

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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THE general election has come and gone, and the result has been of a startling character. Within three weeks the complexion of the governing body of the country has undergone a complete transformation—a change which was perhaps as unexpected to the party which has succeeded to power, as unlooked for by the minister who suddenly challenged the verdict of the country. It would be beyond the province of this journal to enter on the discussion of the event as it concerns general political questions ; our duty is limited to the consideration of the manner in which the change in the Government and the Parliament affects the question of the electoral disabilities of women.

In the first place we have to deplore the absence from the new Parliament of many of our ablest and most influential supporters. Foremost among these is our leader, Mr. JACOB BRIGHT. It is impossible to over-estimate the value of the services he rendered to the cause by introducing the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, and by supporting it in the House of Commons with a force, ability, and persuasive power, which left nothing to be desired. During the debate in 1871, Mr. GLADSTONE, then Prime Minister, took occasion to congratulate Mr. JACOB BRIGHT on the ability with which he had stated his case, and doubtless the impression then made on the mind of the leader of the House of Commons, under which he withdrew his opposition to the measure, and the steady and increasing Parliamentary support which the Bill obtained during the four successive years in which Mr. JACOB BRIGHT has had the charge of it, were mainly owing to the earnestness, tact, and political sagacity displayed by him in advocating the claim.

Besides Mr. JACOB BRIGHT we lose his seconder, Mr. EASTWICK, Mr. J. HINDE PALMER, Professor FAWCETT, and many others, whose absence from the House of Commons is a matter of general regret. We hope and trust that it will be only of temporary duration, and that before long the country may again have the benefit of the services of these gentlemen in Parliament. On the other

hand, the leader of the opposition to the movement, Mr. BOUVERIE, has lost his seat for Kilmarnock, and his fate has been shared by 105 pronounced opponents of the measure.

The general election of 1874 resembles the preceding general election of 1868, in depriving the women's suffrage movement of its Parliamentary leader. When Mr. MILL was defeated at Westminster the blow seemed overwhelming ; and if the movement for the enfranchisement of women had been the mere "crotchet" of a philosopher, doubtless it would have declined with the defeat of its chief. But events showed the vitality and strength of the cause and the newly-elected Parliament proved more favourable to the claim than its predecessor. The question was taken up by a practical politician, whose first achievement was to secure the extension of the municipal franchise to women, and thus bring them yearly into attendance at the polls in public elections, and who next introduced a Bill to extend to the same class of women the Parliamentary franchise, the second reading of which was carried by a considerable majority in the House of Commons. If at that time the Prime Minister and the leaders of the Cabinet had been favourably disposed to the measure, it is probable that it might have passed into law without serious opposition from any quarter. But unfortunately Mr. GLADSTONE, who had preserved an attitude of neutrality during the discussion and division on the second reading, no sooner found that the House had taken a favourable view of the principle than he changed his attitude of neutrality for one of hostility, and all the influence of the Government was suddenly exerted to crush the Bill. Against such a manifestation of opposition from a then all-powerful minister, Mr. JACOB BRIGHT found it in vain to contend, and the Bill was lost.

Should the parallel between the events consequent on the two general elections of 1868 and 1874 be followed so far as that the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill should pass the second reading on first being submitted

to the new Parliament, the likeness would end there. Whatever difficulties might attend the further progress of the measure, that of encountering hostility from the Government would not be among them. The present Prime Minister has steadily supported the Bill in successive divisions in the House of Commons, along with many of the leading members of the new Cabinet. Only last year Mr. DISRAELI publicly declared his belief that the anomaly we seek to redress was injurious to the best interests of the country, and his trust that he would see it removed by the wisdom of Parliament. There seems no reason why he should not take the opportunity now afforded by his command of a majority in Parliament, to give effect to these wishes and convictions, and to lend the weight of his official sanction to a measure which is not one of party politics, but of political justice, and which not even the wildest alarmist could pretend would be injurious to the stability of existing institutions.

Since the division of 1870, when the Bill was defeated on going into committee, not only has it obtained the support of the present Prime Minister, but the opposition offered to it by Mr. GLADSTONE has been withdrawn. Of the two great party chiefs we have one wholly in our favour, the other neutral, and the private member who led the opposition has lost his seat in Parliament. The occasion appears therefore far more favourable than in 1870 for the introduction of a measure dealing with the electoral disabilities of women. Comparing the new Parliament with the old, so far as the sentiments of members have been declared, we find that in the late Parliament there were at the time of the dissolution 227 members who had voted or declared themselves in favour of the Bill, and 328 against it—majority against, if they had all voted, of 101. The actual numbers last division were for the Bill, 155; against, 222; majority, 67. In the new Parliament there are 217 friends of the Bill, and 230 supposed to be opponents, the hostile majority is therefore apparently reduced from 101 to 13. There are about 50 members who are neutral, that is, who were in the late Parliament, but who never voted on the question, and about 150 new members whose views are not known. There is here ample margin for turning our present large and powerful minority of declared supporters, which includes the leader and many of the most influential members of the House of Commons, into a majority. We trust to see the Bill introduced in the forthcoming session by some member of ability and influence who will be able to take advantage of the favourable conjuncture, and secure the

adhesion of a majority in the as yet untried element in the new Parliament.

The meetings that have been held during the past month show a remarkable increase in the strength of the women's suffrage movement, and in the manifestations of popular support of the principle. The magnitude of these demonstrations has been on a scale hitherto unprecedented in the history of the movement. We desire to call special attention to the crowded meeting, presided over by Mr. JACOB BRIGHT, in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. The great hall was densely packed in every part by an earnest and interested audience, which passed resolutions in support of the object of the meeting by an overwhelming majority. Also to the large meeting at Leeds, under the chairmanship of Lord HOUGHTON. Hundreds were unable to obtain admission, and a great number of working women, who could not obtain access to the room, begged to be allowed to remain near an open door, in order that when the resolution was put they might hold up their hands for it. At York and Huddersfield meetings have been held, too late to be reported in our present issue. In North Wales a series of enthusiastic meetings has been held, which presented some novel and interesting features. At Bristol, Bedford, and other places similar demonstrations have taken place. Nothing in the shape of serious opposition has been offered at any of these meetings, and no counter demonstration of any description has been made. We are therefore justified in assuming that should the new Government resolve, as judging from the declared opinions of its chief and of so many of its leading members, we have every reason to hope that it may resolve, to give its sanction to the proposal to remove the electoral disabilities of women, such action would receive the general assent of the community.

