

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XX.—No. 235. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

JULY 1, 1889.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

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NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT THE
WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

ON TUESDAY, JULY 9TH, 1889,

To receive the Report and Financial Statement, and to elect the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Sir RICHARD TEMPLE, Bt., M.P., Sir ALBERT ROLLIT, M.P., Baron DIMSDALE, M.P., HENRY KIMBER, Esq., M.P., WALTER M'LAREN, Esq., M.P., The Hon. Mrs. COLBORNE, Mrs. FAWCETT, Mrs. S. SPRING-RICE, Miss BECKER, Miss EMILY DAVIES, Miss MORDAN, Lady KNIGHTLEY, Rev. J. VERSCHOYLE, Sir JOHN PULESTON, M.P., Captain EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE, M.P., and other ladies and gentlemen are expected to be present.

THE CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 3 O'CLOCK BY

THE COUNTESS OF PORTSMOUTH.

Doors open at 2-30. The attendance of Members and Friends is invited.

MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION.

An Appeal from the Women of England ... 1d.
The Woman's View of the Question ... 1d.
A Letter to English Wives. By Edith Mary Shaw ... 6d.
A Lady's Letter to a Friend, on behalf of those who do not wish to Marry their Brothers ... 3d.
What Miss Lydia Becker says ... 3d.
A Sister-in-Law's Plea for Mercy ... per doz. 2d.
A Woman's Opinion on the Wife's Sister Bill 3d.

May be had at 35, King-street, Westminster, S.W.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The whole principle on which the Marriage Law of this land is based is involved in the acceptance or rejection of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. In all countries where the Marriage Law differs from our own in this particular it differs in others, not generally acceptable even to Marriage Law reformers, permitting marriage not only with a husband's brother, or a man and his stepdaughter, but between such near blood relations as uncle and niece. THOSE WHO DO NOT DESIRE TO SEE THESE CHANGES SHOULD DO THEIR UTMOST TO MAINTAIN THE LAW AS IT IS.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

cally complained that the woman whom he was trying to rob had "nearly throttled him."

A few months ago the Watch Committee of the Manchester Council presented a new umbrella and an address of thanks to a lady who had, with her own umbrella, captured a ruffian and held him in custody until she could give him in charge to the police; the umbrella was broken in the struggle. Shortly afterwards a similar presentation was made by the Liverpool Corporation to a lady who had rendered a similar service in Liverpool.

Not very long ago we heard an English officer, who had held a command in British Honduras, relate in a public lecture that on one occasion he went with a party of soldiers to protect a lady's house which was threatened by the attacks of hostile Indians. On his arrival he found the lady sitting with a row of firearms ready for use at a well-furnished breakfast table. She was, as she told him, "prepared either for friends or foes."

In grave crises of national danger women have always borne a worthy part. If it is true that, as a rule, there is usually no occasion for women to fight while men are there to do the fighting for them, it is none the less true that women render active and efficient help to the actual combatants, and that they bear their full share of the calamities and sacrifices of war, a share oftentimes harder to bear than that which falls to the lot of the men.

AMONG the measures which appear hopelessly stranded amid the pressure of Parliamentary business is a Bill introduced by Mr. AMBROSE for the redress of a most cruel and glaring injustice to widows. The promoters preface their Bill with the following memorandum:—

Under the present law, if a married woman dies intestate her husband takes *jure mariti* the whole of her personal property which he has not already reduced into possession and which was not settled to her separate use, and he also takes as her legal administrator—but for his own use—all property settled to her separate use either by deed or will. If, however, the husband dies without issue, the widow takes only one half of her husband's personalty, and the remaining half becomes divisible between the husband's next-of-kin—generally his brothers and sisters or their descendants, but sometimes very distant relations,—whilst with regard to the realty the widow is only entitled to a life estate in one-third as her dower, and even that is not certain, for by the practice of conveyancers the dower is generally barred by the form of the conveyance. The Bill, therefore, provides that when

a man dies leaving a widow and no issue, and leaving real and personal estate not exceeding five hundred pounds, the widow shall take the whole, and where the estate exceeds five hundred pounds the widow shall take five hundred pounds for her portion before any distribution is made, and in addition to that shall take her moiety of the residue, leaving the other moiety of the residue only for the next-of-kin. This is carried out where the estate exceeds five hundred pounds by creating a charge in favour of the widow to the extent of that sum, and apportioning the burthen upon the real and personal estates in proportion to their respective values. The Bill also contains rules for determining the respective values, so as to avoid any possible ground for increased litigation or pretence for throwing these small estates either into Chancery or the county court.

There appears to be no possible chance for this Bill becoming law during the present Session. The injustice affects an unrepresented class; but if widows had votes the gross hardship and injustice of the existing law would probably not outlast the Session in which they became enfranchised.

WE beg to call the attention of our readers to the annual general meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, which is to take place in the Westminster Town Hall, at three o'clock, on Tuesday, the ninth of July, under the presidency of the Countess of PORTSMOUTH. The occasion will afford an opportunity for replying to some of the objections recently brought against the proposed extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, and it is to be hoped that besides the ordinary members and friends of the Society the meeting may be attended by many of the ladies who have joined in the declaration in its favour. We trust that many of these ladies will follow up the expression of their opinion by giving substantial support to the work, and connecting themselves more closely with the Society.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF WOMEN.

In addressing a liberal meeting at Camelford during his recent tour in the West of England, Mr. Gladstone said you have expressed a hope for the greater activity of the ladies in the future in carrying on British concerns. Well, I must say this, that twenty or thirty years ago our Statute-book contained many provisions which were of the grossest inequality and injustice as regarded women. I greatly rejoice to think that a very large proportion of these inequalities have been completely removed, and without attempting to forecast what will happen in the future in this particular, and without venturing to give a judgment on the exercise of this or that privilege, I must say I feel very strong confidence that, upon the whole, the political relations between men and women are likely to be satisfactorily adjusted, and that no reproach is likely to attach to the future of this country in that important respect.

DECLARATION IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

An appeal against the proposed extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, signed by ladies, having appeared in the *Nineteenth Century Review*, it was thought desirable that the opinion of ladies in favour of the proposal should also be heard, and the Editor of the *Fortnightly Review* kindly made arrangements to give publicity to such opinions.

A circular, signed by Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Becker, was accordingly prepared and sent out for the purpose of collecting signatures. In distributing the circulars mere numbers were not aimed at, it being obviously impossible that the pages of a magazine article could contain more than a small proportion of the names of the women who desire to show their approval of women's suffrage, and their indignation at the attempt made by the protesters in the *Nineteenth Century* to prevent the accomplishment of the object. It was sought to make the list representative rather than exhaustive, and more especially representative of women whose distinction was owing to their own work and abilities.

The response was immediate and earnest, and signatures began to pour in, accompanied with requests for more papers. Within a few days upwards of fifteen hundred signatures of women of all ranks and classes of society were received at 10, Great College-street. It soon became necessary to restrain the issue of circulars. A list of nearly six hundred names was selected from the fifteen hundred sent to Great College-street. To these were added about thirty names selected from a list furnished to the Editor of the *Fortnightly Review*, by the secretary at 29, Parliament-street, and a representative list of working women sent through the same channel by the secretary of the Women's Protective and Provident League, and other organisations of working women. The list, as it appears in the current number of the *Fortnightly Review*, contains about six hundred names, which have been classified as follows:—

1. General list.
2. Wives of clergymen and church dignitaries.
3. Official: Poor-law guardians, members of school boards, etc.
4. Education, *i.e.*, (a) pioneers of the movement, (b) university officials and tutors, (c) head mistresses of high schools, (d) university graduates, and certificated students.
5. Medical and nursing, registered medical practitioners, and women connected with nursing.
6. Workers in social and philanthropic movements.
7. Literature, authors and journalists.
8. Artists and musicians.
9. Landowners, women engaged in business, and working women.

