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REPORT

OF THE

Bristol & West of England Fociety

FOR

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,

1375.

OBJECT.—To obtain for Women Householders and Ratepayers the right of Voting for Members of Parliament.

BRISTOL:

H. HILL, STEAM PRINTER, 2 BALDWIN STREET.

1876.

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BRISTOL & WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY

FOR

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The last Annual Meeting of this Society was held on the 4th of March in the lesser Colston Hall—the chair being taken by the Mayor of Bristol, C. J. Thomas, Esq. The Lady Anna Gorelangton, having a short time before consented to become President of this Society, was present at the meeting and proved by her dvocacy on that occasion how important she considers the question of the enfranchisement of Women.

Since that meeting the Women's Disabilities Bill has been discussed for the first time in the present Parliament. It was read a list time on February 8th in last year, and the second reading was xed for April 7th. Notice of opposition to the Bill was given by Ir Leatham, and later in the session by Mr Chaplin.

Mr Forsyth moved the second reading in a speech of much ility and moderation. The Bill was also supported by the Right on. J. Stansfeld, Mr Jackson, and Mr O'Sullivan. The rejection the Bill was moved by Mr Chaplin and seconded by Mr Leatham, further opposed by Mr Smollett, Mr Beresford Hope, Mr wdegate, and Sir Henry James. On a division the numbers

For the Bill	0 .7.00	152
Against	girang.	187
Majority against	sia ot a	35

In the last division which took place in the old Parliament in 1873 the numbers were—

For the Bill	•••	155
Against	2/.	222
Majority against		67

It will thus be seen that the hostile majority has been reduced from Sixty-seven in the old Parliament to Thirty-five in the last division. The number of adverse votes was not diminished through any want of energy on the part of our opponents: a three lined whip signed by both Liberal and Conservative opponents was sent previous to the division to every Member of Parliament, requesting them to be present and vote for the rejection of the Bill. A special whip was also sent out by Mr Newdegate. The result of these strenuous exertions was that 187 Members recorded their votes against the Bill.

During the session of 1875 there were 1273 petitions presented to the House of Commons signed by 415,622 persons in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill—of these 33 were sent from Bristo and Clifton, signed by 10,474 persons. Through the agency and friends of the Bristol centre 88 petitions were forwarded from the West of England district, signed by 14,038 persons.

Your Committee would strongly urge their friends to continue the work of petitioning Parliament during the present session. It is the only direct means open to women of laying their grievance before Parliament; and your Committee would earnestly ask all who are interested in this question, to aid their efforts by signing petitions and getting others to sign in support of the Bill.

Petition sheets are always to be had on application at the office of the Society, 53 Park Street.

Your Committee report that meetings have been held under their auspices at Swindon, Evesham and Brecon, at all of which resolutions were unanimously adopted in support of the movement.

Through the kindness of Mrs Beddoe and Mrs Tribe two rawing room meetings were held last month at Clifton and edland, for the discussion of Women's Suffrage. The rooms were rowded, and much interest was manifested. Your Committee esire to express their appreciation of the usefulness of the help hus given, and trust that the example of these ladies will be ollowed not only in Bristol but in other West of England towns.

During the visit of the British Association to Bristol in August, paper was contributed by Miss Priestman on "The Industrial osition of Women as affected by their exclusion from the Suffrage." our Committee record with much satisfaction the acceptance by he British Association of a paper on this question. It was printed early in full in the October number of the Women's Suffrage ournal.

Your Committee have to mourn the loss they have sustained y the death of the Rev David Thomas, B.A. and Lord Amberley, oth of whom were Vice-Presidents of this Society. In widely fering spheres, but each with conspicuous ability and extensive fluence, they both contributed largely to the advanced position lat our question now occupies in the West of England. The ev William James of this city, who was from the beginning one f the most steadfast, earnest and eloquent of our supporters, and

who has seldom been absent from our annual meetings, also died during this year. And in lamenting the death of their Secretary, Miss Luke, the Committee would take the opportunity of testifying to the faithfulness, zeal and ability, with which she served your interests as long as her health permitted her.

Your Committee continue to send copies of the Women's Suffrage Journal to Members of Parliament within their district and also to the Editors of all Newspapers throughout the West of England and South Wales.

The date of the second reading of the Women's Disabilities Bil is fixed for April 26th. It is of the utmost importance that ever Member of Parliament should hear directly from his constituent of their interest in the Bill.

The Committee therefore earnestly beg that their subscriber throughout this district will, by means of Memorials and Petition and by private appeals to Members of Parliament, urge them to present, and to record their votes in favor of the Bill when it brought forward for second reading on April 26th.

in Account with the Bristol & West of England Society for Women's Julyrage for 1875.	
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RULES.

Annual Subscribers of any amount will be enrolled as Members, and entitled to receive papers or tracts of the Society on application.

The Executive Committee shall consist of Members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, with power to add to their number.

That five Members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum.

The Executive Committee shall at its first meeting elect the

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

Birmingham Society for Momen's Suffrage,

minutes. Welverhouse at THE Managhoview motoria

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 31ST, 1875.

be the most practical way of a wall aning interest in the move

In presenting their Annual Report, your Committee feel that there is reason to congratulate the Society upon the improved position of the movement, as shown by the increased public interest, and the number of new members of the House of Commons who are known to be favourable. No division on the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women took place last year, the day for the second reading being, in common with other Tuesdays, required for Government business, it was, therefore, withdrawn. In the absence of a division list, it is difficult to estimate exactly the strength of the cause in the House of Commons. So far as their opinions have been declared, 234 of the members will support the bill on its second reading next Wednesday, April 7th, when it will be re-introduced by Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., Right Hon. James Stansfeld, and Sir R. Anstruther. Fifteen members of the present Government have, heretofore, given the bill their support. Notice of opposition has been given by Mr. E. A. Leatham, member for Huddersfield, and Mr. Chaplin, member for Mid-Lincoln. The petitions last year in support of the

Committee.

President—ALDERMAN HAWKES, J.P.

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Mrs. T. S. Bartlett.	Mrs. A. Osler.
Miss Bailey.	Mr. Rogers.
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Mrs. Gore.	MRS. WILLIAM TAYLOR.
MRS. FREDERICK IMPEY.	Mrs. Tyndall.
MRS. C. E. MATHEWS.	hen it will be re-termoduced by
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Hon. Secretary—Miss E. M. Sturge, 17, Frederick Road.

Treasurer—Mrs. Ashford, Speedwell Road.

Office—4, Broad Street Corner.

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NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

OFFICE:

294, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

HELD IN

THE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY,

May 29th, 1875.

LONDON:

DUNLOP & CO., 7 & 8, NEW STREET, CLOTH FAIR, E.C.

1875.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

OF THE

Antional Society for Women's Suffrage.

Presented to the General Meeting, May 29th, 1875.

In presenting their Annual Report your Committee have much pleasure in stating that the interest felt in the Women's Suffrage movement has greatly increased throughout the country during the past year, whilst the late division shows a marked advance in the House of Commons.

On the first day of the session Mr. Forsyth gave notice to re-introduce the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. It was read a first time on February 8th, and the second reading was fixed for April 7th.

The text of the Bill is as follows:—

"Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

"1. That in all Acts relating to the qualification and registration of voters or persons entitled or claiming to be registered and to vote in the Election of Members of Parliament, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender, the same shall be held to include females, for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to be registered as voters, and to vote in such election, any law or usage to the contrary not-withstanding."

The debate was opened by Mr. Forsyth, who moved the second reading of the Bill in a clear and exhaustive speech. He was supported by Mr. Stansfeld with forcible and high-toned arguments, and also by Mr. O'Sullivan and Mr. H. M. Jackson. The rejection of the Bill was moved by Mr. Chaplin, seconded by Mr. Leatham, and supported by Mr. Smollett, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Newdegate, and Sir Henry James. On a division being taken the numbers were:—

Mai	ority		35
Against		•••	 187
For the Bill	•••		 152

AYES.

Adderley, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Allen, W. Shepherd (Newe, U.L.) Anderson, George Anstruther, Sir Windhsm (L'k) Antrobus, Sir Edmund Ashbury, James Lloyd Backhouse, Edmond Bateson, Sir Thomas Bathurst, Allen Alexander Bazley, Sir Thomas Beaumont, Major Fred. (Durh. S.) Beresford, Col. M. (Southwark) Biggar, Joseph Gillis Boord, Thomas William Bousfield, Major Briggs, William Edward Brise, Col. Ruggles Brooks, Maurice (Dublin) Brown, Alexander H. (Wenlock) Browne, George Ekins (Mayo) Bruce, Rt. Hon. Lord Ernest (Marl.) Bruce, Hon. Thos. (Portsmouth) Burt, Thomas Callender, William Romaine Cameron, Charles (Glsgow) Carter, Robert M. Cawley, Charles E. Chadwick, David Charley, William Thomas Clarke, J. Creemer Clifford, Charles Cavendish Cobbold, John Patteson Collins, Eugene Corbett, John (Droitwitch)

Corry, James Porter (Belfast) Cowan, James (Edinburgh) Cowen Joseph (Newcastle) Cross, John Kynasten (Bolton) Cubitt, George Dalway, Marriott Robert Deakin, James Henry Dickson, Major Alex. G. (Dover) Dickson, Thos. A. (Dungannon) Dilke, Sir Charles Wentworth Dillwyn, Lewis Llewelyn Disraeli, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Dixon, George (Birmingham) Earp, Thomas Elliot, Sir Geo. Dur. Co. (N.P.) Elliot, George, (Northallerton) Elphinstone, Sir James D. H. Eslington, Lord Ewing, Archibald Orr Fawcett, Henry Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond Fordyce, William Dingwall Forester, Cecil Theodore Weld Forster, Sir Charles (Walsal) Fraser, Sir William Augustus Gardner, James T. Agg. (Cheltnm) Gardner, R. Bichardson (W'sor) Gordon, Rt. Hon. E. S. (Glas. Ú.) Gorst, John Eldon Gourley, Edward Temperley Greenall, Gilbert Grieve, James Johnstone Gurney, Rt. Hon. Russell · Hammond, Charles Frederic

