

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. VIII.—No. 86. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

APRIL 2, 1877.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

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to
PROMOTE THE EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE TO
WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS
will be held in the
ANTIENT CONCERT ROOMS,
Great Brunswick-street, on
FRIDAY EVENING, 6TH OF APRIL, 1877.

The Chair will be taken at Eight p.m. by
THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR.

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCERD and
Miss HELENA P. DOWNING
will attend as a deputation from the Central
Committee.

Miss ISABELLA M. TOD,
Serjeant SHERLOCK, M.P.,
WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M.P.,
RICHARD O'SHAUGHNESSY, M.P.,
Sir ROBERT KANE, LL.D., F.R.S.,
S. M. GREER, Esq., Recorder of Derry,
Rev. JAMES STEVENSON,
CHARLES EASON, Esq.,
JOHN R. WIGHAM, Esq.,

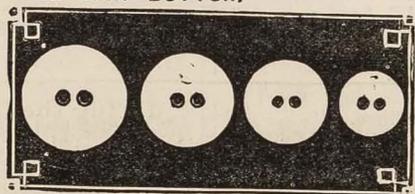
And several other influential gentlemen are expected to take part in the proceedings.

Admission by ticket: Reserved Seats, 1s.; Back Seats and Balcony, free.

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SCARBOROUGH.—A MEETING in support of the Bill to Remove the Remaining Electoral Disability of Women will be held on Tuesday, April 10th, in the Town Hall, Scarborough. His Worship the Mayor of Scarborough has consented to preside, and the meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Oliver Scatcerd, Miss Becker, and others, and also by local speakers. Chair to be taken at eight o'clock. Admission free; a few seats will be reserved at 1s. each. Further particulars in local announcements.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Committee of the National Society invite the attendance of delegates from all parts of the United Kingdom at a Conference to be held at Birmingham, on Tuesday, April 17th, 1877.

The Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women was introduced on February 9th by Mr. Jacob Bright, Sir Robert Anstruther, the Right Hon. Russell Gurney, and the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, and the second reading fixed for the 6th of June. The Bill would give the right of voting for members of Parliament to women who, as owners or occupiers of property, already possess the right of voting in municipal, School Board, and other local elections. As this is the only proposal for Parliamentary reform which comes before the House of Commons this session in the practical form of a Bill, it is earnestly hoped that those interested in the extension of the suffrage to all householders will attend the Conference, and otherwise endeavour to promote the success of the measure.

As the Birmingham Committee will provide accommodation for delegates, those who desire to attend are requested to address a reply, before 9th April, to

Miss ELIZA M. STURGE, Hon. Sec.,
4, Broad-street Corner, Birmingham.

The Conference will be held in the Theatre of the Midland Institute, at 11 30 a.m., when HENRY HAWKES, Esq., J.P., President of the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society, will preside, and papers will be read.

Chair will be taken at the Public Meeting, in the Town Hall, at 7 30, by GEORGE BAKER, Esq., Mayor of Birmingham.

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" II.—Womanliness.
" III.—Some Eminent German Women.
" IV.—Reviews.
" V.—Events of the Month:—Girls' Public Day School Company, Sheffield—Manchester Board School—Admission of Women to Degrees in London University—Medical Women—Women's Hospital—Women's Suffrage—Circular of Society for the Protection of Animals—French Writers on Position of Women—Emigration—Recent Law Decision in Scotland—Miscellaneous.

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

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Concerning this book, which contains 168 pages, the late eminent author, Sheridan Knowles, observed:—"It will be an incalculable boon to every person who can read and think."

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Full information may be obtained of the Secretary, Mrs. PATERSON, at the Office, 38, Castle-street, Holborn.

NATIONAL UNION OF WORKING WOMEN.

Instituted August, 1874,
And enrolled according to Act of Parliament.

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The Executive Committee desire to make known the objects of the Union to all who are interested in the welfare of the working women of England. The Union was established for the purpose of combining all classes of working women into one Association, for their mutual help and protection. There is a uniform contribution per week per member, while the benefits are given for illness, when out of work, and provision for the funeral money of deceased members. Five Branches have been opened, and applications have been received to open others, while the constant addition of new members leads the Committee to hope for a large measure of success. The expenses attendant on organising such an institution are many. The Committee, therefore, earnestly invite all friends of women's work to assist them by their contributions, and to co-operate with them in organising Branches wherever they may be required.

Correspondence invited; and any information which will promote the objects of the Union will be gladly received by the General Secretary.

Subscriptions to be made payable to Treasurer only.

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Invalids should read Crosby's Prize Treatise on "DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND AIR VESSELS," a copy of which can be had GRATIS of all Chemists

NATIONAL UNION OF WORKING WOMEN.

The National Union of Working Women was instituted in August, 1874, by a few friends interested in the welfare of working women. It had much uphill work to gain the sympathy and support of the class for whom it was established.

A few months ago, however, the committee determined to make an energetic effort, and we are glad to state that the result has been successful. The Bristol Lodge has since trebled its membership. A new branch has been opened at Brynmawr, Brecon, South Wales, and already numbers 60 members.

Quite recently the committee have opened new lodges at Bedminster; St. Paul's, Clifton; and at Fishponds; and from the number who have already given in their names there is reason to believe they will be successful ones.

With such good work accomplished in so short a time there is reason to hope for a good future for the National Union, and that it will soon take its stand as a useful and practical institution, and hold its own side by side with the National Provident and Protective League. There can be no healthier sign of the times than this awakening of the working women of England to the need of combination to protect their interests and enable them, by the principles of self-help, to take their rightful position in society. Organised, reforms will naturally follow; unorganised, their position is hopeless, and reform impossible. Knowing this, we have pleasure in chronicling the success of the National Union, and wish it a large measure of prosperity.

REVIEW.

"Woman and Her Work in the World," by C. N. Cresswell, of the Inner Temple, is a temperate little volume on a subject which is growing in importance. The burdens under which women labour may be hard to bear, but the gentler sex can hardly complain of a lack of advocates in the press. Mr. Cresswell alludes to the condition of woman in China, Burmah and Siam; he further points out the position of the fair sex under the Mosaic law, Islamism, and Christianity, and shows that those States which have raised woman in social status have prospered, whilst the countries in which woman holds an inferior or degraded position are in gradual process of decay. The author admits that woman has a high position in this country; but there are still disabilities under which she labours, and which ought to be removed, the promised result being an accession of power and stability to the State. The book is published by Hardwicke and Bogue, Piccadilly.—*Court Journal.*

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NOTICE for the rejection of the Women's Electoral Disabilities Bill has been given in the House of Commons by Mr. HANBURY, member for Tamworth. It appears somewhat remarkable that in the present Parliament the leadership of the opposition has changed every year, but the present change is more remarkable from the circumstance that the notice has proceeded from a former supporter of the measure, who, up to the time of giving notice of his intended opposition, allowed his name to remain on the list of members of the general committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and who even then did not think it worth while to inform the committee, of which he was nominally a member, that he had changed his mind, or that he desired to withdraw from the society. Nothing could well be a stronger proof of the necessity for giving women some share of power and control in the election of members of Parliament than the cool *insouciance* with which members who have voted or pledged themselves to support measures demanded by and affecting them hold themselves at liberty to break their pledges and reverse their policy, without the smallest reference to those concerned. In dealing with questions concerning the interest of electors, members take care to know their own minds before pledging their support, and they have need to be careful before they change their minds to those who have sent them to Parliament. But in dealing with women's questions members are under no such sense of responsibility, and they hold themselves at liberty to chop and change with every passing gust of caprice or sentiment at their own sweet will. These considerations supply an answer to the allegation that members of Parliament are ready to do justice to women in regard to the amendment of the law, although they are not responsible to women for their votes in the House of Commons. If they are ready to do justice to-day, there is no security that they may not change their minds to-morrow, and there can be no such security until they are made to feel that women have a voice in electing them.

