that victory would shortly come. Many men who had formerly been indifferent to the question said they could not now vote against it. After narrating at length the contest which took place over the attempt to apply the new Franchise Bill to women householders, the report proceeded to state that if the 103 members who voted with the Government on the question, but who were known advocates of women's suffrage, had been left free to act as they liked, the clause would have been carried, so that they could not consider the division as a conclusive exhibition of the strength of the question, but rather of the power of the Cabinet, who ruled the vote lest their own Bill, so incomplete and inconsistent, should be imperilled. Sir Stafford Northcote, in answer to the Midlothian deputation on the subject, did not pledge himself to bring in a Bill or even to move an amendment to the new Reform Bill. It was important, however, to have confessedly on their side the Conservative leader of the House of Commons, whose speeches on the occasion of Mr. Woodall's amendment, and on previous occasions were a very decided and conclusive expression of sentiment in favour of according the franchise to women. Their association had never been one of party politics.

Mrs. LINDSAY (Glasgow), in moving the adoption of the report and the appointment of the committee, as a member of the Glasgow Women's Suffrage Society, congratulated the National Society on the good work that had been accomplished during the year. Edinburgh, she said, had led the way in this as in many other noble movements in Scotland, and they in Glasgow had now entered upon their labours in connection with this question. There had always been a faithful few who had upheld the standard in the west, but it had been rather difficult to get people in general to take an interest in questions of abstract right and wrong, as, for instance, in the abstract right of women who paid taxes to have a vote. Once, however, convince the Glasgow people practical good could be done by their efforts, and then they were with them at once. As an illustration of the practical good effected by the possession of the vote by women householders, Mrs. Lindsay mentioned that at the recent municipal election in Glasgow a publican's candidate, himself a publican, was brought forward to contest one of the wards. The magistrates in the spring had refused a great many licences, and this man was brought forward with the avowed object of showing that the people did not agree with the conduct of the magistrates in refusing the licences. The secretary of the Glasgow Women's Suffrage Association heard of this, and said, "Here is a point upon which the women's vote may be brought to bear." Some of their most energetic workers took the matter up, and the anti-publican candidate was delighted to have their support. The women worked

most heartily, as in one part of the ward alone £47,000 per annum was spent on intoxicating drink, and the result of the election was that the publican's candidate was defeated by 2,408 to 870 votes. (Applause.) Of course this result was not entirely owing to the women's votes, as there were only 899 women householders in the ward, but the completeness of the victory was largely due to them. In a letter, written after the election, the successful candidate expressed his opinion that the women voters in Glasgow had the nomination of the Town Council in their own hands, because parties were often so equally balanced that a solid vote from the women householders would decide the question. (Applause.) She did not think social reformers had realised as yet what a powerful engine they had in the votes women already possessed. In addition to licensing there were many other questions upon which the present municipal vote could be brought to bear. It was only necessary to bring social questions before working women, who understood what the social evils were, as they came home to them in their daily life, to cause them to make a practical use of their power of voting. The question had been looked upon too much as one for educated women. It was said that educated women had more influence already than they would have if they possessed the vote; but that argument would just be as true of educated men as of educated women. Educated men could influence their fellow creatures by speaking to them, but nobody proposed for that reason to deprive the educated man of the Parliamentary franchise. She only realised what this question meant when she realised how working women felt about it. There were many laws which seriously harassed women, and she saw that the only way in which they could touch these laws was by getting the Parliamentary vote. It was therefore necessary that they, as women, who possessed influence, money, leisure, and education, should not live to make themselves comfortable, but that they might be of use for these numerous hard-working sisters, who until they got this vote would never make their voices heard.

