

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIV.—No. 161. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

JUNE 1, 1883.

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### THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACTS.

With an Introduction and Notes on the Act of 1882. By H. N. Mozley, M.A. —BUTTERWORTH, 7, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

**ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.**—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum.

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

THE NEW VOLUME.  
**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.**—Volume XIII. January to December, 1882. With coloured cover, price, post free, One Shilling and Tenpence.—London: Trübner and Co.; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

**PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!**—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures during the recess for petitions, to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution, which is expected to come on for discussion in Parliament at an early date. 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, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

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Manchester: A. Ireland and Co., Pall Mall.

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

**"LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY."**  
A Reply to Mr. Fitzjames Stephen's Strictures on Mr. J. S. Mill's "Subjection of Women," by LYDIA E. BECKER. Reprinted from the *Women's Suffrage Journal*. Price 2d. To be had at 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

**ADDRESS UPON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN WYOMING**, delivered at Association Hall, Philadelphia, by Gov. JOHN W. HOYT, of Wyoming Territory, U.S.A., on April 3, 1882. Price Threepence.—Published by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 64, Berners-street, London, W.

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**THE HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.** Illustrated with steel engravings. Edited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage. Complete in three octavo volumes. Vols. I. and II. now ready. Price, cloth, two pounds.

The question of Woman Suffrage, the rights and status of Woman, has already become one of the vital political issues of the day; therefore, its relation to political, social, and religious questions should be thoroughly understood.

The *Phila. Evening Bulletin* says: "The magnitude of this history prevents us from giving even a sketch of it, but we simply and honestly say that it is a noble production, honourable to its editors and to its subject, and fairly representing the characters of the really great women, like Mrs. Stone, Lucretia Mott, Harriet Martineau, and scores of others in England and this country, who made the claim of equal rights of suffrage a part of their political and religious creeds."

The *N. Y. Observer* says: "The able editors present this work as an arsenal of facts, to which all interested in the subject may resort and find whatever is worth knowing in regard to the movement. The history of such a movement is full of interest, and while the material is at hand and easily gathered, the editors have done well to gather it into these thick volumes, and preserve it as a part of the record of this remarkable age. The portraits of women here presented make us acquainted with the features of some who have become famous."

To be had from the office of this Journal, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

**A HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN** engaged in Social and Political Work, Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN. Price One Shilling. Published by J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11, Quay-street, Bristol.

"It will be found a desirable acquisition by all who take a part in public matters affecting women, or who desire to know the principal topics which have or deserve attention. The legal elements of the book have been very carefully brought together and are fairly complete."—*Queen*, March 15, 1881

"The amount of information compressed into a very small space is not more remarkable than the skill with which it is arranged and digested."—*Social Notes*, May 6, 1881

"... Gives a brief account of the laws, enabling, and disabling, which affect the condition of women. It is a useful summary."—*Spectator*, Jan 14, 1882.

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

**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.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES.—For Removal.

EIGHTH REPORT, 12—20 April, 1883.

Table listing petitions for removal of disabilities, including names like Sir Thomas Chambers, E. J. Wilkinson, and others, with dates and signature counts.

Total number of Petitions 169—Signatures 4,386

NINTH REPORT, 20—26 April, 1883.

Table listing petitions for removal of disabilities, including names like York, East Riding of the County, and others, with dates and signature counts.

Total number of Petitions 167—Signatures 4,509

TENTH REPORT, 30 April—3 May, 1883.

Table listing petitions for removal of disabilities, including names like Wakefield, Herne Hill, and Thrapston, with dates and signature counts.

Total number of Petitions 170—Signatures 4,532

The Petitions marked thus (\*) are substantially similar to that from Plymouth [APP. 5]. The Petitions marked thus (C) are from public meetings, and are signed officially.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—For Extension to Women.

TENTH REPORT, 30 April, 1883.

Table listing petitions for extension of parliamentary franchise, including the name Forres, Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the royal burgh of (Mr. Mackintosh) [APP. 208]... Seal 1

TEXT OF PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—SESSION 1883.

FROM THE APPENDIX TO THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS.

APP. 5. Mr. Macliver. Sig. 1.

35. The humble Petition of the inhabitants of Plymouth, in public meeting assembled, in the Guildhall, Plymouth, on December 4th, 1882.

Showeth,—That, in the opinion of your petitioners, the Parliamentary franchise ought to be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and no future measure of Parliamentary reform will be satisfactory that does not contain a provision for such extension.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass a measure to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,

JOHN MERRIFIELD, Chairman.

APP. 20. Mr. Tottenham. Sig. 10.

246. The humble Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of Templeogue, Rathgar, &c., county Dublin,

Showeth,—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 in England regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will pass a Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. And your petitioners will ever pray.

SUSAN MURPHY. CHARLES J. MURPHY. ANNE SIBELLA HOLMES. &c., &c., &c.

MEDICAL WOMEN FOR INDIA.

The Queen has expressed her interest in the efforts now being made to provide fully qualified medical women for India. Miss Manning, hon. secretary of the National Indian Association, has received a letter from General Ponsonby, stating that Her Majesty gladly countenances a proposal suggested by Mr. Keltridge, of Bombay, to raise, with the co-operation of natives of India, a guarantee fund for the benefit of women doctors willing to go out from this country to settle in India.

“Sojourner Truth,” now over 108 years old, lectured in Michigan recently, and sent the proceeds to the Nebraska Woman Suffrage campaign fund.

NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED.

Gold Coast Times; Le Devoir (Guise); Our Herald (Lafayette, Indiana); Queen Bee (Denver, Colorado); Woman's Journal (Boston); Toronto Mail; Toronto World; Montreal Daily Star; Toronto Globe; Woman's Exponent (Utah); La Citoyenne, May 5th; Le Devoir; Work and Leisure, May; National Journal, May; Journal of the Vigilance Association; Women's Union Journal; Englishwoman's Review.

Newspapers containing extracts from notices of the Journal:—Greenock Telegraph, May 13th; Orkney and Shetland Telegraph; Camberwell News, May 5th; Hertfordshire Standard, May 5th; Canonbury Advertiser, May 5th; Thanet Advertiser, May 5th; Ashton Standard, May 12th; Oldham Standard, May 12th; Brighouse and Rastrick Gazette, May 5th; West Bromwich Free Press.

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THE chances of the Parliamentary ballot have continued to be unpropitious for obtaining a place for the discussion of Mr. MASON'S Resolution, and the probable appropriation of evenings hitherto at the service of private members, for the purposes of the Government, renders the chance of obtaining a night yet more uncertain than heretofore. Our friends should not, however, on that account, relax in their efforts to press the question on the attention of their representatives in Parliament. The prospects of a favourable result of the effort that will be made to include the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women in the next Reform Bill will be materially influenced by the number and by the earnestness of the demands that will be urged in its favour during the next few months. Women should ask for it as a measure of justice to themselves; men should ask for it as a measure of political justice, the claim for which is based on precisely similar grounds to those on which the security for their own rights and liberties is based.

A MEMORIAL, signed by one hundred and eight independent Liberal members of Parliament, setting forth that in the opinion of the memorialists no measure for the assimilation of the county and borough franchise will be satisfactory unless it contains provisions for extending the suffrage, without distinction of sex, to all persons who possess the statutory qualifications for the Parliamentary franchise, has been forwarded to Mr. GLADSTONE.

The list of memorialists comprises the very cream of the Liberal party. It includes men of all degrees of standing in the House, from that ever-honoured veteran in the cause of freedom, the Right Hon. CHARLES PELHAM VILLIERS, to the youngest members in the House, in the persons of the recently-elected representatives of Liverpool and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There are also appended to the Memorial the names of the representatives of Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, Southwark, Finsbury, Chelsea, Marylebone, Salford, Stockport, Sunderland, Bristol, Exeter, Caithness, Southampton, Ipswich, Plymouth,

Donegal, Galway, Dundee, Hull, and many other large constituencies.

The list, large and influential as it is, by no means comprehends the whole of the Parliamentary strength of the cause. For obvious reasons no one connected officially with the Government could be asked to sign, and it was not deemed expedient to invite Conservative members of Parliament to memorialise the leader of the opposite party. The signatures of the memorialists are, therefore, exclusively those of independent Liberals. The number of these alone exceeds the total number of supporters from all sides who voted in favour of Mr. COURTNEY'S resolution in the last Parliamentary division that has taken place on the question—that of April, 1879.

In calculating the probable strength on a division, we may therefore count not only on the votes of those who have signed the Memorial, but also on those of many Liberals who, though they hesitated to add their names to so strongly-worded a document, pledged themselves to vote in favour of the proposal when it comes before Parliament. We may also count on the votes of many members of the Government who are favourable to the principle, but whose official position precludes them from adding their names to the Memorial, as Sir CHARLES DILKE, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, Mr. FAWCETT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MUNDSELL, Mr. TREVELYAN, and others. Also of a considerable body of supporters on the Conservative side of the House who agree with Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE in holding that, when the question of enfranchising the county householders comes up for discussion, the case of the women should receive the same consideration as the others.

While, therefore, it is impossible not to feel some disappointment at the continued postponement of the opportunity of obtaining the verdict of the present Parliament on the claim of women to the franchise, there is consolation in the knowledge that no ground is lost by delay, that every day the question ripens for solution, that time itself works on our side, that events continually progress in the direction of the recognition of the claim of women to

social and political rights, and that the cause of the political enfranchisement of women appears to be within measurable distance of a practical solution.

WE announced in our last issue that the QUEEN'S Government in Canada had recognised the justice of the claim of women to the suffrage by including in the new electoral Bill, introduced by the Prime Minister, Sir JOHN MACDONALD, in the Dominions Legislature, provisions for the enfranchisement of women.