The work of the movement has been carried on during the past month by a series of well-organised and successful

meetings. The annual meeting of the Bristol and West of England branch of the Society took place on March 8th, in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, under the presidency of Lady ANNA GORE-LANGTON. Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE, Miss MARY CARPENTER, Professor SHELDON AMOS, and others, made able and interesting speeches. At Exeter, a crowded meeting was held in the Royal Public Rooms, which was addressed by Lady BOWRING, and by Mrs. HELEN BRIGHT CLARK, who said that they had been told that they were not to call women a class, but they must not forget that women were legislated for as a class, in a very marked manner indeed. A mother could be deprived by law of the care of her infant child, and even a baby belonged legally only to its father, and not to its mother. She thought that was a cruel, unkind law. Miss SPENDER said they found women in most varied occupations. There was a woman at the head of the State. They found women peeresses, and they found women charwomen. There were women in factories and shops, and if they did not take a prominent part in the services of the Church, she had been told that many clergymen's wives wrote their husbands' sermons. And which would be the most likely to be a companion to her husband and a mother to her children, the woman who intelligently considered politics, or one who spent all her time in the preparation of finery? At Cheltenham, a large meeting assembled to hear addresses from Miss TOD and Miss LILLIAS ASHWORTH, and public meetings have been held at Leek and Macclesfield, addressed by Miss BECKER, Mrs. SCATCHERD, and others. Besides public meetings, there have been a great number of drawing-room meetings, a mode of discussion which we trust to see more and more constantly adopted. Such gatherings are in themselves agreeable social meetings—they stimulate inquiry and thoughtfulness among women as to the social and political conditions which affect their daily lives, and the well-being of the society in which they live, they spread information on the question of women's suffrage in quarters where it is most desirable that information and interest in the subject should be found, and they can be arranged by ladies themselves, with no more trouble than an ordinary

reception or social gathering. It is a matter for sincere congratulation that the number of ladies who are willing to lend their rooms and invite their friends for discussion is continually increasing, and the result cannot fail to have a beneficial influence on the tone of thought in social circles.

The number of petitions presented up to March 20 is 223, with 65,120 signatures. This is the greatest number which has been presented for any object except the Irish Sunday Closing Bill. Of the 223 petitions, 52 are from meetings or other corporate bodies; 12 of these are from drawing-room meetings, and one from the members of the Young Men's Christian Association in Edinburgh. Petitions have been also presented since our last issue from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Dewsbury, from the Corporation of Denbigh, from the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of Aberdeen, and also from the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Montrose. We must again urge on our friends to use their utmost efforts between Easter and Whitsuntide in promoting petitions in their several localities, in order that the numbers may equal or exceed the numbers presented in support of the Bill last year.

THE value of the Married Women's Property Act of 1870, imperfect and halting as that measure is, has been signally illustrated in two cases which have been decided during the past month. On March 13th Vice-Chancellor MALINS had before him the case of *ASHWORTH v. OUTRAM*. A farmer near Halifax, named OUTRAM, had for a house-keeper a clever woman, Miss FAIRBANKS, to whom he became engaged in 1855, but whom he did not marry till within two months of his death, in 1874. At the time of the marriage Miss FAIRBANKS was engaged in a fruit preserving business which she had set up and managed on her own account very successfully, having made £6,000 out of it. There was no marriage settlement. The plaintiffs, who are some of the husband's relatives, claimed as next of kin half of the personal estate of the deceased intestate, including the business, which was said to be worth £2,000 a year. The principal question to be decided was whether the preserving business belonged to Mrs. OUTRAM as her separate estate, or whether by her marriage when no settlement or agreement for a settlement was made between her and her husband, the property in dispute became absolutely his. It was shown that up to the moment of the marriage the preserving business was the absolute property of Miss FAIRBANKS; that she carried

it on afterwards; that her bank book, when compared with that of her husband, showed that she had paid several sums to his account; that while her's invariably closed with a balance to her credit, his was just the other way, and that every act of the husband before the marriage, up to and after it, showed that he acquiesced in that business being considered her separate property.

Mr. GLASSE, Q.C., on behalf of the deceased husband's relatives, contended that the wife "gave up all her property by the act of marriage. She had to say, 'With all my worldly goods I thee endow.'" The Vice-Chancellor: "It is the husband who says that." Mr. GLASSE: "Well, it may be so; I forget. At all events that is the common law. All the wife's personal property, to the clothes she wears, goes to the husband, and this is specially recognised by the Act of 1870." There is no doubt that although Mr. GLASSE's memory failed him as to which of the contracting parties in the marriage service speaks the words in question, he was right as to the practical effect of the transaction. It is the husband who says that he endows his spouse with all his worldly goods, but it is the wife who does it.

Mr. GLASSE then attempted to show that the business had been carried on with the husband's money, but the Vice-Chancellor said he could not hear any evidence to contradict that which was admitted by the plaintiff, namely, that the business was the wife's. In delivering judgment, he said that the intestate appeared to have been a necessitous man during the whole period of the engagement and courtship, extending to the unusual term of nineteen years, and on the marriage the wife transferred to him a sum of £1,500 for his private use in his business of farming. She appeared to be a woman of remarkable energy, and had evidently raised up this large business entirely by her own exertions. By the fact of the marriage all the personal property of the wife reduced into possession of the husband became his. By the Act of 1870, the earnings of any married woman in any employment, separate from her husband, became her separate property. Now the husband here by his acts, if not by his words, allowed her to carry on this business separately from him, and the business was therefore hers. He should therefore give his opinion in favour of the widow, and should have done so even without relation to the Act, as there were cases to show that if a man used such expressions as to prove his intention of leaving a particular concern to his wife, the law would give effect to that intention.

It appears, however, from the reports as if the Vice-

Chancellor had based his actual judgment on the Act, and thus Mrs. OUTRAM retains possession of her business as being her own property, which did not pass by marriage to her husband, and not, as she otherwise might (or might not) have done, as a legacy from her two-months' husband. Thus the judgment shows the actual value of the Act. The imperfection of the law is illustrated by the pertinent remark of the *Spectator*: "It is clear, however, that if Mr. OUTRAM had made any claim to the preserving business after his marriage, Sir RICHARD MALINS would have been compelled to decide in the opposite sense."

We imagine that there are few, if any, men either in the House of Commons or out of it, who would deny that this would have been a monstrous injustice. We can conceive it possible that a man might maintain with some show of plausibility the doctrine that it is just that during the continuance of the marriage a husband should possess his wife's property, inasmuch as the presumption is that during such continuance she enjoys the use and benefit of all her husband's worldly goods, and derives some personal benefit through the marriage. But no such compensatory considerations are applicable to a condition of things in virtue of which strangers come in and claim the half of a woman's business amassed by her own personal exertions merely on the ground that one of their relations had been married to her. Yet this would have happened to Mrs. OUTRAM if her husband's relatives could have made it apparent that he had exercised the power put into his hands by the common law, and had said one word to show that he claimed his wife's business as his.