Mr. GEORGE WATSON, advocate, seconded the resolution, saying that he did so with unqualified satisfaction. The time, he thought, for arguing in favour of this question was passed. The time for action was now at hand, and they were to be congratulated that they had such an earnest and excellent body of ladies who were working in the cause as they were doing. While the report noticed all the events of the year worthy of recording, he could not help remarking upon one recent event which struck him considerably, and that was the reply of the Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Campbell-Bannerman) to a question put to him at a late meeting with his constituents. He had answered that he would not support a motion for the inclusion of women under the Parliamentary franchise, because he had difficulty in discovering what people meant in saying that women should have votes, as the advocates of female suffrage were themselves at deadly variance as to whether the vote should be confined to single women, or given to both single and married women. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman was a gentleman they were proud to have in the Government, and one who had proved himself admirably fitted to discharge the duties with which he had been entrusted; but having said that, he (Mr. Watson) must say that he had not worthily conducted himself in answering that question. (Applause.) He thought he might be permitted to say, in a meeting like that, that it was a sort of masculine answer. What he desiderated was a fair and downright statement of his views in regard to this question. He had tried to throw dust in their eyes, and the miserable plea which he had put forward was perfectly absurd. What they asked was simply this, that the existing Constitution be so far amended as to do away with what they considered a blot and an anomaly upon it—that the artificial disqualification which attached to women on the sole ground of their sex be removed. The only other thing that struck him apart from the events referred to in the report was the recent declaration of the Edinburgh Conservative Association in a bill issued during the franchise agitation. The association proposed that the Parliamentary suffrage should be extended equally to women as to men. (Applause.) Possibly one might make jokes about that, but one was bound to take it that the Conservative party were in earnest in this matter, as he supposed that what had been done by the Conservative Association of Edinburgh was a fair indication of Conservative opinion all over the country. He believed the time was very near when a measure in favour of the female franchise would be carried through the House of Commons,

and, once that was done, they need hardly expect a very lengthened resistance to the movement in the House of Lords. (Applause.)

Mr. WALTER M'LAREN moved—"That this meeting express its satisfaction with Mr. Woodall, M.P., who has introduced a Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women, and urges him to lose no opportunity of pressing the subject on the attention of the House of Commons; this meeting also thanks him for his past and proposed action; and this meeting resolves to send petitions to both Houses of Parliament praying them to extend the franchise to duly qualified women, and authorise the president to sign the same." It was well, he thought, that at meetings such as that they should take stock, as it were, of their position, and see whether they had advanced since the beginning of their agitation seventeen years ago. The advance which the subject had made during its agitation was enormous, and there was no parallel to it in any other agitation in the world's history. Seventeen years ago women could not vote for anything unless it was in a vestry in England for churchwardens. At the present time they had three votes—one for the school board, one for the town council, and one for the parochial board. (Applause.) They also held seats at the school board and at the parochial board; and there was no town in the whole country which occupied a more distinguished position than Edinburgh in these matters. (Applause.) The position of women had also much advanced in regard to the obtaining of employment; and while Cambridge did not confer degrees yet London did, under examinations which were more difficult to pass, and which had been successfully passed. (Applause.) The movement against the Contagious Diseases Acts had also been sustained by women. The Married Women's Property Act had been carried entirely by the agitation of women. As to the franchise for women, it was formerly looked at as a thing to be laughed at, but they had long since ceased to see that method of opposition persisted in; and while only eighty members of the House of Commons supported John Stuart Mill seventeen years ago, in the present Parliament no fewer than 285 members had either voted or declared in favour of the enfranchisement of women. (Applause.) The licensing laws had been agitated against for an indefinite number of years. How had they, then, in seventeen years got to the eve of victory for women's suffrage? All other great reforms, too, had been carried by extraordinary outside pressure, and sometimes with violent agitation. The women's suffrage movement—and it was, perhaps, the only movement—had triumphed by pure reason.

Rev. Mr. HENDERSON seconded the motion. He spoke also of the great advance which the movement had made in public opinion. The resolutions were both adopted.

Mr. WATSON said he felt constrained to say that he disapproved of Mr. M'Laren's remarks in regard to the tax question.

On the motion of the Rev. Mr. ROBERTSON, a vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Wellstood for occupying the chair. The speakers were also thanked, and the meeting thereafter concluded.—*Edinburgh Daily Review*.

#### OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The *Edinburgh Daily Review*, in commenting on the meeting, says:—

"The tone of yesterday's meeting was one of satisfaction and confidence. The report submitted by Miss Wigham was a record, if not of triumph, certainly of progress; and the speeches delivered pointed to the early attainment of the chief object the organisation has in view—the possession of the Parliamentary franchise for women householders. Mr. Walter M'Laren reminded the meeting that already the women householders are entrusted with three votes—the parochial, the educational, and the municipal. This simple statement of itself proves the whole case. Not only does it recite the progress made in the acquisition of electoral privilege; it likewise illustrates the inconsistency and indefensibility of the arrangement under which the remaining fourth of privilege or right is withheld. The title to all the four franchises is the same—the concession of three and the denial of one are alike illogical and arbitrary. Some anomalies are not easily redressed; but the attitude of statesmen to the question of women's suffrage proves the intenable of this one. Adherents and advocates of the principle are to be found among both of the political parties in the State. Sir Stafford Northcote, though he has not done much to promote the desired legislation, has declared himself

in favour of the principle of the reform. Mr. Gladstone, while declining to commit the present Government to the legislation asked, does not conceal from Mr. Woodall his conviction that he will easily win his case. A majority of the House of Commons, it is believed, is favourable to the change, and it is almost certain that in this matter, when the Commons take action, the Lords will concur. The battle of principle has, therefore, really been won; and the only obstacle now in the way is that named expediency. The Government decline to take the initiative because one or more of their members or leading supporters cherish opinions or prejudices strongly antagonistic to the political enfranchisement of women; and the Liberal majority in the Commons decline to assert their authority because of their unwillingness to do anything to embarrass a Ministry which, in many respects, is the best the country has ever seen. But considerations based on expediency, as distinguished from those which spring from principle, are changeable and temporary. The conditions on which they rest are constantly altered, and Mr. Walter M'Laren suggests that as regards the question in hand the alteration might easily be forced by a simple refusal of the payment of taxes by the unrepresented women householders. Such an attitude, of course, could easily be justified on the ground of the universally accepted axiom that taxation without representation is tyranny. We hope that, as regards women suffrage, so violent a course of compulsion will not be required. Non-payment of taxes is a desperate remedy. But the cause of the political enfranchisement of women is not desperate. On the contrary, its prospects of early success are exceedingly bright. Common sense and sound political principle are on its side; and public opinion, whose force is irresistible, always, and more especially in these days of quick enlightenment, is ever ready to back sound sense and political justice."

#### IRVINE JUNIOR LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

On November 21st J. Rhind, Esq., Advocate, delivered an address in the Town Hall, Irvine, under the auspices of the Irvine Junior Liberal Association. In the course of his address, Mr. Rhind said that although many might not agree with him, he thought ladies should have a vote for members of Parliament. They voted at school boards and municipal elections, and why they should not have it for members of Parliament he could not see.

A petition was forwarded to Lord Cairns for presentation to the House of Lords, signed by 905 women ratepayers in Edinburgh, praying that in any measure that may be brought before their lordships for amending the law relating to the representation of the people, they will make provision for the exercise of the franchise by duly qualified women.

#### CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

##### STOKE-ON-TRENT.

A resolution in support of Mr. Woodall's Bill for admitting women to the Parliamentary franchise was unanimously passed at a meeting of the members of the Conservative Club, Stoke, on December 2nd. A copy of the resolution was ordered to be forwarded to Mr. Woodall, M.P. for the borough.

#### DEBATING SOCIETIES.

##### Huddersfield Parliamentary.

At a meeting of the Huddersfield Parliamentary Debating Society held in December, Mr. Robert Welsh, solicitor, moved a resolution to include women in the Franchise Bill, which was warmly supported, and carried by an overwhelming majority.

#### DRAWING-ROOM MEETING.

##### TEKELS CASTLE.

A drawing-room meeting was held on December 6th, by invitation of Mrs. Byrne, at Tekels Castle, near Sandhurst. Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Stanton Blatch, and Miss Müller were the principal speakers. Lord and Lady Napier were among those present.