The general list contains the Dowager Marchioness of Huntly, followed by the Lady Frances Balfour, the Dowager Countess of Shrewsbury, the Countess of Carlisle, the Countess of Portsmouth, and many others, including the Lady Dorothy Nevill, the Lady Mount Temple, the Hon. Mrs. Colborne, Directress of Needlework Department, Whitehall, Lady Matheson, Mrs. Adams, Miss Balfour, Mrs. Leonard Courtney, Mrs. Francis Darwin, Mrs. J. G. Fitch, Mrs. Archer Gurney.

The list of wives of clergymen and church dignitaries begins with the names of Mrs. Benson, Lambeth Palace, and Mrs. Thomson, Bishopthorpe, York, followed by wives of other bishops and clergymen.

The official list includes thirty-one Poor Law Guardians, and twenty-three members of School Boards.

The educational list has the names of Mrs. Wm. Grey, Miss Emily Shirreff, Miss Emily Davies, Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, the Mistress and Vice-Mistress of Girton College, the Principal of Newnham College, many university lecturers and tutors, upwards of fifty head mistresses of high schools, about ninety university graduates and certificated students, and upwards of one hundred ladies engaged in teaching as a profession.

The list of registered Medical Practitioners comprises Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., Miss Emily Blackwell, M.D., Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., with twenty-nine others. To these are added twenty-six medical students and twenty-three ladies connected with dispensing and nursing.

The list of social and philanthropic workers includes the names

of Miss L. M. Hubbard, Miss A. P. Irby, Miss E. A. Manning, and upwards of forty others.

Literature is represented by Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Mrs. Richmond Thackeray Ritchie, Miss Amelia B. Edwards, Mrs. Pfeiffer, Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Emily Crawford, Miss Olive Schreiner, Miss Anna Swanwick, Miss S. D. Collet, Mrs. Eiloart, Mrs. Notley, and upwards of eighty other ladies who are authors and journalists.

Art and music are represented by Mrs. E. W. Ward, Madame Louisa Starr Canziani, Mrs. Jopling, Madame Autoinette Sterling, Miss Dacre, Miss Agnes Zimmerman, and about ninety other ladies following art and music as a profession.

The list of landowners includes about twenty ladies who are owners of landed property, followed by many names of women engaged in business, and is concluded by a list of women's trade societies and about 184 other working women.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

The following women among others signed the declaration in addition to those names printed in the *Fortnightly Review*:—

GENERAL LIST.

Mrs. Henry Adair, Beatrice Adair, Helen Adair, Oxford; Miss Mary Gray Allen, Londonderry; Mrs. Allen, wife of J. H. Allen, J.P.; M. A. Allpress, Reigate; Mrs. Hall Anderson, Miss Anderson; Marian Andrews, Belfast; Mrs. Armstrong, Sheffield Gardens; Miss Emma Avery, Reigate; Mary Backhouse, Mary L. Backhouse, York; Agnes C. Bacon, Brighton; E. Bailbache, Hornsey; Mrs. J. S. Baily, Birmingham; Mrs. Balfour (widow), 15, Hanover Terrace; Miss K. Balfour, Bromley; Mrs. S. B. Bancroft; Mrs. Barber, Darwen; Mrs. Barnett, 21, Fopstone Road; Mrs. Baxter, Miss Adelaide Baxter, Miss Ethel Baxter, Miss Ellen S. Baxter, Reigate; Mrs. Fleming Baxter; Miss Annette Bear, B. Bear; Miss E. A. Becker, Ryde, I. of W.; Emma C. Beilby, Slatford, N.B.; D. Bennett, M. E. Bennett, E. Bennett, St. Asaph; Mrs. Edith Nevitt Bennett (widow); Miss Louisa Bigg; Miss C. Birrell, Cupar; Mrs. Bishop, Llandoverly; Mrs. W. Bleackley, Prestwich; Margaret Booth, Burnham Gore; Mrs. Bradford, Llandrindod; The Misses Bragg, Plymouth; Mrs. F. D. Bridges, Gillingham; Mrs. Brimmell, Finsbury Park; Mrs. Brine, Teignmouth; Mrs. Brook, Meltham; Edith Brooke, Honley; Mrs. Brock, Bexhill; Mrs. Alfred Brown, Canfield Gardens; Emily Brownfield, Winchester; Miss Emily Bruce, Hyde Park Square; Miss Kathleen Burke, Bath; Mrs. F. G. Byles, Shipley; Lucy Cambridge, Croydon; Mrs. Cape, Dalston; Henrietta Carey, Nottingham; Mrs. V. I. Chamberlain; Isabel S. Chalmers, Redhill; Mrs. Channing-Pearce, Ramsgate; Phillis Chanter, Wotton-under-Edge; Miss Charlton, of Heselby; Mrs. Cheesman, Buckingham; Miss Chickall, Kelvedon; Miss Child, Wotton-under-Edge; Mrs. C. Clarke, Addison Road; Mrs. C. Clothier, Miss C. B. Clothier, Street, Somerset; Mrs. M. A. Clarke, Miss M. E. B. Clarke, Headington; Mrs. H. Cowen, Upper Phillimore Place; Jane M. Cole, Bath; Mrs. Emma Cooper, Colville Gardens; Mrs. Cowell, Westbourne Square; C. A. M. Cotterell, York; Mrs. Costelloe, Grosvenor Road; A. J. Cook, Hadley; Annette Cowan, Southsea; Mrs. E. Condy, E. J. Condy, Folkestone; J. M. Cole, Bath; Mrs. F. A. Cooke, Donneybrook; Miss Ellen Cons; Mrs. J. Crook, Bolton; Miss Crosland, Ellerslie House, Worcester; J. L. Cumming, Ambleside; E. C. Cunningham, Dublin; Miss W. M. Dalziel, Glenluce, N.B.; Emma Dearman, Brookside, Sale; Mary A. Dicksee, 2, Fitzroy Square; Margaret Dickson, Gordon Square; Mrs. Diploke, Falmouth; Mary Elizabeth Docwra, Greys, Kelvedon; F. L. Douglas, Kirkaldy, N.B.; Miss Alice Dowson, The Park, Nottingham; Miss E. B. Drewry; Mrs. Drinkwater, Cheyne Gardens; Miss Mary Duer, Miss Sarah Catherine Duer, Cleygate House, Esher; Mrs. Dymond, Miss Dymond, Enfield; Mrs. Fred Eastwood, Huddersfield; Mrs. Eccles, Cambridge; Emily E. Edgar, Stoke Pogis; Mrs. Joseph Edmondson, Halifax; Marian Ellis, Agnes E. Ellis, Leicester; Anna Ely, Emilie Ely, Croydon; Constance H. Evans, Reigate; Gertrude Ferabec, Brinscombe, Gloucester; Elizabeth Findlay, 22, Lynedock-street, Glasgow; Mrs. Flower, Stratford-on-Avon, Isabella O. Ford, Elizabeth Helen Ford, Emily Susan Ford (artist), Adel Grange, Leeds; Sophia L. Forrest, Oxtou; Miss Fox, Aldeburgh; Emma A. Frampton, Fanny G. Frampton, Chepstow Place; Sarah M. Fryer, Wilmslow; Miss Galloway, Kensington; Mrs. German, Sevenoaks; Mrs. Gillett, Stratford-on-Avon; M. S. Gilliland,