The second case comes also from Yorkshire, and is not dissimilar as to its main features in respect to the comparative business capacity of husband and wife, though in this case not death but bankruptcy caused the claim to the wife's estate. At the Bradford County Court, before Mr. DANIEL, Q.C., a bankruptcy motion was heard in the case of *CHARLES ROBERTS*. The debtor was formerly a card maker, his wife keeping a milliner's shop apart from her husband's business. The motion was that Mrs. ROBERTS should be permitted to prove in her husband's estate for a sum of money she had lent him. It was stated that Mrs. ROBERTS had at various times lent her husband £120 out of her separate business, and the money had not been repaid. His Honour remarked that the case was one to which the Married Women's Property Act should apply, as Mrs. ROBERTS had been careful and industrious in her business, and her husband had been careless. She carried on her business apart from him, and supplied him with

the fruits of her honest labour, and she was undoubtedly a creditor on her husband's estate. In answer to other questions Mrs. ROBERTS showed that she had got her business together by her own exertions, and had been credited by a firm in Manchester to the amount of £359 in three months, and she stated that the trustee had taken all she had, and she was now threatened by her own creditors, in consequence of paying her husband's debts. Mr. WEST, who appeared for the trustee of the debtor, said he would not contest the case further, and Mr. RITSON, on behalf of the wife, asked the judge to order the trustee to pay the costs. His Honour said proof would be allowed for £129, and the trustees must personally pay the costs of both motions.

SOME of the arguments advanced in a debate in the Italian Chamber of Deputies by Signor MANCINI, Minister of Grace and Justice, on the Bill introduced by Signor MORELLI, to give women the power of being witnesses to wills and other legal acts, sound like a paraphrase of the arguments used in this country by those who ask that women may have power to vote in Parliamentary elections. "In Italy," said Signor MANCINI, "a woman, if a widow, or if the husband was imbecile, has all the rights and prerogatives of paternal authority. A woman who is considered by the Legislature capable of exercising such important rights, who can give evidence in a criminal court, even in questions of life and death, who can dispose of her patrimony and make private contracts, cannot give evidence that she has, with other witnesses and a lawyer, witnessed the signing of a deed; but our Legislature admits to these duties any ignorant man or country booby, who is certainly not the equal of a cultivated and educated woman." We trust that this cogent reasoning will prevail with the Italian Legislature to remove the disability in question; and we commend the reasoning to the consideration of members of our own Legislature when they are called upon to discuss the propriety of removing the sole remaining electoral disability of women. There is, however, unfortunately, one part of Signor MANCINI's argument which is not applicable to our own country-women. Italian women are invested by the laws of their country with the full legal rights of a father in case of widowhood. No other person than the mother can be the legal guardian of a child, even should the father have appointed one. Englishwomen have no such rights. They are not the legal guardians of their own children when they are left widows, and they have no right to

appoint a guardian for them. The father, on dying, may will away the custody of his children from the mother, and this is a right frequently exercised. In the face of such a law we are told that women are not a class, and that Parliament is always ready to legislate justly concerning them.

A CASE of grave importance in regard to the personal right of women was adjudicated at the recent Durham Assizes. An action for damages was brought by a woman named ANNE AGNEW, who was suspected of having concealed the birth of a child, against a magistrate who had ordered, and a medical man who had subjected her to, an examination for the purpose of verifying the suspicion. Although the order and the examination were both entirely illegal, and were admitted to be so by the counsel for the defence, the acts were attempted to be justified on the ground that they were commonly done in such cases, an allegation which is, we fear, but too true. A few years ago a painful case occurred in which a lady, who was under a similar suspicion, committed suicide on the communication to her of the illegal order, which in that case was made to include all the women in the house. But as it appeared that the unhappy suicide was the person intended to be caught in this illegal trap, the order was not enforced upon the others. At that time counsel's opinion was taken at the instance of the Committee for amending the law on points wherein it is injurious to women on the question of legality of the order, and as to the best course to be adopted with a view to obtain an authoritative judicial decision on the subject. The present Solicitor General, who was the counsel referred to, stated as his opinion that he entertained no doubt that the order was illegal. No trace of the existence of such power was to be found in any book of authority. A search of the person for evidence seemed wholly contrary to law. He need hardly say that the law considers all persons innocent till they are found to be guilty; and further, that the law invests the person of every one of the QUEEN'S subjects with its protection against the merest touch. It was, however, impossible to raise the legal question in the present case, as the order was never executed, although the issue of the order, and the communication of it to the unfortunate lady, led to the act of self-destruction.

In the case of ANNE AGNEW, however, the order had been executed, and thus the opportunity was given for obtaining a judicial decision on the subject. The result was a complete vindication of the principle enunciated by

Sir HARDINGE GIFFARD, which, indeed, was not disputed, and a verdict for the plaintiff with substantial damages. It is to be hoped that this decision will put an end at once and for ever to a practice which made it possible for a counsel to defend an outrage which is as cruel and revolting as it is illegal, by the allegation made by Mr. HERSHELL, M.P., on behalf of his client, the defendant in the action, that "it was a thing constantly done."

If anything could add to the satisfactory nature of this vindication of personal rights, it would be the circumstance that the trial was held before Mr. Justice LOPES, who, while in Parliament, was conspicuous for his opposition to every measure brought forward in the interests or for the protection of women, and who cannot therefore be suspected of having the smallest sympathy with women's rights. But when members exchange the House of Commons and the Bar for the Bench, they are supposed to lose all feelings of partisanship; and there is something to be admired in the irony of the situation which has transformed the member who, in the House of Commons, was the bitter opponent of the personal rights of women, into the judge one of whose earliest judicial utterances is the judgment which will be henceforward a bulwark for the protection of one of the most sacred of those rights.

It can hardly be maintained that laws and government are beyond the sphere of women when we find the Education Department submitting to the House of Commons for approval the regulations for a new code on needlework. This product of masculine legislation in woman's sphere does not find favour with those for whose use it is intended. We have heard from the mistresses in girls' schools strenuous and cogent objections to the proposed regulations, and at a recent meeting of the London School Board the lady members did excellent service in urging objections to them. The report of the School Management Committee recommended that a deputation be appointed to wait upon the Vice-President of the Council, with instructions to urge that the requirements in needlework set forth in the code are too high, and that, therefore, to insist upon them would interfere with the intellectual advancement of the girls, and to hand in an alternative scheme prepared by the Committee. The Rev. J. RODGERS having asked for the postponement of the report, Mrs. WESTLAKE asked the Vice-Chairman not to press for postponement. If the department made the subject too severe, the result would be discouragement and failure. LORD SANDON'S Code required infants to make pinafores,

and he said this had been done in some schools, but no evidence could be given of the existence of such infant prodigies. It would be impossible for children to attain to the unpractical code, which it would seem had been drawn up by some fanatic in needlework. The code expected a girl of twelve or thirteen to do everything which a perfect needlewoman could do; and if education generally was only to give the children the power to learn more, why should there be an exception in the case of needlework, and the children required by the Government to be perfect in this one art? If the children gave so much time as was necessary to obtain the proficiency required in the code, it would injure their eyesight very materially, and they would turn out, as the result of the code, a number of squinting girls. Mr. PEEK moved as an amendment, that the Board should adopt a code drawn up by the Teachers' Association, requiring a lesser amount than the Board's proposal. Miss MILLER said the four lady members were at one on the subject, and so were the other members of the committee, with the exception of the Rev. J. RODGERS, who supported a code drawn up by a specialist, one who evidently thought needlework should be the one thing taught in a girl's life. Mr. MILLS, M.P., said he thought it a most hopeful sign to see the ladies of the Board protesting against a too ambitious scheme of needlework. Mr. LUCRAFT asked the Board not to be carried away by the eloquence of the ladies, but to carry the subject home, where they might get some hints from their wives. Miss TAYLOR urged that there was no time for delay, and thought it would be well to have the Board and the teachers shown to be coincident in opinion by the adoption of Mr. PEEK'S amendment. Mrs. SURR said the teachers were overworked now, and this new code would throw fresh difficulties in their way. She also supported Mr. PEEK'S amendment. After a reply from Mrs. WESTLAKE, the amendment was negatived by fifteen votes against twelve, three of the lady members voting for the amendment. The report, as proposed by Mrs. WESTLAKE, was then adopted, only three voting against it. Thus it appears that the judgment of the Teachers' Association, and of three out of the four lady members of the Board, was overruled by the votes of the gentlemen. This points to the desirability of a fuller representation of the opinions and interest of women, not only in the London School Board, but in the Education Department, and in the House of Commons, who have to ratify their proceedings.