We have to thank the friends who are collecting signatures to the National Memorials to Mr. DISRAELI and Mr. GLADSTONE, for their valuable and efficient aid, and to beg them to continue the work. Although the statesmen to whom they are addressed have changed places, and the Memorials will consequently need a slight verbal alteration when they come to be presented, yet the necessity for such an appeal from women to the leaders of the two great parties in the state has become even more urgent than heretofore. Our friends are therefore earnestly exhorted to aid in this movement, and we refer them to the announcement in another column for particulars respecting these, and the petitions to the House of Commons. We also heartily thank the friends who did such good service to the cause by putting questions to the candidates, and informing us of their replies.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MANCHESTER.

A crowded meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on February 24th, in support of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. Mr. Jacob Bright, who was loudly cheered, occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. Jacob Bright, Mrs. George Sims, Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Miss Stuart, Miss Sturge, Miss Ashworth, Miss Lilius Ashworth, Miss Rhoda Garrett, Miss Ada Smith, Miss Becker, Miss Atkinson, Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Dr. John Watts, Mr. Robert Leake, Mr. Charles Thompson, Mr. J. Fox Turner, Mr. W. Hadwen, Mr. Harrison Blair, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, Mr. Thomas Mellor, Mr. William Warburton, Mr. Joseph Atkinson, Mr. Benjamin L. Green, Mr. T. F. Collins, Mr. Wm. Mather, Alderman M'Kerrow, Mr. W. Agnew, Rev. B. Glover, and Rev. Joseph Freeston. Although the overwhelming majority of those present were apparently in sympathy with the objects of the meeting, a noisy section which gathered in the back parts of the hall shortly after the meeting commenced was persistent in its interruption of the speakers, by cat-calls and indiscriminate cries, and once or twice an attempt was made to strike up "Rule Britannia," the invariable sign in this district of an attempt to break up a Liberal meeting by Tory roughs.

The CHAIRMAN, who was again cheered on rising to address the meeting, said: In consenting to preside over this meeting, I knew that my task would be an easy one, because when women assemble to plead their own cause the advocacy of men is little required. (Cheers.) Some of our opponents express surprise and disapproval when they see women coming to speak to a large meeting such as this. Women may come to large gatherings, as they do every Thursday night in this hall, if it be to exhibit their vocal powers. They may appear on the stage of a hundred theatres, playing in pieces, some of which are good and some of which are bad. They may come in large numbers into our pantomimes and ballets, less than half clad in order to gratify the eye by their skill in dancing. It is only when inspired by some high motive, when they come perhaps to defend their own sex and to claim for it that legislative justice which happily now we demand for the meanest of men—it is only on such occasions that it is said women ought not to appear in public, and when the voice of condemnation is heard. I know the impatience of this audience to listen to those who are advertised to speak, and that reason of itself would prevent me from attempting to argue this question. But with your permission I will refer for a very few minutes to the present position of the women's suffrage cause. That cause I will say, though there may be some here who will not agree with me, is very strong. It has been subjected to the best of all tests. It has been discussed long and ably both in Parliament and in the country, and with every year's discussion it has become stronger and obtained fresh adherents. Those who have watched this movement in Parliament know that each year men of some note have surrendered their objections, have withdrawn their opposition, and in some notable cases have come over to our side. I can say of this question what many persons would be proud to say of others which are seeking the acceptance of Parliament, that the illustrious man who a week ago was Prime Minister of this country—(cheers)—in a memorable speech delivered in Parliament three years ago, was so convinced of the strength of this claim that he made declarations which will not readily be forgotten, showing that in his opinion the parliamentary representation of women was necessary. The Prime Minister of to-day, a distinguished man too, Mr. Disraeli—(loud groans, hisses, and cheers)—before this became a parliamentary question, made the following remarkable statement, to which I hope you will give attention. Mr. Disraeli said: "In a country governed by a woman, where you allow women to form part of one of the estates of the realm—I allude to peeresses in their own right—and where they have power to hold manorial courts, and may be elected churchwardens or overseers of the poor—I do not see, where a woman has so much to do with the Church and with the State, on what reason, if you come to right, she has not a right to vote." (Hear, hear.) Mr. Disraeli, on a more recent occasion—in the year 1866, in his place in Parliament, made a still more practical avowal. He said: "A woman having property ought now to have a vote in a country in which she may hold manorial courts and sometimes act

as churchwarden." Leaving the two heads of the two great parties, let me ask for a moment in what relation this question stands to the two parties. The Conservative party, having assented in the year 1867 to household suffrage in the boroughs, appears to be not unwilling, if you may judge by its leading men, to make that household suffrage impartial, to say with justice that every person who is the head of a family, who pays rates, who performs the ordinary duties of citizenship, shall have a vote. And now with regard to the Liberal party. It has shown, it may be, some unwillingness upon this question, but still we have had a much greater support from it. And I will tell you what I have observed in recent elections. The principle upon which this claim is based has been at all times so completely accepted and defended by Liberal politicians that they feel it almost impossible to deny the claim, and I observe at every contested election they are more and more uncomfortable unless they can act consistently and courageously. Now, as to the change of government, how does that affect the question? I won't undertake to say, except in one particular, and that an important one. I believe when you come to take the sense of the House of Commons again that you are likely to have a much better division. Those who have scrutinised the individual returns tell me that considerable gains have been made. But there is this feature, which nobody who has ever sat in the House of Commons will question. In the last Government, though several members of the Cabinet were friendly to us, it was believed the Government as a whole were hostile, and therefore the Government whips, the wirepullers—those men who have to manage what I may call the mechanism of the party to get men up for divisions—these men were opposed to us, and it injured our divisions, because there is always a number of men in the House of Commons who are anxious to keep on good terms with those minor authorities, for what reason I will leave you to suppose. (Hear, hear.) In the present Government most of the leading members of the Cabinet are in favour of this question. Several of them have spoken and voted in its favour constantly, and therefore the whips and the wirepullers will in all probability be favourable, and to whatever extent they may attempt to influence a division, in all probability they will attempt to influence it favourably. All these views, which, I think are in the main borne out by facts, are favourable to this cause, and if I wanted to show you what prospects there were of its growth, and of its ultimate, if not near, success, I would point you to the means that are employed in carrying it forward. Every year more and more women come into the ranks, and amongst those women, I say without hesitation, there are some of commanding intellect. They are all of high character; in the main they have those moral qualities which are able to sustain a question even through difficulties and disappointment. (Cheers.) One word about Manchester—about the support it has given to this cause. No doubt many persons have come here to-night from curiosity. I will admit it. But a great meeting like this—I believe in the main a sympathetic meeting—(hear, hear)—could not be raised or obtained in a city which was hostile to this cause. Many meetings have been held in the different wards. Petitions in large numbers have gone up to the House of Commons. Petitions from a large majority of the town council have annually gone up to the House of Commons. I have been told that many members of the council have not willingly voted in favour of this measure; but what do I infer from that? If they have been unwilling, why have they done it? Because they have a large constituency, which had a strong conviction upon the question, and which required them to do it. Therefore, when people say that women don't care for this cause, I appeal to the very fact to which I have referred. But there are in Manchester, of my own personal political friends, some who have given me the best support during my political connection with this city—a support which never diminished because of any difference of opinion—there are many amongst my own political friends who are not favourable to this cause, and I understand it to be mainly on this ground. They say we have a great amount of male residuum, more than we can comfortably digest, and we don't want any great amount of female residuum, for that would be unfortunate for us. But the fact, if it be a fact, tells both ways. No doubt it prevents some men supporting this cause, but what will the ladies on this platform say? They will say, if it be true that women are in that neglected, degraded, forlorn position, it serves as an argument of great weight in demanding that women shall have a voice in whatever political arrangement concerns them,