Harrison, Charles (Bewdley) Harrison, J. Fortescue (Kilmarn'k.) Henley, Rt. Hon. J. W. Hermon, Edward Hervey, Lord F. (Bury St. Edm.) Heygate, William Unwin Hill, Alex. Staveley (Staff W.) Hill, Thos. Rowley (Worcester) Hodgson, Kirkman D. (Bristol) Holker, Sir John Holms, William (Paisley) Hopwood, Charles Henry Ingram, William James Jackson, Henry Mather Jenkins, David James (Penryn) Jenkinson, Sir George S. Johnston, William (Belfast) Kinnaird, Hon. Arthur Fitzgerald Laing, Samuel Lambert, Nathaniel Grace Laverton, Abraham Lloyd, Morgan (Beaumaris) ush, Dr. usk, Sir Andrew ckintosh, Charles Fraser Arthur, Alexander, (Leic.) Kenna, Sir Joseph Neal Lagan, Peter Laren, Duncan lanners, Rt. Hon. Lord John larten, Alfred George (Cam. B.) lellor, Thomas W. lls, Arthur (Exeter) orley, Samuel ulhollaud, John undella, Anthony John ville-Grenville, Ralph el, Ernest (Dumfries) lan Captain rwood, Charles Morgan lery, Keves shaughnessy, Richard

O'Sullivan, William Henry Palmer, Charles Mark Pender, John Pennington, Frederick Perkins, Sir Frederick Phipps, Pickering Pim, Captain Bedford Playfair, Rt. Hon. Dr. Lyon Polhil-Turner, Captain Power, Richard (Waterford) Price, William E. (Tewkesbury) Puleston, John Henry Ramsay, John Richard, Henry Richardson, Thomas Round, James Ryder, Granville Richard Samuelson, Bernhard Sanderson, Thomas Kemp Sandford, G. Montagu W. Selwin-Ibbetson, Sir Henry J. Sherriff, Alexander Clunes Shute, General Simon, Mr. Serjeant Smith, Eustace (Tynemouth) Spinks, Mr. Serjeant Stackpoole, William Stewart, Mark John (Wigton) Sullivan, Alexauder M. Taylor, Peter Alfred (Leicester) Tennant. Robert Tillett, Jacob Henry Torrens, W. T. M'Cullagh Trevelyan, George Otto Villiers, Rt. Hon. C. Pelham Wait, William Killigrew Watkin, Sir Edward W. Wilson, Chas. (Kings. upon Hull) Wilson, Sir Mathew (Yk. W. R.) Yeaman, James Yorke, John Reginald (Glou. E.)

Tellers for the Ayes, Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Stansfeld.

NOES.

dam, Rt. Hon. William Patrick Agnew, Robert Vans Alexander, Colonel Allen, Major (Somerset, E.) Allsopp, Henry (Worc. E.), Arkwright, Aug. P. (Derby) N. Ashley, Hon. Evelyn M. Baggallay, Sir Richard Alfour, Arthur Jas. (Hertf. Bo) arclay, Alex. Chas. (Taunton)

Baring, Thomas Charles
Barrington, Viscount
Bass, Arthur (Staffordsh. E.)
Bassett, Francis
Bates, Edward
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Clo. E.)
Bentinck, Geo. W. P. (Norf. W.)
Bolckow, Henry W. F.
Brassey, Thomas (Hastings)
Bright, Rt. Hn. John (Birmingham)

Bristowe, Samuel Boteler Butt, Isaac Campbell, Colin Campbell-Bannerman, Henry Carington, Hon. Colonel Wm. Cartwright, Fairflax (Northamp) Cartwright, Wm. C. (Oxfords.) Cavendish, Lord G. (Derbysh. N.) Cecil, Lord Eustace H. B. G. Chaplin, Col. E. (Linc. City) Clive, Col. Hn. G. Windsor (Lud.) Clive, George (Hereford) Close, Maxwell Charles Cochrane, Alex. D. W. R. Baillie Colebrooke, Sir Thomas Edward Cordes, Thomas Corry, Hn. H. W. Lowry (Tyrone) Cowper, Hon. Henry F. Cross, Rt. Hn. Rd. A. (Lanc. S. W.) Dalkeith, Earl of Dalrymple, Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davis, Richard (Anglesea) Denison, W. E. (Nottingham) Dick, Fitzwilliam Dodson, Rt. Hon. John George Duff, Mount. Elph. Grant (Elgin) Duff, Robert William (Banffsh) Dunbar, John Dyke, William Hart Dyott, Colonel Richard Eaton, Henry William Edmonstone, Admiral Sir Wm. Edwards, Henry Egerton, Adm. Hn. F. (Derby E.) Egerton, Hon. Wilb. (Chesh. M.) Elcho, Lord Errington George Fielden, Joshua (Yk. W. R. (E. D) Ferguson, Robert French, Hon. Charles Gallwey, Sir Willian Payne Garnier, John Carpenter Goldney, Gabriel Goldsmid, Julian (Rochester) Gooch, Sir Daniel Gordon, William (Chelsea) Gore, J. Ralph Ormsby (Salop N) Gore, Wm. Rd. Ormsby (Leitrim) Gower, Hon. E. F. Leveson (Bod) Greene, Edward Gregory, George B. Hall, Alexander William Halsey, Thomas Frederick Hamilton, Lord Cl. J. (King's) Hamilton, Ion, Trant (Dublin Co.)

Hamilton, Lord George (Midd'x) Hamilton, Marquis of (Donegal) Hankey, Thomson Hardy, Rt. Hn. Gathorne (Oxf. U.) Hardy, John Stewart (Rye) Hartington, Marquis of Hay, Rt. Hn. Sir J. C. Dalrymple Herbert, Henry A. (Kerry) Hervey, Lord Aug. H. (Suff. W.) Holland, Sir H. T. (Midhurst) Hood, Capt. Hn. Arthur W. A. N. Hope, Alex. J. B. Beresford Horsman, Rt. Hon. Edward James, Walter H. (Gateshead) James Sir Henry (Taunton) Jolliffe, Hon. Sydney Kay-Shuttleworth, Ughtred Jas Kennard, Colonel Kingscote, Colonel Knatchbull-Hugessen, Rt. Hn. B. Knowles, Thomas Lawrence, Sir James Clarke Leatham, Edward Aldam Lefevre, George John Shaw Legh, Wm. John (Chesh. E.) Lewis, Chas. Edwd. (Londond'y) Lewis, Owen (Carlow Rorough) Locke, John Lowe, Rt. Hon. Robert Macduff, Viscount M'Arthur, William (Lambeth) Maitland, John Majendie, Lewis Ashurst Makins, Colonel Malcolm, John Wingfield March, Earl of Majoribanks, Sir Dudley C. Merewether, Charles George Mills, Sir Chas. Henry (Kent, W.) Monckton, Francis (Staffordshire) Monckton, Hon. Geo. (Notts.) Monk, Charles James (Glouc.) Moore, Arthur Mowbray. Rt. Hon. John Robert Mure, Colonel Naghten, Arthur Robert Newdegate, Charles Newdigate Newport, Vicount North, Colonel O'Conor, Denis M. (Sligo Co.) Onslow, Derzil Parker, Lt. Col. Windsor Peel, Arthur Wellesley (Warw.) Peel, Rt. Hon. Sir Rob. (Tamworth) Pell, Albert

Peploe, Major Plunket, Hon. D. R. (Dublin Univ.) Plunkett, Hon. R. (Glouc. W.) Praed, Chas. Tyring (St. Ives)
Praed, H. Bulkeley (Colchester) Raikes, Henry Cecil Rendlesham, Lord Repton, George William Ritchie, Charles Thompson Robertson, Henry Roebuck, John Arthur Rothschild, Nath. M. de Russell, Lord Arthur (Tavistock) Scott, Montagu D. (Sussex, E.) Shaw, Richard (Burnley) Sidebottom, T. Harrop Simonds, William Barrow Smith, Wm. Hen. (Westminster) Smyth, Richard (Lond'dy Co) Smollett, Patrick Boyle Stafford, Marquis of Stanhope, Hon. Edw. (Linc. M.) Starkey, Lewis R. (York, W. R.) Steere, Lee Stuart, Colonel (Cardiff) Sykes, Christopher Talbot, John Gilbert (Kent. W.)

Tracy, Hn. Chas. R. D. Hanbury Tremayne, John Turner, Charles (Lanc. S. W.) Turnor, Edmund (Line. S.) Vivian, Henry Hussey (Clam) Walker, Thomas Eades Wallace, Sir Richard Walpole, Hon. Ered. (Norf. N.) Walter, John Waterhouse, Samuel Waterlow, Sir Sydney H. Weguelin, Thomas M. Welby, William Earle Wellesley, Captain Whalley, George Hammond Whitbread, Samuel Whitelaw, Alexander Whitwell, John Wilmot, Sir Henry (Derbyshire S.) Wilmot, Sir J. Eardley (Warw. S.) Winn, Rowland (Line. N.) Wolff, Sir H. Drummond Woodd, Basil Thomas Wynn, Chas. W. Williams (Mont) Yarmouth, Earl of Yorke, Hon. Eliot (Camp. Co.)

Tellers for the Noes, Mr. Chaplin and Sir Charles Russell.
PAIRS.

For. Against. Sir W. Lawson Lord R. Montagu Sir F. Davie Lord R. Churchill Mr. Plimsoll Mr. S, Lloyd Lord Conyngham Captain Hayter Mr. W. Hunt Mr. Childers Mr. F. Arkwright Mr. E. Allsopp Mr. J. F. Leith Mr. Pemberton Col. Gilpin Sir J. Astley Mr. Birley Mr. Cotes Sir M. Lopes Hon. A. Egerton Mr. Meldon Mr. A. Smith Mr. Powell Mr. Estcourt Mr. Dodds Mr. Watney Mr. Fothergill Mr. Herschell Mr. Chapman Mr. Walsh Mr. Blennerhasset Mr. S. Cave

The Bill was therefore lost. But whilst in 1873 it was lost by a majority of 67 in a House of 377 Members, it was defeated on this occasion by a majority of only 35 in a House of 339 members. That is to say, although the House was smaller than when a division was last taken by about one-tenth part, the hostile majority was reduced by one-half. The smallness of the House is amply accounted for by the date of the second reading falling only two days after the Easter recess.