Those who believe that the rights of women and children are often overlooked may point to a decision recently

recorded almost unanimously by the City of London Guardians against apprenticing girls to lucrative trades, on the ground that this necessitated a greater outlay than sending them to supply the existing need of domestic servants. One voice was raised on behalf of the girls, that of a member, who, speaking of the premiums to be paid, asked "why they should not spend £10 over a girl as well as over a boy," and noticed, with evident disapproval, the fact that all the girls belonging to that Union are sent to service. That the community wants servants may be true enough, so much the better for those who have already chosen that walk in life; but that is no reason why all the female wards of the State should, as a matter of course, be forced into a line of employment which, though lucrative enough to support them in youth and maturity, does not as a rule supply the permanent provision attainable by those possessing the knowledge of a trade or handicraft. It is but cold comfort to reflect that this piece of injustice being "penny-wise and pound foolish" recoils on those who sanction it. A. D.

SCOTCH INFANTS.

In reply to Mr. J. Barclay, in the House of Commons, on March 19th,

The LORD-ADVOCATE said that, by the law of Scotland, wherever parents were living apart, it was left entirely to the discretion of one of the Divisions of the Supreme Court to determine, according to the circumstances of each case, which parent should have the custody of children under seven years of age. His attention had been directed, not only recently, but for many years past, to the manner in which the law was administered, and he could suggest no better mode of dealing with this delicate and difficult question, and was not prepared to recommend any amendment of the law, for this reason—that in its principles and administration it differed in no substantial respect from the law of England on the same subject.

MARRIED SOLDIERS.

On March 20, Mr. JACOB BRIGHT drew attention to the case of William Webster, a driver in the Royal Artillery, upon whose child an inquest was lately held in Woolwich in consequence of its death after medical attendance had been refused at the Military Hospital, and asked the Secretary of State for War whether the Order dated November 1, 1876, "No medicine, medical or surgical appliances of any kind will be supplied from the public stores to the wife or children of any soldier who is not married with leave," had been issued with his authority.

Mr. STANLEY, in the absence of Mr. Hardy, replied in effect that the Regulations of 1876 published by authority of the present Secretary of State contain nothing new on this point, but were issued in a more condensed form simply for convenience sake. The medical officers, three in number, attached to the Female Hospital at Woolwich, all assert that they know nothing of a woman named Webster having applied for relief of her child at the hospital.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BRISTOL.

On March 8th, the annual public meeting of the Bristol and West of England Society for the Promotion of Women's Suffrage was held at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton. There was a large attendance, the principal saloon being crowded. Lady ANNA GORE-LANGTON presided, and among those present were Miss Lilius S. Ashworth, Professor Sheldon Amos, Mr. J. Inskip, the Rev. H. Arnold Thomas, the Rev. U. R. Thomas, Mr. Mark Whitwill, Dr. J. G. Davey, Mr. A. Greenwell, Mr. W. Lant-Carpenter, Miss Mary Carpenter, Miss Frances P. Cobbe, Miss I. Tod, Mr. H. Bennett, Mr. J. G. Thornton, Mr. Hallett, Mrs. Turner, Miss Spender, Dr. Beddoe, Mrs. Beddoe, Mr. Herbert Thomas, Mr. R. D. Robjent, Mr. Wilberforce Tribe, Miss Ashworth, Mr. J. Bartlett, Mr. H. F. Lawes, jun., &c.

Lady ANNA GORE-LANGTON, who was received with applause, said she believed it was ten years ago since the movement in favour of giving the franchise to properly-qualified women was started. She said properly-qualified women because she thought there was still a good deal of haziness in people's ideas about what they wanted. They thought, perhaps, that every woman sought to have a vote—married and single, girls from school, and everybody—but that was not at all their meaning. Men had made the franchise, and they had agreed that it was to depend upon the payment of a certain amount of rates and taxes, nothing more. What they asked for women was that women who themselves paid the same amount of rates and taxes should equally be allowed the franchise. Logically, if women were to be debarred from voting simply because they were women, surely they ought to be excused from paying the rates and taxes. A great many earnest thinkers and hard workers had helped this movement; and a cause numbering among its supporters such names as Mill, Kingsley, Dean Alford, Somerville, Martineau, and Nightingale, could not be called either wrong or silly. She believed they had outlived most of the ridicule thrown upon them, and they were none the worse for it. They had not persuaded members of Parliament yet of the injustice of which they complained, but she believed they would do it in time if they persevered. She did not lose heart because she remembered how many times what was called the wisdom of Parliament threw out the Bill for Roman Catholic emancipation, how long it was before Parliament repealed the corn laws, and how many other beneficial changes they refused until the feeling of justice on the nation forced the wisdom of Parliament to grant them. (Applause.) She was rejoiced to find that the interest of women and their requirements now obtained more attention than hitherto, and she was glad to find that women could now more easily obtain a good education than before. In Bristol she found a University College had been opened which gave instruction equally to men and women—(applause)—and who knew that Bristol might not some day have the credit of being the first University to allow that a woman might become a senior wrangler. (Applause.) She found medical men were at last yielding to pressure, and in Dublin a medical college had opened its examinations to women, so that she hoped in a short time more ladies who were qualified would be able to pass their examinations so as to enter upon their professions. (Applause.) The business qualities of some women had been recognised on the School Board; every lady candidate for the parishes in London, she was told, had been elected, and she was informed they had a lady on the Bristol School Board. She would venture on one suggestion, that it was curious in a country where there were so many women and girls who became paupers, and were col-

lected in large numbers in the workhouses, the benefit of the counsel of well-educated women had not been recognised by the poor law more generally. Some years ago a vestry—she believed that of Chelsea—elected a woman to serve as a guardian, and she had been of great service. These were hopeful signs for the future. (Applause.)

The SECRETARY (Mrs. Turner) read the report of the committee, from which it appeared that 25 petitions were sent from Bristol and Clifton, signed by 13,883 persons.

The financial statement showed that the subscriptions and donations had amounted to £522. 9s. 2d. The total receipts were £536. 3s. 3d., the expenditure, including a balance of £1. 4s. 9d. due to the treasurer at the commencement of the year, £554. 2s. 7½d., leaving an adverse balance of £17. 19s. 4½d.

Mr. J. INSKIP, who was called upon to move the first resolution, said he believed there was great danger in educating the human intellect in a way which was presumably intended for the discharge of certain duties, and then when the intellect was formed, in saying that those duties should not be discharged. (Hear, hear.) If it was not right that women should have a vote for a Parliamentary representative, he for one was disposed to think that it must be wrong to institute colleges for the higher education of women, and to afford all the facilities which were now afforded them for educational purposes. In conclusion, he moved that the report and statement of accounts be adopted, and that the committee be appointed for the ensuing year.

Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE seconded the resolution. In the course of her remarks respecting barbarism, she said that a certain professor had stated that he could always tell which were the women's and which were the men's skulls in some barbarous countries, because the women's had so many dents in them. She was afraid the same remark would apply to a certain extent in their own country.

The Rev. H. ARNOLD THOMAS supported the resolution, which was then put to the meeting and carried.

Miss TOD moved a resolution adopting petitions to the House of Commons in favour of the Bill.