Londonderry; Emilie Ginsburg, Virginia Water; Miss Alice T. Glyde, Shipley; Sarah A. Gostling, 63, Lincoln's Inn Fields; Miss Gonino; Miss Elizabeth Gordon, 21, Upper Baker-street; Charlotte Gower, Alice Gower, 36, Clarendon Villas, West Brighton; Jessie T. Grieg, Glasgow; Miss Guildford, Park, Nottingham; E. K. Guthrie, Ambleside; Miss Isabel Gwynne; Mrs. Arthur E. Haigh, Oxford; M. A. Haines, Barnet; Mrs. Haines, Miss Alice M. Haines, Melbourne; Miss Jane C. Haines, Melbourne, Derby, and ten Sunday school teachers; Mrs. Hall, Stoke Bishop, Bristol; Mrs. Harker, 32, Fassett Square, Dalston; Letitia T. Harrison, E. Beatrice Harrison, Chester Place, N.W.; F. J. Heaton, Belvedere; Miss H. B. Heyn, Miss E. M. Heyn, Miss Marie Heyn, Belfast; Mrs. Higginson, Bromley; Mrs. Hill, Wandsworth; Mrs. C. H. Hodgson, Belgrave Road; Mrs. W. B. Hodgson, Edinburgh; Mrs. Hollins, 5, Queen's Gate Place; Mrs. Hook-Watson, Wotton-under-Edge; Mrs. H. Hore, Oakley House, Shrewsbury; Mrs. Stephenson Hunter, Oxford; Mrs. Imlach, Liverpool; Mrs. Jeffery, Bath; Agnes Johnson, Chiselhurst; Miss G. A. H. Johnston, Ballykilbeg; Miss Johnstone, Moreton Rectory, Buckingham; Mrs. V. Jones, Cardiff; Mrs. Kempton, Sudbury; Charlotte King Kerr, Belfast; Mrs. King, Reigate; Mrs. Knipe, Melbourne; Miss E. C. Knipe, Malvern; J. Kyle, Coatham, Redcar; Jane Lassell, Caroline Lassell, Maidenhead; Miss S. Frances Latimer, Plymouth; Rose M. Leaf, Marlborough; Mrs. and the Misses Lee, Victoria Square, Clifton; Miss C. L'Estrange, Dublin; Mrs. Lewin, Lower Bebington; Frances A. Lewin, Birkdale; Miss Gertrude Light; Mrs. W. Livesay, Sudbury; Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. J. W. Lowe, Ettington; Mrs. Macmillan-Scott, Pinnaclehill, Kelso; Sarah E. Siddons Meir, Edinburgh; Agnes C. Maitland, Liverpool; Mrs. Malleson, Croydon; Mrs. Malleson, Cheltenham; Mrs. M'Kendrick, Glasgow; E. M'Carthy, Registrar Gov. Assoc. of Ireland; Miss May Constance Martineau, London; Miss Alice L. Meinertzhagen, Wimbledon; Mrs. and Miss Millar, Edinburgh; Miss M. Millar, Cupar; Miss E. Millett, Teignmouth; Mrs. Mitchell, 41, Addison Gardens North, W.; Mrs. and Miss Molesworth, Bath; Miss Montefiore, Acton; Miss H. Ogle Moore; Mrs. Moore, Stratford-on-Avon; Susan Selena Monro, Bonchurch; Mrs. Mordan, Surbiton; Miss Mors, Miss Henrietta Mors, Miss F. Mors, Acton; Mrs. Monro, Hempstead; Miss Alma L. Nettleton; Mrs. Newton-Robinson; Mrs. Nicholletts, H.M.S. Formidable, Bristol Training Ship; M. E. Nicholson, Southport; Louisa Nodal, Sale; Julia Peacock, Brighton; Anna Pigott, Reigate; G. F. Pigott, Havant; Mrs. Arthur Phillott, Miss E. F. Phillott; C. Leslie Powell, Blackheath; Mrs. Paine, Enfield; Mrs. Ponsonby, Roscrea; Miss Rosa E. Pease; Mrs. Pilcher, Oxford; Ellen Josephine Philips, Sutton Oak, Macclesfield; G. M. S. Osborne, Glasgow; Elizabeth Osborn, Leytonstone; Mrs. O'Donnell, Regent's Park; Mrs. J. H. Perry, Bristol; Harriette Rigby, Monk Coniston; Miss Rooker, Plymouth; Julia Rendall, Bridport; E. M. Renshaw, Lindenholme, Sale; Mrs. Reid, Hon. Sec., Oxford Local Exam., Swansea; Frances A. Rawnsley, Oxford; Adah Reith, Glasgow; Gertrude S. Rowntree, D. Rowntree, York; Mrs. Stevenson, Harrogate; E. A. Sidebottom, Miss A. E. Scholefield, Reigate; Mrs. and Miss Scholefield, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mrs. Scholefield, Gosforth; Miss A. Beatrice Swinton, Clifton; Miss Surrage, Clifton; Mrs. Spoor, Cheltenham; Mrs. Isla Sitwell, West Kensington, W.; Mrs. H. Pearsall Smith; Emily Sission, Eliza Sission, Wandsworth; Henrietta Mary Stodart, Edinburgh; P. S. B. Smith, Georgina Smith, Berners-street; Mrs. Francis Storr; Miss Eleanor Stacey, Stratford-on-Avon; Mrs. Stoker, Rathgar Road, Dublin; Mrs. Shorrocks, Sudell House, Darwen; Mrs. Shorrocks (wife of President of Lockbridge Conservative Club), Darwen; Mrs. C. W. T. Smith, Clifton Hall, Askbourne; Miss Sims, Hamilton Terrace, N.W.; Miss C. Stokes, Hereford; Miss Maitland Savile, Colchester; Miss Elizabeth Sunter, Nottingham; Mrs. J. J. Shaw, Dublin; Miss Truell, Alice E. Tacey, Annie Tacey, Holland Villas Road, Kensington, W.; Mrs. Thompson, York; Mrs. Turner, Hayling; Miss Wilson, Coolcarrigan; Mrs. Tudor, Southsea; Miss Tatlock, Halesworth; Mrs. J. Milton, Tarbolton, Harborne; Miss Jane Tweedy, Truro; Harriet Tombs, Taplow; Mrs. Graham Toler; Miss D. Tothill, Bristol; Mrs. Troughton, Blackwater, Hants; Elizabeth Unwin, Oxford; Mrs. Glynn Vivian; Sarah Webster, Luton; Adeline Waddy, Maidenhead; Mrs. Jessy Williams, Aberystwyth; Mrs. Wallich, Addison Road, North; Miss Williams, Adelaide Williams, E. Williams, Portarfra, Brecon; Miss Edith Walkington, Strandtown,