We have since received Canadian papers which give the full text of the Bill. In another column will be found that portion of the Bill which deals with the qualification of electors.

The Bill has been received with satisfaction by the Canadian papers. The *Toronto Globe* says that the opinion is that "it is a liberal extension of the franchise, for which the public will be grateful." The provisions of the Bill which have received the most hostile criticism are those relating not to the qualification of electors but to the machinery for the registration of voters. No objection of any kind seems to have been expressed to the principle of the extension of the franchise to women.

The *Canadian Illustrated News* says: "Canada has taken the lead and set the example in many important matters of late, but it is the first time in the history of legislature that a government spontaneously and of its own accord, without petitions or pressure from without, grants the franchise to women. It is rather late in the session to give such a measure all the attention it deserves, but whether it passes or not before adjournment the seed will have been sown and the policy of the Government will have been laid down. This is a Reform Bill in the strictest acceptation of the term, and Sir JOHN MACDONALD deserves all the credit which its every measure involves."

The progress of the Bill will be earnestly and anxiously watched by the friends of the movement on this side the sea. Its introduction is the most decided step that has hitherto been taken by any responsible government in the direction of the enfranchisement of women, and its successful accomplishment, to which we may surely look forward with a confident hope, will, unless it should be anticipated by a measure in the Imperial Parliament, be the greatest legislative victory that our cause has yet secured.

LARGE and important meetings have been held during

May at Derby and Grimsby. On May 8th a public meeting was held in the Guild Hall, Derby, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman ROE, J.P. The deputation consisted of Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD and Mrs. SHEARER, whose addresses were characterised by their usual eloquence and persuasive powers. There was a large audience. Not a discordant note was heard during the evening, and the proceedings throughout were of the most hearty and unanimous character.

On the same day two very interesting meetings were held at the works of the railway station. Mrs. SCATCHERD and Mrs. SHEARER attended the mess-room No. 3, at the breakfast hour, and addressed a numerous gathering of the men, who manifested the most intense interest in the statements made, and by repeated cheering testified their agreement with the sentiments uttered. At dinner time a similar meeting was held in another portion of the premises of the Locomotive Department, when about 800 were present. The deputation again spoke, and urged the men to support the movement, which they promised to do. A petition in favour of the principle was adopted amid great enthusiasm. The significance of these two meetings lies mainly in the fact that the audience was composed of picked men of the working classes, almost all, if not the whole, of whom are electors of Derby.

An influential meeting addressed by Mrs. SCATCHERD and Mrs. SHEARER was held at Grimsby on May 10th. Councillor G. S. DOBSON presided, and petitions to both Houses of Parliament and memorials to the local members were adopted. Miss C. A. BIGGS and Mrs. CHANT have addressed a meeting in Thrapston. It was said that the only reason the ladies did not convert the audience to their views was that they were already fully convinced of the justice of the claim. The usual resolutions and petitions were adopted. A resolution in favour of the franchise was subsequently adopted by the Thrapston Liberal Association.

THIRTEEN Town Councils in Scotland have already followed the lead of the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs by adopting petitions in favour of the extension of the franchise to duly qualified women, namely, Aberdeen, Dingwall, Torres, Dumfries, Inverness, Galashiels, Edinburgh, Paisley, St. Andrews, Peebles, Helensburgh, Dunfermline, and Dundee.

THE attempt of Mr. BROADHURST to obtain fresh legislation restricting the labour of women in the nail and

chain making industry has been happily frustrated. Although the honourable member gave a practical illustration of the sort of work which he asked Parliament to prohibit to women, by means of a small machine which he exhibited to the amusement of the House, he failed to convince them of the enormity of the proceeding of a girl holding a nail with a pair of tongs, and using her foot to work a hammer to strike it. Perhaps the House is too familiar with the idea of woman as the subject of hammering and battering at the hands of her male "protectors" to be moved from the philosophic calm with which it contemplates the subject by the idea of the girl hitting instead of being hit by the implement. However that may be, the course of the debate did not produce any support for Mr. BROADHURST'S proposal. Mr. MONCKTON said the Bill was an unnecessary piece of class legislation. He was followed on the same side by Mr. ARNOLD, Mr. BRINTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Sir RICHARD CROSS, Mr. WIGGIN, Mr. STAVELEY HILL and others, and ultimately the second reading of the Bill was rejected by 124 votes against 44, a majority of 80 against the Bill.

THE reply of the HOME SECRETARY to the question of Mr. COOPE regarding the punishment of men convicted of brutal and cowardly assaults on their wives can hardly be considered satisfactory. The punishments awarded for these horrible offences are totally inadequate to suppress their frequency. Were the statistics systematically collected from the daily newspaper reports, the appalling number and the hideous details of these outrages might be too much even for the superfine feelings of Sir WILLIAM VERNON HARCOURT. Not only is the law in our judgment defective, but the administration of it is marked by the greatest leniency to the offenders. Very frequently the husband, by pleading some "provocation" given by his wife, escapes with a nominal penalty or a reprimand. Sometimes the reprimand is reserved for the assaulted woman for having given the provocation which has led to the offence. Very commonly the relief asked for by the wife, of a judicial separation from her tyrant, is refused by magistrates who have their own ideas of how much battering and bruising a woman's flesh and bones ought to be able to sustain before she can be considered entitled to protection from future danger.

The passing of the Criminal Code Amendment Bill offers an opportunity for amending the law in this respect which might well be adopted. Without committing ourselves to the advocacy of the particular measure

recommended by Mr. COOPE, we would strongly urge, first, that the penalties for violent assaults on wives should be increased so as to be in some measure commensurate with the enormity of the offence and with the necessity of marking the offenders with the opprobrium of society. Next, that the law should be administered rather with a view to protect generally the class of wives subject to these outrages by the infliction of a deterrent punishment on the offender, than with the notion of avenging or protecting the individual wife assaulted. This principle would dispose of the difficulty magistrates seem to feel in awarding punishment to husbands for assaults upon wives from the knowledge that the penalty, whether of fine or imprisonment, will operate as a serious loss to the wife and be practically levied upon her. This is of course true whenever a man is fined or imprisoned for any offence whatever; but it strikes us as rather remarkable that this tender consideration for the wives of men convicted of offences against the law never seems to be taken into consideration as a ground for the mitigation of the penalty, except where the offence is against a wife.

Another very necessary provision in dealing effectually with the evil would be the appointment of a public prosecutor, who should be empowered, or required, to take proceedings in every case where an assault on a wife could be proved, and when the wife herself is afraid or unwilling to prosecute her husband. Wife-beating should be deemed an offence against public peace and public morals, and its exemplary punishment should be made a matter of public duty.

THE operation of the clause in the Married Women's Property Act, enabling married persons to be prosecuted for stealing from each other, which was primarily designed for the protection of wives from robbery at the hands of their husbands, seems to have been immediately taken advantage of in the converse direction for the protection of husbands against robbery by their wives. The framers of the Act were as careful of the rights of husbands in this respect as of wives, and none will be more pleased than they to find that the beneficent measure of justice which has so recently received the sanction of the law operates impartially as a safeguard to either spouse from spoliation at the hands of the other. From the records which have reached us it appears that husbands have been the first to take advantage of the protection thus afforded.

The first case appears to have occurred at the Gloucester

Assizes during April, when MIRZA BROOKS, nailmaker, was charged with stealing £21. 10s. and some articles of property belonging to her husband. The case was stated to be one of the first of the kind that had occurred since the passing of the Act. In December last, shortly after her marriage, the prisoner eloped, and in February she returned to her husband's house, in company with the partner of her flight, and broke open a box, taking the articles which formed the subject of the charge. The prisoner was sent to gaol for six months. Mr. Justice STEPHEN remarks that he could not imagine a case which would better illustrate the wisdom of the provision recently made than this one.

We can so far agree with this very man-like remark, as to admit that this was a case which fully justified the wisdom of the new law, but we think that one which has occurred subsequently offers at least as good an illustration. At the Hammersmith Police Court, on May 19th, a married woman applied to the magistrate for a warrant to apprehend her husband for stealing £130 belonging to her. She was in business as a baker, and married four months ago. The husband induced her to draw from the bank £130 to purchase the house in which they lived. When she reached home he took the money from her, and had since gone off with it. Mr. PAGET appeared to have some hesitation about granting the warrant, as he said the husband and wife were living together at the time he took the money; but the lawyer who appeared on behalf of the wife represented that the husband took it in the act or for the purpose of absconding, and ultimately the warrant was granted.

At West Ham a woman named GREENSLEDE was sent to prison for a month for stealing various articles from her husband's house. At Leeds MARIA KITCHINGHAM got six months' imprisonment for eloping and taking her husband's property with her; and at Middlesex Sessions a policeman prosecuted his wife for stealing his property during his absence, preparatory to going off to the United States with her accomplice.

In all these cases just punishment was awarded; and if they go on as they seem to have begun the majority of prosecutors will be husbands, and it would appear that so far as the alteration of the criminal law is concerned the Act of last session ought to be pre-eminently considered as a Married Men's Property Act.

THE Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage have removed to new offices at 29,

Parliament-street, Westminster. They cordially invite all friends interested in the cause to call at their rooms, where they may receive papers, petition-forms, cards for meetings, and full information regarding the progress of the movement. Receptions will be held at stated periods during the season, for which cards of invitation are issued. Friends who wish to attend the receptions and who may not have received cards are invited to apply to the Secretary. Friends residing in the country, who purpose to visit London during the season, are requested to send their town addresses to which cards of invitation may be forwarded. Ladies who are willing to give their rooms for drawing-room meetings are earnestly invited to communicate with the Committee. Volunteers and other helpers are also needed for personal work in various directions. All who are willing to give occasional help, or desire permanent work in connection with the Society, are requested to communicate at once with the Secretary, at the new offices.