in order that they may have an opportunity of lifting them up. In conclusion, let me say that this demand for the suffrage is only a part of a general movement which has agitated more or less distinctly every Christian country at the present time, a movement whose object it is to lift up women to a higher level of duty and of influence, not in the interests of women only, but of the whole people. Is there any man who hears me now who will deny that if women everywhere had a sounder education—if they were encouraged to make common cause with ourselves in many of the great questions of public life—it would be better for our children, it would be better for our families, and the nation itself would assume a greater security and a higher dignity? (Cheers.)

Miss STUART moved the first resolution, and said they had come together on the eve of a new Parliament, understood to be the free and independent selection of the country, in a building whose very name celebrated one of the greatest triumphs of liberty, to hear an appeal made on behalf of more than one-half of the nation for liberty. It was for freedom that women sought when they asked for a voice in the government of the country, with regard to which they stood in precisely the same position as men. (Hear.) Women bore every burden of the state equally with men. Not only were they subject to the same taxes and amenable to the same laws, but they also performed a very large proportion of the labour of the country. If men went to war in the camp and on the ocean, women watched and waited, nursed the wounded and succoured the dying. If men laboured in the field or in the workshop, women did so in the household, and indeed she should not err greatly were she to say that many men struck rather than work more than eight hours a day—(laughter and cheers)—the women of whose households uncomplainingly laboured 18 hours. ("Hear," and cheers.) Every great political movement influenced the lives of women equally with men. Since, then, women bore every burden of the state, and were equally affected by every mal-administration or misfortune that could befall it, to deny them a voice in the election of those legislators who might cause or avert such misfortunes was to divest them of liberty. She enunciated no new principle and claimed no new rights in seeking for the just and consistent application of principles and rights which had been contended for and triumphantly asserted since the dawn of liberty in Great Britain, the principle that those who paid should rule, the right that those who bore the burdens of citizens should be admitted into the privileges of the same. No man was ever admitted to a vote except upon the plea that he paid taxes and obeyed the laws. Therefore all the 999 reasons why women should not have votes were no reasons at all so long as they did pay taxes and obeyed the laws. (Cheers.) She could not refer to the advance which the cause had made without recording how much that cause owed to the zeal and abilities of Mr. Jacob Bright—(cheers)—and expressing their regret that that cause should be deprived of his invaluable services for a short time. (Cheers, and some marks of disapprobation.) Under his fostering care the political demands of women had passed from the region of ridicule to the region of solid sense and sober deliberation. He had triumphantly led the question into the position of being one of the great national questions of the day. In Scotland the battle was already won, for a full majority of Scotch members had voted last year for Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill.

Miss ASHWORTH said she had sometimes told their Manchester friends that this movement had gained more support in the South than in the North, and that in the South they could show larger and more enthusiastic meetings than had been held in the North, but when she saw that large and interested audience she was willing to turn and give the palm to Manchester as being the leading town in this movement. (Cheers.) If in the country this agitation had gained unusual support, it was partly from the fact that public opinion was already on the side of enfranchisement to the people. The claim of women for enfranchisement was one which was certain to follow the Reform Bill of 1867. Every plea, either of justice or policy, which had been urged for granting the suffrage to men applied with equal force to the claim of women. The speeches which were made in the past Reform agitations in favour of Reform might be read now in reference to the claim of women for the same great boon. The only difference between the present and the past agitation was that in the past it was sought to lower the franchise and change its basis, whilst in the present agitation it was not sought to change the basis of the franchise. They only asked that women should be admitted to the constitution in the

ordinary manner. They asked only for the removal of a disability. Then they were told that women ought not to take part in public affairs. The other day the freedom of the city of Edinburgh was conferred upon Lady Burdett Coutts—(cheers)—and a large meeting assembled, at which she made a speech about the honour that had been done her. We lived in a country where a woman reigned—a Queen who had been often praised for her unremitting attention to public affairs. (Hear, hear.) It might seem as though this controversy lay in the minds of some people between woman aristocratic and woman democratic, but she claimed that if it was right for the Queen and Lady Burdett Coutts to take part in public affairs, it was fit also for the humblest of her countrywomen. (Cheers.) All those questions affecting women in this country press with greater severity on the humbler classes of women than upon those who were in some degree protected by the conventionality which surrounded their lives. She would remind members of Parliament, and those gentlemen who were so ready to quote and believe the casual expression of the lady they met with at their last dinner party, that it was not for women in these luxurious homes, who had every comfort that the world could give, to decide whether women ought or ought not to have the franchise. Local industrial and educational questions might have but little significance to the rich, happy women who had no cares, but they were of the most vital importance to the working women. It was for the women whose days were passed in toil; it was for those millions of working women who came in contact with the hard realities of life to claim that protection which the vote alone would give. They were told that if women had the franchise they would all vote Conservative. Strange it was that that objection seemed to come from a class of persons who had got into the habit of calling themselves Liberals. It had been repeated to her so often that it was only right to turn and see how much foundation there was for it. They had lately passed through a general election, and they had seen places send Conservative members to Parliament who had never sent Conservative members before, and they saw in Lancashire 33 members returned to Parliament, of whom seven only were Liberals. They had realised something like Conservative reaction. It was not for her to discuss that night the cause of that Conservative reaction, but one thing was certain about it, namely, that women had had nothing to do with it. But there was a strange tendency on the part of people, when anything happened which they thought wrong, to lay the blame on somebody else, and by the way that Liberal gentlemen had spoken to her she had little doubt if women had been enfranchised at the last session a great proportion of the responsibility of the rejection of Liberal members would have been laid to the doors of women. ("Hear," and laughter.) The *Times* and other papers congratulated the Liberal party on the results of the last municipal elections, pointing out that, as they were generally fought on party grounds, they might be considered a fair indication of what would happen when a general election took place. But the general election, in which men alone exercised the franchise, had brought about a day of remarkable triumph for the Tory party. Brighton and Oldham, which sent to the school boards by a mixed electorate a majority of Liberal and unsectarian candidates, had each sent to Parliament by a male electorate two Conservative members. The lady members of school boards were, without exception, Liberals, and hitherto no Conservative candidate of the same sex had opposed them. If there was one section of the community more short-sighted than another it appeared to her to be that section which had refused to believe in Conservative working men and then refused to believe in Liberal women. She trusted those who were now working on this question would have the reward of knowing that in securing for women equal political rights they had laid the foundation of a future of greater happiness and freedom than the world had ever known. (Cheers.)