Professor SHELDON AMOS, in seconding the resolution, said it was an undoubted tendency of the constitution that no person in the community should be taxed without having a direct or indirect control over the way in which the money was expended. The terms of the English constitution were not that every intelligent, every industrious, every propertied person must have a vote, but that no large number of persons at once industrious, intelligent, and propertied should be permanently excluded from the franchise. When, in the progress of the country, it became manifest that any vast number of persons combining the requisites of industry, intelligence, and property were excluded, as it was called, from the pale of the constitution, a certain restlessness manifested itself, and efforts began to be made in every direction, such as many of them would remember in their own experience, to readjust the constitution, and to admit the excluded persons. This sometimes occasioned much controversy and agitation, but the result when gained was felt to be beneficial to everybody, and the whole country felt the bracing influence of the change. The value of such movements was appreciated as highly by Conservatives who believed the constitution was thereby attaining its natural development, as by Liberals who saw it thereby evincing the surest marks of progress. The question was felt to be one of more serious importance than belonged to the fleeting questions of party politics. It was a question of what the constitution in the future should be, or rather, in truth, what England itself should be. Crises of this sort occurred again and again, and each of them produced what was called a Reform Bill. But

EXETER.

A meeting was held on March 12th in the Royal Public Rooms, Exeter. Mr. F. THOMAS presided, and there were also present on the platform Lady Bowring, Miss Tod, Miss Spender, Mrs. Clark (eldest daughter of Mr. John Bright, M.P.), and Mr. F. Townsend.

The CHAIRMAN, after a few preliminary remarks, called upon Lady Bowring to move the first resolution.

Lady BOWRING said she had long felt that a great injustice was done to women in their being unrepresented in Parliamentary elections, especially to those who, like herself, were rate-payers, and were called upon for taxes the same as men, but had no voice in the matter. Sorrow and illness had not in any way changed her views on that topic; on the contrary, she thought her views were stronger than ever.

Mrs. HELEN BRIGHT CLARK, in seconding the resolution, said she was sorry that in some respects the present was not a very favourable opportunity for considering a question like this. For many months past the public mind had been stirred, and stirred deeply by the events which had occurred, and were occurring, more than a thousand miles away from this country—events which the people of England were responsible for through the foreign policy which they had permitted their Government to carry out. She thought they were bound to watch the course of these events, but at the same time that one question should not be allowed to absorb public attention to the exclusion of home questions. Many who were present, were no doubt aware that the object of the Bill they were endeavouring to support was simply an extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women householders, that was single women and widows, who, being householders, paid the same rates and taxes as men. They were told they were not to call women a class, but at any rate they must not forget that women were legislated for as a class in a very marked manner indeed. If they looked at the married portion of human kind, women formed one half, and until lately they were bound to give up all their property to the other half, unless they obtained a costly legal settlement. The law had been amended in that respect chiefly through the influence of men who sympathised in their principles. She believed the Bill which passed the Commons was completely mutilated in the Lords, and was now admitted to be in a state which lawyers described as very unsatisfactory, so that they were endeavouring to have it put in a better shape. Women constituted one-half of the parents of children. She dared say it was not known to many that a mother could be deprived by the law of the care of her infant child, and even a baby belonged legally only to its father, and not to its mother. She thought that was a cruel unkind law. (Applause.) It was not very often that that was done, for men were fortunately less cruel than the laws they had made, but after all, these cases did occur. Again, if they took the law of divorce, the poor guilty people who came under it found that the Divine law in that respect was not applied equally to men and women. Then there were the restrictions placed on women who had to labour for their livelihood. She reminded those who differed from them that one of their favourite statements was that women were wholly different from men, and that they who supported this movement were trying to efface the distinction. On the contrary, she maintained that they were trying to keep up those distinctions. She believed their measure would find a remedy for these things. It would leave in the hands of women but a moderate measure of power, one which would not alarm the most timid and emotional of the other sex. They desired that women should have an interest in all political questions which affected the country. Why should it be thought fitting that great and interesting questions

hitherto all these movements had appertained solely to men. Some years ago it occurred to Mr. J. S. Mill, following the steps of Bentham, and to other observant men, that a vast number of persons, combining all the qualifications which had hitherto been held to be the ground of the franchise in the case of men, were not included in the limits of the constitution. The question was, whether these persons ought to be included or not, and whether or not the same principles applied to them as to men? It might be instructive to trace some of the practical consequences of the existing position of women. Why was it that a man wanted a vote? There were two candidates, and the man was called to choose between the one and the other. One of these candidates engaged to introduce laws in favour of a policy by which a man's purse, person, home, and freedom would be better protected and secured against arbitrary interference of all sorts. The other candidate was indifferent to all these things, or preferred other objects to them. The elector, in the name of his interests, valued his vote because by it he could help to promote the return of the one candidate and not of the other. This was a mere matter of interest; but there was another and better reason why a vote was of value to a man. A man could not live long in the world, if he was worth anything, without having a growing sense of the evil about him, and of the need and ways of remedying that evil. He would have a growing sense, too, of the evil in other lands, and of the way in which England could make her name and power felt in remedying that evil likewise. He would have a burning desire to relieve his conscience by all the opportunities of direct action which the English constitution gave him. At the time of the election one of the candidates promised to help to redress evils and tyranny at home and abroad; the other candidate was indifferent to them. The elector valued his vote because he could give it to the one and not to the other. Now why was it that while a man could defend his interests and satisfy his conscience by direct outward political action at the moment of an election, a woman must stand by, paralysed and impotent, unable to do either the one or the other? It was not, however, merely, or perhaps so much, a loss to the women that was brought about, as to the community at large. The House of Commons should represent all the best life, all the best thought, all the moral and spiritual activity, all the aspirations of the broad mass of English society. It was a serious impoverishment of the life-blood of the country if there was a mass of thought, feeling, and activity which was in no way represented in the House of Commons.

Miss LILLIAS ASHWORTH supported the resolution, which was then put and carried, with some dissentients.

Miss MARY CARPENTER proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Anna Gore-Langton. She said she very warmly sympathised in the principles of that society and wished it success, though she was unable from her other engagements to take any part in the movement; but it was a most agreeable privilege accorded to her to propose a vote of thanks to Lady Anna Gore-Langton, who had so kindly taken the chair on that occasion. Having very often heard her name in connection with important movements she never had the privilege of a personal acquaintance with her until she met her in Madras, where she accompanied her brother, the Duke of Buckingham, who was appointed governor of Madras, and she had no doubt that Lady Anna Gore-Langton's presence there was very instrumental in elevating the women. It was agreeable to her (Miss Carpenter) therefore to meet her on that platform. (Cheers.)

Dr. DAVEY seconded the resolution, which was carried, and Lady Anna Gore-Langton having briefly acknowledged the vote, the meeting terminated.

of imperial policy should be submitted to the consideration of the most ignorant and corrupt amongst men, whilst they were unfitted for the consideration of women, however moral and conscientious those women might be. She had heard one, not favourable to the movement, appeal to the women of England upon the question which is just now disturbing Europe, but the hands of women were tied, for there was not one of them that could give a vote either to sustain the Turk in power or to strengthen the hands of those who would purge this country of complicity in his crimes. Nothing could be further from the truth than the statement sometimes made that those who were interested in this question were seeking to make women less domestic, or that they were trying to disparage woman in home life. They were only trying to give woman a wider work than the mere round of frivolity which was thought to be woman's main sphere. (Applause.) For instance, if they took the question of education, it was of great interest and importance to woman; or if they looked at the question of intemperance, where would they find a more burning question for woman than that? It was not necessary that woman should occupy the same position in political life as man, but if they tried to shut out woman altogether, they could not fail to cramp and injure the influence of both man and woman. (Applause.)

Mr. F. TOWNSEND supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Miss TOD moved a resolution adopting petitions, which was seconded by Miss SPENDER and carried, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

CHELLENHAM.