#### RESOLUTIONS OF LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

DEVONPORT AND STONEHOUSE JUNIOR LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting held on April 13th, at the Temperance Hall, Devonport, Mr. R. B. Welch (President) in the chair, the following resolution was adopted:—"That this Association, having heard the arguments of Miss Blackburn (Secretary to the West of England Women's Suffrage Society), desires to express its endorsement of the principles advocated by her, and pledges itself to support any legislation which has the object of giving to women equal electoral rights with men."

MID-SOMERSET LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—The Mid-Somerset Liberal Association has adopted the following resolution at a meeting held at Glastonbury:—"That this meeting is unanimously of opinion that in any settlement of the franchise, women who are in other respects entitled to be placed on the registrar as Parliamentary voters should not be disqualified on account of sex."

THRAPSTON.—At a recent meeting of the Liberal Association of Thrapston, a resolution was adopted that sex in itself ought no longer to constitute a disability to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise.

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN ITALY.

The two articles of the law (writes a Naples correspondent) by which electoral rights are extended to women, run as follows:—"Art. 21. Citizens of both sexes are electors who have completed their twenty-first year, have civil rights, know how to read and write, and find themselves in one of the conditions established by the following articles. . . . Art. 74. The electors will exercise their right personally. The electors who prove their right to be inscribed in the electoral lists of several communes for elections in the commune where they reside; and the women may send to the president of the electoral office, either directly or by means of the syndic or other person, their paper closed and sealed, and with their signature authenticated by the syndic of the commune where they reside, or by one of his delegates or a notary, and with the stamp of the commune or of the notary."—*Western Daily Press.*

#### MEMORIAL TO MR. GLADSTONE.

A memorial, signed by one hundred and eight Liberal members of Parliament, has been forwarded by Mr. Hugh Mason to Mr. Gladstone, with the following letter:—

"Groby Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne, May 29, 1883.  
"Dear Sir,—I have the honour to send you a memorial, signed by 108 members of Parliament, in favour of granting the Parliamentary Franchise to women who possess the statutory qualifications. I am enabled to state that the memorial is not signed by the whole Parliamentary strength of the present House of Commons. Several members known to be favourable have not been seen, owing to absence and other causes, and of course various members of your Government who have previously voted for the measure have not been requested to sign. I am very sorry, but not surprised, that the great pressure of public business has not allowed you to receive a small deputation to present the memorial personally. I am, however, quite sure that the memorial will not suffer in your opinion from the want of a personal interview. I have done all in my power, both in this Session and in the last one, to get a debate in the House of Commons on the question, but the ballot has not favoured me.—I have the honour to be your very faithful servant,  
"Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., "HUGH MASON.  
"First Lord of the Treasury, &c., &c., &c."

[COPY OF MEMORIAL.]

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE,  
M.P., &c., &c., &c.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT  
SHEWETH:—

That in the opinion of your memorialists no measure for the assimilation of the County and Borough Franchise will be satisfactory, unless it contains provisions for extending the suffrage, without distinction of sex, to all persons who possess the statutory qualifications for the Parliamentary Franchise.

HUGH MASON (Ashton-u-Lyne) J. PASSMORE EDWARDS (Salisbury)  
JACOB BRIGHT (Manchester) A. McARTHUR (Leicester)  
JAMES STANSFELD (Halifax) CHARLES FORSTER (Walsall)  
L. L. DILLWYN (Swansea) HENRY RICHARD (Merthyr)  
CHAS. CAMERON (Glasgow) L. P. PUGH (Cardigan Co.)  
BENJ. WHITWORTH (Drogheda) W. Y. CRAIG (Staffordshire, N.)  
P. A. TAYLOR (Leicester) SAMUEL SMITH (Liverpool)  
CHAS. H. HOPWOOD (Stockport) GEORGE ANDERSON (Glasgow)  
LEWIS FRY (Bristol) JOHN A. BLAKE (Waterford Co.)  
C. P. VILLIERS (Wolverhampton) ISAAC HOLDEN (York, W. Rid. N.)  
R. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick) VILLIERS STUART (Waterford)  
JOHN BARRAN (Leeds) S. MORLEY (Bristol) [Co.]  
J. HINDE PALMER (Lincoln) J. F. B. FIRTH (Chelsea)  
CHAS. McLAREN (Stafford) GEORGE COURTAULD (Maldon)  
GEO. PALMER (Reading) W. HENRY LEATHAM  
ARTHUR ARNOLD (Salford) (York, W. Rid. S.)  
JOHN P. THOMASSON (Bolton) THOS. SHAW (Halifax)  
FREDK. PENNINGTON (Stockport) MORGAN LLOYD (Beaumaris)  
THOS. BURT (Morpeth) MATTHEW WILSON  
JAMES E. THOROLD ROGERS (Southwark) (York, W. Rid. N.)  
PETER McLAGAN (Linthgow) P. STEWART MACLIVER  
T. RICHARDSON (Hartlepool) (Plymouth)  
ARTHUR PEASE (Whitby) E. J. REED (Cardiff)  
WILFRID LAWSON (Carlisle) FRANK HENDERSON (Dundee)  
HENRY LEE (Southampton) BENJAMIN AMITAGE (Salford)  
JOS. COWEN (Newcastle-u-Tyne) J. G. McMINNIES (Warrington)  
E. H. CARBUTT (Monmouth, &c.) C. M. NORWOOD  
(Kingston-on-Hull)

EDWARD WAUGH (Cockermouth) HENRY B. SAMUELSON (Frome)  
DAVID AINSWORTH (Cumberland, W.) J. SPENCER BALFOUR (Tamworth)  
W. S. CAINE (Scarborough) WALTER J. STANTON (Stroud)  
ANDREW LUSK (Finsbury) JNO. SIMON (Dewsbury)  
JOHN C. CLARKE (Abingdon) DE FERRIERES (Cheltenham)  
THEODORE FRY (Darlington) ARTHUR COHEN (Southwark)  
WM. SUMMERS (Stalybridge) WM. FINDLATER (Monaghan)  
E. W. WATKIN (Hythe) JAMES HOWARD (Bedfordshire)  
DANIEL GRANT (Marylebone) JOHN J. JENKINS (Carmarthen, &c.)  
THOS. A. DICKSON (Tyrone) JOHN SLAGG (Manchester)  
PHILIP CALLAN (Louth) THOS. EUSTACE SMITH (Tynemouth)  
THOMAS C. THOMPSON (Durham) SAMUEL STOREY (Sunderland)  
ALFRED ILLINGWORTH (Bradford) EDW. T. GOURLEY (Sunderland)  
C. FRASER MACKINTOSH (Inverness, &c.) CHARLES H. WILSON (Kingston-on-Hull)  
J. GIVAN (Monaghan) W. H. WILLS (Coventry)  
EUGENE COLLINS (Kinsale) W. WOODALL (Stoke-on-Trent)  
W. E. BRIGGS (Blackburn) JOHN KINNEAR, D.D. (Donegal)  
W. M. TORRENS (Finsbury) JOHN MORLEY (Newcastle-on-Tyne)  
JAMES N. RICHARDSON (Armagh) S. C. EVANS WILLIAMS (New Radnor)  
JESSE COLLINGS (Ipswich)  
E. JOHNSON (Exeter) T. P. O'CONNOR (Galway)  
W. S. ALLEN (Newcastle-u-Lyme) MARSTON C. BUSZARD (Stamford)  
F. O'BEIRNE (Leitrim) CYRIL FLOWER (Brecknock)  
JOHN BRINTON (Kidderminster) W. R. H. POWELL (Carmarthenshire)  
MAURICE BROOKS (Dublin) J. G. T. SINCLAIR (Caithness)  
JOSEPH N. McKENNA (Youghal) JUSTIN MCCARTHY (Longford)  
C. ROBERT SPENCER (Northants, N.) R. P. BLENNERHASSETT (Kerry)  
R. DIOR PEDDIE (Kilmarnock &c.) ENOCH BALDWIN (Bewdley)  
H. WIGGIN (Staffordshire, E.) ANDREW GRANT (Leith)

#### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, May 9.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT (1878) AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. BROADHURST, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it contained no new or exceptional principle. He did not ask the House to prohibit female labour altogether, he only asked that female children should not be employed in learning the trade of a blacksmith. He had seen very young girls making spikes six inches long. The hon. member illustrated the mode of nail making by means of a small machine, which he exhibited, amid some amusement, to the House. He moved the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. MONCKTON said that the Bill would practically ruin a population that was already exceptionally poor by prohibiting female labour, and he moved that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. ARNOLD believed the measure would have a much wider effect than was contemplated by the hon. member for Stoke, and would prevent the employment of children in perfectly harmless occupations.

Mr. BRINTON said great care ought to be taken not to interfere with poor people's means of employment.

After some observations by Lord R. CHURCHILL, Mr. HASTINGS said that large numbers of workpeople and employers were opposed to the Bill.

Mr. ECROYD thought the House should not favour sweeping restrictions on the employment of girls under fourteen, for it was important that children should receive industrial training at an early age.

Sir R. CROSS said that the Royal Commission on Factories and Workshops, appointed in 1876, had fully considered the present question. Adopting their report, he, when framing his Bill of

1878, carefully excluded from the schedule these particular trades. The danger to be guarded against in these matters was the feeling on the part of men that, if possible, female labour should be stopped. The desire to raise the wages of the men was really at the bottom of this agitation.

Mr. WIGGIN said this Bill was looked upon as a blow against the employment of women.

After some observations from Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Staveley Hill,

The House divided, when the numbers were—

For the second reading ... ..	44
Against ... ..	124
Majority against ... ..	—80

May 24th.