Belfast; Frances A. Wright, Rochester; Mrs. Willmot, Bath; Mrs. Waite, Halifax; Emily S. Young, Barnet; Miss Lumsden, Glenbog, Aberdeenshire; Mrs. Robertson, Netherseale Hall; Mrs. Henry St. John Mildmay, Ormiston Square; The Dowager Lady le Marchant; Mrs. F. A. Blagden, Shendon Lodge, Bedford; Mrs. Henry Coward, Puckrup Hall, Tewkesbury; Misses Harvey, Goldington Hall, Bedford; Mrs. F. J. Josslyn, wife of Col. Josslyn, C.C., Bedfordshire; Mrs. Hamilton, Bedford; Mrs. and Miss Shedden, Willfield, East Cowes; M. E. Jolliffe, E. J. Jolliffe, and F. A. Jolliffe, Padmore, East Cowes; Mrs. Shedden, Titchmarsh, North Hants; Miss Mary Beachcroft (artist), 7, Elm Road, East Sheen; Sarah Birch (artist), 44, Queen's Park Road, Brighton; Miss Burrow (artist), 29, Addison Road, W.; Miss E. L. Brown, 21, Charleville Circus, Sydenham, S.E.; Eleanor Clifford (artist), Newport, Monmouthshire; C. G. Furley (journalist), 1, Campden Houses, Campden Hill, W.; Mrs. J. E. French (journalist), Southsea; Miss Gill (journalist), Miss J. S. Gill (teacher), 6, Oppidans Road, N.W.; Harriet E. S. Hatton (journalist), 2, Richmond Crescent; Frank Murray (artist), 11, Cunningham Place; Lucy Peck (artist), Breid-street, Hendon; Eliza Tabor Stephenson (literature), 32, Devonshire Road, Liverpool; Mabel S. Townsend (artist), 4, Grosvenor Terrace, York; Mrs. Villiers (professor of singing), Clifton; Miss Emily Spender (novelist); Miss Jessie Fothergill (novelist); Mrs. Guy Pym, Bedford; Alice M. E. Sutton, B.A.; Emily Swan Eppleby, Miss Sim, Bedford; E. J. Mitchell (head mistress Harper Trust Girls' Elementary Schools), Bedford; and many hundred others.

LETTERS AND OBSERVATIONS OF LADIES ON THE NINETEENTH CENTURY PROTEST.

Many of the ladies who were asked to sign the declaration in favour of women's suffrage accompanied their signatures with remarks on the *Nineteenth Century* protest. We give a few extracts from these letters:—

A lady artist writes: "The weak point of the other protestants is that they allow us the municipal vote. Those who are against the whole thing are logical; but to allow me a vote for parochial, School Board, and County Council candidates, of whom I have no means of forming the slightest opinion, and to deny me the vote for a Parliamentary member, of whose doings I am well aware, is sheer inconsistent stupidity. I should think this protest ought to be signed by many more independent workers than the other."

Another lady writes: "Women are surely not so insignificant a part of the community, morally and intellectually, that they should be for ever debarred from all direct influence in government. If men must have the predominating power, and I heartily agree that they must, that is surely an argument for women receiving a moderate share of direct and open power. Power they must have, and it is far better that for their own character, special interests, and for the welfare of the nation at large, that that power should be public and responsible, than that it should be indirect, secret, almost illicit."

A lady in business writes: "Words cannot express my indignation at the unwarrantable and ungenerous 'protest' in this month's *Nineteenth Century Review*. The signatures, I observe, are for the most part the wives of well-to-do men."

The Countess of Carlisle writes: "I cannot understand how women who are engaged in active political agitation can allow any consideration to turn them against a measure which is so vital to the political existence of women. Therefore, I earnestly hope that your protest may be widely signed and that a new impetus may be given to the agitation for women's suffrage."

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS ON THE NINETEENTH CENTURY APPEAL.

Scottish Leader.

The central argument of the document is weak enough to delight the average man whose notion of woman's sphere derives from ancient Rome. We shall be on safer argumentative ground in first contending for the unrepresentative character of the signatures. The women appear to be all wives or widows of somebodies, but, saving half a dozen or so, are themselves nobodies—that is to say, were their own names printed instead of their husbands, the protest would have no more weight with the public than one signed by

every tenth woman called out of the street. A wicked person, bearing in mind the disparaging adage as to the wisdom of the wives of great men, might be tempted to say the more fortuitously signed protest would be the better worth heeding.

Pall Mall Gazette.

In a word, we look for the views of distinguished women, and we find that usually the wife contributes the views and the husband the distinction. We gather from Mr. Knowles's list, not that the ablest women are averse to voting, but that various personages who are against women's suffrage are married—such as Mr. Goschen, Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Buckle of the *Times*, and Mr. Knowles of the *Nineteenth Century*. That the last-named gentleman should have got together a fanfare of empty titles is characteristic enough. That the ladies should have lent themselves to the purpose is a pity. They have inherited wealth, or name, or position; they have had made for them an atmosphere of free and varied action; respect and influence are theirs by proxy; their lives are full and comfortable; they have what they want. From this coign of vantage they look down upon their hurried, worried, overworked, underpaid, superfluous struggling sisters; and they say, "Lo, we are contented."

For they lie beside their nectar, and the bolts are hurled
Far below them on the valley, and the clouds are lightly curled
Round their golden houses girdled with the gleaming world.

It will surprise these wives and daughters of peers and professors, no doubt, to learn that some of the strugglers look upon their action much as Uncle Tom may have looked upon the protests against liberation which were made by those of his fellow-slaves who were battenning in comfortable dependence.

Manchester Courier.

We are quite aware that many eminent ladies are averse to the participation of their own sex in political conflicts. And yet it is a curious thing that amongst the best known of these opponents of women's suffrage are those who claim to affect, and do affect, the opinions of large numbers of their fellow-men by their literary contributions on nearly all the great subjects of the day. It is a strange paradox that ladies should be found to advise men how they should vote upon this question or on that, who proclaim at the same time that they are utterly unfit to vote themselves. The very protest in the *Nineteenth Century* is intended to influence the legislators of this country, by attempting to prove to them that the authors and signatories are not fit and proper persons to decide upon the political merits of the very individuals to whom they make this appeal.

North British Mail.

The signatories admit that, "as voters for or members of School Boards, Board of Guardians, and other important public bodies," women have benefited by "opportunities for public usefulness," the promotion of "the growth of character," and the strengthening of "the social sense and habit." It seems to us that by this admission they practically give up their case. Women have gained personally wherever they have been qualified as voters, and the gain has not been theirs only, for it is a matter of fact, which the Tories especially admit with satisfaction, that the female electors of local bodies have exercised a moderating and conservative influence. We fear that the "104" have libelled their sex. But their protest cannot be treated seriously. It is an artificial shaking of dry bones. The protest comes too late in the day, for the question of female suffrage is practically settled, and only waits the opportunity for legislation.

Newcastle Chronicle.

The appeal assumes that grave practical difficulties beset the extension of the franchise to women. That assertion recalls the fact that precisely the same assumption did duty as an argument against the extension of the franchise to the majority of those who possess it now. As a further reason for excluding women from the political sphere, we are told that all the principal injustices under which they suffered have already been righted. But when? Only "within the past half century." That is a damaging admission. Were we to recall the gross iniquity under which women suffered much nearer the present time than half a century ago, those who penned this appeal would have but a poor case.