Adding tellers and pairs to the above number of votes, we have a result of:—

IN FAVOUR.	AGAINST.					
Liberals 98	Liberals 76					
Conservatives 72	Conservatives 129					
SOURCE STREET, SOURCE	-					
Total 170	Total 205					

These votes analysed into their several nationalities are:-

IN FAVOUR.	AGAINST.					
English 126	English 172					
Scotch 24	Scotch 15					
Irish 20	Irish 18					

Of the members who have been elected since the last division in 1873, there were:—

IN FAVOUR.		AGAINST.					
Liberals	44	Liberals 16					
Conservatives	34	Conservatives 47					
	-	principal de la servicio en la servi					
Total	78	63					

It thus appears that a majority both of the Scotch and Irish members who voted or paired were in favour of the Bill, and of the new members who took part in the division a decided majority recorded their votes in its favour. Your Committee look upon this as an evidence that public opinion is steadily growing in favour of the principle of this measure.

Amongst those who voted for the Bill were the following members of the present Government:—Mr. Disraeli, Sir C. B. Adderley, Lord John Manners, the Solicitor-General, the Lord Advocate for Scotland, Sir J. Elphinstone, and Sir Selwyn Ibbetson, and Mr. Ward Hunt paired in its favour. Of the late Ministry, Mr. Stansfeld and Dr. Lyon Playfair voted in favour of the Bill.

Comparing the number of petitions presented this session with the number presented in favour of the Bill last year, it appears that in 1874 there were 1,404 petitions, containing 430,343 signatures, In 1875, 1,253 petitions have been presented, containing a total of 410,178 signatures. Last year, however, petitioning continued up to the end of July, and this year, owing to the early date appointed for the second reading, only up to the end of April. If we compare the numbers sent in this year with those sent in at a corresponding date in 1874, we shall find an increase this year of 131,936 signatures; 225 of these petitions, signed by 124,681 persons, were forwarded to Parliament through the efforts of the friends and members of the Central Committee.

From Scotland 274 petitions were sent up, with an aggregate of 49,612 signatures. Eleven Scotch Town Councils sent petitions in favour of the Bill. From Ireland there were 207 petitions, containing 24,038 signatures. Petitions have also been sent to the House of Lords, but the number of signatures has not been ascertained. No petition whatever has been presented against the Bill from any part of the Kingdom, which justifies us in believing that there is an absence of any strong feeling of opposition to the measure in the country.

Your Committee have to record many influential meetings, amongst which are those held at Huntingdon, Canterbury, Horsham, and Bury St. Edmund's. In London, a large public meeting was held on December 8th, in Hanover-square Rooms, at which Sir Robert Austruther, Bart., M.P., presided. The meeting was addressed by Miss Anna Swanwick, Mr. Serjeant Cox, Miss Becker, Miss L. Ashworth, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Cobbe, Miss Rhoda Garrett, and others.

Your Committee feel that their thanks are especially due to those ladies who have held drawing-room meetings in their houses for the discussion of the question, and have thus brought the subject before many who had not had the opportunity of hearing it discussed at public meetings. Their sense of the valuable aid thus rendered induces your Committee to hope that many other ladies will be encouraged to do the same, and they would earnestly impress upon their friends the importance of extending this means of spreading light on the general question all over the Kingdom, believing the time has now arrived when it will prove the most effectual way of assisting the progress of the movement.

During the past year the Society has had to lament the death

of Canon Kingsley, who had written in support of the movement as early as 1869. It has lost also a warm friend by the death of Mrs. Blackburn, of Southport, who liberally contributed both time and money to the cause. We have also to regret Lord Romilly and Mr. Charles Gilpin, who were amongst the earliest advocates of Women's Suffrage.

Your Committee congratulate their friends on the greatly increased strength and activity which have been manifested in various parts of the country in behalf of the enfranchisement of women. They desire to take this opportunity of thanking the friends of the Society for their liberal aid to the funds in the past, and invite them to make increased efforts for the future. Your Committee, therefore, urgently appeal to the friends of the cause to assist them in raising funds in order to press forward the work in preparation for the division of next Session. It is of the greatest importance that funds should be raised, not only by means of large contributions, but also by a wide increase in the circle of small subscribers, and the formation of a Shilling League has been resolved upon, which it is hoped will spread an interest in the question amongst many who, though they may have little to give, may very materially help the cause.

In the desire to curtail the length of this Report, many details of the work of the past year have been omitted. It is with special gratification that your Committee point to the fact that an influential section of the Public Press now fully admits the justice of your cause. Relying on the progress of public opinion, and confident of the continued help of all those who have hitherto aided in the work, your Committee look forward with hope to the coming year, satisfied that the object of their exertions will be achieved at no distant date, and that each year will bring them nearer to the practical solution of the great question to which they are devoting their efforts.

Aational Society for Momen's Suffrage.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Receipts and Payments from June 18, 1874, to May 20, 1875

Dr.	RECEIPTS.			
From Balance	in Bank	£	S.	d.
0.1		89	13	9
" Subscript	Contributions to Last.	1.100	15	6
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" nepayme	nts of advances	7	1	6
	the second service of the second seco	£1,336	9	4
	PAYMENTS.	entr'	Æ	1.

PAYMENTS.	1 SARTY	Er.
Salaries	104	5 8
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Office Expenses	00	11 51
Expenses of Meetings	516	$7 \stackrel{2}{3}$
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Stationery	10	7 5 5
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Incidental Expenses	6	14 10
	1241.	1-1
£ s. d.	. 210 .	0-
Balance in Bank		
Outstanding Order 50 0 0		
£48 4 3		
Subscriptions in hand		
Subscriptions in hand		
Cash in Secretary's hands 6 19 6	65	4 3
	£1 226	0 1

Vouchers examined and Balance found correct,

H, HAY HILL,

29th May, 1875,

Auditor.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE SOCIETY'S

OFFICE, 294, REGENT STREET,

ON SATURDAY, MAY 29TH, 1875.

MR. W. FORSYTH, Q.C., M.P., IN THE CHAIR.

The Report of the Executive Committee and the statement of accounts were presented, and taken as read.

First Resolution.—Moved by Mrs. Lucas, seconded by Miss C. Biggs, supported by Miss Reeves:—

"That this Meeting adopt the Report and Financial Statement just read, and direct that they be circulated."

Second Resolution.—Moved by Miss Williams, seconded by Miss Babb:—

"That the Executive Committee for the ensuing year consist of the following persons" and of delegates, the same being members of Local Committees, appointed by Local Associations to represent them."

Third Resolution.—Moved by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Miss ToD:—

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Forsyth for presiding on this occasion."

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

			Ann Subsci	ual ptions.		Doi	atio	ons.	
Abercrombie, Mrs. Alexand	ler		0 5	0					
Allen, Miss F., Tenby						ĉ	0	0	
Amos, Prof. and Mrs. Sheld Anderson, Miss	ion		1 1						
Angus, Mrs			0 5	0					
Ashworth, The Misses, Bath		••				1	1	0	
Ashworth, Miss L.		••	•		• •	-100	0	0	
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Ashworth, Miss			••		2n	d 50	0		
Anonymous			0 i	0		ð	0	0	
A Friend				U	••	70	0	0	
A Friend, per Mrs. Jacob Bi	right					70	0	0	
,, per Mrs. Sims	· ·					40	0 3	0	
" per Miss Hill						0	10	0	
" Boston	1.					0	5	0	
" London						0	5	0	
"						0	2	6	
"						0	2	6	
A Lover of Justice						1	0	0	
A Working Woman						0	õ	0	
Bobb Mr I Ctaines									
Babb, Mr. J., Staines Babb, Miss C. E.	•••		1 1	0					
Railey Mr. Thomas Doctor			1 1	0					
Bailey, Mr. Thomas, Boston Baines, Miss, Yalding	•	••	0 2	6					
Balston, Mrs. Alfred, Poole			0 5	0					
Barry, Mrs., Sydenham		••	0 2	6					
Bastard, Mr. T. H. Charlton	Words 11		0 2	6					
Bayly, Mr. Edric		• • •				1	0	0	
Benham, Mr. Jas.			1 1	0					
Bennett, Mr. A. W.			1 0	()					
Best, Mrs. Pycroft, Harrow		•	1 1	0					
Bigg, Miss L. Luton		•••	0 5	.0					
Biggs, Mr. Joseph						0	5	0	
Biggs, Miss Ashurst			1 1	0					
Biggs, Miss C. A.	4		1 1	0					
			1 1	0		1	1	0	
Bird, Miss, Sydenham			0 5	0	2nd	1 2	0	0	
blackburn, Mrs. B the late			0 5	0					
Blackburn, Miss, Walmer			0 5	0					
oecker, Miss			1 0	0					
Bolton, Mrs., Torquay			0 5	0					
Sonus, Miss, Penge			0 5	0					
Boucherett, Miss J.						5	^	0	
Browne, Mrs. S. W.						5	0	0	
Bruce, Mrs.			1 1	0	•••	J	0	0	
Buchan, Dowager Lady						1	0	.0	
Burton, Frank						0	0 5	0	
anning Hon Emmelin						0	0	U	
anning, Hon. Emmeline R.	••					5	0	0	
arey, Miss, Guernsey	••		0 1	0					
arpenter, Mrs., Bridport azalet, Mrs.	••		1 0	0					
harlesworth Mr and Mrs	Choffeld					5	0	0	
harlesworth, Mr. and Mrs.,	Shemerd		0 5	0					

^{*} For names of Executive Committee see Appendix.