#### WIFE ASSAULTS.

Mr. COOPE asked the Home Secretary whether in the case of men brutally assaulting their wives, when, as at present, the effect of being sent to gaol was frequently more severely felt by the wife and children than by the guilty parties, he was prepared to take steps whereby magistrates might be empowered at their discretion to inflict the punishment of flogging in lieu of fine or imprisonment.

Sir W. LAWSON asked whether, considering that almost all the brutal assaults on wives were committed by drunken men—(laughter and cheers)—the Home Secretary would consider the desirability of a more adequate punishment for those who provided them with liquor. (Loud laughter.)

Sir Wm. HARCOURT said the question referred to by Mr. Coope was very carefully considered in connection with a Bill proposed by his predecessor in the last Parliament, and the conclusion arrived at was that it was not desirable to have any change in the law. He saw no reason to dissent from that decision.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### DERBY.

A public meeting in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was held at the Guild Hall, Derby, on Tuesday, May 8th. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was a large audience, including a number of ladies, who were accorded the place of honour in front of the hall. Not a discordant note was heard during the evening, and the proceedings throughout were of the most hearty and unanimous character. Mr. Alderman ROE, J.P., presided, and amongst those who supported him on the aldermanic benches were Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd (Leeds), Mrs. Shearer (London), Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. M'Cormick, Mr. Ald. Renals, J.P., Mr. Ald. Longdon, J.P., Mr. Ald. Bemrose, J.P., Mr. J. H. Gascoyne, J.P., the Rev. W. H. Tetley, the Rev. T. R. Stevenson, Mr. Clement Bowring, Mr. John Lamb, Mr. Wm. Hall, Mr. E. S. Johnson, Mr. S. Hall, etc. Amongst those seated at or near the Council table were Mr. Ald. Hobson, J.P., Mr. Councillor Keys, Mr. Councillor Fowkes, Mr. Councillor Doherty, Mr. Henry Hutchinson, Mr. Joseph Jones, Mr. W. Mart, Mr. F. Earp, Mr. J. H. Richardson, Mr. A. J. Clarke, etc.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he had very much pleasure in taking the chair that evening on the occasion of the visit by a deputation of ladies to inform them what it was they desired in the shape of Parliamentary extension of the franchise. They all knew that the theory upon which politics in this country seemed to be founded—to his mind at least—was that representation and taxation ought to go together. (Applause.) He was pleased to say that the question was not confined to one side of politics only. (Hear, hear.) They all knew that any question which concerned the well-being of the community should be dealt with in such a manner as would be appreciated by those whom it would affect, and that remark applied to those in this country who desired to see the franchise extended to all duly qualified persons who lived within its area. The franchise was a matter upon which opinions differed, and when they found a large number of taxpayers deprived of any voice in the management of their affairs, the matter was one, at least, which called for their very careful consideration. The question of the extension of the franchise to women had been opposed by many persons. But the time had arrived when the people were beginning to see that the franchise must include all sections of the community, and that the ladies, being educationally

our equals, did not possess less brain power than ourselves. (Hear, hear.) He had, therefore, much pleasure in giving his voice in favour of this movement, and, though he had not studied the question much of late, he had been a supporter of the movement for many years. He was glad to find so much interest taken by the town in this question, as evidenced by the large meeting assembled on that unfavourable evening, and he hoped that those whose views had been somewhat doubtful on the point would go away reassured by the words which the deputation would address to them. He was glad, as he had previously observed, to find that the speakers were not limited to one side of politics. He trusted, therefore, that if any one desired to put any questions to the deputations or to offer any criticisms on their observations, they would do so, and he had the authority of the ladies for saying that they would endeavour to reply to them. (Hear, hear.) The first lady whom he should ask to address them was Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, who had taken for many years a warm interest in the welfare of her class, and whose ideas on this matter they would all, he believed, be grateful to receive. (Hear, hear.) It was said in some quarters that this question of women's suffrage was simply one of the "hobbies" of the day, which its promoters were riding to death. But, at least, all would agree in the desirability of letting those who advocated the change have their say, and in letting them have a fair opportunity of stating their views. No important change in our laws had been obtained without agitation, and he held that lawful agitation was fair, right, and what no man who desired truth could object to. (Hear, hear.) He thought the views of the ladies had been put forward in a fair, just, and liberal way, and no one could object to have the question discussed in that way. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCERD, who was received with applause, next addressed the meeting. She ably combated objections urged against their claim, specially the one that if granted homes would be neglected. She believed that men had yet to learn what a source of happiness it would be to have really intelligent as well as very affectionate women at the head of their households. She appealed to their reason on these grounds, and she appealed also to their hearts, for who had done more for them than the women when they were weak, helpless, or who succoured them more faithfully through life? They would not have to appeal long, for she believed, if they went on urging their claim and appealing to the sense of justice that was characteristic of men, they would, in the end, be successful. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. J. H. GASCOYNE, J.P., said he had long been of opinion that the claims of women who possessed the requisite property qualification to vote for representatives in Parliament were paramount, and could not be denied. (Applause.) One or two questions which had arisen that night he would treat incidentally. For instance, he should not like to discuss the merits of the Factory Acts, because he was an employer of labour, and also because they were introduced by the political party to which he had the honour, or the misfortune, to belong. Many ladies now exercised the municipal franchise, and possessed the power to vote for guardians of the poor and members of the school board; and if the meeting sought for an illustration of the judicious care and wisdom they had displayed in the selection of members of the Corporation, he would ask them to look around that hall. (Applause and laughter.) He was not sure that in their corporate capacity town councillors did not dispose of a greater amount of money per head than individual members of Parliament, but he would affirm that town councillors had power to spend a large amount of public money, and he thought that a woman who was deemed fit to incur the responsibility of voting for those gentlemen was fit for anything. (Applause.) Many women were employers of labour, and it seemed an anomaly that the males in her service should have votes while she who was at the head of affairs was deprived of that privilege. (Applause.) The question of admitting women to the Parliamentary suffrage was not a difficult one, and he thought the time was not far distant when voting power would be accorded to them. (Applause.) It was a pleasant thing for members of both political parties to come together and to be united on such a question—for the lion to lie down with the lamb. (Laughter.) In the capacity of political lamb he had great pleasure indeed in lying down with the lion—(laughter)—and knowing the magnanimity which always animated the leaders of the Liberal party, he knew they would not desire to have a monopoly of the privilege of giving the ladies their rights or of seeing that justice was done. (Applause.) He then proposed

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."

Mr. Alderman RENALS, J.P., in seconding the proposition, said if he had consulted his own feelings or comfort he should not have been present on that occasion, but he had attended to show his sympathy with the work, a work which he had assisted for some years, and in which he therefore felt great interest. During the last fifty years he had taken great interest in political subjects, and every subject affecting the rights and well-being of the poor. During that time he had noticed that the action of Parliament had been invariably dispensed in favour of those classes which were well represented in the House of Commons, and had almost invariably assisted those who could help themselves. Women, in consequence of this, had suffered very materially. He was glad to say some of their grievances had been removed, and he hoped this one would also be removed before long. (Applause.) Mr. Gascoyne had been twitting the members of the town council. Well, sometimes grapes were sour—(laughter)—he knew his were. He sometimes wished, however, that some of the members of the town council would stay away and send their wives. (Laughter.) There were many reasons why women should be admitted to the Parliamentary franchise, but time would not permit of their discussion on the present occasion. If, however, they could be entrusted with a vote for the board of guardians, school board, and town council, why should they not have the same privilege extended to them with respect to Parliamentary representation? If there had been direct representation this would long ago have been accorded to women; but their complaints were more likely to be remedied now than they had been in any previous period of our history. (Applause.)

Mrs. SHEARER supported the motion in an argumentative speech. She said the arguments in favour of this question had been so thrashed out, that she had been carefully looking out in the speeches, in the daily papers, and in the press, to find any new argument on the other side. She did not however think that it was for the advocates of the measure to further prove their claim, for the burden of proof ought to be rather on their opponents than upon them. (Applause.) If the audience would go back to the time when the question was introduced into the House of Commons, in 1867, and read the arguments of the opposing members on this question, she did not believe they would discover that they adduced any arguments against the admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise which they would have ventured to advance if men, instead of women, were making this claim. (Applause.) No one had attempted to say that a woman's money was not as valuable to the State as a man's money, and a woman's contributions to taxation were certainly of as serious import to her as taxation was when it came out of the pockets of Tom, Dick, or Harry. (Applause.) They had supporters in each party in the House, and their cause looked like winning, and people who waited until they knew which was the winning side might take it for granted that that was the winning side. (Applause.) It must not be imagined that now the Married Women's Property Act was passed that women no longer suffered from any evils or grievances, for there were many laws, such as those regarding the custody of children, which urgently required alteration. (Applause.) She concluded by arguing that it was not good for man to be alone, and that it was because he had hitherto attempted to govern the world unaided by woman that there had been so many failures in legislation, and that so much misery and unhappiness existed. (Applause.)

Mr. Alderman BEMROSE, J.P. (at the request of the Chairman), also made a few observations. He expressed his concurrence with the object of the meeting, although he was strongly of opinion that woman's empire was at home, where she exercised a power of which many a monarch might be proud, in the influence which she brought to bear upon her family. At the same time he would admit that there were ladies in England who were the best exponents they could have on many questions, and they ought therefore to give a respectful and attentive hearing to those ladies who considered it to be their duty to come forward on a public platform, and to urge forward questions affecting their interests in the womanly way the fair speakers had done that evening. (Applause.) He considered the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women, who he believed would exercise their vote properly, and would not become rabid politicians. (Applause.)

The proposition was carried unanimously.