Miss RHODA GARRETT, who supported the motion, said that the *Pall Mall Gazette* had published an article, in which it was stated that the question of removing the electoral disabilities of women was a question upon which the word "bore" was stamped the moment it appeared before the public, and that woman in the singular number with a capital "W" was the dearest of subjects. (Laughter.) She was inclined to agree with the *Pall Mall* in this, though she did not always agree with that paper. (Uproar.) But whatever the *Pall Mall* said she hoped the people assembled in that hall that night did not think that the question was a "bore," because she wanted the meeting to listen to the argu-

ments upon which they desired the Parliamentary suffrage to be granted to females, and why they thought women, who paid their rates and taxes, should possess the same privileges as men who also paid rates and taxes. Manchester had a very able and earnest advocate of the cause, and she did not think that any grounds upon which women sought the franchise had missed being laid before the public. (Hear, hear.) The advocates of the cause laboured under very great disadvantages, and they were required to answer the most frivolous objections. She considered that if it could be shown that women were not interested in the maintenance of peace and the security of property, they ought to have no voice in the government which existed for the purposes of maintaining peace and protecting property. But she did not think that anyone had ever uttered such a monstrous absurdity. In 1832 the principle they were contending for was affirmed in the Reform Act, which granted the franchise to the middle classes; and again in 1867, when another Reform Act gave the working man a fair share of political power, and it might be that 1874 would see the agricultural labourers added to the list of enfranchised classes. Yet she thought that the agricultural labourers had not demanded their rights more earnestly or more patiently than women had done. On 99 questions out of 100—on questions of finance, on questions of peace and war, on all questions, in fact, of general interest to the community—women, as women, had no interests at variance with the interests of men—(hear, hear)—and yet laws were passed specially affecting women; and she maintained that men had no more right to pass those laws without consulting the wishes of those affected by them than they had to disfranchise brewers and licensed victuallers whilst they passed a licensing bill, or to exclude from the suffrage the whole manufacturing interest while Mr. Mundella carried through the House of Commons his Nine Hours Bill. (Cheers.) No one could deprecate more earnestly than she did any attempt on the part of either the friends or enemies of women's suffrage to raise a false line of separation between the interests of men and women. It was worse than folly to suppose that women ever would or ever could pursue any policy hostile to the best interests of their fathers, their brothers, and their husbands; and those who asserted that the women who were working to obtain the vote for their sex had any desire to create such a feeling of hostility were guilty of the most mischievous misrepresentations. (Cheers.) She thought that the further they could remove that artificial barrier which society, and not nature, had placed between the lives of men and women, the greater would be the gain to the strength and morality of the nation; for although in the main the interests of men and women were identical, yet they knew that there were many unjust laws and many unfair prejudices which must be regarded as inimical to the highest development of woman. Those laws must be amended and those prejudices overcome before any improvement could really be effected in the educational, social, and economic condition of women. (Cheers.) There might have hitherto existed wise and just reasons for withholding from women their political freedom. That exclusion, she knew, had not been maintained by any intention of deliberate injustice on the part of men—(hear, hear)—but she as firmly believed that the time had now come when both justice and expediency demanded the removal of disabilities, which were shown to be injurious and oppressive to women socially, legally, and economically. The most enthusiastic advocates of the enfranchisement of women would relinquish their claims if they thought that it would cause women to lose those high attributes generally thought to be benefiting their sex. (Cheers.) But surely purity, tenderness, and modesty should be among the highest attributes of men as well as of women; and if the possession of political power would cause women to lose those virtues, then it must have some deleterious effect upon the character of men. For her own part she thought that every character was incomplete without those qualities; and as the loss of them would make a woman unwomanly, so the want of them must make a man unmanly. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) She desired to express the gratitude which she and her colleagues felt to Manchester for the help it had given them in this struggle. Five years ago this constituency sent to Parliament a man who through evil report and good report had steadfastly carried the banner of liberty that they placed in his hands. (Cheers.) Those of them who lived in the South were accustomed to look to the North for help in every struggle for freedom; it was to Manchester they owed the voice that had made known in the House of Commons the claims of women to electoral power; and though for

a time Manchester had decreed that that voice should be silent within the walls of Parliament, yet it could not undo the work that Mr. Jacob Bright, following in the steps of Mr. John Stuart Mill, had inaugurated. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN then read the resolution, which was as follows:—"That the exclusion of women otherwise legally qualified to vote in the election of members of Parliament is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and other representative governments." The resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority, only twenty or thirty hands being held up against it.

Miss STURGE said that from the hearty way in which the last resolution was carried she gathered that there were very few in that magnificent meeting who were not in sympathy with the cause they were that night advocating. The very few who appeared to have objections left had taken refuge in the very unsound argument of noise. She was frequently told that women were too sentimental to share in the political life in this country. She thought the real difficulty was that men were too sentimental to allow them to do so. A gentleman who was recently objecting to women's suffrage said it was against his feelings. They all knew that directly anyone took refuge in his feelings there was very little more to be said. (Laughter.) The disturbance, which had been going on in a subdued manner in the gallery during the delivery of the foregoing remarks, now broke out again vigorously, the interrupters of the harmony of the meeting loudly singing "Rule Britannia," which was accompanied by cheers, groans, hisses, and cries of "Turn them out," and the call was answered by the expulsion of some of the noisy vocalists.) Miss Sturge, continuing her address, said women, they were told, were too illogical rightly to exercise the franchise, and it was also said that if women entered political life they would lose the politeness and respect with which men had hitherto treated them; but had not women always shown as much politeness towards men as men had to women? (Hear.) Yet she never found a woman so illogical as to say that that was a reason why men should not be enfranchised. (Laughter.) There was no man's question which was not also a woman's question. If women were not to meddle with politics why should politics meddle with them? (Hear, hear.) They often came very closely home. Politics might be found in the sugar basin, they crept into the tea caddy, and they were in the coffee pot. (Interruption, and cries of "Turn them out.") She denied that home interests would suffer by the enfranchisement of women; and referring to the objection that this movement was but the thin edge of the wedge, and would lead to something more, she said it probably would, for there never was a reform which did not lead to something else. She was inclined to think that the origin of this movement might be traced to the fault of the repeal of the corn laws. It was quite possible that the repeal of the corn laws had insensibly led men and women to see that women could do without restrictions just as well as corn laws. (Laughter and cheers.) Unless everything led to something else, there would be no progress.