		15					
			Annual		n	-13	
Holmas Mu Detartement			Subscripions.		Don	11101	ıs.
Holmes, Mr., Peterborough	•••	7	0 2 6				
Hood, Mrs. Boston	•••		0 2 6				
Hope, Miss, Noblehouse			0 10 6				
Hopwood, C. H., Esq.			2 2 0				
Horn, Miss	•••		1 1 0				
Howell, Mrs. Amelia Hullah, Mrs. John	•••		0 5 0				
munan, mrs. John	•••		1 1 0				
Impartial Representation					100	•	13
Ingammels, Mr. C., Boston			0 2 6	***	100	0	()
			0 2 0				
Jackman, Mrs	144 317 11	•••	0 2 6				
Jones, Mrs. R. C., Tunbridge	e Wells	•••	1 1 0				
Johnson, Mrs. Thame			0 3 0				
Kelly, Lord Chief Baron, Si	r Fitzrov		1 0 0				
King, Mrs. E. M			1 1 0				
Kinnear, Mr. J. Boyd			1 0 0				
K					0	10	0
Langton Tades Anna Can				***	0	12	6
Langton, Lady Anna Gore					50	0	()
"	••			2nd	121	0	0
Lanworth Mr 1Stafford	••			3rd	10	0	0
Lapworth, Mr., Stafford Lawrence, Miss	•		0 5 0				
Lawrie, Mrs. Andrew	••		0 5 0				
Leach, Mrs., Yarmouth	••		1 1 0				
Lee, Mr., Boston	••		0 5 0				
LeGeyt, Miss Alice, Bristol					0	0	6
Leon, Mrs.	••	••	0 2 0				
Lewis, Mrs.					5	0	0
Lowe, Mrs.	••	• •	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				
Lucas, Mrs. S.	••	••	0 10 0				
Lucraft, Mr. and Mrs.	••	••	1 1 0		1	0	0
Lynch, Mrs. collected by			0 3 0				
Zynon, Mis. conceded by					5	0	0
MacArthur, Alex., Esq., M.P.					0	0	
MacCance, Mrs.			0 5 0	••	2	2	0
Malleson, Mr. and Mrs. F.			$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				
Malleson, Mr. and Mrs. W.			3 3 0				
Maltby, Mr. John, Boston			0 0 0		0	0	0
Man, Mr. W., Woodford			1 0 0	••	0	2	0
Mar, Countess of					1	0	0
Marsden, Mr. Mark					1 2	0	0
Martineau, Mrs. Harriet			1 1 0	••	4	0	0
Mondy, Miss M.			0 2 0				
Mulholland, Miss			0 10 0				
Müller Mrs.			0 1 0				
Murray Rev. Alexander, Pete	rboro'		0 2 6				
Newman, Prof. F. W., Westo	n-super-Ma	are	2 0 0				
Nicol, Mr. Henry			1 1 0				
Obbinson, Miss, Boston			0 1 0				
Ogden, Mrs.			0 1 0		-	•	
Ohlsen, Mrs.			1 0 0		2	0	0
			1 0 0				
Parry, Herbert, Esq., and Lad	y Maude				1	1	0
Paterson, Mr. Thos.			0 2 6				
Paterson, Mrs.			0 5 0				
Pattison, Mrs. Mark, Oxford			1.		1	0	0
Paulton, Mrs.	,.		2 0 0				-11-90
Pellew, Miss					1	0	0
Pennack, Mrs.			0 2 6				

		C.	Annal	Donations.				
		81	bscriptions.	50	0 0			
Pennington, Mrs. Frederick .				2nd				
		10.00	0 10 0	Zha e				
Penny, Mr. R. H., Brighton			0 10 0	25	0 0			
Pochin Mrs. H. D., Barnes		••	0 10 0	20				
Poole, Mr. Stanley Lane, Oxfor	rd		0 10 0					
Praed, Miss E. Mackworth			2 0 0					
Disatmon the Misses Briston			1 1 0		3 0 0			
Proceeds of a sale of China, per	Mrs. L	ynch	•• 44.55	300 739742	5 0 0			
Troceeds of a said of								
Rae, Miss, Waterville			0 1 0					
Ramsay, Miss, Croydon			1 1 0					
Ramsay, Miss, Croy don			0 10 0					
Raven, Miss			0 10 0					
Reeves, Miss			0 5 0					
Reid, Mrs. Ricketts, Mr. E. B., Chiselhurs			1 0 0					
B: Ambleside			1 1 0					
Rigbye, Miss H., Ambleside			1 1 0					
Roberts, Mr. Owen			0 16 6					
Roberts, Mrs.			0 5 0					
Robson, Mr. John					0 10 0			
Rutson, Mrs., Thirsk								
			0 10					
Scott, Miss					0 2 6			
Scott, Mrs.			0 10 0					
Scull, Mrs., Hounslow					1 0 0			
Senior, Mrs. Nassau					2 2 0			
Shore, the Misses	••		0 2 6					
Slatter, Miss, Canterbury	••		0 2 6					
Stannard, Mr. W., Wiston	••		1 0 0					
Simcox, Miss Edith					5 5 0			
Sims, Mr. George			$\begin{array}{cccc} 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \end{array}$		5 0 0			
Sims, Mrs. George				2nd				
					2 0 0			
Smith, Mr. Charles			0 10 0					
Southall, the Misses, Leomins	ster,	• •	0 5 0					
Spencer, Mr. Alfred (the late		••	1 1 0					
Spender, Mr. Edward			1 1 0					
Sparling, Miss			1 1 0		5 0 0			
Stansfeld, Mrs. James		••	0 10 6					
Steele, Mrs.	·	••	- 0 0					
Sterling, Mrs. E. C.			1 0 0		1 0 0			
Streatfield, Mrs.			0 2 6					
Stobart, Mrs., Fence Houses		••	0 2 6		1 1 0			
Shortt, Mr. J.		,			1 0 0			
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Tyssen, Mr. A. D.							0	10	6
Wade, Mrs.			0	1	0				
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Wansey, Miss, Bridport		•••	1	0					
Warren, Miss		**	0	10	0				
Wedgewood, Mrs. Hensleigh	•••	,	1	1					
Wharncliffe, Dowager Lady		•••	1	1	0				
Whitworth, Mr. Benjamin	•••			• •		•••	2	0	0
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Wilson, Miss, Cambridge		••		10	0				
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NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The object of the Society is to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same conditions as it is or may be granted to men.

The Society seeks to achieve this object—

By acting as a centre for the collection and diffusion of information with regard to the progress of the movement in all parts of the country.

By holding public meetings in support of the Women's Dis-

abilities Removal Bill.

By the publication of pamphlets, leaflets, and other literature bearing upon the question.

RULES

Passed at the General Meeting of the Central Committee and Subscribers to its Funds, held July 17th, 1872.

1. The Central Committee shall consist of the present members, and such others as the Executive Committee may, from time to time, elect.

2. The Executive Committee shall consist of Members of the Central Committee, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and of single delegates, the same being Members of Local Committees, appointed by Local Associations to represent them; the Executive Committee having power to add to the number of the Central Committee, and to its own number, and to appoint the officers.

3. A subscription of any amount constitutes membership of the National Society.

4. A General Meeting of the Central Committee shall be held once a year, to appoint the Executive Committee, to receive the Annual Report and the Financial Statement, and to transact any other business which may arise.

5. The Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting, appoint the officers.

6. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee at any time; or, at the written request of not less than twenty-five members of the Central Committee, the Secretary or Secretaries shall call a Special General Meeting, to discuss such matters only as are mentioned in the notice of such meeting.

7. Eight days' public notice shall be given of all General Meetings.

8. The above Rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting, after fourteen days' notice of the proposed alteration, given to the Executive Committee.

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YORKSHIRE.

Executive Committee.

Mrs. 1	Baily	
Mra	Bulmer	
Mrs.	Burniston	
Mrs.	Ford	
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Mr .	Joseph Lupton	

Miss Theodosia Marshall
Miss Constance Holland
Mr. Oates
Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd
Mrs. Edward Walker
Miss Lucy Wilson

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Scatcherd.

Treaswrer—Mrs. Buckton.

Office—1, Victoria Chambers, South Parade, Leeds.

Wakefield Miss Julia Barmby, Hon. Sec.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FTHE

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 10th, 1875.

MANCHESTER:
ALEXANDER IRELAND & CO., PRINTERS.
1875.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

In presenting the eighth Annual Report of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, your Committee have to record the judgment of the new Parliament on the Women's Disabilities Bill, which the promoters of the measure were unable to obtain last Session; and they report with satisfaction that the result may be regarded as very favourable to the prospects of the measure. Although the second reading was lost, the majority against it was so greatly diminished as to afford a presumption that the present House of Commons is more favourable to the principle than was its predecessor; and the Bill enjoys the distinction of being the only question of political reform which has appealed to the new Parliament with greater success than to the previous one.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time on February 8th, and the second reading fixed for April the 7th. This, although dangerously near the termination of the Easter recess, was the most favourable day that Mr. Forsyth was able to secure, as members must take the chances of the ballot with regard to priority in selecting days for the second reading of their bills. Notice of opposition to the Bill was given by Mr. Leatham and also by Mr. Chaplin.

On April 7th Mr. Forsyth moved the second reading of the Bill in a speech marked by great ability and discretion, which was received with approbation in a House that was better filled than on any former occasion at the commencement of the debate. Mr. Chaplin moved and Mr. Leatham seconded the rejection of the measure. The Bill was further supported by Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. O'Sullivan; and opposed by Mr. Smollett, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Newdegate, and Sir

Henry James. On a division the numbers were: for the Bill, 152; against, 187; majority against, 35. The numbers last division were 155 to 222; majority against, in the old Parliament, 67. It will be seen by comparison with the last division that, while the supporters of the Bill remain at about the same number as in 1873, the number of opponents shows a considerable diminution. During the last Parliament the numbers who voted against the Bill remained for four successive years persistently at from 220 to 222; while in the new Parliament the opponents, in spite of the most energetic whipping of both sides of the House, only mustered 187.

Counting tellers and pairs in the four divisions of 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1875, there were—

	THE BILL. 72. 1873. 1875.	ale loss	1971 7	872.	1873.	1810.		1011.	1014.	1010.	10.00
100 1	10 101 199		172	191	180	163		191	100	100	110
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Scotch 25	25 26 24		14	14	19	19	•••	53	55	50	63
Irish 19	$\frac{22}{-}$ $\frac{22}{-}$ $\frac{20}{-}$	•••							253	247	274
Totals 159 1	63 172 170		228	242	239	205		200	200	211	

The following table shows the numbers for and against the Bill in five divisions beginning with 1870:—

			1870.		
Votes Tellers	LISOTUL.	Con. 34	Total 94 2 .	11	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
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	113	50	163	123	119 242

1873.