Mr. Alderman LONGDON, J.P., briefly proposed the second resolution as follows:—"That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that memorials to M. T. Bass, Esq., the Right Hon. Sir W. G. Vernon Harcourt, Col. Sir Henry Wilmot, and Thomas W. Evans, Esq., members for the Borough of Derby and Southern Division of Derbyshire, asking them to support the resolution to be moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Mason, be also adopted and forwarded to them." He said one thing which must be evident was that the tone and moral influence of the meeting was greatly enhanced by the proportion of ladies present, and if all hobbies of the day, which the chairman said was the term applied to every step in the ladder of progress, could only have the support of the ladies, they would be much more speedily carried through Parliament than at present. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. H. TETLEY seconded the proposition, referring to the good results which had followed the abstract resolutions of Sir Wilfrid Lawson and Mr. Stansfeld, and expressing a hope that Mr. Mason's resolution would have the effect of advancing this question a stage nearer its settlement.

Mr. C. C. BOWRING supported the proposition, expressing his desire that it should be separated from the arena of party politics, and the opinion that as women who were unable or unwilling to become wives were called upon to pay their proportion of taxation they ought to have a voice in the expenditure of the money.

The proposition was carried.

The Rev. T. R. STEVENSON then proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for the use of the Guild Hall, and to Mr. Roe for presiding over the meeting.

Mrs. SHEARER, in seconding the proposition, reminded the meeting that they had expressed themselves unanimously in favour of extending the franchise to women. What she wanted them to do now was to shower petitions, memorials, and letters on the subject upon Sir William Harcourt, who was not favourable to the movement, and either convert him or cause him to stay away from Parliament when a division was taken on it. (Applause and laughter.)

The motion was carried, and after the Chairman had replied the meeting terminated.

##### MEETINGS AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

On Wednesday morning, May 9th, both Mrs. Shearer and Mrs. Scatcherd attended the mess-room (No. 3) at the Midland Railway Station, and during the breakfast time addressed a very numerous gathering of the men. The most intense interest was manifested in the statements made, and by repeated cheering the audience testified their agreement with the sentiments uttered, and their admiration of the zeal, earnestness, and eloquence of the speakers. On the motion of Mr. Strangeway, seconded by Mr. R. Hilliard, a petition to the House of Commons was adopted, and a special memorial was ordered to be sent to Sir William Harcourt, for whose conversion to the principles of women's suffrage Mrs. Shearer especially expressed very great solicitude. The lady pointed out the great power exercised by such a large body of skilled workmen, most of whom were the Home Secretary's constituents, and could make their sentiments emphatically known.—In the afternoon, at a quarter after one, a similar meeting was held in another portion of the premises of the Locomotive Department; upwards of 700 were present. The deputation again spoke, and urged the men to aid the work which the women's suffrage association was formed to promote. The Rev. W. H. Tetley presided, and the adoption of a petition was moved by Mr. Bird, and seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed amid great enthusiasm.

##### DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

##### DERBY.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, May 8th, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Norton, a well-attended meeting of ladies was held at her house, 9, Arboretum Square. Mrs. Norton presided, and said that, finding much misapprehension existed as to women's suffrage, she called that meeting in order that her friends might have a quiet opportunity of learning what it really meant. Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd then spoke, and at the conclusion of her address urged those present

to ask questions, or state any objections they had heard expressed against the claim. Several were given—one being that there was much sound and urgent work for women to do, instead of their taking up political questions. To all these points Mrs. Shearer then replied, dwelling especially on the strong connection there was between the power of voting and the various religious and philanthropic work in which numerous women were engaged, and how the women leaders of many valued social movements openly declared their need of the suffrage, such as Miss Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Josephine Butler, Mrs. Lucas, Miss Ellice Hopkins, &c., &c. The speeches were well received, and a petition to Parliament and memorials to borough members in favour of women's suffrage carried unanimously. It was evident the meeting had done much good, and the best thanks of all were heartily given to Mrs. Norton for her kind and complete arrangements.

#### OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

*Derby Mercury, May 9.*

A meeting was announced to be held last evening, in Derby, in aid of the movement which has for its object the securing of votes for female householders in Parliamentary elections. There can be no objection to such gatherings; rather is it a matter of surprise that any "agitation" on the subject should be necessary. The promoters of most movements have a difficulty in catching the ear of the much-engrossed public; the difficulty with the advocates of female voters for Parliamentary representatives must be to know at what and at whom to direct the arrows of their arguments. There is really no enemy to encounter. If the ladies were asking to be admitted as Parliamentary representatives themselves, then it is easy to conceive that there would be much to be said upon the other side. They would meet with opposition which would be not only powerful but insuperable. But the ladies whose spokesmen and spokeswomen were to be heard last night have no such aim in view. They do not want to put M.P. after their names; they do not propose to interfere in the slightest degree with the established order of things. They have no desire to oust man from his familiar possessions; all they ask is to be allowed to share with him a privilege, just as they already share with him a duty. Those of them who are householders have laid upon them the duty of paying rates and taxes; and all they say is, that if they fulfil that duty, they ought to have the privilege which, in the case of male householders, accompanies it. And really we do not see what there is to be said in reply to a contention so modest and so conclusive. If a male householder has a vote, why should not a female householder have one? It is not proposed to give the vote to wives—only to unmarried women or to widows; so that no complaint can be made on the score of the disagreements that would arise in households if husband and wife both had a vote. No doubt it is very undesirable that husband and wife should be put on an equality in that matter. But then, no such equality is proposed. It is simply asked that a spinster or a widow who fulfils the obligations of a householder shall have a voice in the election of the men who vote away the money of the nation in Parliament. A woman's money is as good as a man's; it is as important to her as to him; it is as hardly earned and as carefully looked after. Why should the one retain control over it after it has passed in the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and why should the other lose all control? Why should one be a unit and the other a cipher in the political world? These questions answer themselves. They are *reductioes ad absurdum*. For it is surely too late in the day for any one to raise again the old spectre of woman's incompetence to use a vote if she had one. Surely that has faded away into the "infinite azure" of the past? Surely the average woman is as intelligent as, if not more intelligent than, the average man? No doubt married women do not trouble themselves greatly about political matters, but a woman who has to support herself soon learns to think for herself, and female householders may be trusted to vote at least as shrewdly as, and much more honestly than, the male variety. In fact, we are fain to come round to the suggestion with which we started—that the difficulty is to know what arguments there are to urge against the granting of votes to female householders. Theoretically and practically, the position of the lady agitators is impregnable. We trust they will not relax their energies for a moment until they have attained their object. The country is with them; all that it is necessary to do is to impress that fact upon Parliament and Government.

*Derbyshire Advertiser, May 11.*

The women's suffrage meeting, on Tuesday night, was well attended, and the proceedings were characterised by enthusiasm, eloquence, and harmony. The two ladies who addressed the meeting displayed considerable ability and oratorical excellence. The arguments they adduced in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise are simply unanswerable, and the day cannot be far distant when their claims will have to be recognised. Each time the question is brought before the House of Commons, the number of its supporters is largely increased, and the ladies, who are championing their own cause, have formed themselves into an important association, and do not intend to desist from their labours, or to cease agitation, until justice is dealt out to them in a matter which they feel to be of vital importance. The lady speakers pointed out that their objects were often misrepresented, and no doubt this is the case. Very few people know exactly what these ladies are asking for. They know that it has something to do with women who want to have a vote or a seat in Parliament, but they will not trouble to examine into the justice or feasibility of their claims. Mrs. Scatcherd explained that what they claimed was that those women who were duly qualified—either as householders or ratepayers—should have a vote like men. No sound objection can be urged against this course, which is only consistent with justice and common sense. Again, and this is a strong point—women already have votes for the Town Council, the School Board, and the Poor Law Guardians, and why should you not extend the principle involved therein to its logical conclusion, and give them a vote for members of Parliament? Those who heard the ladies' eloquent and convincing speeches were won over to their side. The local speakers—most of whom were bachelors—belonged to both political parties, and were particularly happy in their orations, into which they introduced much good-humoured wit and banter. Altogether a most pleasant and intellectual evening was spent in discussing the claims of the fair sex, and the meeting was unanimous in deciding that the ladies had made out their case, and what they asked for ought to be granted on the first opportunity.

*The Derby Reporter, May 11.*

The supporters of the women's suffrage movement had an exceedingly good meeting on Tuesday evening. The deputation of ladies, Mrs. Scatcherd and Mrs. Shearer, presented an irresistible case in favour of granting electoral privileges to female householders; and their addresses were cordially supported by male advocates of the cause. Altogether the proceedings were both harmonious and instructive.

#### GRIMSBY.

On Thursday evening, May 10th, a public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Cleethorpes Road, Grimsby, and was well attended although the weather was very unfavourable. Councillor G. S. Dobson presided, and was supported by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. John Wintringham, Mrs. M'Cormick, Alderman Smethurst, Councillor W. Mudd, John Wintringham, Esq., Rev. W. Boyden, Mr. James Alward, and Mr. G. Pearce.

The CHAIRMAN opened the meeting by reading the following letter from the Mayor:—

"Grosvenor Crescent, April 26th, 1883.

"Dear Madam,—I deeply regret I shall not be present at your meeting on the 10th, owing to a previous engagement. I fully approve of the object which you and other ladies are taking such deep interest in, and hope the meeting in Grimsby will have its desired effect.—Yours truly,

WM. JACKSON, Mayor.

"Mrs. M'Cormick, Manchester."

The Chairman remarked that this was a political meeting, but it was not one of party politics. The subject occupied the minds of Conservatives, Liberals, Radicals, and Whigs, and members of all parties had voted for the women of the land having their just and legal rights. It would not alter very much the balance of political parties if they gave the franchise to the ladies. In his own experience of public matters Mrs. Wintringham had been well able to grasp even quicker than they did what was going on, and soon made up her mind what she would do. That was his experience of a lady being with them on the school board. (Hear, hear.) How were they to get this reform? Just as all other reforms had been got by knocking at the door of the House of Commons. Mr. Herbert

Gladstone had said, "Those who knock the loudest will get their requests the quickest." They must therefore knock very hard, and they would very soon get the change in the law that was so much needed. He had very great pleasure in calling upon Mrs. Shearer.