On the ladder of God, which upward leads,
The steps of progress are human needs.

(Cheers.) She believed it was true in a wider and larger degree that if women were not trusted they would not become trustworthy, and men would suffer for it in the end. A gentleman wrote to her that giving women the suffrage would increase the power of priestcraft; but to this she objected, for was not mancraft just the same thing as priestcraft. So long as men taught women to think that they knew better for women than women knew for themselves, so long they should have mancraft, and therefore priestcraft. She never thought that her English countrymen were destitute of courage, but they were so reluctant to give women the suffrage that she was beginning to think that they were more cowardly than she used to suppose. Why should they be afraid of women? They would never do what they could not, and surely God had never given any one of them, men or women, abilities without requiring their widest and fullest exercise. At present men and women were allowed, to associate as freely as they might for play and amusement, but surely it would be far better for them to come into closer connection for useful work. They would then find out what was good and true in each other, instead of obtaining often a mere surface acquaintance. In Ecclesiastes it was written: "All things

AYLESBURY.

On Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the County Hall, Aylesbury, for the purpose of hearing addresses by Miss Mary Beedy, M.A., and Miss Caroline Biggs (who formed a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage) and to elicit an expression of opinion on the part of the people of this town as to the desirability of petitioning in favour of the movement. Mr. Acton Tindal presided, and, in addition to the ladies named, was supported by Mr. C. S. Madder and Mr. John Turner. There was a good attendance. After some remarks from the Chairman, Mr. C. S. Madder proposed the usual resolution, which was seconded by Mr. John Turner, and supported by Miss Beedy. The Chairman said that the resolution was carried unanimously. Miss Caroline Biggs proposed the adoption of petitions to Parliament, and memorials to Mr. Rothschild and Mr. Smith. The Rev. Geo. Butcher, who was in the body of the hall, seconded the proposition, stating that he had listened with great interest to the able and convincing arguments of the ladies who had addressed them. The Chairman put the question to the vote, and it was declared carried unanimously. Mr. Madder proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Mr. Turner seconded the proposition. When he told them that one of the first ladies in the county—sister to the Duke of Buckingham—approved of the movement, that might have great weight with the meeting. (Cheers.) Mr. Madder proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies who had entertained them that night.—The Chairman: And instructed us.—Mr. R. Dickens seconded the proposition, complimenting the ladies for the historical and legal information they had given them upon the subject.—Miss Biggs acknowledged the honour.—The proceedings then terminated.—Abridged from the Bucks Herald.

ALTRINCHAM.

On January 19th, Miss Becker delivered an address in the Literary Institute, Altrincham. The Rev. Dr. McKerrow in the chair. There was a good attendance. After the address Mr. Abraham Haworth proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Becker, the motion was seconded by Mr. Alexander Ireland, and carried with one dissent. Miss Becker acknowledged the vote, and proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried, and the meeting separated.

NORTH WALES.

ABERYSTWYTH.

There was a very large meeting of the inhabitants of Aberystwyth on February 2nd, in the Temperance Hall, to hear addresses from Mrs. Lucas and Miss Beedy on the enfranchisement of women. There was a large number of ladies present, and at eight o'clock the building was crammed full.—The Mayor said on this occasion his only duty was to introduce the ladies who were announced to address them on women's suffrage. (Applause.)—Miss Beedy addressed the meeting, and concluded amid loud applause.—Gohebydd then addressed the meeting in Welsh, and explained to the audience the substance of Miss Beedy's speech.—Mrs. Lucas said she could assure the audience that it gave them great pleasure to speak to the Welsh people. (Cheers.)—Professor Grimley moved the adoption of a petition.—The Rev. Mr. Morris seconded the proposition, and on its being put to the meeting it was carried with great cheering.—Mrs. Lucas then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and Miss Beedy, in seconding it, said she came to Wales to convince the people, and found them already convinced. (Cheers.) The Mayor returned thanks, and said he greatly sympathised with the movement, and the proceedings terminated, after he had signed the petition on behalf of the meeting.—Cambrian News.

BALA.

A public meeting was held at the British School, Bala, on Tuesday, February 3rd, in support of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. Mrs. Lucas, Miss Beedy, M.A., and the Rev. W. Glover, attended as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Dr. O. Richards presided, and introduced Miss Beedy, who addressed the meeting. The Rev. J. Peter, Professor, Independent College, Bala, translated the speech of Miss Beedy into Welsh, and moved the usual resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. R. Glover, and carried unanimously. The Rev. M. D. Jones, Principal of the Independent College, Bala, moved that a petition be sent to Parliament from this meeting, incorporating the resolution just passed, and signed on behalf of the

meeting by the chairman. The poet Derfel delivered some impromptu poetry in favour of the object of the meeting. Mrs. Lucas then addressed the meeting, and seconded the resolution, which was carried. Votes of thanks were passed to the deputation and the Chairman. The meeting was interesting and enthusiastic; the room was crowded to excess.—Abridged from the Cambrian News.

LLANGOLLEN.

On February 4th a very large and influential meeting was held in the Assembly Room to hear an exposition of the principles of the National Society for Woman Suffrage. The chair was taken by S. G. Fell, Esq., who, in a short introductory speech, introduced Miss Beedy, M.A. Her remarks were very well received, and she was frequently cheered during the delivery of her speech. Mr. R. Griffith gave the principal points of the speech in Welsh, and concluded by moving the usual resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. B. Glover, and after being put to the meeting it was carried with acclamation. Mrs. Lucas, sister to the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., then addressed the meeting, and moved that a petition, a copy of which was read, should be sent up from the meeting to Parliament, and a memorial also sent to the two members for the county. This, having been seconded by the Rev. J. Morris, and supported by Mr. R. Griffith, was put to the meeting and carried. Abridged from the Llangollen Advertiser.

Crowded and enthusiastic meetings, addressed by Mrs. Lucas, Miss Beedy, and Gohebydd, have also been held in Anglesey, at the following places:—On January 26th, in the Town Hall, LLANGEFNI; on January 27th, in the British School Room, AMLWCH; and on January 28th, in the Tabernacle Chapel, HOLYHEAD. At each of these meetings petitions were adopted in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.

SCOTLAND.

WEST LINTON.

A crowded public meeting was held in West Linton, on 20th January. Mr. Alexander, Bawbrer, presided, and a resolution authorising the chairman to sign a petition to Parliament praying for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women, was carried amidst applause.

INVERLEITHEN.

A meeting was also held at Inverleithen, on the 26th January, when Miss Ella Burton pleaded for political justice for her sex, in a well reasoning and telling address. The chief magistrate presided, and the usual resolutions were passed.

LEITH.