			THE					· AG.	AINST.
]	ibera	1.	Con		Total.	I	iberal	l. Con	Total
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Tellers	1		1		2		1	1	9
Pairs	11		4		15		6	9	15
			-						
	121		51		172		123	116	239
	N	EW	PAI	RLI.	AMEN	т.—187	75.		
Votes	89		63		152		72	115	187
Tellers	1		1		2			2	
Pairs	9								16
			_	-			_		
	99		71		170		76	129	205

The Irish Home Rulers, of whom twelve voted for the Bill and seven against, are here classed as Liberals.

The above table shows that in the successive divisions the number of opponents has gradually declined and the number of supporters gradually increased; also, that this increase of support has been from both sides of the House. The number of Liberals who voted for the Bill steadily increased up to the last division in the old Parliament; and if there appears to be a diminution in the numbers now, it is sufficiently accounted for by the fact that there are not nearly so many Liberals now in the House to vote. But though the actual number of Liberal supporters is less, the proportionate number is greater. For the first time in the Parliamentary history of the Bill, it has obtained a majority of the Liberal votes recorded. There is a gain also on the other side. There are more Conservatives in the House than there were in 1873; consequently more Conservatives voted both for and against the measure. But the proportion of friends to opponents is considerably increased. In 1873 about three-quarters of the Conservatives who took part in the division voted against the Bill. This year less than two-thirds of the number who voted opposed the measure, and this out of a larger total of votes.

It is another hopeful circumstance that a majority of the new members, not in the last Parliament, who took part in the division, voted for the Bill. The number of members returned to the House of Commons since April, 1873, who voted on Mr. Forsyth's Bill is 141. Of these 78 voted for the second reading, and 63 against, being a majority of 25 new members in favour of the Bill. The strength of the opposition appears to lie in the remnant of the old House of Commons.

Turning from members to constituencies, we find increased support for the measure. In the following calculations we take not only those members who voted in the last division, but those who supported it in the last Parliament, and those new members who have pledged or declared themselves in favour of the principle, but who from one cause or another were absent from the division. On this basis we find that, of the three-cornered constituencies, six—namely, Birmingham, Buckinghamshire, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester—give either their full vote, or each a majority of their vote, in support of the Bill. Thirty-five constituencies, as against twenty-four in the last Parliament, give their full voice of two each in favour of the Bill, namely:—

e Din, namerj.		Preston
Barnstaple	Essex, E.	
Belfast	Exeter	Salford
	Edinburgh	Salisbury
Bolton		Scarborough
Brighton	Finsbury	Southampton
Bristol	Kingston-on-Hull	
Cavan	Leicester	Stockport
	Macclesfield	Waterford
Cork Co.		Wenlock
Devonport	Mayo	Wexford Co.
Devon, E.	Merthyr	
Dover	Newcastle on-Tyne	Worcester
	Penryn & Falmouth	
Dundee		
Durham, N.	Portsmouth	1 - in +h

Eighty-seven constituencies, as against seventy in the last Parliament, give their full voice of one each in favour of the measure, namely:—

Aberdeen, East	Athlone	Caithness
	Banbury	Calne
Aberdeen, West	Beaumaris	Cardigan Co.
Aberdeen, City		Cardigan Dist.
Abingdon	Bewdley	
Ashton-under-Lyne	Buckingham	Carrickfergus

Chatham	Glasgow and Aber-	Newport I. W.
Cheltenham	deen Universities	Newry
Chichester	Gravesend	Northallerton
Cirencester	Greenock	Orkney & Shetland
Cockermouth	Grimsby	Paisley
Coleraine	Haddington Dist.	Pembroke Dist.
Darlington	Hartlepools, The	Perth
Devizes	Haverfordwest	Portarlington
Dewsbury	Hawick	Richmond
Downpatrick	Helston	Rochdale
Drogheda	Hythe	Stockton-on-Tees
Droitwich	Invernesshire	Swansea
Dudley	Inverness Dist.	Tewkesbury
Dumbarton	Kidderminster	Tynemouth
Dumfries	Kilmarnock	Wakefield
Dundalk	Kinsale ·	Wallingford
Dungannon	Lanark, S.	Walsall
Edinburgh and St.	Launceston	Warrington
Andrew's Uni-	Leith	Westbury
versities	Linlithgow	Wexford
Ennis	Louth	Wick
Falkirk	Maldon	Wigton
Fife	Malmesbury	Wilton
Flint Dist.	Marlborough	Windsor
Forfarshire	Morpeth	Youghal
Twenty-seven consti-	tuencies have each gir	yon one wate to the

Twenty-seven constituencies have each given one vote to the Bill, their other vote being neutral on the last division:—

Blackburn	Hackney	Newcastle under-
Carmarthen	Halifax	Lyme
Clare	Hants S.	Northampton N.
Devon N.	Ipswich	Northumberland S
Derby	Kildare	Oldham
Dublin	Lancashire N.E.	Somerset Mid
Durham S.	Leicester N.	Sunderland
Galway	Limerick Co.	Yorkshire West
Grantham	Louth Co.	Riding N.D.
Greenwich	Marylebone	

Twenty-four constituencies gave one vote for and one against the Bill, being twenty-four votes on each side:—

Bedford	Devon S.	Northampton
Boston	Essex W.	Sheffield
Bury St. E.	Gloucester E.	Somerset W.
Cambridge	Gloucester	Southwark
Carlisle	Kerry	Stafford West
Chelsea	Leicester S.	Surrey West
Coventry	Limerick City	Wells N.
Derby E.	Newark	Wolverhampton

We see that 117 constituencies, as against 94 last Parliament, give clear and full votes for the Bill; and 27 clear, though not full, votes for it. We have, therefore, 144 constituencies clearly ranged in favour of the Bill.

Your Committee venture to regard as a testimony to the strength of their position, the circumstance that the opponents of the measure appear to be so greatly alarmed at the progress of the question that they have deemed it necessary to form an Association of Peers, Members of Parliament, and other influential persons, for the purpose of resisting the claims of women to the suffrage. The following circular has been issued by them:—

"MINUTES OF A MEETING AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.
"23rd JUNE, 1875.

"Present:—The Right Hon. E. P. Bouverie, in the chair.

And the following Members of Parliament: Right Hon. H. C. Childers, Marquis of Hamilton, Lord Randolph Churchill, Hon. E. Stanhope, Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Hayter, Sir Henry Holland, Sir Henry James, Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, Mr. Leatham, Mr. Merewether, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Raikes, Mr. de Rothschild, Mr. Scourfield, Mr. Whitbread.

Resolved :-

I. "That a committee of Peers, Members of Parliament, and other influential men be organised for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the franchise, in opposition to the claims for the extension of the Parliamentary suffrage to women."

II. "That Mr. E. P. Bouverie be requested to act as chairman, and Lord Claud John Hamilton and Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth as honorary secretaries."

"The following members have since joined those named above: Lord Elcho, Right Hon. E. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Right Hon. J. R. Mowbray, Sir Thomas Bazley, Mr. Butt, Mr. Gibson, and Colonel Kingscote."

During the session of 1875 there were presented to the House of Commons 1,273 petitions, signed by 415,622 persons, in favour of the Bill. No petitions were presented against the measure. The petitions sent through the agency of the Manchester society and their friends were 269 with 153,697 signatures. The petitions from Manchester received 33,342. and from Salford 13,564 signatures. Your Committee would strongly urge on all their friends the necessity for renewed and increased petitions.

Your Committee have to report that the following meetings were held, since the last report, during the autumn and winter of 1874-5, in the following places:—Chester, Warrington, Southport, Blackburn, Preston, Kidderminster, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Lichfield, Dudley, Derby, Ironbridge, Bridgnorth. The campaign for this season has begun by large and enthusiastic meetings in Wigan and Burnley. Petitions and memorials in favour of the Bill were adopted at all these meetings.

Your Committee report with satisfaction that in consequence of these meetings the Society has received a considerable accession of members during the past year. After every meeting steps have been taken to enrol fresh subscribers, with such success that not only have the expenses of many of the meetings been nearly covered, and in some cases exceeded, by the donations obtained at once, but the subscriptions have been renewed next year; and your Committee may, therefore, regard every meeting promoted by them as a permanent source of income to the Society. As all such subscribers receive the Women's Suffrage Journal monthly, the interest roused by the meetings is kept alive, and the foundation laid for future work.

During the summer and autumn the plan which had proved so useful in the season of 1873—of instituting lectures at watering places—was resumed with satisfactory results. A special fund was subscribed by a few friends who were impressed with the value of this mode of agency, and lectures were delivered by Miss Becker, in July and August, at Llandudno, Rhyl, Pensarn, Bettws-y-Coed, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Redcar, and Harrogate. A lecture was also delivered at Colne.

Miss Becker was supported in the Yorkshire towns by the valuable co-operation of Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, hon. sec. of the Yorkshire Society, who also addressed the meetings.

The circulation of the Women's Suffrage Journal has been steadily increasing, and your Committee continue to receive gratifying indications of the favour with which it is regarded by the public.

The income of the Society shows an increase over that of last year. More money has been received in subscriptions and more on account of the Journal. But the expenses have been unusually heavy, and therefore your Committee close their financial year with a smaller balance in hand than that with which they began their work. They trust, however, that their friends will continue to extend to them the confidence and support which have enabled them thus far to maintain a vigorous agitation. The condition and financial position of the Society are sound and healthy, and if the same support should be extended to them in the future as in the past, your Committee look forward with a reasonable and confident hope of being able to meet at the end of the next financial year with a satisfactory report of progress made and work accomplished.

Mr. Forsyth has intimated his intention to re-introduce the Women's Disabilities Bill early next Session; and your Committee conclude with an earnest appeal to the friends of the cause to enable them to strengthen the hands of their Parliamentary leaders, by a vigorous movement, which will assure them that those on whose behalf they are acting are earnest and determined to give them adequate support, and be a practical proof that women, all over the land, desire, and are earnestly striving to obtain, the Parliamentary franchise.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of the Society, held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Manchester, November 10th, 1875.