WELSH MINERS AND THE FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

At the monthly meeting of the Aberdare, Merthyr, and Dowlais District Miners' Association, held on December 15th, in the Railway Inn, Trecynon, Aberdare, Mr. D. Jone Cwmbach presiding, eighteen delegates representing about 7,000 miners being present, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That this meeting highly approves of extending the franchise to the women; and that it instructs our agent to do all that he can to get up meetings for Miss Jeannette G. Wilkinson to advocate her claims on behalf of the women's suffrage."

A LANCASHIRE WIFE-BEATERS' CLUB.

William Bloom, collier, Blackrod, near Bolton, was in custody at Bolton County Petty Sessions, on December 19th, charged with having neglected to comply with a separation order, by which he was required to contribute 8s. per week to the support of his wife. Complainant said her husband had paid nothing since the order was made. In reply to the bench, she said she declined to give him time to pay. She had not been able to do anything from the effects of his last assault, for which he was fined £2 and costs; and there was now a club formed of persons who had been convicted of wife-beating, and when members were fined the club paid the money. They paid the fine and costs for her husband.—The bench committed the defendant for one month's imprisonment, with hard labour.—*Manchester Courier.*

LAW REPORT, Dec. 18, 1884.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.—COURT OF APPEAL.  
(Before the MASTER of the ROLLS and LORDS JUSTICES COTTON and LINDLEY.)

WELDON v. DE BATHE.

Judgment was given in this case, which was before the Court, and is fully reported in *The Times* of December 17th. It was an action brought by Mrs. Weldon to recover £10,000 damages against General Sir Henry de Bathe for certain alleged wrongs in connection with the attempt to place her in an asylum in 1878. Her claim was for a trespass said to have been committed by the defendant in April, 1878, by having in collusion with Mr. Weldon entered Tavistock House, then in the sole possession of the plaintiff, and remained there for ten minutes. Mrs. Weldon also sued the defendant for slander. Mr. Justice Day and Mr. Justice Mathew having held that Mrs. Weldon was not entitled to maintain an action either in respect of the alleged trespass or the slander, she brought the present appeal. At the conclusion of the arguments yesterday the Court held that the action for slander was clearly not maintainable, but reserved their decision as to the trespass.

The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, said that the contention of the defendant was that, although he might have entered Mrs. Weldon's house against her will, yet that he did so by the authority of her husband, who had himself a right to enter it, and that therefore the defendant's entry was lawful. This contention raised a question of vast importance, because, if it were to prevail, it would fritter away the Married Women's Property Acts which were intended to protect married women against ill-conducted husbands. It was said that the house in question was bought with money earned by Mrs. Weldon in her profession of musical composer and singer. If so, it was to be treated as settled to her separate use, and she would be entitled under the Act of 1870 to sue for a trespass committed in it, and, since the Act of 1882, to sue without joining her husband as a co-plaintiff. Even supposing that a husband had a right to enter his wife's house, as to which he would express no opinion, the Acts could not mean that he should be entitled to delegate that right to any one else. It would in many cases lead to dreadful results if husbands had such a right. If the plaintiff proved that the house was hers, the defendant had committed a trespass, and the decision of the Court below must upon this point be reversed.

Lords Justices Cotton and Lindley, having given judgment to the same effect, the Master of the Rolls stated that as Mrs. Weldon had succeeded upon the really important question she must have the costs of the appeal.

THE GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The following paragraph has appeared in the American papers:—"Washington, Nov. 24.—Watson Squire, the Governor of Washington Territory, states in his annual report, just received by the Secretary of the Interior, that the law allowing women to vote, accompanied as it is with a provision making them liable for jury duty, while questioned by some, meets with the approval of a majority of the people of the Territory. He adds that the women themselves strongly favour the continuation of the law, and that he finds the operations of the law attended with no unfavourable results to the welfare of the people."

CANADIAN CONSERVATIVES FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Mrs. Ida Louise Dildine, Secretary of the Woman Suffrage Party's State Committee, and Mr. Hamilton Willcox, Chairman of the State Executive Committee, called in New York, Dec. 8th, on Sir John A. Macdonald, Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada (who landed on the previous night from the English steamer Oregon), at the Hotel Brunswick; and on behalf of the party thanked him for introducing woman suffrage into the pending Canadian Franchise Bill. They welcomed him to New York, and tendered him a reception.