On February 5th, a public meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms, in support of women's suffrage. The hall was crowded, and among the audience was a large number of ladies. Ex-Provost Lindsay presided, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. Masson, Morrison, Sommerville, Clarke, Henderson, Scott, Allan, Lindsay, Wilson, Hume, Henderson, and Reoch; Misses Wigham, Taylour, Morrison, &c., and Ex-Bailie Walker; Councillors Simpson, Adam, Wilson, Clark; Messrs. Morrison, Sommerville, W. N. Lindsay, Dowie, Gilchrist, D. W. Henderson, W. Sturrock, Helm, Irons, Tait, &c. Resolutions in support of the Bill were moved and seconded by Mrs. Masson, Ex-Bailie Walker, Mr. D. W. Henderson, Councillor Simpson, and Councillor Adam, and carried with acclamation. A vote of thanks to the chairman was adopted on the motion of Miss Wigham, seconded by Miss Taylour, and the meeting separated.

Miss Craigen has held meetings in the following places:—November 14, in the New Town Hall, BANCHORY TERNAN, Kincardineshire; on November 19, in the Mechanics' Hall, FORRES; November 26, in the County Hall, BANFF; in December, in the Public Hall, ABERDEEN; in the School Room, Ward Road Chapel, DUNDEE; at BROUGHLY FERRY; on December 23, in the Free Church School, BUCKIE, Banff; on December 31, in the School Room, AULDEAN, Nairn; on January 8, in the Baptist Chapel, GRANTOUN, Inverness; on January 13, in the Academy, FORTROSE, Inverness; on January 26, in the Parish School, ROSEMARKIE, Inverness; on January 26, in the Parish School AVOCK, Ross; and on February 20, in the Madras School, BUCKHAVEN, Fife. At all these meetings, except that at Auldean, petitions were adopted in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

The following members have been returned to the new Parliament. Those who have voted or declared in favour of the principles of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill are distinguished by s. Those who did not sit in the late Parliament are indicated by n.

Constituency.	Members.	Constituency.	Members.	Constituency.	Members.
Abingdon	nJ. C. Clarke, L	Cheltenham	nL. J. T. Agg-Gardner, C	Eye	Viscount Barrington, C
Andover	nCapt. Wellesley, C	Cheshire, East	W. J. Legh, C	Finsbury	sW. T. M. Torrens, L
Anglesey	R. Davies, L		W. C. Brooks, C		sAlderman Lusk, L
Ashton-under-Lyne	sT. W. Mellor, C	Cheshire, Mid	Hon. W. Egerton, C	Flint	nS. P. E. Eyton, L
Aylesbury	S. G. Smith, C		Colonel Leigh, C	Flintshire	Lord R. Grosvenor, L
	N. M. Rothschild, L	Cheshire, West	Sir P. Egerton, C	Frome	H. C. Lopes, Q.C., C
Banbury	sB. Samuelson, L		W. F. Tollemache, C	Gateshead	nW. H. James, L
Barnstaple	nS. D. Waddy, L	Chester	H. C. Raikes, C	Glamorganshire	sC. R. M. Talbot, L
	T. Cave, L		Rt. Hn. J. G. Dodson, L		H. H. Vivian, L
Bath	nMajor Bousfield, C	Chichester	sLord H. Lennox, C	Gloucester	sW. K. Wait, C
	Captain Hayter, L	Chippenham	G. Goldney, C		J. Monk, L
Beaumaris	nM. Lloyd, Q.C., L	Christchurch	nSir H. D. Wolff, C	Gloucester, East	Sir M. Beach, C
Bedford	S. Whitbread, L	Cirencester	sA. A. Bathurst, C		sJ. R. Yorke, C
	nCapt. Polhill Turner, C	Cliotheroe	R. Assheton, C	Gloucester, West	nHon. R. E. Plunket, C
Bedfordshire	sColonel Gilpin, C	Cockermouth	sJ. Fletcher, L		Colonel Kingscote, L
	sF. Bassett, L	Colchester	Colonel Learmonth, C	Grantham	nCaptain Cust, C
Berks	Colonel L. Lindsay, C		nH. B. Praed, C		Sir H. Cholmeley, L
	R. Benyon, C	Cornwall, East	nJ. Tremayne, C	Gravesend	nCaptain B. Pim, C
	J. Walter, L		nJ. Rashleigh, C	Greenwich	sT. W. Boord, C
Berwick	nSir D. Majoribanks, L	Cornwall, West	Sir J. St. Aubyn, L		Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, L
	nCaptain Milne Home		A. P. Vivian, L	Grimsby	nJ. Chapman, C
Bewdley	nC. Harrison, L	Coventry	H. W. Eaton, C	Guildford	nD. Onslow, C
Birkenhead	J. Laird, C		nH. M. Jackson, L	Hackney	sC. Reed, L
Birmingham	sRt. Hon. J. Bright, L	Cricklade	Sir D. Gooch, C		J. Holms, L
	nG. Dixon, L		nA. L. Goddard, C	Halifax	sRt. Hon. J. Stansfeld,
	sP. H. Muntz, L	Cumberland, East	W. N. Hodgson, C		nH. Crossley, L
Blackburn	nMr. W. Briggs, L		Hon. C. Howard, L	Hampshire, North	G. Sclater-Booth, C
	nH. E. Leveson-Gower, L	Cumberland, West	Hon. P. Wyndham, C		sW. W. B. Beach, C
Bodmin	sJ. Hick, C		Lord Muncaster, C	Hampshire, South	sRt. Hon. W. F. Cowper-
Bolton	nJ. K. Cross, L	Darlington	sE. Backhouse, L		Temple, L
	nW. G. Ingram, L	Denbigh District	W. Williams, L	Hartlepool	nRichardson, L
Boston	nT. Parry, L	Denbighshire	Sir W. Wynn, C	Harwich	Lieut.-Col. Jervis, C
	Rt. Hn. W. E. Forster, L	Derby	G. O. Morgan, L	Hastings	Thomas Brassey, L
Bradford	nH. W. Ripley, L		sM. T. Bass, L		U. J. Kay-Shuttleworth, L
	J. P. G. Holford, C	Derbyshire, East	sS. Plimsole, L	Haverfordwest	sLord Kensington, L
Brecknockshire	sHon. G. Morgan, C		nF. Arkwright, C	Helston	sA. W. Young, L
Bridgnorth	H. Foster, Ind.	Derbyshire, North	Captain Arkwright C	Hereford	nE. Pateshall
Bridport	sT. A. Mitchell, L		Lord G. Cavendish, L		nChive, L
Brighton	nJames Ashbury, C	Derbyshire, South	nT. W. Evans, L	Herefordshire	Sir J. E. Bailey, C
	nGeneral Shute, C		Sir H. Wilmot, C		nMajor Pelope, C
Bristol	sS. Morley, L	Devizes	sSir T. Bateson, C		sM. Biddulph, L
	sK. D. Hodgson, L	Devonport	nS. J. H. Puleston, C	Hertford	nA. J. Balfour, C
Buckingham	nE. Hubbard, C		nCaptain Price, C	Hertfordshire	A. Smith, C
Bucks	sRt. Hon. B. Disraeli, C	Devonshire, East	sSir L. Palk, C		nT. F. Halsey, C
	nSir R. Harvey, C		sSir J. Kennaway, C	Horsham	Hon. F. Cowper, L
	nG. Lambert, L	Devonshire, North	Sir S. Northcote, C		nSir S. Fitzgerald, C
Burnley	sR. Shaw, L		Sir T. Acland, L	Huddersfield	E. A. Leatham, L
Bury	nR. N. Philips, L	Devonshire, South	Sir Massey Lopes, C	Hull	sC. M. Norwood, L
Bury St. Edmunds	E. Greene, C		J. C. Garnier, C		nS. C. H. Wilson, L
	nLord F. Hervey, C	Dewsbury	sSerjeant Simon, L	Huntingdon	Sir John Karslake, C
Calne	sLord E. Fitzmaurice, L	Dorchester	nW. E. Brymer, C		E. Fellowes, C
Cambridge	nP. B. Smollett, C	Dorsetshire	H. Gerard Sturt, C	Huntingdonshire	nSir H. Pelly, C
	nA. G. Marten, C		J. Floyer, C		Hn. W. H. B. Portman, L
Cambridgeshire	Lord G. Manners, C	Dover	sMajor Dickson, C	Hythe	nSir E. Watkin, L
	sHon. E. C. Yorke, C		nMr. Freshfield, C	Ipswich	nJ. P. Cobbold, L
	Right Hon. H. Brand, L	Droitwich	nJ. Corbett, L		nJ. R. Bulwer, C
Cambridge University	Rt. Hon. S. Walpole, C		nH. B. Sheridan, L	Isle of Wight	A. B. Cochrane, C
	A. J. B. Hope, C	Dudley	nJ. L. Bell, L	Kendal	J. Whitwell, L
Canterbury	nL. A. Majendie, C	Durham, North	nC. M. Palmer, L	Kent, East	E. L. Pemberton, C
	Clonel Stuart, L		J. W. Pease, L		Hon. G. W. Milles, C
Cardiff	nDavid Davies, L	Durham, South	sMajor Beaumont, L	Kent, Mid	W. H. Dyke, C
Cardigan District	nT. E. Lloyd, C		sJ. Henderson, L		sViscount Holmesdale, C
Cardiganshire	nSir W. Lawson, L	Durham	nT. C. Thompson, L	Kent, West	C. H. Mills, C
Cardle	nFerguson, L	Essex, East	sJ. Round, C		J. G. Talbot, C
	nC. W. Neville, C		sColonel Brise, C	Kidderminster	nAlbert Grant, C
Carmarthen District	sJ. Jones, C		nT. C. Baring, C	Knaresborough	nBasil Woodd, L
Carmarthenshire	nViscount Emlyn, C	Essex, South	nLieut.-Col. Makins, C	Lambeth	Sir J. Lawrence, L
	W. B. Hughes, L		sSir H. Selwin-Ibbetson, C		W. M. Arthur, L
Carnarvonshire	nHon. G. D. Pennant, C	Essex, W.	Lord E. Cecil, C	Lancashire, North	Capt. Hon. F. Stanley, C
	nAdmiral Elliot, C		Colonel Bourne, C		Colonel Wilson-Patten, C
Chatham	nW. Gordon, C	Evesham	nA. Mills, C	Lancashire, N'th-East	sJ. M. Holt, C
Chelsea	sSir C. Dilke, L	Exeter	nJ. G. Johnson, C		J. C. P. Starkie, C
				Lancashire, S'th-East	Hon. A. Egerton, C
					nE. Hardcastle, C