JACOB BRIGHT, Esq., in the Chair.

The Secretary read the Report of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer read the Statement of Accounts.

Resolution I.—Moved by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, seconded by W. T. Charley, Esq., M.P.:

That the Report and Statement of Accounts just read be adopted, and printed for circulation under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Resolution II.—Moved by J. P. Thomasson, Esq., seconded by Rev. J. Freeston:

That the following persons be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:—Jacob Bright, Esq., Mrs. Jacob Bright, Miss Maria Atkinson, Miss Becker, Mrs. Butler, Thomas Chorlton, Esq., Mrs. Gell, Rev. B. Glover, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. R. R. Moore, Dr. Pankhurst, Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Mrs. Sutcliffe, Thos. Thomasson, Esq., Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Miss Alice Wilson, with power to add to their number.

Resolution III.—Moved by Miss Becker, seconded by Dr. Pankhurst:

That the cordial thanks of this meeting are hereby rendered to Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, the Right Hon. the Recorder of London, Sir Robert Anstruther, Bart., Mr. Jackson, and Mr. O'Sullivan, for introducing and supporting the Women's Disabilities Bill, also to the Members of the House of Commons who voted or paired in its favour in the division on the second reading of the measure on April 7th, 1875, and this meeting respectfully requests Mr. Forsyth and his coadjutors to take steps for the re-introduction of the Bill at an early period of the forthcoming session.

The Chair was taken by the Rev. S. Alfred Steinthal.

Resolution IV.—Moved by Mrs. Buckton, seconded by Rev. W. A. O'Conor:

That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Mayor of Manchester for allowing the Society the use of the Town Hall, and to Mr. Jacob Bright for presiding on the present occasion.

THE MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER, 1875.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS. FINANCIAL YEAR, 1874-1875.

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Country of Mr S	Davies, Miss M. (Wigan)
Crawford Miss Mabel Sharman	
Cudworth Mr W	Dixon, Rev. J. M
Carlill Mr B	
Carbatt Ma Millon	
Chandler Mrs (Collected by)	
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Conthon Mr W A	Edmondson, Mr. James 1 1 0
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Cheetham, Miss M. E 0 5 0 Cooper, Mr. Thos. (Wigan)	
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Cowen, Mr	Egginton, Miss
Crimpon RAV I IT	Elliott, Mr. John
Cronkshaw Miss	Evans, Mr. J. B
Crook Miss	Evans, Miss M. A. (Alderley Edge) 0 2 6 Evans, Rev. S. (Ironbridge) 0 2 6
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Coron Misses	
Carr Mr W H (Colne)	Evans, Mr. W. (Ironbridge) 0 2 0
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Chatterton, Mrs	Fry, Mrs. Theo
Christia Mr. J	Finch, Mr. John
Cochrane Mr. R	Fryer, Mr. Chas. (Preston)
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Cooke Mr Thos (Grimshy)	Fletcher, Mr
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Dale, Mr. Thomas 2 0 0	Freeston, Mrs
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Dick, Miss Mary	Farmer, Mr. G. E 0 3 0
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Kippling, Miss			•••	•••							0	2	6
Kilmister, Mrs.			•••	•••	•••		•••	•••			0	2	6
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MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

RULES.

I. The object of the Society is, to obtain for Women the right of voting for Members of Parliament on the same conditions as it is, or may be, granted to men.

II. Approval of the object of the Society, and an annual subscription of any amount shall constitute membership.

III. The subscriptions are due on the first day of January for the current year.

IV. An Executive Committee shall be appointed at an Annual General Meeting, which committee shall have power to add to its number.

V. The Committee, at its first meeting subsequent to the Annual Meeting, shall appoint a secretary and a treasurer.

VI. A General Meeting of the Society shall be held once a year, to receive the report, the statement of accounts, to appoint the committee, and transact any other business which may arise.

VII. A Special General Meeting of the Society may be called at any time by the committee; and, at the written request of twenty-five Members, the secretary shall call a Special Meeting. At such meeting no subjects shall be discussed but those mentioned in the notice summoning the members.

VIII. No General Meeting of the Society shall be called without eight days' public notice of such meeting.

IX. These rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting; and no rule shall be altered at any meeting unless a month's notice of such proposed alteration has been given to the committee.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Members of the Society and others are earnestly requested to aid the movement for procuring the passing of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

I. By collecting signatures to the petition, forms of which may be obtained from the Secretary.

II. By bringing the question under the notice of Members of Parliament, whenever they appear before their constituents.

III. Should notice of any motion, friendly or hostile, be given in the House of Commons—by writing letters, asking the local Members to support the principle of Women's Suffrage.

IV. In case of an election, by calling on every candidate to declare whether he will, if returned, vote for the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

V. By trying to procure insertions of facts and arguments bearing on the question, in the local press.

VI. By communicating to the Secretary any information likely to be useful to the Society, and the names of such persons as may be disposed to assist the cause.

VII. Where there are three or four members in the same place, by uniting to form a local committee.

VIII. By endeavouring to increase the number of members. IX. By promoting the circulation of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

X. By extending the organization of the Society through the medium of corresponding members or local committees. All persons willing to render such assistance are earnestly requested to communicate with the Secretary.

Further information will be willingly afforded to all who may desire it.

LYDIA E. BECKER, SECRETARY, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

18351





WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Eighth Annual Meeting

OF THE

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY

FOI

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,

Held in the Hall of the Literary Institute, South Clerk Street,

15th February

1876.

EDINBURGH: PRINTED BY JOHN GREIG & SON.

MDCCCLXXVI.





EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MRS M'LAREN, Newington House, PRESIDENT.

Miss Burton, Liberton Bank. Miss CALDWELL, 2 Victoria Terrace, Portobello. Miss CAMERON. Miss CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street. Mrs CRUDELIUS, 14 Inverleith Terrace. Mrs Ferguson Home of Bassendean. Miss Hunter, 5 Great Stuart Street. Miss M. HUNTER, 5 Great Stuart Street. Mrs Low, 30 Minto Street. Mrs Masson, 10 Regent Terrace. Mrs M'QUEEN of Braxfield. Mrs NICHOL, Huntly Lodge. Mrs ORD of Muirhouselaw. Mrs Robertson, 25 Blacket Place. Miss SIMPSON, Portobello. Miss RAMSAY SMITH, 3 Bruntsfield Crescent. Miss E. STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent. Mrs Wellstood, 14 Duncan Street.

MISS A. CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street, TREASURER.

Mrs WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street.

MISS WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street,
MISS AGNES M'LAREN, Newington House,
MISS E. KIRKLAND, 13 Raeburn Place,

This Society consists of all friendly to its object, and who subscribe to its Funds.

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Literary Institute, on 15th February 1876. There was a large attendance. Amongst others present were—Professor Masson, Professor Hodgson, Mr Macfie of Dreghorn, Councillor Wellstood, Councillor Durham, Ex-Bailie Lewis, the Rev. Mr Seton, Ex-Councillor Robertson, Mr Duncan M'Laren, jun., Mrs Duncan M'Laren, Miss Becker, Manchester; Miss Beedy, Miss Wigham, Mrs Wellstood, Misses Stevenson, Mrs Macqueen, Miss Craig, Miss Caldwell, Mrs and Miss Hope of Bordlands, Mrs Nichol, Mrs Masson, Mrs Lucas, Mrs Hodgson, Mrs Richardson, and Miss E. Kirkland.

On the motion of Councillor Durham, Professor Masson was called to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause, said—It is not for me, in the place to which you have done me the honour to call me, to argue the question at large. That naturally will be left to the proposers and seconders of the resolutions. It falls to me rather to bring before you in a general way the question, its history and its present state. The exact question is this:—We live now, as regards Parliamentary suffrage, under the Act passed in the year 1867. By that Act it was settled that the Parliamentary suffrage should be vested in certain persons, defined by a kind of property qualification—householders and ratepayers—very distinctly defined, though with some differences between the burghs and the counties. That is the Act we live under as regards voting for Members of Parliament. But the operation of that Act is peculiar in this way, that, whenever a woman comes into the very definite position of a voter, as settled by the Act, then, though she is qualified in all other respects, simply because she is a woman, she cannot exercise the franchise. (Applause.) However wealthy she may be, however hard-working and respected, however cultivated, however well-known among her neighbours for sense, judiciousness, and prudence, she must be passed over, and the vote goes on to the next man, although he should be in all moral and

intellectual respects her direct opposite. Now, it is thought that this is wrong—that those persons who are excluded from the power to vote on this mere account that they are women should be brought into the constituency. It is not very easy to say definitely what addition that would make to the present entire constituency of Great Britain, because in various burghs and in various districts the proportion of the excluded varies—in some the women householders being more numerous than in others. But the conclusion is that about 300,000 persons would be added to the voting constituency of Great Britain. As things are, very curious consequences arise. For example, I have read this statement—and I have no doubt as to its accuracy—that in one English town some years ago, in consequence of bribery and corrupt voting in the town, there was a Bribery Commission appointed to inquire into the facts and circumstances. The result was that to pay for the expenses of this there was imposed a rate of three shillings per pound on the rental of householders in that town. Now, here the curious contradiction came out. The Act of 1867, when it came to be a question of voting, did not allow the favourable construction—did not regard womenhouseholders as coming into the definition of persons entitled to vote. But, when it came to be the question who should pay the rate imposed to pay the expense brought about by corrupt voting, it was held that those very excluded women-householders strictly came within the definition of those who had to pay-(Hear, hear) -that is to say, women who were debarred from voting, who were thought not fit to vote, had to pay for the corruption of the men voters. (Applause.) I define the question thus, because I wish it to be understood that our question is not the question whether all women whatsoever should vote. It is only the question whether those who are in the circumstances, in the precise position, settled by the Act, and who happen to be women, should be excluded on that account. It is not the proposition that all women-married women, and so on-shall come in for the right to vote. It is sometimes objected that it is not logical not to go on to that. But it is strictly logical; because, you will observe, we are not striving for a revolution, for a change in the whole system of voting: we are accepting the present system, and only requiring that women shall have the full benefit of that system. (Applause.) It may be that some time or other there may be a question originated otherwise about the present franchise system altogether; and, if ever it comes to be a question of personal voting, and not voting on property or ratepaying, then a larger question as regards women may become proper. But we at present are perfectly logical and practical in restricting ourselves to what I have now stated to you. With regard to the recent history of the question, here are a few facts:-The question became a practical one only, I may say, in 1867 — about the time of the passing of that Act. There were speculations on the subject before; but the great increase of the voting constituency