The Tablet.

The protest against women's suffrage which Mr. Knowles has induced so many ladies to sign is not a very convincing document. We are told that when it comes to questions of foreign or colonial policy, or of grave constitutional change, the necessary and normal experiences of women do not, and can never, provide them with such materials for sound judgment as are open to men. But has the common pork-butcher, the ordinary costermonger, or the average auctioneer any claim to judge of foreign policies or constitutional changes? What a queer kind of cant it is to talk about the unfitness of women to vote, and then to enfranchise the clodhopper and the coal-heaver. As a nation, we have decided long ago that it was better that the people should rule themselves in a blind, groping, and often unwise way than that they should be ruled, however intelligently, by others. Knowledge was found to be no guarantee for unselfishness. So we gave the vote to those whose lives are closest to the hardship, and have asked those who wear the shoe to say where it pinches.

Scotsman.

We would fain, if it were possible, keep women to the exercise of their "full share in the State of social effort and social mechanism;" but they are not so kept, and the possibility of recalling them from the new fields into which they have been summoned is not in any way clear. Either let us refrain from employing women in our political movements, or let them have the full responsibility of their action. As we cannot recall them from the political field, the alternative must be accepted. There need be no mincing of words about the whole question. Women have been called into the political field for party purposes. Their Parliamentary enfranchisement is opposed in many quarters, because they are believed to be Conservatives. It is the misfortune of our political times that principle seems to have been, to a great extent, set aside. What before was accepted is now departed from. He would be a fool who failed to recognise the undoubted signs of the times, or, because of aversion to a particular change, declined to look at the fact after it had become inevitable.

A REPLY TO SOME OBJECTIONS.

Miss Becker writes in the *Manchester Guardian*:—"The protesters say that the proposal for extension of the suffrage to women is beset with practical difficulties. Even if this were the case, that would be no reason for declining to entertain it. Most things worth doing in this world are beset with difficulties. The proposal to carry a railway over the Firth of Forth presented difficulties of a formidable nature, but these did not deter the engineers from undertaking the work. If Parliament decides that the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women is just and expedient, it will know how to deal with difficulties, even if real ones should present themselves. But in legislation on the women's franchise question the difficulties exist only in imagination. Parliament is not asked to devise a new scheme for admitting women to vote; it is asked simply to extend to Parliamentary elections the existing laws and machinery for women's suffrage in local elections. The existing system is in full working order; it goes without the smallest practical difficulty or friction in every other form of representative government in this country, and there appears to be no conceivable obstacle to prevent the extension of the system to Parliamentary elections. By the Local Government Act of last year, extending to counties the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act, the names of women householders and ratepayers throughout the country have been enrolled on a register which is co-extensive with the register of every Parliamentary constituency. There would be no difficulty in placing the names of the women burgesses on the list of Parliamentary electors and adding thereto the owners of property who possess the freehold or other qualification. The lodger franchise might be left out of consideration, as lodgers can only be registered on personal application. The number of lodger voters is infinitesimally small. It is estimated at less than a half per cent of the electorate, therefore any difficulty connected with the franchise for women on this ground is theoretical rather than practical.

The objectors say that if votes are given to unmarried women on the same terms as they are given to men, large numbers of women leading immoral lives will be enfranchised. This statement appears

to be a monstrous exaggeration, whether as regards the absolute number of such women or their proportion to the rest of those who would have votes. If the assertion refers to lodgers, it should be remembered that the stringent conditions of the lodger franchise as to rent, term of residence, and of personal claim to be placed on the register would probably preclude most of the immoral women from becoming entitled to vote. But after all, women who lead immoral lives form but a small proportion of women lodgers. These comprise such classes as teachers of music and other accomplishments, teachers at high schools, daily governesses, telegraph and other clerks in the Civil Service, shop assistants, elementary school-mistresses, ladies with small independent means, ladies engaged in literary pursuits, and others, forming a numerous body of self-dependent, self-respecting women who are maintaining themselves in as honest and honourable a manner as any other class in the community. Nothing shows more clearly the contempt which underlies some of the most specious professions by men of respect for women than the instinctive manner in which, when women lodgers are in question, men ignore the great body of the respectable women and single out as a type of the class the unfortunate beings whom they maintain in a condition of degradation and on whom they impose the reproach of their own sins. It may be that to place the power and the protection of the Parliamentary suffrage in the hands of this outcast class, to raise the fallen woman from under the feet of the partner of her sin and to place her as a political equal at his side, would do more to arrest the conscience of men and to uplift the standard of morality accepted in the world than any other influence that has yet been brought to bear for wiping out the reproach of ages and strengthen the moral life of the community.

TOWN COUNCILS.

CHIPPING NORTON.

At the April meeting, the Town Clerk read a petition asking the support of the Council on the question of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women.

Councillor BOWEN: I propose we reserve our forces on that question.

Alderman SIMMS: I propose we adopt the petition.

Councillor SHRIMPTON: I second Alderman Simms.

Councillor SIMMONS: I shall object to the petition.

Councillor BOWEN: I vote against it out of regard to the ladies, as I consider it would be detrimental to them to have a Parliamentary vote. I don't think any considerable number of them desire to have a vote. Even in small affairs like our Council elections, the women seem to go to their friends to know what it is all about. Notwithstanding what some ladies say, I don't think it would be to their advantage to have a Parliamentary vote, and with every respect to their sex I am of opinion that politics are things they do not understand. They have their faculties, and in many respects they are superior to men, but I don't think the majority of the ladies want this vote.

Alderman SIMMS' proposition was carried, there being but two dissentients.

DEVONPORT.

At a meeting of the Devonport Town Council, held on March 29th, a communication was read from the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage asking the Council's co-operation in petitioning Parliament in favour of a measure which affects the interests of so considerable a portion of the constituents.

Mr. BRYANT moved, and Mr. ROBINS seconded, that the petition be signed.

Mr. HORN BROOK: I don't think any gentleman present will be so ungallant as to raise his voice against it. The motion was carried unanimously.

LUTON.

At the March meeting, the Clerk presented a letter from Miss Lydia Becker, of Manchester, forwarding a copy of Mr. Woodall's Bill for the extension of Parliamentary franchise to women, and asking the Council to petition Parliament in favour of the Bill.

Alderman MAYLES, in proposing that the request be complied with, mentioned that one in every seven ladies were ratepayers.

Mr. RANDALL seconded, remarking that he thought it a great injustice that householders who were ladies should be unable to vote.

Mr. JOHNSON supported, and the form of petition was adopted.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

At the April meeting, a letter was read from Miss Lydia Becker asking the Council to seal a petition in favour of the Bill for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. (Hear, hear.)

Alderman HAMOND moved the suspension of the standing orders in order to move that the Council should comply with Miss Becker's request; but the Council declined by 22 votes to 20.

Alderman HAMOND said the Council had nullified all their previous action.

REIGATE AND RED HILL.

At the March meeting, the Town Clerk read a letter from the secretary to the National Society for Women's Suffrage (Miss Lydia Becker) enclosing form of petition, and asking the Council to adopt and present the same to Parliament in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. The communication stated that there are 446 women ratepayers in the borough of Reigate.

Dr. GRECE: I don't know how they came possessed of these statistics. (Laughter.)

Alderman AUSTEN: As it is a very doubtful matter, I propose that the letter be laid on the table.