Mrs. SHEARER commenced by referring to the late disastrous gales. Several women had had the misfortune of losing their husbands, and had been thrown upon the world to find a provision for themselves and for the children they might happen to have. While the husbands were living and paid the rates on their houses those men were entitled to a vote for the member who represents Grimsby in Parliament. It was just possible that some of those widows, and she hoped all of them, would by some means or other be enabled to keep a roof over their heads for themselves and their children, without coming upon the ratepayers to keep them. If they were able to do that she could not see why those women should not be entitled to a vote for the member who represents Grimsby, as well as the husbands who have been taken away from them. (Applause.)

Mr. JOHN WINTRINGHAM 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." That was the resolution he had been asked to propose, and he was not going to make a long speech on the subject, for he knew very well that they had come there to hear those ladies on the platform and not to hear one who very often addressed them; but he could not help thinking when he came there sometimes where is this Liberalism of ours going to lead us to? It must be much easier to be a Conservative than a Liberal, because a Conservative had only to stand still, but Liberals were always getting dragged on somewhere. They could take one guide, and if they only followed that they could leave the question of Toryism and Liberalism out altogether, and be guided by the one question—Is it right? Let them put aside the question is it expedient, and not look at the question whether women will be Tories or whether they will be Liberals, but look at the question—these women are paying rates, they are standing under the same liabilities as men are, and ought to have the same privileges. (Hear, hear.) If they looked at it in the main point as he put it,—is it right that they should have it, then they could not but answer in the affirmative, for it was one of their grand old principles that wherever there is payment by anybody there shall be a representative from that body. Talk to him of any fear of giving votes to women, why they were in favour of giving votes to the agricultural labourers who had never had the advantage of even a School Board education. He would earnestly urge them upon the broad principles he had stated that they, as people of Grimsby, should try to be out of the old traditions of merely Whig, Tory, or Radical, and look at this question,—is it right? And then if it is right, take the consequences and vote for it. He urged upon them not only to support the resolution, but wherever they went to put the plain question to those around them—it is not a question of ladies going to Parliament, it is not a question of ladies becoming lawyers, it is not a question of anything of that kind, it is simply a question whether a woman who has become the head of a family should have the same privilege as men when she comes to bear the same burdens. Put that question, and he had no fear of his fellow townsmen. The answer would be,—it is right they should have it, and if we can help them we will. It was with the greatest pleasure that he moved the resolution that women who bore the burdens should, like men, have a similar privilege in voting for members of Parliament. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. BOYDEN said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD, in supporting the resolution, said that a little while ago she had read in one of our local papers this sentence: "It is hardly necessary in Grimsby, where reforms in every direction, political, social, and moral, are readily laid hold on and supported by the majority, to say one word in favour of so just, essential, and salutary a measure as the enfranchisement of women." She liked that sentence, and she would willingly acknowledge that the people of Grimsby had given them their hearty support upon the question. They had rather a special object in coming there that evening. She had been told that Mr. Heneage had said that he had not heard any expression of opinion of his constituents as to this question. She appealed that evening to ask them to tell him what they thought of it, and she believed

that if they would exercise their pressure he would vote in favour of their claim.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Alderman SMETHURST moved the following resolution:—"That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the Chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that memorials to Edward Heneage, Esq., Rowland Winn, Esq., and the Right Hon. James Lowther, members for Grimsby and the Northern Division of Lincolnshire, asking them to support the resolution to be moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Mason, be also adopted and forwarded to them."

Mr. JAMES ALWARD seconded, and the resolution was unanimously carried.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Councillor DOBSON, for presiding, terminated the proceedings.

The Chairman of the meeting (Councillor Dobson) has received the following letters in reply to the memorials and petitions:—

"Hainton Hall, Wragby, May 13th, 1883.

"My dear Sir,—When I return to London I will present one petition and give the other to Lord Monson to present in the Lords; and when occasion arises I will carefully consider all the sides of the question, which is very complicated, I should think, but I have never studied it; and have got my work pretty well cut out for this session.—Yours very truly,

"E. HENEAGE.

"G. S. Dobson, Esq."

"11, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., May 14, 1883.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the memorial you have sent me from Grimsby in favour of the admission of women to the franchise.—I am, dear sir, yours very faithfully,

"ROWLAND WINN.

"G. S. Dobson, Esq."

"Wilton Castle, Redcar, May 15th, 1883.

"Dear Sir,—I write to thank you for your letter and the memorial you kindly enclose.—I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

"JAMES LOWTHER."

#### THRAPSTON.

A public meeting in support of the Bill for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women possessing the property, householding, and occupancy qualifications was held in the Exchange Hall, Thrapston, in May. There was a good attendance, and much interest was evinced in the proceedings. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. E. Parsons. There were also on the platform Mr. J. Rennie Wilkinson, Mr. S. J. Abington, Mr. Duncan Milligan, and the lady deputation from London—Mrs. Chant and Mrs. Caroline A. Biggs.—After a witty introduction by the Chairman, Mr. J. Rennie Wilkinson proposed the first resolution 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." Mr. Wilkinson gave some forcible reasons why the franchise ought to be granted to ladies.—The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Chant, who, we understand, is the wife of a medical gentleman resident in London. This lady spoke very agreeably against the present state of the electoral law as regards women, arguing that a great injustice was perpetrated by withholding the franchise from those properly qualified. It also prevented women from having a voice in the framing of laws which were intended for their benefit, but in many instances were failures, because intelligent women had not been consulted in the matter. The whole argument in favour of removing electoral disabilities from women was most ably presented by her, and her calm, self-possessed, and lady-like manner, together with her intellectual remarks, drew forth much applause at the close.—Mr. D. Milligan also supported the motion in a brief and pithy speech, and it was then agreed to.—Mr. John Kidner then proposed:—"That a petition to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the Chairman on behalf of this meeting, and forwarded for presentation."—This was seconded in a cogent speech, by Miss Caroline Biggs, supported by Rev. Mr. Aitken, and carried.—Afterwards Mr. S. J. Abington proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. A. J. W. Hambling, and unanimously carried.

## LONDON.

A meeting was held on May 22nd at the Women's Protective and Provident League, 36, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields; Miss J. Hughes Crossman occupied the chair. Mrs. Chant and Miss C. A. Biggs delivered addresses, which were greatly appreciated and frequently applauded. A resolution, moved by Mrs. Chant, seconded by Miss C. A. Biggs, and supported by the President, "That the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote," was carried unanimously. A petition was moved, seconded, adopted, and signed by the president, on behalf of the meeting, for presentation to their local member, to be supported by petitions signed by the meeting. A hearty vote of thanks to the president, and to the ladies who addressed the meeting, was moved by Mr. Potter, seconded by Signor Pagliardini, and carried unanimously. Miss E. Whyte, honorary secretary, signed the petition on behalf of the Bookbinders' League, numbering about 300 members. Many other members of different leagues were present and signed the petition.

## BRISTOL.

## WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION SOIREE.

The annual soiree of the Bristol Women's Liberal Association was held on May 17th at the Victoria Rooms. After tea, served in the Octagon, Mr. Charles Townsend (chairman of the Liberal Five Hundred) presided in the lesser room, where there was a large attendance. The chairman was supported by Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Cady Stanton (of the United States), the Rev. U. R. Thomas, Miss Eva Tribe, Miss Ellen M. Sturge (the hon. secretaries), the Rev. W. Hargraves, Miss Priestman, Mr. Wilberforce Tribe, Mr. W. R. Barker, and Mr. B. Paget.

Miss ELLEN STURGE read a number of letters from friends unable to be present. Amongst these were the following:—

"22a, Queen Anne's Gate, St. James's Park, S.W.,  
"April 28th, 1883.

"Dear Miss Tribe,—It is very kind to ask me to come to your meeting on the 17th, but I shall be in the North of England, and it will be quite impossible for me to be with you. I hope you will have a good meeting. There are many questions affecting the interests and welfare of women and children which would have more attention in the House if women had votes, and the more they can be enlightened on various social questions of importance, the better for society as well as for themselves.—I am, yours truly,  
"THEODORE FRY."

"15, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, S.W., April 19th, 1883.

"Dear Madam,—I am much gratified in being asked to attend your annual soiree and take part in its proceedings, but I find it necessary during the session of Parliament to abstain from all engagements of this kind, and I must ask you to excuse me in declining your invitation. I have read your report with much interest. Parliament has conferred public privileges on women, and will doubtless add in the near future the right of voting for M.P.s to the voting rights already given, and as all are interested in seeing that these rights and privileges are exercised with intelligence and conscientiousness, associations such as yours have a valuable work before them, and I am very glad to see the spirit and success of your enterprise.—I am, dear Madam, yours very faithfully,  
"LEONARD COURTNEY."

Speeches were made and resolutions passed in accordance with the object of the Association, and the meeting closed with the customary votes of thanks.

## THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT AND PUBLIC-HOUSE LICENCES.

An important decision under the Married Women's Property Act, was given by the Licensing Justices at Guildhall, on May 19th. The Hope public-house, Ivy Lane, was transferred to Mrs. Helena Maude Meaden, notwithstanding the announcement that she was a married lady. In answer to the magistrates, Mrs. Meaden said she intended to carry on the business quite apart from her husband, who was a traveller, although he was living with her, and would come to the house to sleep. All the references were satisfactory, and the Bench therefore decided that under the new Act they could legally make the transfer. Mrs. Meaden, therefore, becomes landlady of the Hope in her own right.