Table listing constituencies and members for the Women's Suffrage Journal, page 46. Includes entries for Lancashire, Leicestershire, London, and various other regions with names of members.

Table listing constituencies and members for the Women's Suffrage Journal, page 47. Includes sections for SCOTLAND, IRELAND, and various other regions with names of members.

UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

The following candidates, not in the last Parliament, who were unsuccessful in the recent elections, have declared themselves favourable to women's suffrage. Many of them will probably present themselves to constituencies on future occasions, and their candidature will be of interest to friends of the cause :-

Table listing names of unsuccessful candidates for women's suffrage, including names like Miller, Muntz, Odger, Paget, Pochin, etc.

QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS TO CANDIDATES.

BOLTON.

At a mass meeting, held in the Temperance Hall, Mr. Knowles said, "I may just add that the ladies representing the Women's Suffrage Movement called on me to-day to ask if I would support the admission of women to the suffrage in the election of members of parliament. I have no hesitation to state publicly that I think they ought not to be excluded from the suffrage, and, as they vote in the municipal elections, I think they ought to vote in the parliamentary elections."

DARLINGTON.

At a large meeting, in the Central Hall, Darlington, Mr. Backhouse, in reply to two questions, said that he was in favour of legal protection of the property of married women, and in favour of the principle that women who paid rates and taxes should have votes.

DOLLAR.

The Rev. Mr. Wilson asked if Mr. Adam was favourable to the extension of the suffrage to properly qualified women householders. Mr. Adam said that when the ladies of the country gave evidence that they really wanted the franchise he could see no logical reason why they should not have it.

PAISLEY.

In reply to a question, Mr. Holmes said that where women paid rates for property, which if held by men would entitle them to vote, he would be willing in such a case to confer the suffrage on women.

SHEFFIELD.

In reply to questions, Mr. Chamberlain said he was in favour of extending the franchise to women. Mr. Roebuck expressed himself in favour of extending the suffrage to unmarried women.

LEEDS.

At a meeting of the supporters of the Conservative candidates, Messrs. Wheelhouse and Tennant, it appeared that a lady had addressed a letter to each candidate asking if they would give votes to women who were householders paying their own rates and taxes. Both candidates answered that they would.

YORKSHIRE, WEST RIDING, NORTH DIVISION.

At a meeting at the Mechanics' Hall, Halifax, Lord F. Cavendish said he would not support the extension of the franchise to women. A lady beside him (Lady F. Cavendish) did not wish it. Mr. Wilson said that beyond a question women should have a vote. Both candidates were returned.

YORK.

A deputation of ladies waited on Mr. Leeman, at his committee rooms, to solicit his support to the movement for the enfranchisement of women. After hearing the deputation, Mr. Leeman said that though he had formerly come to a conclusion adverse to the Bill he was quite prepared to give the subject further consideration, and he might say more—his favourable consideration.

MERTHYR TYDVIL.