Councillor FULLEX seconded.

Councillor GODSON: If it were possible, I would propose that it should be either laid under the table or on the fire, whichever is most conducive to the health of the neighbourhood. (Laughter.)

The motion was agreed to.

ROTHERHAM.

At the monthly meeting of the Rotherham Town Council, held on April 3rd, Alderman NEILL rose to support a clause in the minutes of the General Purposes and Parks Committee, recommending the affixing of the seal of the Corporation to a petition in favour of the Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women.

Mr. HIRST: You generally support the ladies. (Laughter.)

Alderman NEILL: My friends do accuse me of being anxious to stand very high in the estimation of the ladies, and at present I have not the slightest intention of denying the soft impeachment. (Renewed laughter.)

Alderman GUMMER considered that it was irregular for a member of the Council to support a recommendation of a committee where there was no opposition to it. Alderman Neill was not the chairman of the committee.

Alderman NEILL held that he had a right to speak on the subject. The Mayor thought it was rather unusual, but as the ladies were concerned it was a matter they might look over. (Laughter.)

Alderman NEILL was sorry to have to disagree with the Mayor's remark about the proceeding being unusual, and then went on to argue that it had been the invariable practice to adopt the course he was pursuing. After a reference to Alderman Gummer's objection, he remarked that the petition was certainly a fair, a reasonable, and a just one. He had had considerable local experience in electioneering matters, and he had always found that the ladies exercised their electoral privileges judiciously.

Mr. HIRST: Kissing goes by favour. (Great laughter.)

Alderman NEILL (resuming) said he had pleasure in heartily and warmly supporting the petition.

The Mayor: Is there any other gentleman who wishes to stand high in the estimation of the ladies? (Laughter.)

Alderman GUMMER: It's a waste of public time.

Mr. G. GUMMER thought they had had enough waste of time.

Mr. HANBY: You see we are not all single, Mr. Mayor. (More laughter.)

The minutes were then approved.

ST. HELENS COUNTY-BOROUGH COUNCIL.

On April 3rd, at the first meeting of the St. Helens Town Council, under the Local Government Act, which constitutes the borough a county-borough, a letter was read from Miss Lydia E. Becker, on behalf of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, dated March 8th, forwarding copy of a Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women, which had been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Woodall, and which was set down for the second reading on the 17th of April. Miss Becker asked the Town Clerk to submit the same to the Council, and asked them to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament in favour of the measure, which affects the interests of a considerable number of the constituents.

The Mayor: Have you any motion on the subject?

Mr. FORSTER: I move that such a petition be presented.

Mr. WILCOCK: And I move that it be left on the table.

Alderman COOK: I second the motion.

Mr. WILCOCK: My motion?

The Town Clerk: You can vote against it.

Five members voted for Councillor Forster's motion and six against, and it was declared lost.

TYNEMOUTH.

On March 27th, at the ordinary monthly meeting of the Tyne-mouth Town Council, the Deputy Town Clerk read a letter from Miss Lydia Becker, asking the Council to petition in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill.

Mr. ESKDALE moved that the Council petition in favour of the Bill. Mr. JEWELLS seconded, and Mr. ARMSTRONG and Mr. HEPPLÉ supported.

On a division, the vote was equal, and the Deputy Mayor gave his casting vote in favour of the motion.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

The meeting of the West Hartlepool Town Council was held on April 2nd.

The Town Clerk intimated that he had received a petition, with a request that the Council would support it with their signature, praying Parliament to adopt the Bill now before the House of Commons for the extension of the franchise to women.

Councillor VITTY moved that the petition be signed. He would not trouble them with the thousand and one reasons that could be advanced in support of his motion. He need only point out the discretion which the female portion of the community exercised in giving their votes at municipal elections.

Councillor ABRAHAM seconded the motion. Councillor PYMAN moved as an amendment that the petition be allowed to lie on the table for six months.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor ROBINSON.

Alderman GRAY said if the Bill was for the extension of the franchise to unmarried women and widows he would approve of it. The motion was then put and carried.

Councillor J. WILSON expressed the opinion that the Council had acted with undue haste in the matter. There were, he said, several councillors not present who would have opposed the proposal.

The petition was then read and signed.

WEYMOUTH.

At the April meeting, Alderman THOMAS proposed that the common seal be affixed to a petition in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill now before Parliament for conferring the franchise on women. He said that both he and Sir Richard Howard, as presiding officers at elections, knew the intelligence of the ladies who attended to vote in municipal matters. He had never been called upon to fill up their voting papers except in one instance, and that was in the case of a blind woman. This was more than could be said for the men who voted.

Alderman Sir R. HOWARD seconded the motion, and it was carried *nem. con.*

WORCESTER.

At the Council meeting, held on April 2nd, a letter was read from Miss Lydia Becker, secretary of the Women's Suffrage Association, asking the Council to petition in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

Alderman AIREY proposed that the Council should petition, as it had done in years past, for an extension of the franchise to all women duly qualified as ratepayers. He was strongly in favour of such an extension.

Alderman WILLIAMSON said that was a matter with which he had great sympathy, and he fully endorsed what Alderman Airey had said, and he thought any man, who took the trouble to take into consideration the pros and cons of the question, would come to the conclusion that women had very strong claims in that direction. Their business added much to the wealth and benefit of the State, and therefore the franchise should be extended to them.

Mr. BUCKLAND, in moving that the matter be referred to the General Purposes Committee, said that he would oppose the petition, as he objected to petticoat government. (Laughter.)

Mr. CHAPLIN said that it seemed to him that they would only be doing common justice by acceding to the request. (Hear, hear.)

Alderman HILL said that he had signed an order that day for the appointment of a lady as an overseer, and he saw no reason if women could serve in that capacity why the franchise should not also be extended to them. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was then carried.

At the April meeting of the Council, the Hon. G. H. Allsopp, M.P., wrote stating that he had presented the petition from the Council on the Women's Suffrage Bill.

A letter was read from Miss Becker, hon. sec. of the Women's Suffrage Association, conveying the thanks of the association for the support given by the Council.

WORKINGTON.

At the adjourned monthly meeting of the Town Council, in March, the Clerk had received a circular from a lady. It stated that she forwarded a copy of a Bill for extending the franchise to women, which had been introduced into the House of Commons, and which was set down for second reading on 17th April next. She begged that the circular would be submitted to the Council of Workington at their next meeting, in order that they might consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament in favour of a measure which affected the interests of so considerable a portion of their constituents.

Mr. VALENTINE proposed that the Council do not entertain the question. He did that, not because he was an opponent of women's suffrage, he was a decided adherent of that principle, and he hoped that ere long it would be adopted, but other questions might be raised, and the Council might be led to waste their time in discussing political questions when they should be giving their attention to municipal matters.

Mr. WHITFIELD seconded. He considered the Council had sufficient to do with municipal matters.

Mr. CARLISLE moved as an amendment that the Council consider the matter as it was on the agenda paper.

Mr. PAISLEY seconded. He did not see why they should be excluded from considering the Bill which was before Parliament. It seemed to him that women might be useful if they had the franchise extended to them. (Laughter.) In other matters that came before Parliament they found that the opinion of public bodies was asked by promoters of reform. He did not see why they should make a hard and fast rule to refrain from discussing a matter of that kind. If they did they might exclude discussion of something before Parliament which would affect the health of the town.