A crowded meeting was held on March 13th, at the Corn Exchange, Cheltenham, at which addresses were delivered by Miss Tod and Miss Liliash Ashworth. Councillor ONLEY presided, and among the gentlemen present were the Revs. J. Robberds, J. More, Alderman Wilson, Councillors J. D. Steel and J. S. Lenthall, Messrs. J. D. Steel, jun., J. H. McIlquham, and Miss Tod, Miss Ashworth, Mrs. Robberds, and Mrs. McIlquham, were on the platform.

The CHAIRMAN opened the proceedings by explaining the object for which the meeting was convened, namely, that as regarded the franchise, qualified householders being single women or widows should have equal rights and equal privileges with the qualified householders of the other sex. After an address by Miss TOD, a resolution affirming the principle and adopting petitions in favour of the Bill was moved by the Rev. Dr. BROWN, and seconded by Mr. LENTHALL.

The Rev. C. N. LINE, who several times during the proceedings had from the body of the hall expressed his dissent to women's suffrage, at the request of the Chairman came forward, and, amid much clamour, in a short speech contended that for women to seek to speak in public or hold any authority over man, was opposed to the teaching of the New Testament, and therefore that it would be wrong to give women the franchise. He moved an amendment to that effect, which was, amidst much laughter, seconded by Mr. ESAU WYNN.

Miss LILIAS ASHWORTH, in a spirited and eloquent address, controverted, with the expressed approval of the meeting, the position taken up by Mr. Line. She recorded her thanks to Mr. Agg-Gardner and Mr. Yorke for their continual support of the Women's Disabilities Bill.

The motion, proposed by the Rev. Dr. MORTON BROWN, was carried with but three dissentients.

Rev. J. ROBBERDS proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Tod and Miss Ashworth for their attendance and excellent addresses, which, having been seconded by Mr. J. D. STEEL, jun., was

carried unanimously, and briefly acknowledged by Miss Tod. Upon the motion of the Rev. J. MORE, seconded by Mr. McILQUHAM, thanks were voted to the Chairman and the proceedings concluded.

POOLE.

On February 16 a meeting was held at the Temperance Hall, Poole, when addresses were delivered by Miss Caroline A. Biggs, niece of the Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., and by Mrs. Ronniger. The hall was well filled. The chair was occupied by the MAYOR (A. Balston, Esq.), who, in a few words, remarked that woman as a social problem was a difficult one: as a political problem, it was quite unknown. If women had a right to the suffrage, they ought to have it.

Mr. S. L. BAKER moved the first resolution, affirming the principle. The resolution was seconded by Miss C. A. Biggs and passed. Mrs. RONNIGER moved a resolution for the adoption of petitions for the Bill, which was seconded by Alderman STYRING and carried. A vote of thanks to the lady speakers was moved by Councillor E. P. PHILPOTS, seconded by Mr. W. MATE; and after a vote of thanks to the Mayor the meeting separated.

LEEK.

One of the most successful meetings ever held in Leek took place on March 19th in the Temperance Hall. Mr. William Allen presided, and the resolutions were spoken to by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd and Miss Becker, who were the deputation from the Society, and the following gentlemen of the district:—The Rev. J. Hankinson, Messrs. Thomas Hulme, William Sugden, S. Goodwin, A. Nicholson, John Hall, and Joshua Brough. As two other meetings were held in Leek the same evening, it was feared that the attendance might suffer, but the room was crammed to overflowing, and many remained standing outside the doorways till the end of the proceedings. The resolutions were passed without one dissentient, and the petitions and memorials forwarded by the chairman to Sir Charles Adderley, M.P.

MACCLESFIELD.

A meeting was held by the courtesy of the Mayor, who granted the use of the room, on March 20th, in the Town Hall, Macclesfield. There was a good attendance. Mr. Alderman J. W. WHITE presided. There were also on the platform Miss Becker and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd (of Leeds), who attended as a deputation from the National Society for Securing Women's Suffrage; Mr. J. O. Nicholson, Mr. H. Birchenough, the Rev. G. J. Allen, and others.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his address, said it appeared somewhat strange that whereas the British Parliament had been engaged from time to time for many years back in conferring rights and removing disabilities, there should still exist any large and intelligent section of society outside the electoral community. They had not yet found any good reason given for excluding from the Parliamentary suffrage women who had already voted in municipal and School Board elections. Therefore they intended to reiterate their demands until they were conceded. (Applause.)

Mr. J. O. NICHOLLON moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Mr. HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, supported by Mrs. SCATCHERD, and carried unanimously. The second resolution was moved by the Rev. G. J. ALLEN, seconded by Councillor W. SMALL, supported by Miss BECKER, and carried unanimously. Councillor W. FROST moved, and Mr. PETER WILDE seconded, a vote of thanks to the ladies who had addressed the meeting; and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

LONDON.

A drawing-room meeting in connection with the London National Society for Women's Suffrage was held by the Blackheath branch on March 17th, at the house of Mrs. Cairnes, the secretary. The chair was taken by Mr. Leonard Courtney, M.P., and among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Price-Williams, Miss Helen Taylor, Mr. Welsh, Mrs. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Main, Mrs. Wood; Rev. C. Leek, rector of Kidbrook; the Rev. Martyn Hart; the Rev. W. South, principal of the Blackheath Proprietary School; Colonel Woolsey, R.A., and Mrs. Woolsey, and others. The Chairman, in an introductory speech, laid much stress upon the improving effect on women of the exercise of political rights, and referring to the objection so frequently urged, that the granting of these rights to women would tend to strengthen priestly influence, observed that as women are generally influenced by what is good, and as the clergy appealed to all that was best in human nature, so far such influence was quite legitimate. Mrs. Webster moved a resolution protesting against the exclusion of women who are householders from the franchise. Home duties would not be affected, nor would the special characteristics of women. In the elections already participated in by women intelligence and judgment are required. Moreover, the franchise is as useful to women as to men. This motion was seconded by Mr. Price-Williams. Another resolution was moved by Miss Helen Taylor. She claimed for this extension that its moral effect would be beneficial. At present all the duties of citizenship were encouraged, and indeed enforced, in women. Why not the privileges? Impulse or emotion had been urged as being encouraged by giving women the vote, but, if so, it by no means followed such an influence would not be beneficial. Mr. Lennard seconded the resolution, and was followed in a discussion by Mr. Buchanan, the Rev. Martyn Hart, and Mr. Welsh, a member of the London School Board. The chairman signed a petition to Parliament in favour of the first resolution.

A drawing-room meeting took place at the house of Mr. A. G. Simcox, Douro Place, Kensington, on February 19th, addressed by Miss Arabella Shore and Miss Edith Simcox. In the discussion which followed, Miss Otté gave an account of the progress of women's education in Denmark, where it is now competent to women to take degrees in law and medicine, but not in theology.

On March 5th a meeting was given by Mr. Joseph Biggs, Notting Hill Square. The Rev. J. A. Jacob, in taking the chair, said he regarded it as his duty as a Christian clergyman to promote this movement. Miss A. Shore next addressed the meeting, followed by the Rev. E. Wyatt-Edgell, Miss Albert, and others, Miss Albert dwelling particularly on her experience of the depressed social condition of Bulgaria.

BATH.

A drawing-room meeting was held on March 6th, at Lady Carrington's, 33, St. James's Square, Bath. The Rev. R. Hayes Robinson presided. Lady Anna Gore-Langton gave a most interesting account of the state of women in India, the object being to show that political and social disabilities tended to lower the influence of women even in those departments of life which are commonly called "women's sphere." The address was followed by a speech from Miss Le Geyt. Miss Spender spoke next; and after a few words from the Chairman, a petition to Parliament was adopted by the meeting, and signed on its behalf by the chairman.

STONEHAVEN.