Mr. Fothergill, at Vaynor, expressed himself as a strong advocate of women's suffrage. He thought that all those women who contributed their proportion to the rates of the country should have a voice in the expenditure of the rates.

WHITBY.

A deputation waited upon Mr. W. H. Gladstone at Whitby. After listening to the arguments of the speakers, Mr. Gladstone admitted that individual ladies were fitted for the suffrage, but to give it to the class ran counter to all his feelings. The statements of the deputation had, however, made considerable impression upon him, particularly that about the large number of self-dependent women. The next time the subject was under debate in the House he would go down and listen to the speeches and acquaint himself with all the arguments, which he must acknowledge he had not yet done.

The following 106 constituencies give an undivided vote for women's suffrage. In the last Parliament the number of constituencies who gave a clear and full vote for the Bill was 98:—

Table listing 106 constituencies and their corresponding numbers, such as Ashton-under-Lyne (1), Sunderland (2), Swansea (1), etc.

DO WOMEN WANT THE SUFFRAGE?

Mr. Kirkman Hodgson, recently elected as M.P. for Bristol by nearly 9,000 votes, has until lately resisted women's suffrage. But, on the 18th of December last, when addressed by a deputation of ladies, he replied that he did not believe women to desire the suffrage. "However," added he, "I will abandon this position if you will bring me the signatures of half the women burgesses in Bristol:" who were understood to amount to 1,300. Thus 650 signatures were all that he asked for.

The ladies had plenty beside to occupy them; nevertheless they set to work, and succeeded in getting 1,240 signatures before the election came on. (The number of women artificially excluded from voting had been underrated.) Mr. Hodgson honourably confessed himself overcome, and declared that he would in future vote for the removal of women's disabilities.

It is remarkable that all the four candidates at Bristol (two Conservatives and two Liberals) have come over to the women's cause. Mr. Chambers announced his conversion after the voting was ended, and before there had been time to count the tickets.

But after all is it not hard and unfair to impose on ladies such tasks? If it is just that they vote on an equality with men, how can their just claim be lowered, if some or many of their sex do not desire the vote? Men are never disfranchised, because other men despise the privilege or neglect the duty of voting. Moreover, women who do desire it, are often too despondent to come forward and claim the right, seeing how little weight they have with parliament; but when they distinctly understand that their signatures will effect something, they are stirred into greater earnestness. This little experiment may well be an augury of women's feelings in other towns besides Bristol.

THE FATHERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There are returned to the new House of Commons only three members who held seats prior to the passing of the Reform Act of 1832, namely, General Forester, who represents the borough of Much Wenlock, elected in 1828; and Mr. Christopher R. M. Talbot, Glamorganshire, and Sir Philip Egerton, West Cheshire, returned in 1830. Both General Forester and Mr. Talbot have had the honour of holding their seats from the dates above mentioned without interruption down to the present time, the one for 46 and the other for 44 years. We are proud of the honour of numbering these gentlemen among the steady supporters of women's suffrage. Both supported Mr. Mill's amendment in 1867, and General Forester voted in the last three and Mr. Talbot in all the five divisions which have taken place on Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill. In addressing his constituents at Bridgend, Glamorganshire, on Feb. 7, Mr. Talbot said he had always voted in favour of female suffrage. (Loud cheers.) He did not see it right or reasonable that when a man died, who while he lived had a vote, and leaves his property to his widow, that she should not have a vote. It was the property that was represented, not the man, and the property remained the same after his death. He also believed that a woman was capable of exercising the franchise quite as conscientiously as any man, and property did not deteriorate in value because a female was in possession.

During the recent Parliamentary election in Salford, a woman, whose name was in the register, tendered her vote. The returning officer gave her a ballot paper, which she duly filled up and deposited in the box. We understand that a woman also voted in Bury, Lancashire.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE JANUARY 20th, 1874.

Table listing names and amounts, such as Mrs. Charles Thomas (10 0 0), Mr. W. Somerville (4 0 0), Miss Thomas (2 0 0), etc.

£39 17 6

ANNIE WESTLAND, Secretary.

Office: 53, Park Street, Bristol. Cheques and Post-office orders may be made payable to the Treasurer, Miss Estlin, 16, Belgrave Road, Clifton, and to the Secretary, 53, Park Street, Bristol; or through Messrs. Stuckey's Banking Company, Clifton.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!

Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid with the work of collecting signatures for the petitions to be presented on the opening of the new Parliament.

MEMORIALS TO MR. DISRAELI AND MR. GLADSTONE.

Memorials to Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Gladstone are in course of signature by women of the United Kingdom, and the help of friends in collecting signatures is earnestly desired.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY, 1874.

Table listing names and amounts of subscriptions and donations received during February 1874, including Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Mrs. Chas. Holland, etc.

107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, Treasurer. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, and may be sent either direct to him at 107, Upper Brook-street; or to the Secretary, Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Contributions to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 9, Berners Street, London, W., from December 24th, 1873, to February 21st, 1874.

Table listing names and amounts of contributions to the Central Committee, including A Friend, per Mrs. Jacob Bright, George Sims, Esq., Mrs. Andrew Laurie, etc.

EMMA A. PATERSON, Secretary, pro tem.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED SINCE APRIL, 1873.

Table listing names and amounts of contributions received since April 1873, including Mrs. Oates, Mr. J. K. Lord, Mr. Edward Baines, etc.

Offices: 1, Victoria Chambers, South Parade, Leeds. Mrs. SCATCHERD, Secretary. Mrs. EDWARD WALKER, Treasurer.

DIPLOMA OF MERIT, VIENNA EXHIBITION, 1873.

GOODALL'S BAKING POWDER.

THE BEST PENNY PACKET IN THE WORLD. For making delicious Bread, Puddings, Pastry, &c., with half the usual quantity of Butter, Lard, or Eggs.

Sold by Druggists, Grocers, and Oilmen, in 1d. Packets, 6d., 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. Tins.

PROPRIETORS: GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., Leeds.

DIPLOMA OF MERIT, VIENNA EXHIBITION, 1873.

THE CELEBRATED YORKSHIRE RELISH.

The most delicious and cheapest Sauce in the world. 672,192 Bottles Sold in one Month (August, 1872).

MANUFACTURERS: GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., Leeds.

DIPLOMA OF MERIT, VIENNA EXHIBITION, 1873.

GOODALL'S QUININE WINE

Is an invaluable and agreeable Stomachic to all suffering from General Debility, Indigestion, Nervousness, and Loss of Appetite, and acknowledged to be THE BEST AND CHEAPEST TONIC YET INTRODUCED TO THE PUBLIC.

Sold by Grocers, Chemists, &c., in large bottles at 1s. and 2s. each. PREPARED BY GOODALL, BACKHOUSE, & CO., Leeds.

Royal Devonshire Serge

LONG STAPLED ELASTIC WOOLS

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