Sir John accepted the tender cordially, but said that as he must hasten home that day, he would leave the date of the reception to be fixed hereafter by correspondence. In answer to inquiries by Mr. Willcox, Sir John stated that the Conservative party, both in Canada and in England, is in favour of woman suffrage, and that he expects to see it adopted by both countries.—*Boston Women's Journal.*

REVIEWS.

MRS. MABURY'S PETITION, by the author of "A Sylvan Queen," etc.; JANE CRUMP'S POLITICS, by a Quiet Woman; A WOMAN'S DUTY, by the author of "The Master of Wingbourne," etc. To be obtained at the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

These excellent little stories illustrate the bearing of the suffrage movement on the condition of women, especially of the poor and industrial classes. They are brightly and pleasantly written, and we cordially commend them to the notice of our readers. They are published at the low price of sixpence per dozen in order that they may be widely circulated. Friends of the movement would do excellent service by purchasing them for distribution.

A WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CALENDAR FOR 1885: J. Arrowsmith, Bristol.

Miss Helen Blackburn has with praiseworthy energy and ability compiled a most interesting and useful sheet almanack, which comprises information on a large number of subjects of interest and importance to women. Among these we may name a list of the franchises now exercised by women in the United Kingdom, statistics relating to the employment of women, from the census returns, and a list of societies and institutions for promoting the social and industrial advancement of women. Every one interested in women's questions should possess a copy of this calendar.

APPOINTMENT OF LADIES ON THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

For the first time two ladies have been nominated members of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. This board consists of sixty members, of whom forty-five are elected by the unions and parishes of the metropolis, and the remainder are nominated by the Local Government Board. It is in the exercise of this patronage that Sir Charles Dilke has nominated Lady Ducie and Miss Stanley. The Asylum Board, like the School Boards and the boards for the administration of the poor laws, is open to ladies. Sir Charles Dilke has long been known for his championship of women's rights in all its various ramifications, and last session he was one of the members of the Government who abstained from voting against

Mr. Woodall's motion to extend the franchise to women. Both ladies have a reputation for good work, and Miss Stanley especially has been before the public for her efforts among the poor of Soho as one of the now numerous lady poor law guardians. The only approach to the present nominations was when Mr. Stansfeld appointed Mrs. Nassau-Senior to a poor law inspectorship.—*Edinburgh Courier*, Dec. 24, 1884.

THE LATE RIGHT HON. J. W. HENLEY, M.P., ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

I have hitherto voted against this Bill, but I have lately watched carefully the operation of the exercise of the franchise both in municipal and in school board elections by women, and, as I think it has been beneficial in these cases, I do not see any reason why it should not be beneficial in Parliamentary elections. What my honourable friend has said has confirmed me in the view I have adopted. He says the French revolutionists considered that they would not have the women. Well, I do not want us to be revolutionists, and that is an additional reason why we at all events should give the franchise to women. The principle is that women should have the right of voting. I confess that I have always hitherto voted against the Bill, but for the reasons I have stated I shall now give it my hearty support.—*Speech in the House of Commons, April 30th 1873.*

Obituary.

THE RIGHT HON. J. W. HENLEY.—We regret to record the death, at the ripe age of 91, of the Right Hon. J. W. Henley, so long and well known as member for Oxfordshire. Mr. Henley was one of the best known and most highly respected members of the House of Commons. Shrewd, original, witty, and full of common sense, he commanded the attention of Parliament whenever he addressed it, and when he retired in 1878 the loss of his familiar presence made a blank that could not be supplied by another. He spoke in 1873 in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill, stating that he had always hitherto voted against the Bill, but since he had carefully watched the operation of the women franchise in municipal elections he should now give it his support.

MR. JOSEPH CROOK.—We regret to record the death of Mr. Joseph Crook, who sat as member of Parliament for Bolton from 1852 to 1861, and who died at his residence, Oaklands, Heaton, Bolton, aged 75. Mr. Crook was an earnest advocate of women's suffrage. He was one of the original members of the society, and continued to support its efforts up to the time of his death.