An interesting drawing-room meeting was held on February 24th in the house of Dr. Leslie, M.D., Barclay street. The meeting, which was presided over by Dr. Leslie, and was attended by several lady householders, listened attentively to papers read by Miss Burton and Miss Ella Burton. A petition asking for the extension of the suffrage to women householders, proposed by Miss Burton, and seconded by Mr. J. C. Thomson, who made an appropriate speech, was transmitted from the meeting to Parliament. Miss Burton proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Leslie for allowing the meeting to take place in their house, which was heartily accorded, and the proceedings terminated. - A petition was sent to Parliament largely signed by the inhabitants.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

OLDHAM.—On March 8th, at a meeting of the members of the Students' Literary and Philosophical Society, Oldham, an interesting discussion took place on the subject of women's rights. Mr. John S. Hulton, who led the debate, advanced very strong arguments in favour of women's suffrage, in which he was supported by several of the members. Mr. Owen conducted the opposition, but his arguments did not meet with approval in the minds of most of the members present, who ultimately decided in favour of women's suffrage by a majority of seven.

TWO CODES OF MORALITY.

At the centennial celebration of the United States women had a demonstration of their own, and at a meeting held under the presidency of Lucretia Mott at Philadelphia, Mrs. Spencer, of Washington, delivered an address on the topic assigned her—two codes of morality. In the course of her address she made the following remarks on unequal codes for men and women.

"The child of the married woman belongs to the father. The woman who has nourished the little one with her own life-blood, who has endured for its precious sake the awful tragedy of motherhood, and yet, with immortal love, has welcomed the cry of the newly born as the sweetest music this side of heaven, does not own the babe in her arms. The father, strong in body and mighty before the law, owns every child that is born; and many a wife and mother endures a lifetime of torture because, if she leaves the man who has broken her heart and wrecked her life, the children are his; he may do with them what he will; and knowing what he can do, she would rather lay them beneath the sod than leave them to his mercy. When I was a little girl living in Western New York, a poor woman, who, in her poverty stricken, desolate home, became the mother of thirteen children, saw them, one by one, as soon as they were old enough to labour, bound out by the father to merciless taskmasters, who kept them at hard labour, controlling them by the lash, until they were twenty-one years of age. Thanks to the labours of the pioneers of woman suffrage, I believe that can no longer be done in the Empire State. The mother's consent must now first be obtained. Yet I am not sure, for as our declaration says, "Our most sacred rights are but the football of legislative caprice."

Mrs. GAGE—"And so it is in this case. The old barbarous law is re-enacted."

Mrs. SPENCER continued: Did I say the father owns every child that is born? Women citizens of the United States, there is a child a mother may own! The men who make our laws have provided a way by which a woman may own a child. The child born out of wedlock is given by law to the mother!

No brave man steps in between that mother and a cruel world and says, "This child is mine! Aim all your thunder bolts at me and spare that woman!" No, no, no. Burn the scarlet letter on her breast and send her forth with her own child in her arms. But wait. Call in the strong arm of the man-made law, heat the irons seven times hotter than before, and brand the innocent baby too, the helpless, friendless baby—brand it with a name of shame! Go, poor mother. Keep your heritage of woe. No man disputes the claim with you. Oh, I have seen little pink feet stretching out from the desperate arms of deserted mothers! I have seen little pitiful, pleading eyes of starving infants that will haunt me to my dying day! They burn into my soul and make me solemnly swear never to abandon the cause of oppressed womanhood and childhood until my right hand forgets its cunning and my tongue cleaves to the roof of my mouth!

MEDICAL DEGREES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

In November last the Senate of the London University took the opinion of the law officers of the Crown as to the extent of the powers conferred on the University, by Mr. Russell Gurney's Act (the 39 and 40 Vict., cap. 41), in regard to the admission of women to degrees in medicine; and also on the question whether women, if admitted under that Act to the degrees in medicine granted by the University of London, will become entitled thereby to admission to Convocation. Their expressed opinion, which was laid before the Senate on December 20th, 1876, was that the University had power to admit women to medical degrees, either upon the existing regulations, or upon such others as the Senate may specially frame for the purpose.

At the meeting of the Senate on February 28th, it was resolved, "That in the opinion of the Senate, the University should exercise the powers conferred by the Act 39 and 40 Vict., c. 41."

It was further resolved, "That it be referred to a committee to report on mode and conditions to give effect to the resolution," and the committee appointed consisted of Visct. Cardwell, Lord Kimberley, Mr. Fitch, Dr. Storrar, Mr. Osler, Dr. Williamson, Sir W. Gull, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Lowe, and Sir J. Paget. The committee met on Tuesday, March 6th, and the result of their long deliberations has been entirely favourable to the cause of women. Women are to matriculate and take degrees in medicine.—*Englishwoman's Review*.

The *Fortnightly Review*, in commenting on the recent elections for the London School Board, says: "Meanwhile, it is worth noticing, as against a certain consequence prophesied by Mr. Bright and others, as sure to follow from the admission of women to the franchise, that the most emphatic rebuff received by the clergy for many years has taken place at an election in which women have a share. The clergy have hitherto acquired their influence over women by treating them seriously. A good many women have now found out for the first time that laymen, too, know how to treat them seriously when their votes are wanted, and can only be secured by rational argument. Many women now thoroughly understand the merits of the education controversy, who, if they had not had votes, would never have understood anything about it. To deny that this is a gain to their intelligence and public spirit, and therefore indirectly to the intelligence and public spirit of all within the sphere of such women, is to repudiate one of the great foundations of popular as distinguished from arbitrary government."

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE POST OFFICE.

A report has been circulated to the effect that the authorities at the Post Office had resolved to abandon to a large extent the employment of young women in the telegraph department. The matter was brought under the notice of Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., who has had an interview with Lord John Manners on the subject. The Postmaster-General explained that the only change that was being made related to the Central Office in London, where it was considered desirable to relieve the young women from night work by drafting in male assistants for that duty. There will still be over 700 young women employed at the Central Office. The postal authorities, Mr. Bright was assured, had a high appreciation of the services of the women employed, and now a large portion of the work in the savings bank and other departments was being done by female clerks.

At the Iowa College, in the United States, the early English Text Society's prize for 1876, given for the best examination in English before Chaucer, and open to both sexes, was won by Miss Susan J. Whitcomb, jun., for the best examination in *Cædmon*.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The Bill for the protection of the property of married women in Scotland, introduced by Mr. Anderson, the second reading of which is fixed for April 13th, has been printed. The preamble states that it is just and expedient to protect to the extent hereinafter provided for the property of married women in Scotland:—

Section 1 of the Bill provides that in all cases of marriage taking place after the passing of this Act, where the wife or the husband is at the date of such marriage domiciled in Scotland, or shall afterwards become so, the husband's *ius mariti* and right of administration in or over all moveable or personal estate then belonging to her, or which may thereafter be earned by her own industry, or to which she may otherwise acquire right during marriage, shall, unless otherwise settled by any instrument duly executed by her, be entirely excluded from such estate.

Section 2 provides that the rents and produce of heritable property in Scotland shall be separate estate in the wife, but this enactment shall not apply to the property of any woman married before the passing of this Act, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 3 provides that the Act shall not apply to marriages contracted before its passing, except as regards property acquired after its passing.

Section 4 provides that in cases of marriage contracted before Act, parties may voluntarily come under its provisions by deed and advertisement.

Section 5 provides that the wages, profits, and earnings of any woman married either before or after the passing of this Act, and whether derived from the prosecution of a trade or profession or the exercise of labour and skill, shall be separate estate to the effect specified in this Act.

Section 6 provides that husband and children shall, on the wife's death, have the same rights to participation in such estate as the wife and children would have in the moveable succession of a husband in like circumstances.