of the country brought about by that Act made it then a very practical question. Now, the question since 1867 has been growing and gaining ground on our side. In that year the petitions in favour of what we ask contained 13,000 signatures. In the next year—1868—there were 50,000 petitioners. In 1870 the number rose to 109,000; in 1872 to 350,000; and last year—in 1875—to 415,000. (Applause.) The same growth is represented in the. votes in the House. In 1867, 75 in the House signified themselves to be in favour of giving women householders votes. In 1870, in a House of 215, 124 voted in favour of women—winning by a majority of 33. But that vote was quashed afterwards in committee. The House since then, whenever the question has come up, has been larger. Thus, in 1873 there were 411 present in the House, and the division was 172 for, to 239 against; that is, our cause lost by 67. Last session 375 were present, and the division was 170 for, to 205 against: that is, our cause lost by 35 —the Scottish members in the cause being equally divided—22 to 22; and I believe all over—counting those absent as well as those present on that occasion—the vote is about equally balanced there. But the fact that so many Scottish Town Councils—including the Town Council of Edinburgh—have petitioned in favour gives a preponderance to our side. Then, it has come out curiously in these votes all along that we have supporters eminent on both sides of the present political world. The recent chief of the question on our side of the House was Mr Jacob Bright-(Cheers and hisses)—a most unflinching and zealous advocate of our cause, and a distinguished member of the Liberal party. The present leader and representative of this cause in the House is Mr Forsyth, a thoughtful and eminent member of the Conservative party. (Cheers and hisses.) It so chances, also, that, while we can name among late Cabinet Ministers of the Liberal side Mr Stansfeld as one who has voted in our favour on several occasions, we can name among eminent Conservatives who have voted in our favour, the present Prime Minister, Mr Disraeli (cheers and hisses), Lord John Manners, Sir Stafford Northcote, and also, I am glad to add -and it is not the only case in which we have had to admire his wisdom and thoughtfulness—the chief, as you may say, of Scottish Conservatism, the Lord Advocate. (Cheers.) Then, again, there has been recently the fact that the votes of women have been admitted in School Board elections, and that the results have been entirely in favour of the extension of the vote to other subjects; also, that in the Municipalities in England women exercise a vote, though not in the Municipalities of Scotland yet. Also, by the Ballot Act, the act of voting has been made a much more human, easy, and quiet thing than before. Parties, however, are so nearly balanced on the question that it comes back to the public in meetings like the present. We know that there is a very definite opposition, and we know on what that opposition has come to found itself—on a certain notion of women and their possibilities and powers—a very extraordinary notion, expressed again and

again in various forms, sometimes in the form of great adoration, and sometimes in the form of ridicule and contempt. In that notion there is a curious contrariety between theory and fact. The theory is that all women are supported and maintained by men, and so that they stand aside and occupy a peculiar ground by themselves where they are to be protected and worshipped. The fact is that between three and four millions of women, in spite of all this, are at present working for their daily bread in this country—working in all varieties of ways, and some of them very hard and very trying. The theory is that men are arranged on one side of a room and women on the other; that the men know about politics and take an interest in them, and that the women do not, and have no concern in public affairs. The fact is that the sexes are intermingled all through wherever you choose to look, engaged in the same or similiar occupations, and that the women do care about most things as much as the men. Now, as to the indifference and apathy on the subject. These arise from various causes. Partly it is from the common feeling, Why should people trouble themselves about politics? The view is as if politics were a kind of dabbling in the mire; which is a very low and insufficient view of politics. Politics means all that is going on; and, though people need not engage in all questions, yet, any person who does not know what is going on, and choose things to like and to dislike, is not acting up to the full privilege of a citizen or human being. (Applause.) I have great faith that those who are apathetic, when they look into the question, will gradually yield to the force of argument; and I may just ask those among women who are apathetic or indifferent, or partly opposed at present, whether it may not turn out to be a blunder in households to train up sons to professions and definite capabilities of self-exercise and self-support, and to all that interest in things around them which consorts with the same, and, on the other hand, unless there is superabundant wealth to make up the defect, to train up daughters on a totally different principle. Then, if ladies say for other ladies that they should not interest themselves in politics, let them consider this, that any lady who professes the opinion that the vote ought not to be given to her own sex is in that act a very definite politician, and that any lady who publicly expresses that opinion in a way to act on the public mind is doing a very strong political act indeed. (Applause.) Without detaining you longer, and without going into the argument on the question in a minute way, I may say that we hold this to be an important and pressing question, because we think that it is wrong that many burdens should be imposed on women without their having any voice in the decision whether they should be imposed; because we think it wrong that in a great many questions of legislation affecting the daily lives and interests of women, women themselves should not be consulted; and because we see that at present there is a demand and new scope for the energies of women and for the development of their powers in all directions. In this last connection I note

at present a resisting and even a hurling-back agency, which will not be thoroughly removed till in some constituency some conspicuous opponent of the rights of women shall be turned out visibly by the influence of women, and the representatives of other constituencies shall look on and learn the lesson. We think ours a pressing and important question, also, because we believe that general politics should be elevated, and that there will be no loss but gain from having the ideas and views of women on all general matters; and we think it a particularly pressing question at this time, when the proposal is to enfranchise the whole population of the agricultural labourers. Without pronouncing any opinion on that question, for or against, on its own merits, we hold that there is a positive danger for women if it is carried, unless our suffrage is carried with it. We foresee, in fact, that there is a danger that the interests of women will suffer and be trampled down under this vast coming enlargement of the pell-mell of merely masculine feet. (Applause.) Professor Masson concluded by calling on Miss Wigham to read the Report.

Miss Wigham then read the Report, as follows:-

"Another year has passed over since we presented our Report of proceedings to our friends and subscribers, and we are still working vigorously as a society, the object of our organisation not yet being attained; but though not fully accomplished, we cannot but note with satisfaction, in addition to the increasing importance attached to the yearly presentation of our claim before the House of Commons, many tokens of direct progress, and of success in collateral efforts for the enfranchisement of women.

"The work of petitioning has, of course, occupied much of our attention, and we have found the holding of drawing-room meetings, and other small meetings, very efficacious in influencing public opinion in fresh circles. We have held many such meetings in the past year, and have circulated much information throughout the

country by various channels.

"Since we first met in November 1867 to form an Edinburgh Society for the Promotion of Women's Suffrage, and to unite with others in petitioning Parliament, about two millions of signatures have been appended to petitions in favour of the measure introduced successively into the House of Commons by Mr John Stuart Mill, by Mr Jacob Bright, and last year by Mr Forsyth, Q.C.; and in this large number Scotland has been represented in her full proportion. The last year we sent to Parliament in support of Mr Forsyth's bill 260 petitions, signed by 49,400 names. 200 of these petitions were general ones, from various places, 16 were from Town Councils, 12 from Good Templar lodges, and 32 from householders. The general signatures from Edinburgh alone amounted to 16,678. All these names and efforts, uniting with those from England, had doubtless their influence on the House of Commons; but they did not quite carry out their object, for while 170 members voted for us in the division of 7th April 1875, 205 voted against us; but though still in the minority, the number of our supporters is increasing, and we confidently hope that before long the minority will become a majority. And we are encouraged to press on by the fact

that the Prime Minister and many prominent members of his Government voted in our favour, besides the usual distinguished support from the Liberal side of the House. The debate on the second reading was, as usual, an animated one; and we would express our thanks to the mover of the bill, as well as to all who spoke in favour of it, and to the members who voted for it, and in this number we would especially include our own Scotch members. A large meeting was convened by ladies on the 10th of April, in St George's Hall, London, for the purpose of criticising the speeches of our opponents in the debate. It was conducted with great talent and power, ladies from Scotland and Ireland taking a part along with those of England. That the importance of this meeting was recognised is seen in the fact that the London Observer published all the speeches in full, and a copy was sent to every member of Parliament. It was not difficult to answer arguments based upon custom rather than justice, and especially was the illogical speech of Mr Leatham, the member for Huddersfield, well replied to, since he had hoped a certain brilliancy of style might hide his deficient logic. And again, a meeting was held in the largest hall in Huddersfield, crowded by his own constituents, addressed by ladies, in which his own position with regard to women's suffrage was condemned, and by a unanimous and enthusiastic vote Mr Leatham was requested not only to present a petition in favour of women's suffrage in the present Parliament, but to support it.

"We may be allowed here to allude to a few collateral tokens of progress. The ladies on the School Boards maintain their place of prominence and acknowledged usefulness. Women vote intelligently in England at the municipal elections; and an advance is being now made towards the recognition of the importance of securing for women a qualifying medical education. The Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Governors of the Queen's Hospital at Birmingham have opened their doors for the education of women; and the Convocation of the University of London, preparing for a new charter, have passed a vote that 'no charter would be acceptable which did not provide for the granting of degrees to women, and that such

degrees were not to be confined to the Faculty of Arts.

"It is no matter of surprise that women should appear on public platforms, not only to plead their own right to the electoral franchise, but to advance their views on education and other matters bearing on the welfare of their own sex and that of society in general. And thus the public mind is being educated, the nation is being aroused to a sense of the waste and loss there is in neglecting to accept the half of the intelligence and thought of the British people. And women themselves are being educated to the importance of their position in the body politic as well as domestic, finding that their influence in the latter relation is only enhanced by their intelligent interest in the former.