Mr. M'ALEER did not think it a party question. Women were entitled to the vote as they had to pay rates.

The amendment was carried by eleven to five.

The Mayor, as far as he was concerned, thought women should have the vote.

Mr. VALENTINE moved that the seal of the Council be affixed to the petition. This was not a party question at all.

Mr. M'ALEER seconded.

Mr. MILBURN thought this was introducing into the Council the thin end of the political wedge. It would be better if they kept to municipal matters as they administered but did not make the law. It was better to keep politics outside the Council as much as possible.

Alderman PEILE thought these remarks were entirely out of order. What they were discussing was whether they should sign the petition. He had great pleasure in supporting the motion. They saw in the newspapers that day that the Prime Minister stated in the House of Lords that his opinion was that the franchise should be extended to women. (Alderman MILBURN: And so is mine.) He was glad to hear that Alderman Milburn's opinion agreed with that of the Prime Minister. He was sure it would add weight to what the Prime Minister said. (Laughter.)

Mr. PAISLEY did not hesitate in saying that with regard to matters which affected the country at large the Council should not be above discussing them. He hoped the Council would ever freely express their opinion on such matters. He did not see what harm they could do by doing so, and it might do good. He took up this position in order to form a precedent.

The motion was carried.

WREXHAM.

At the March meeting, the TOWN CLERK said he had received a letter from Miss Lydia Becker, honorary secretary of the Manchester National Society for Women's suffrage, forwarding copy of the Women's Suffrage Bill introduced into Parliament by Mr. Woodall, which was set down for April 17th. She also asked the Council to consider the propriety of signing a petition in favour of the Bill. The Town Clerk added that the Bill was a short one, and it gave the franchise to women on the same terms as to men.

Mr. PIERCE, in proposing that the Deputy Mayor should be authorised to sign the petition on behalf of the Council, said the petition had been signed annually for several years.

Mr. B. LEWIS said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion. The ladies exercised the suffrage so wisely in municipal and other elections in which they were allowed to take part that he was sure they would behave equally well in Parliamentary elections.

Mr. POWELL said the ladies it was proposed to enfranchise were all ratepayers, and some of them were large ratepayers. He could not see why one who had a large stake in the country should be excluded from taking part in Imperial politics because she was a lady.

The DEPUTY MAYOR said he quite agreed that no class of Her Majesty's subjects was better able to exercise the privilege of the vote judiciously than the ladies were.

Mr. BEVAN said they were unanimous on the point, and he should be quite satisfied if ladies were admitted to the franchise on equal terms with the gentlemen.

The motion was agreed to.

WYCOMBE.

At the March meeting, the Council were asked by the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage to petition Parliament in favour of the Bill extending the Parliamentary franchise to women.

Alderman WOOTTON said when he looked back and saw the manner in which the ladies had carried out their privilege of voting for members of the Town Council and other bodies, his impression was that they were as competent to give an opinion upon Parliamentary questions as men were; and perhaps the ladies took a little more pains to ascertain who were fit and proper persons to represent them. (Laughter.) He had on several occasions been a candidate for the Town Council, and he had always received the greatest civility from the ladies when he had canvassed them, and had invariably had an answer in the affirmative. (Alderman T. Wheeler: You must remember you are a bachelor, old friend. Laughter.) If the Parliamentary franchise were granted to ladies they would make as good a use of it as would any of the members present that evening. He had thought for a long time past that the ladies ought to have this privilege, and when he saw the vast number of houses occupied by ladies, that they should be deprived of having a voice in the election of those who had to make laws for their guidance was very wrong. He maintained that they would not be acting justly to the ladies if they did not give a vote in favour of their having the Parliamentary franchise. (Hear, hear.) He begged to propose that they petition Parliament in favour of the Bill.

Councillor BAINES seconded the proposition.

Alderman G. WHEELER: I had no idea Mr. Wootton was such a terrible Radical before. (Laughter.)

The proposition was unanimously adopted.

Obituary.

MR. WALTER POWELL, M.P.—We regret to record the death of Mr. Walter R. H. Powell, M.P. for Carmarthenshire, which occurred on the 26th ultimo after a long illness. Mr. Powell represented Carmarthenshire since 1880, and was a supporter of women's suffrage.

MRS. G. H. GADDUM.—We record with deep regret the death of Mrs. George Henry Gaddum, of Adria House, Withington. Mrs. Gaddum was a member of the Executive Committee of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage and was one of the very earliest supporters of the movement in Manchester.

A WOMAN UNDER FIRE.

More than seventy years ago our English army was fighting in Spain, helping to rid the country of foreign invaders. There were strange sounds of strife and scenes of alarm amid the vineyards and olive and fig gardens of that sunny land. Amongst the incidents of this war we may call to mind one not generally known. A small fort, without any ditch and almost without defence, was gallantly held against the enemy by a staunch little band of British soldiers and seamen. Its name was Matagorda, near Cadiz.

A fearful storm of shot was poured into the fort—which was not more than a hundred yards square—terribly thinning the undaunted defenders. For thirty consecutive hours the strife had lasted, and sixty-four out of 140 men had fallen; still the brave men fought on and would not yield.

And yet I think the bravest heart of all there was owned by a woman—the wife of a Scottish sergeant. Under fire she was coolly assisting the surgeon in his dreadful yet necessary work, tearing up her own linen to make bandages. When water was urgently called for to moisten the lips of the wounded, a little drummer-boy was ordered to fetch some from the well. But the child stood irresolute, holding the bucket, at the door of the hut where the wounded were lying, and gazing with affrighted eyes into the open, raked as it was by a hail of bullets. He dared not stir. "Go at once," thundered the surgeon to the trembling boy, who seemed paralysed with terror.

"The pair bairn is frightened—and no wonder," said the motherly Scotchwoman, pitiful of weakness though so strong herself. "Give the bucket to me."

Quietly she sallied forth through the murderous fire, and safely made her way to the well and returned with the water. A shot actually cut in two the rope in her hand, but the brave woman retained her self-possession, caught hold of the bucket, and heroically finished her work of mercy.

Sergeant Donaldson, her husband's comrade, further relates of her conduct during the campaign: "Her attention to the wounded was beyond all praise; besides which she carried sandbags for the repairs of the batteries, also wine, water, and other necessaries to the men at the guns." Nor was she thus daring and unselfish because she had no tender human ties of her own—which to some seem an excuse for not "looking on the things of others." She was a wife and mother. She held a little child in her arms whom she hardly dared set down for a moment during the conflict. "I think I see her yet," says her husband's fellow-soldier, "while the shot and shell were flying thick around her, bending her body to shield her child from danger by the exposure of her own person."

The remnant of the gallant little garrison were rescued eventually by boats sent to their aid. We know nothing more of Mrs. Reston save that she died at Glasgow at a good old age, her deeds of daring unrewarded. Her name is yet preserved among the annals of the brave as belonging to a woman as courageous as she was simple and retiring.—*The Church and the People.*

PRIZE COMPETITION No. 10.

A prize of five shillings will be given for the best anagram composed out of the letters in the sentence, "The Nineteenth Century Ladies who do not want to vote." We may remind our readers that a good anagram should bear some reference to the meaning of the original sentence, that it should contain all the letters of that sentence, and that no word or, if possible, no syllable of the original should be reproduced in the anagram.