THE WOMEN'S FAWCETT MEMORIAL FUND.

A number of women have expressed their desire to recognise in some special way the valuable services rendered by the late Mr. Fawcett to the advancement of the questions chiefly affecting the social and political interests of women. Among these questions may be mentioned the extension of university education to women, the claim of women to be admitted to the Parliamentary franchise, the introduction of women into the civil service, their employment as members of school boards, poor law guardians, and as medical practitioners. These various movements received, each in turn, Mr. Fawcett's active and cordial support. For more than twenty years he was one of the wisest and most trusted friends the women's cause possessed. It is therefore desired to place on record in some abiding form the gratitude felt by the women of the United Kingdom for Mr. Fawcett's services, and their own deep sense of the loss they have sustained by his death.

The form of the memorial will be decided by the committee, but it has been suggested that a tablet with medallion portrait, placed in Westminster Abbey, would probably be generally acceptable without involving the raising of a very large sum of money.

It is particularly desired that the women's memorial should in no way interfere with the larger or general memorial which has been started by the Duke of Westminster. Many women will probably take part in both. The special memorial will for the most

part be raised by small contributions from women of all classes of society. Without attempting to limit the scale of donations, it is suggested that from one shilling to a guinea would be more appropriate in this case than larger sums, the object being not so much to collect a large amount of money as to represent the gratitude of a considerable number of women, many of whom have been helped in the hard struggle of their lives by Mr. Fawcett's active and courageous sympathy. The Hon. Secretary will be glad to receive the names of friends each of whom will undertake to collect £10 in small sums from women in aid of the Women's Fawcett Memorial Fund. Subscriptions may be sent either to the Bankers or to the Hon. Secretary.

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Mrs. Scott .. .. . 2 2 0	Miss Ellis .. .. . 0 4 0
Miss M. Atkinson (special fund) 1 0 0	Miss H. M. Dunlop .. .. . 0 2 6
Dr. Wm. Price .. .. . 1 0 0	Mrs. Ruscoe (Hyde) .. .. . 0 2 6
Mrs. Stanley Carey .. .. . 1 0 0	Miss Wilnot ( ) .. .. . 0 2 6
Rev. G. Twentymann .. .. . 0 10 6	Mrs. Hollis .. .. . 0 2 6
Mr. S. L. Helm .. .. . 0 10 0	Mrs. Hare .. .. . 0 2 6
Rev. Thos. Crow .. .. . 0 10 0	Mrs. G. Braithwaite .. .. . 0 2 6
Mr. H. S. Brandreth .. .. . 0 7 6	Miss Lomas .. .. . 0 2 6
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Miss F. Draup .. .. . 0 5 0	£239 1 6
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Mr. Woodall, M.P. .. .. . 2 2 0	Miss Pickering Clarke .. .. 0 2 6
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Rev. A. C. Macpherson .. .. . 0 10 6	Miss Carwardine .. .. . 0 1 6	
Miss Hall .. .. . 0 10 0	TEIGNMOUTH.	
Miss Kendall (Plymouth) .. .. . 0 10 0	Mrs. Price .. .. . 1 0 0	
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Mr. J. L. Daniel .. .. . 0 6 6	General Berthon .. .. . 0 1 6	
Mr. F. Gilmore Barnett .. .. . 0 5 0	Mrs. Lucas Cordes .. .. . 0 1 6	
Mrs. Goss .. .. . 0 5 0	Mrs. Ord Marshall .. .. . 0 1 6	
Rev. G. P. Gould .. .. . 0 5 0	Mrs. Bastard .. .. . 0 1 6	
Mrs. Hunt .. .. . 0 5 0	NEWPORT (MON.).	
Miss Sturge (Cotham) .. .. . 0 5 0	Mrs. Turner .. .. . 0 2 6	
Mrs. Cunningham .. .. . 0 3 0	Mrs. Harris .. .. . 0 2 6	
Rev. H. B. Bardwell (Chippenham) .. .. . 0 2 6	Mr. Harse .. .. . 0 2 6	
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