## CANADA.

## THE FRANCHISE BILL.

TEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL MEASURE.  
WOMEN AND ARTISANS QUALIFIED.

The following is the full text of that portion of the measure introduced by Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister, in the Dominion Legislature, to extend the electoral franchise, which deals with the qualification of electors, and has direct reference to women:—

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as "The Electoral Franchise Act."

## INTERPRETATION.

2. In construing this Act, unless it be otherwise expressly provided, or unless there be in the context of the Act something inconsistent with or repugnant to such construction, the following words and expressions shall be construed and mean as follows:—

"Owner," when it relates to the ownership by a male person of real property situated in the province of Quebec, shall mean "proprietor" or "usufructuary" (usufruitier) either in his own right, or in the right of his wife, of real property in "franc alleu," or in free and common socage, and when said word "owner," relates to the ownership by a female person unmarried, or a widow of property in the province of Quebec, it shall mean "proprietor," or "usufructuary" (usufruitier) of real property in "franc alleu," or in free and common socage in the province of Quebec, and in said province when one person has the mere right of property or legal estate in any real property in said province and some other person has the usufructuary enjoyment (*la jouissance et l'usufruit*) of the same property for his or her own use as aforesaid, the person who has the mere right of property or legal estate therein shall not have the right of being registered as a voter or of voting under this Act in respect of such property, but in such case the person having the usufructuary enjoyment (usufruitier) shall alone have the right of being registered as a voter and of voting in respect of such property under this Act.

"Owner," when it relates to the ownership of real property situated elsewhere in Canada than in the province of Quebec, shall mean the "proprietor" either in his or her own right or for his or her own benefit, or if such proprietor be a married man it shall mean the proprietor in his own right, or in the right of his wife, of freehold estate, legal or equitable, in lands and tenements held in free and common socage of which such person is in actual possession or is in receipt of the rents and profits thereof.

"Tenant," shall mean as well a person who pays rent in money therefor as a person who is bound to render to his or her landlord some portion of the produce or of the revenues or profits of the property leased in lieu of rent.

"Occupant" shall mean a person in actual occupation of real property otherwise than as "owner," "tenant," or "usufructuary," in his or her own right, or in the case of a married man, in his own right or in the right of his wife, and who receives to his or her own use and benefit the revenues and profits thereof.

"Person" shall mean a male person married or unmarried, or a female person unmarried or a widow.

"Farm" shall mean land actually occupied by the owner thereof, and not less in quantity than twenty acres.

"City" shall mean a place incorporated as a city or recognised as such by any Act of the Parliament of Canada or of the Legislature of the province in which it is situated.

"Town" shall mean a place incorporated as a town or recognised as such by any Act of the Parliament of Canada or of the Legislature of the province in which it is situated.

"Incorporated village," shall mean a place incorporated as a village or recognised as such by any Act of the Parliament of Canada or of the Legislature of the province in which it is situated.

"Parish" shall include any tract of land which is generally reputed to form a parish, whether such tract has or has not been wholly or in part originally erected into a parish by the civil or ecclesiastical authorities.

"Father" shall include "stepfather," and "mother" shall include "stepmother."

"Farmer's son" shall mean any male person not otherwise qualified to vote, and being the son of an owner and actual occupant of a farm.

"Electoral district" shall mean any place consisting of or comprising any city, town, county, township, district, or municipality, or portion thereof, in Canada, entitled to return a member to the House of Commons of Canada.

"Election" shall mean an election of a member to serve in the House of Commons of Canada.

"Voting" and "to vote" shall mean "voting" and "to vote" at the election of a member to serve in the House of Commons of Canada.

"List of voters" shall mean the list when finally revised of registered voters, to be prepared and revised under the provisions of this Act for each sub-division of an electoral district in each year.

"Actual value" or "value" shall mean the then present market value, if sold upon the ordinary terms of sale, of any real property in respect of which any person claims to be qualified, whether as owner, tenant, occupier, or farmer's, or other owner's, son, as determined by the revising officer, upon the best information in his possession at the time of such revision.

"Real property" shall mean a lot or portion of a lot or other portion or sub-division of real property, or a house, store, office, or building of any description whatsoever or any portion thereof situate upon real property.

If the time limited by this Act for any proceeding or for the doing of any act under its provisions expires or falls upon a Sunday or day which is a public holiday or holiday under the Interpretation Act, the time so limited shall be extended to and such act may be done upon the day next following which is not a Sunday or such a holiday as aforesaid.

## QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS IN CITIES AND TOWNS.

Every person shall upon and after the first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four be entitled to be registered on the list of voters hereby required to be made for any electoral district or portion thereof in Canada, being a city or town or part of a city or town, or including any city or town or part of a city or town, and when so registered to vote at any election for such district, if such person—

(1) Is of the full age of twenty-one years, and is not disqualified by this Act or otherwise by any law of the Dominion of Canada, disqualified or prevented from voting.

(2) Is a British subject by birth or naturalisation.

(3) Is the owner of real property within any such city or town or part of a city or town of the actual value of three hundred dollars; or

(4) Is the tenant of real property within any city or town or part of a city or town under a lease for not less than one year, at an annual rental of at least twenty dollars, who has been in possession thereof as such tenant for at least one year next before the first day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four or in any subsequent year, and has really and *bona fide* paid one year's rent for such real property at not less than the rate aforesaid, provided that the year's rent so required to be paid to entitle such tenant to vote shall be the year's rent up to the last yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly day of payment as the case may be, which shall have occurred next before the said first day of November in each of said years respectively; and provided also that a change of tenancy during the year next before the said first day of November in each of said years respectively shall not deprive the tenant of the right to vote in respect of such real property if such change be without any intermission of time and the several tenancies be such as would entitle the tenant to vote had such tenant been in possession under either of them as such tenant for the year next before the said first day of November in each of said years respectively; or—

(5) Is the *bona fide* occupant of real property within any such city or town, or part of a city or town, of the actual value of three hundred dollars, whether such occupation be under a license of occupation or agreement to purchase from the Crown or from any other person or corporation, or whether the same exists in any other manner except as owner or tenant, provided in any case that such person has been in possession of said real property as such occupant for one year next before the first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, or in any subsequent year, and is and has been for said time in the enjoyment, for the use of such occupant, of the revenues and profits thereof, or, in the case of a married man, for his own use or for the use of his wife; or—

(6) Is a resident within such city or town or part of a city or town, and derives an income from some trade, calling, office or profession, or from some investment or charge on real property in Canada, of not less than four hundred dollars annually, and who has derived such income and has been such resident for one year next before the said first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four or in any subsequent year; or—

(7) Is a son of any such owner of real property, and not otherwise qualified to vote, and who is and has been resident upon such property continuously with his father (or with his mother after the death of his father), being such owner, in such city or town or part of a city or town for one year next prior to the first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, or in any subsequent year, if the real property on which his father (or his mother after the death of his father) resides, and in respect of which such father (or mother after the death of his father) is qualified under this Act as owner, is of sufficient value if equally divided amongst them as co-owners to qualify as voters under this Act, both the father or mother and such one or more sons as may desire to be so registered on said list, and if the said real property be not of sufficient value to give the father or mother and each of said sons the right to vote in respect of such value when equally divided, then the right to be registered as a voter and to vote in respect of said real property shall belong only to the father (or mother after the death of the father) or the father or mother and such of the eldest or elder of the sons as the value of the real property when equally divided will qualify:—Provided that, in order to entitle him to vote, each son must at the time of the election for the electoral district in which he tenders his vote, be so resident with his father (or mother after the death of his father); and further provided, that occasional absence of the son from the residence of the father or mother for not more in all than four months in the year shall not disqualify such son as a voter under this Act.

## QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS IN DISTRICTS OTHER THAN CITIES OR TOWNS.

4. Every person shall, upon and after the first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, or in any subsequent year, be entitled to be registered on the list of voters hereby required to be made for any electoral district, or portion thereof in Canada, other than a city or town, or portion of a city or town, and when so registered to vote at any election for such electoral district, who is qualified as follows: that is to say, if such person—

(1) Is of the age of twenty-one years and is not disqualified by this Act or otherwise by any law of the Dominion of Canada disqualified or prevented from voting;

(2) Is a British subject by birth or naturalisation;

(3) Is the owner of real property, within any such electoral district, of the actual value of two hundred dollars; or

(4) Is the tenant of real property within any such electoral district, under a lease for not less than a year, at an annual rental of at least twenty dollars in money or in kind (except when the said real property is situate in an incorporated village, in which case the rental aforesaid must be payable in money only), who has been in possession thereof as such tenant for at least one year next before the first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three, or in any subsequent year, and has really and *bona fide* paid one year's rent for such real property at not less than the rate aforesaid: Provided that the year's rent so required to be paid to entitle such tenant to vote shall be the year's rent up to the last yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly day of payment, as the case may be, which shall have occurred next before the said first day of November in each of said years respectively; and provided also, that a change of tenancy during the year next before the said first day of November in each of said years respectively shall not deprive the tenant of the right to vote, if such change be without any intermission of time, and the several tenancies be such as would entitle the tenant to vote had such tenant been in possession under either of them as such tenant for the year next before the said first day of November in each of said years respectively; or

(5) Is the *bona fide* occupant of real property within such electoral district of the value of two hundred dollars, whether such occupation be under a license of occupation or agreement to purchase from the

Crown, or from any other person or corporation, or whether the same exists in any other manner except as owner or tenant; provided in any case, that such person has been in possession of said real property as such occupant for one year next before the first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, or in any subsequent year, and is and has been for said time in the enjoyment, for the use of such occupant, of the revenues and profits thereof, or in the case of a married man, for his own use or for the use of his wife; or—

(6) Is a resident within such electoral district, and derives an income from some trade, office, calling, or profession, or from some investment or charge on real property in Canada, of not less than four hundred dollars annually, and who has derived such income, and has been such resident, for one year next before the said first day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, or in any subsequent year; or—

(7) Is a farmer's son not otherwise qualified as a voter, and who is resident, and has been resident, continuously on the farm of his father (or mother after the death of his father) in such electoral district, for one year next prior to the first day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, or in any subsequent year, if the said farm be of sufficient value if equally divided amongst them as co-owners, to qualify as voters under this Act, the father (or mother after the death of his father), and such one or more sons as may desire to be registered on said list, and in the event of their being more than one son resident as aforesaid on the farm and claiming to be registered as voters in respect thereof, and if the farm be not of sufficient value to give the father or mother and each of the said sons the right to vote in respect of such value when equally divided, then the right to be registered as a voter and to vote in respect of said farm shall belong only to the father (or mother after the death of the father), or to the father (or mother) and such of the eldest or elder of the sons as the value of the farm when equally divided will qualify; provided that in order to entitle him to vote, each such son must, at the time of the election for the electoral district in which he tenders his vote, be so resident with his father (or mother after the death of his father), and provided further, that occasional absence of the son from the farm for not more in all than four months in the year shall not disqualify such son under this Act as a voter.