Competitors should sign their answers with a *nom de plume*, giving, in case of a first answer, their correct name and address for registration and publication in the event of winning the prize. Persons who have taken part in former competitions are requested not to change their *nom de plume*. Persons not already subscribers for the *Journal* must enclose with their answer one shilling and sixpence, in return for which the *Journal* will be forwarded for one year; or threepence in stamps, in return for which the number containing the award will be forwarded to them. Letters must be directed to the Puzzle Editor, *Women's Suffrage Journal*, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

PRIZE COMPETITION No. 9.

A prize of five shillings was offered in our last issue under certain conditions to the competitor who should send a correct answer to

A QUESTION IN BIOGRAPHY.

A few years ago there died in England a lady whose maiden name was Mary Anne Evans. She married for her first husband a gentleman named Lewis. Shortly after his death she married a gentleman many years younger than herself, and she died well known by a name which was neither her maiden name, nor either of the names she acquired on marriage.

Query: Who was this lady?

Answer: THE VISCOUNTESS BEACONSFIELD.

Mrs. Disraeli's Christian name was Mary Anne, or Marian. She is stated in Dod's Parliamentary Companion to have been the daughter of Captain Viney Evans, R.N., and widow of Wyndham Lewis, Esq., M.P. Her marriage to Mr. Disraeli took place shortly after the death of Mr. Lewis. Mr. Disraeli was many years younger than his wife. Long after her second marriage Mrs. Disraeli was created Viscountess Beaconsfield, by which name she was well known at the time of her death. Mr. Disraeli was not created Earl of Beaconsfield till some years after the death of his wife.

We congratulate our readers and ourselves on the interest this competition has aroused, as shown by the large number of answers received. It was stated in giving out the question that letters with answers would be put by until the 15th of June, and then opened in the order determined by lot, the writer of the first correct answer that should be opened to receive the prize. Up to the 15th of June seventy-five answers had arrived, and these were dealt with as arranged. Five only of the competitors succeeded in giving the correct answer. These were HOPEFUL, GWENNY, PRIMROSE, GRANNY, and GHYLLEAD. As Hopeful's letter was the first to be drawn, she is entitled to the prize. With one exception all the remaining answers gave the lady who wrote under the name of "George Eliot" as the subject of the query. But a careful examination of the terms of the question shows that they are not strictly applicable to this lady. The gentleman with whom the famous novelist contracted her first union was LEWES, not LEWIS. The coincidence of names and circumstances is, however, so singular that it appeared to us not only likely to furnish the material for an interesting puzzle, but to be in itself so remarkable as to be well worthy of being brought under the notice of our readers.

Answers have been received from North Meols, Hopeful, Madoline, Verity, Dora, Student, Mary Mallet, Rona Lee, Knight Errant, Pansy, Gwenny, Agnes A. Laws, Mrs. Russell, Geos, Mrs. Ashley Pete (?), Matilda Brown, Erin, Maude, Crabtree, Miss Grice, Guelder Rose, Mrs. A. Clarke, A. Green, Tea, Hibernia, Sefel, Gridiron, Asphodel, Examiner, Miss Grioch, Hotspur, Ean, E. E. M. Partridge, Beatrice, Gipsy, A Sceptic, M. L., Primrose, T. M. Wilson, Questor, Tannie, Truthseeker, Eversley, E. A. Tournier, Breslau, Lilies, Frances Wilkinson, W. Randell, Granny, Grimsby, Erin (2nd), Minna G. Waship, Frank Wilkins, Mignonette, Ghyllead, Tyro, Hoorhut, Godiva, Ebor, Priscilla, Eromart, Isabel Burbidge, Sea Breezes, Peggie, Miss Eisdell, Mrs. Teschemacher, Anemone, More Light, Cassiles, Mary Medica, Bookworm, Ripty, Three Spires, Middlemarch, Eva Lloyd, Agnes Harvey, E. Edwards, S. E. Fletcher, Annie Chadwick. These names are printed in the order in which the letters were drawn in the ballot. Since the award of the prize a correct answer has been sent by German Girl, from Dresden.

Examiner gave Mary Queen of Scots as the answer. Miss Grice and Verity did not send answers, but wrote to criticise the terms of the question. Several of the others wrote to point out what they deemed to be errors in the question, but they will now perceive

that the error lay not in the description, but in applying it to the wrong person.

Winner of prize for first correct answer:—

HOPEFUL, Adelaide Jackson, 21, Wood-street, Ilkeston, 5s.

This was the first answer drawn which gave the name of the right lady, and therefore seemed, under the conditions as advertised, indubitably entitled to the prize. But the best answer came from Primrose, who wrote: "Mary Anne Evans married Wyndham Lewis, Esq., M.P. Mr. Lewis died, and the widow married Benjamin Disraeli, M.P., and Mrs. Disraeli subsequently became Viscountess Beaconsfield."

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JUNE, 1889.

Mr. S. Chesters Thompson	.. £5 0 0	Messrs. Moss and Son	.. .. £0 5 0
P. E. P., per Miss Becker	.. .. 3 15 0	Mr. Stevenson	.. .. .. 0 3 0
Mrs. Herbert Phillips	.. .. 1 1 0	Mr. Gidley	.. .. .. 0 3 0
Mrs. Henry Taylor	.. .. 1 1 0	Mr. G. F. Carter	.. .. .. 0 2 6
Sir Algernon Borthwick, Bt., M.P.	.. .. 1 1 0	Mr. Simon Mudd	.. .. .. 0 2 6
Mr. W. G. Ainslie, M.P.	.. .. 1 1 0	Mr. H. Staring	.. .. .. 0 2 6
Mr. Thomas Chorlton	.. .. 1 1 0	Messrs. Bates and Quash	.. .. 0 2 6
Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D.	.. 1 1 0	Mrs. D. Pick	.. .. .. 0 2 6
Miss M. E. Choetham	.. .. 0 5 0	Mr. J. Smith	.. .. .. 0 2 6
Mrs. John Paterson	.. .. 0 2 6	Mr. W. S. Watkinson	.. .. 0 2 6
Mrs. Johnson (Derby)	.. .. 0 2 6	Mr. Atkinson	.. .. .. 0 2 6
GRIMSBY.		Mr. Guzzwell	.. .. .. 0 2 6
Mr. E. Bannister	.. .. 1 1 0	Mr. Chesman	.. .. .. 0 2 6
Mr. Mundahl	.. .. 0 5 0	Mr. Roberts	.. .. .. 0 2 0
Mr. H. Smethurst, sen.	.. .. 0 5 0	"Old Nicholas"	.. .. .. 0 1 0
Mr. H. Smethurst, jun. 0 5 0	Mr. Crowther 0 1 0
Mr. Geo. Alward 0 5 0	Mr. Barrett 0 1 0
Mr. James Alward 0 5 0	"Equality" 0 1 0
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The Rt. Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P. 2 0 0	Mrs. Tasker 0 2 6
Mrs. C. H. Hodgson 2 0 0	Miss Tasker 0 2 6
Mrs. Sims 0 10 6	Mrs. Turner (Hayling Is.) 0 2 6
Miss Jessie Connah 0 10 0		
Miss Gordon 0 5 0		
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CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED JUNE, 1889.

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Mrs. Lough 0 10 0	Miss E. Hill 0 2 6
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Affiliation Fee—Crews W. L. Association 0 10 0	Mrs. Carey 0 2 6
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