Section 7 limits the liability of the husband for the wife's ante-nuptial debts to the amount of property received through her.

Section 8 makes the wife's estate liable for debts arising out of the household expenditure, but only on a judge's order, endorsed on the extract of the decree, and bearing that evidence has been adduced to him that the husband's estate has been exhausted or is not available.

Section 9 exempts contracts and certain legal rights from operation of Act.

The above is an abstract of the provisions of the Bill, omitting technicalities. Sufficient is given to make the general drift of the measure apparent, and it remains to be seen how much the present House of Commons is disposed to concede in the matter of the property rights of women.

MARRIED WOMEN AND SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.—On March 21, Mr. Appleton, solicitor, applied to the judge of the Wigan County Court for an order that the sum of £23, the proceeds of the sale of a horse and cart, the property of Richard Barton, carrier, deposited by his wife in the Pendleton Post-office Savings Bank to her own credit, should be paid to the said Richard Barton. The sale was made by Mrs. Barton at her husband's request. Though requested to draw out the money the wife had refused, and she still refused to assist Barton to obtain payment of the money. The Comptroller General of the Post-office had been communicated with, and a reply received to the effect that no withdrawal on the account would be allowed so long as any dispute existed as to the ownership of the deposit. As the account had been opened since the passing of the Married Women's Property Act, 1870, it was necessary before the amount deposited could be paid to Barton that he should furnish an order in his favour from the District County Court, or from the Chancery Division of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice. The depositor was also at liberty to apply for a similar order, and, if she obtained one and produced it in the Savings Bank Department, payment would be made to her accordingly.—His Honour granted the application.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Mr. Arthur Arnold | Mr. William Malleson |
| Mrs. Arthur Arnold | Mrs. Moore |
| Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P. | Mr. H. N. Mozley |
| Mrs. Butler | Dr. Pankhurst |
| Mr. Thomas Chorlton | Mrs. Sutcliffe |
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| Mrs. Gell | Mr. Thomas Taylor |
| Rev. Septimus Hansard | Mrs. Hensleigh Wedgwood |
| Mr. Thomas Hare | Miss Alice Wilson |
| Professor W. B. Hodgson | Miss Lucy Wilson |
| Mrs. Hodgson | Mrs. Venturi |

Treasurer: Mrs. Jacob Bright, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.
Secretary: Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, Congleton.

The Committee have great pleasure in announcing that Mr. George Anderson, M.P. for Glasgow, has introduced the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill, the second reading of which is fixed for Wednesday, the 18th of April.

The Bill is an attempt to deal with the question of the property of married women, so far as Scotland is concerned, in a broad and equitable manner, accepting the principle of a wife's right to her own property, already recognised in England and Ireland by the Married Women's Property Act of 1870, but avoiding those mistakes and defects of that measure which Lord Coleridge proposes to remove by his forthcoming Married Women's Property Bill.

For the Act of 1870 gives to a married woman (in England and Ireland), whether married before or after the passing of the Act, the absolute right to her own earnings, earned after marriage, and after the passing of the Act.

It enables her to retain to her separate use any moneys invested in savings banks or post-office savings banks, any property in the funds, any fully paid-up shares in a joint-stock company, and any shares in an industrial or provident society.

The Act also enables her to retain to her separate use any property belonging to her before marriage which her husband shall by writing under his hand have agreed with her shall belong to her after marriage as her separate property, and further empowers her to maintain in her own name an action for the recovery of any such investments, earnings, or property, and it gives to her absolutely all property, whether real or personal, coming to her under an intestacy.

All property secured to her by the Act she can, moreover, dispose of by will, independently of her husband.

The Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill is, therefore, but an attempt to extend to Scotland the application, in its complete form, of the principle already recognised by the Imperial Legislature in its application to England and Ireland.

The time left for work in support of the Bill is now very short, the second reading being fixed for Wednesday, the 18th of April. The Committee therefore earnestly urge their friends everywhere, and especially their friends in Scotland, to assist them at once:

- (1) By collecting signatures to Petitions in support of the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill.
- (2) By inducing local newspapers to discuss the question, and by contributing letters and papers for this purpose.
- (3) By bringing the question under the notice of their Parliamentary representatives; by writing letters, preparing memorials, or forming deputations to ask their support.
- (4) By reporting to the Executive Committee cases of hardship caused by the existing law, which have come under their personal observation.
- (5) By contributing to the funds of the Committee.

All persons willing to help are requested to communicate at once with the Secretary, E. C. Wolstenholme Elmy, Congleton, from whom petition forms (written and printed), and other papers may be obtained.

Cheques and post-office orders should be made payable to Ursula M. Bright, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING MARCH, 1877.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Pennington	10	0	0
Mrs. Brown	5	0	0
Mrs. P. A. Taylor	5	0	0
Mr. James Cropper	2	2	0
Mrs. Ford	2	0	0
Mrs. Davies	1	1	0
Mrs. Augusta Webster	1	1	0
Mrs. M. Kennett	1	1	0
Mrs. Hodgson	1	1	0
Miss Fuller	0	5	0
Miss Poulter	0	5	0
Miss Apps	0	2	6
Miss Dunbar	0	2	6
Mrs. Offord	0	2	6
Miss Tiffin	0	2	6

URSULA M. BRIGHT, TREASURER.

29 6 0

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING MARCH, 1877.

Table listing names and amounts for Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, March 1877. Includes names like Popgun, Miss Jessie Boucherett, Mrs. Browne, etc.

Table listing names and amounts for Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, March 1877. Includes names like Mr. Edwin Brough, Mr. Arthur Nicholson, etc.

SUMMARY OF PETITIONS PRESENTED UP TO MARCH 20th, 1877. Table with columns for No. of Petitions signed Officially, Total No. of Petitions, and Total No. of Signatures.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Contributions to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners Street, London, W., from February 21st to March 20th, 1877.

Table listing names and amounts for Central Committee contributions. Includes names like Mrs. Gough Nicholls, Mrs. Thomas Taylor, Lady Goldsmid, etc.

ALFRED W. BENNETT, TREASURER.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING MARCH, 1877.

Table listing names and amounts for Bristol and West of England Women's Suffrage Society, March 1877. Includes names like Miss Ashworth, Lady Anna Gore Langton, Mr. W. Somerville, etc.

ALAN GREENWELL, TREASURER.

Office, 16, Park-street, Bristol. 1, Westbourne Villas, Clifton.

PETITIONS TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. The following is the form recommended:—

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SHREWETH, That the exclusion of women, otherwise legally qualified, from voting in the election of Members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments.

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

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c. Write out the above form without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and sign it on the same piece of paper, obtaining as many signatures as you can to follow. After the written heading is signed, extra sheets of paper may be attached to hold more names. The petition may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise. Make up the petition as a book-post packet, open at the ends, write on the cover the words "Parliamentary Petition," and post it, addressed to the member who is to present it at the House of Commons. No stamp is required, as petitions so forwarded go post free. Write, and send along with the petition, a note (post paid) asking the member to present it, and to support its prayer.

Written headings, with full information, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester, or to the secretary of the Central Committee, 64, Berners Street, London, W.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—

Edited by Lydia E. Becker.—This Journal is published monthly, and contains full information of the progress of the movement for removing the Electoral Disabilities of Women; accounts of public meetings and lectures; correspondence, and original articles on the subject. It also records and discusses other questions affecting the welfare of women—such as education, employment, industrial or professional, and legislation affecting their property and personal rights. The Journal furnishes a medium of communication among the members, and a record of the work done by the different branches of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and by other persons and societies interested in improving the condition of women. Friends of the cause are urged to endeavour to aid it by promoting the circulation of the Journal.

Price for one copy, monthly (post free for one year), 1s. 6d.

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