(8) Is a son of any such owner of real property other than a farmer's son, not otherwise qualified to vote, and who is and has been resident upon such property continuously with his father (or mother after the death of his father) being such owner, and in such electoral district, for one year next prior to the first day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, or in any subsequent year, if the real property on which his father (or his mother after the death of his father) resides, and in respect of which such father (or mother after the death of his father) is qualified under this Act as owner, be of sufficient value, if equally divided amongst them as co-owners to qualify as voters under this Act both the father or mother and such one or more sons as may desire to be so registered on said list; and if the said property be not of sufficient value to give the father or mother and each of said sons the right to vote in respect of such value when equally divided, then the right to be registered as a voter and to vote in respect of said real property shall belong only to the father (or mother after the death of the father) or to the father or mother and such of the eldest or elder of the sons as the value of the real property when equally divided will qualify, provided that in order to enable him to vote each such son must at the time of the election for the electoral district in which he tenders his vote be so resident with his father (or mother after the death of his father); and further provided that occasional absence of the son from the residence of the father or mother for not more in all than four months in the year shall not disqualify such son as a voter under this Act.

APPLICABLE TO ALL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

5. The qualifications required of voters under section three of this Act shall apply to voters in a city or town, or part of a city or town, that is attached to a county or riding of a county in either of said electoral districts, for electoral purposes under this Act, and the qualifications required of voters under section four of this Act shall apply to voters in such municipalities or places not being cities, towns, or portions of cities or towns, as are attached to or included for electoral purposes in cities or towns, or portions of cities or towns.

6. Whenever two or more persons are either as business partners, joint tenants, tenants in common, or by any other kind of joint interest, the owners, tenants, or occupants of any lot or portion of a lot or parcel of real property in any electoral district, each of said persons whose share therein is sufficient in value, according to the provisions of this Act, to qualify such person as a voter in respect of real property, shall be entitled to be registered on the list of voters hereby required to be prepared, and to vote in respect of said share of said real property as if said share were held in said person's individual name, and not jointly with one or more.

Provided always that no one of the said persons whose share is of a value insufficient under the provisions of this Act to qualify such person as a voter shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, or to vote as aforesaid; and provided also, that where any real property is owned, leased, or occupied in the name of a corporation no member or officer of such corporation shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, or to vote in respect of such real property.

7. The persons qualified according to this Act as voters in respect of income shall only be entitled to be registered as voters and to vote in the polling sub-division where they reside at the time of their registration; and persons qualified otherwise according to this Act than on income shall only be entitled to be registered as voters and to vote in the sub-division where the real property in respect of which they are qualified is situate; but when the said real property is partly within one polling sub-division and partly within another, although all in one electoral district, the person qualified in respect thereof shall be entitled to be registered and to vote in either of said sub-divisions for which he may desire to be registered as a voter.

8. Other than and except the persons duly qualified and registered as voters according to the provisions of this Act, no person shall be entitled to vote at any election for the House of Commons of Canada after the time when the duplicates of the first list of voters finally revised and certified as hereinafter provided, for the electoral district for which the election is to be held, shall have been forwarded to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery at Ottawa, as also hereinafter provided:—but at any election held before the time aforesaid, the voters shall be those entitled to vote thereat under the laws now in force.

WHO SHALL NOT VOTE AT ELECTIONS.

9. The following persons shall be disqualified and incompetent to vote at any election to which this Act applies, excepting the persons or officers named in sub-section "b" of this section, who shall only be disqualified and incompetent to vote as far as the election for the electoral district in which they hold such offices or positions is concerned:—

(a) The Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Chief Justices and Judges of the Superior Courts in the provinces of Canada, and the judges of all the courts in the said provinces, whether such courts are now in existence or are hereafter erected, and police, stipendiary magistrates, and recorders.

(b) Revising officers, returning officers, and election clerks, and any person who at any time, either during the election or before the election, is or has been employed at the same election or in reference thereto for the purpose of forwarding the same by any candidate or by any person whomsoever as counsel, agent, attorney, or clerk at any polling place at any such election, or in any other capacity whatever, and who has received, or expects to receive, either before, during, or after the said election from any candidate or from any person whomsoever for acting in any such capacity as aforesaid, any sum of money, fee, office, place, or employment, or any promise, pledge, or security, whatever for any sum of money, fee, office, place or employment, except only the returning officer in the case of equality of votes between the candidates, where the addition of a vote would entitle any of such candidates to be declared elected.

(c) All married women whose husbands are living.

The following letter appeared in the Toronto Mail of April 28th:

THE FRANCHISE ACT.

To the Editor of the Mail.

Sir,—When I read the draft of the proposed Franchise Bill, now before the House, I felt like throwing up my hat and giving three

times three, and I am sure every thinking citizen must have said to himself at once, "Here is the largest and most just extension of the right to vote that has been conferred upon Canadians since they have been a self-governed people." I would be opposed, tooth and nail, to any extension of the franchise to a class of people less intelligent than the least intelligent class now possessing that privilege. But this Act seems to studiously guard against that tendency, for it would be scarcely just to say that the son or daughter of a farmer is more intelligent than the son or daughter of any other class in the same financial position. And surely there is no one in this enlightened age who is so narrow-minded as to affirm that the women of Canada will cast a less intelligent vote than large bodies of men who now, to a large extent, say who shall and who shall not make the laws that regulate the life and property of men and women alike. It has remained for the Tories to grant to women their long-denied right. Truly the names of parties are sadly misleading.

A stranger would look for a progressive Act like this to emanate from a party called Reform, or Liberal, if he did not stop to consider that the largest extensions of the franchise in England have been granted by the Tories too. But it makes a wide difference, you know, when we come to inquire the reason. When Liberals grant extensions it is in answer to an urgent want, a long-denied demand. When Tories extend the limits it is a trick, a clever coup d'état. However, I believe no one will oppose this Bill, unless it be the same old fogies who deny to women the right to study medicine. The same narrow-minded bigot that will say it is unwomanly to administer to the sick, will doubtless say, with the same air of injured modesty, that it is unwomanly to go to the polls and drop a slip of paper in the ballot box, though she might go to the self-same place in the evening to a public social, or dance, or bazaar, or what not, where women and men of all classes mingle together, for less noble objects in many instances. But to such men one answer is enough, for argument is of little avail against prejudice, and that is, if it is unwomanly to do this, then let women be manly, for it would become them better to be manly, if to be womanly means to be weak, when strength is within their reach.

I would like to see the amount required for income voters to vote upon reduced to \$300, as that would include most school teachers, who, if they like to pay the tax upon that amount, should surely be allowed the privilege to vote. I have conversed with many intelligent persons since this Bill has been introduced, and I have yet to find one, whether Grit or Tory, to deny its justice. If passed, as doubtless it will be, it will add one more to the long list of popular Acts passed by the Parliament during the last five years.

Yours, &c., E. D. SMITH.

Salfleet, April 25th.

WOMEN AND THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

At a meeting held in Leeds, on May 23rd, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman Tatham, in support of the Bill to be introduced in the House of Lords with the object of rendering legal marriage with a deceased wife's sister, at which there were about 200 persons present, Mr. Green, secretary to the association for promoting the measure, moved: "That this meeting considers it is unjust for the House of Lords to continually refuse its sanction to the passage of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill."—Mrs. Sunley moved, as an amendment, "That it be a recommendation to the Committee of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill to incorporate in the movement for the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill the principle that a woman may legally contract marriage with a deceased husband's brother."—The Chairman suggested that the amendment could be put as a substantive motion after the original motion had been dealt with.—Mrs. Sunley agreed to this.—The original motion having been carried, Mrs. Sunley moved a resolution in the terms of her amendment.—Mr. J. S. Mathers seconded the resolution.—Mr. Green said that if the other clause was inserted the battle of the Bill passing the Houses would have to be begun again.—Mr. Tudor Trevor moved the following amendment: "That this meeting is of opinion that marriage with a deceased husband's brother is contrary to the law of God, and cannot, therefore, be supported by this meeting."—Only about four or five persons voted for the amendment, and then Mrs. Sunley's motion was adopted.

MANCHESTER SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MAY, 1883.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage, May 1883. Includes names like J. P. Thomasson, Mrs. Hugh Mason, and various amounts.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MAY 28, 1883.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for the Central Committee, May 28, 1883. Includes names like Mrs. Streetfield, Mrs. Frank Snoad, and various amounts.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MAY 20, 1883.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for Bristol and West of England, May 20, 1883. Includes names like Mrs. Bruce (don.), Mrs. Linton, and various amounts.



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