"We have heard the voice from the agricultural labourers claiming direct representation. We sympathise, of course, in their cry, which doubtless ought to be heard, but we would submit that a voice from a far larger section of the community, and one more educated, has for a much longer period been heard, and as yet in vain, and we conceive that the appeal of the right hon. member for Birmingham is quite as applicable to women as to the agricultural labourers, when he exclaims, 'Well, then, give to the people who are now excluded that freedom which the Constitution has given to you . . . and you will invite them with a cordial hand, you will receive them, you will invite them to partake of that sublime justice which injures no one, but is rich in blessings, and benefits all who are permitted to share it." (Applause.)

After reading the Report, Miss Wigham submitted an abstract of the income and expenditure of the association for the year.

Professor Hodgson moved the adoption of the Report and reappointment of the Committee, and stated that instead of saying anything in support of the motion, he would allow the meeting to have the opportunity of hearing Miss Becker and Miss

Miss Becker, who was received with cheers, stated that, as the meeting had distinctly heard, their object was not universal women sufferage. In fact, they were asking, not that any law should be given extending the suffrage to women as women, but that the disability should be removed that prevents persons, otherwise legally qualified, from voting because they happen to be women. During one of his speeches, Mr Disraeli said of the Reform Bill of 1867 that the House of Commons gave the franchise, and intended to give it, to every householder rated for the relief of the poor. Some time after he had made that statement, Mr Disraeli paid a visit to Manchester. He was driving with an alderman of that city, who pointed out to him a row of twenty houses, and the alderman said, "There is a defect in your Reform Bill." "How is that?" said Mr Disraeli. The alderman replied, "Sixteen of these houses have votes under your Bill; four of them are disfranchised because they are occupied by women." "That," said Mr Disraeli, "is a defect in the bill;" and he added, "it is a defect which shall be remedied at the next opportunity." Now they wished to make the opportunity for Mr Disraeli and for Parliament to remedy that defect; and they were going to ask this meeting to help them in their endeavour. ... In England very considerable advance has been made on this question. By having a bill year by year before the House of Commons, they were accustoming people to the idea of giving votes to women householders. Then, again, by the Municipal Franchise Bill of 1869, people were familiar with the spectacle of women year by year going to the polls and recording their votes for town councillors; and the municipal elections in England were becoming year by year more distinctly political contests. People put up a candidate for the town council, not because they thought he understood about paving, lighting, and watching the town, but because he was a Liberal or Conservative, and because the wire-pullers of either party desired to exercise their troops in the municipal elections partly that they might measure their strength, and partly that they might keep their hands in. Therefore, women were every year in England drawn into these political elections. That morning she had the pleasure of reading an article in the Edinburgh Courant—a very able and thoughtful article—on the various aspects of the question. Women must expect to see the question treated with a certain kind of half serious banter, as if the writer were not quite sure that the dignity of his sex or the gravity of his occupation permitted him to

interfere with anything so light and trivial as women's affairs. But throughout this banter there were serious lessons to be learned, and much good sense conveyed, which she hoped would be appreciated by the people of Edinburgh. (Cheers.) The writer said, she thought very truly, that the active opposition to their cause was numerically small; that the active promoters of the cause were numerically small; and that the mass of mankind lay doubtful or neutral on the question. This neutrality proceeded partly from ignorance, and partly from really never having considered the matter. It was the business of their Society to trench upon that neutral ground, to occupy it more and more, and send out their advance posts in every direction, to find out whenever they could, opportunities of enforcing their views, and presenting them to the minds of thoughtful and impartial people; and if they did that industriously, they did not doubt that in time they would occupy this neutral ground. But the writer said, "Mr Forsyth's clients, with all their wit and ability, have not yet attained the level of political self-help; they have not proved that many women would vote if the franchise were given to them." It was difficult to attain political self-help on the part of a class expected to help themselves politically, whilst they were deprived of the only political weapon that any person could possess—the franchise. (Cheers.) And if men would give to women the means of political self-help—the franchise—she thought they might trust women to use that means to good purpose. As to the statement that they had not proved that many women would vote if the franchise were given them, she thought that gentlemen must have overlooked the fact that in Scotland women had used the only franchise which they did possess—the School Board franchise quite as energetically as the men; and in England it was the same with the municipal franchise. In all the great municipal boroughs, the proportion of women who went to record their votes was equal to the proportion of men, according to the number of each on the register. (Cheers.) It was sometimes said that women did not want the franchise, but she thought no one on reflection would say that they had such remarkable and fanciful views on the matter of votes that they appreciated the use of the municipal franchise, and would neglect the Parliamentary franchise if it were in their power. At any rate they said to those men who doubted whether women would use votes or not, "Give us the votes, and then we will shew whether we will use them or not." (Cheers.) It was not only for the general elevation of women in society that they asked for this; they also asked for it as an instrument for the removal of certain injurious legal and social restrictions which pressed upon their sex. Referring to various instances of hardship under the existing laws relating to the property of married women, Miss Becker stated that there was an attempt made to amend these laws, and in 1873 a bill was brought in, and six times counted out. Out of 650 members presumedly sent to represent the interests of the whole people, not forty could be got to take a sufficient interest

to discuss a bill directly affecting the property and personal rights of 16,000,000 of her Majesty's subjects. (Hear, hear.) Miss Becker proceeded to argue, that by giving women a vote in the election of members of Parliament, they would secure attention to their interests. In connection with the Manchester election, she adverted to the fact that great efforts were being made to obtain the Irish vote. It would probably, she remarked, be the general opinion that we were more likely to get women's franchise than Home Rule, but these men would be able to obtain from their candidates, she did not say the granting of that which they had asked, but, at anyrate, full and fair consideration for their requests. There were, she supposed, more than 6000 Irishmen on the electoral roll for Manchester. There were 10,000 women householders; and suppose these were on the roll for Manchester, they would have both the candidates anxious to look into the laws affecting women. Miss Becker next proceeded to deal with various objections taken to the conferring of the suffrage on women. The Times, she said, appeared to have had some sort of idea that the women's question would be very important at elections, and objected to women's votes on that ground, because it said that in every constituency there would be enough of women's votes to turn the scale, and candidates would be so anxious to secure the women's votes as to neglect the questions affecting men. Their answer was, that if a bill should pass, there would be only one woman to seven men on the register, and if the men could not take care of their own questions with odds like that in their favour, it was time for them to leave off calling the women the weaker sex. (Laughter, and a voice—"Encore.") If it were true that women did not know enough for the franchise, she maintained that if men, who had the arrangements for the education of the people generally, had neglected to educate girls and women, they had no right to turn round and allege ignorance, caused by their own neglect, as an excuse for perpetuating injustice. Sometimes it was said women did not want the franchise. These were surely the women who did not want anything, and who were very comfortably provided for. She concluded by saying that they were proceeding in what they asked on the same principles as prompted our ancestors in their efforts for freedom and self-government. They appealed, not to men's fears, but to their sense of justice; not to force, but to reason and persuasion. And when their voices spoke the words of truth and soberness, and pleaded for a measure of justice, their faith was that the appeal would not be in vain. (Loud cheers.)

Mr Macfie of Dreghorn, in moving the next resolution, said that although there was doubtless some misapprehension in some minds with regard to the aims of the society, all must admit that they had been very well advocated on this occasion. (Applause.) Some might have thought, from the unseemly interruptions of a few young men in the gallery, that they were meddling with the subject

of the education of medical students. That was not the subject they were there to discuss. Others might think that they contemplated educating young ladies for the bar or the senate; butnothing of the kind. The cause had been excellently pleaded by the ladies who had spoken; and had given to those young men in the gallery who were not yet old enough to vote for a member of Parliament a very good lesson in elocution. (Applause and laughter.) All would agree with him that if the ladies exercised the franchise as ably as they expounded their right to it, they would be a very valuable accession to the electoral body. (Applause.) It was well known that women exercised a great power in the election of ministers—which was of even more importance than the election of members of Parliament; and he thought if they were qualified to vote in the one case, they should also be qualified to vote in the other, and to take an interest in politics. It had been said that there would thereby be a danger of women neglecting their other duties. Where was there ever found a better wife or a better mother than our own beloved Queen? (Applause.) And yet we found in the memorials of the late Prince Consort that she had been as much a politician as any man on the throne would have been. (Applause.) It should be distinctly understood that the question which they were now agitating was not a party one, but a question on which men of all political feelings and antecedents could heartily join. (Applause.) They were bringing in no spirit of complaint against the way in which the franchise had hitherto been conducted; they simply wanted now that justice should be done to all interests. (Applause.) Take the importance to us of the maintenance of peace, the importance of education at home, the necessity of suppressing anything that had a demoralising effect—such as excessive drinking—and we would find that the influence which women could exercise against those evils was greater than that of men. (Applause.) Why, then, should they not have their disabilities removed? (Applause.) It was evident that religious and ecclesiastical questions must for a long time come prominently before the British Parliament. Now, in discussing such questions, the members of Parliament would be much the better of being in direct communication with the woman-power of the country. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) He concluded by moving—"That in the opinion of this meeting, the exclusion of women householders and ratepayers from the electoral franchise is inconsistent with the constitutional principle that taxation is the basis of representation, and by the rejection of a large portion of the industry, intelligence, and the property of the country from direct representation, is unjust to those thus excluded, and injurious to the community at large. Therefore resolved, that a petition to this effect be forwarded to Parliament, signed on behalf of this meeting, praying the House of Commons to pass the 'Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women,' which is to be introduced into the House by Mr Forsyth, Q.C." (Loud applause.)

Miss Beedy, who was received with applause, seconded the resolution. Any one, she said, familiar with the laws of the country, knew that there were many that were unjust to women. Any thoughtful person must see that in all matters where the interests of men and women were opposed, it was only natural that men should look with a keener eye to their own interests than to the interests of women. Mr Gladstone had once, in referring to that fact, said that any man who could devise a plan by which the injustice which resulted from that could be set right, should be considered a great benefactor. Then, again, in matters where there may be no conflict of interests, they saw that the interests of men were attended to, while those of women were comparatively overlooked—as, for example, in the matter of education. Then, again, they saw that in Parliament a bill which concerned only the interests of women had much less chance of being passed than a bill that concerned only the interests of men. That was so well known, that a member of Parliament once said that attempting to get a woman's bill passed through Parliament was like attempting to move a loaded waggon without horses. Now, all that was wanted by the present movement was to make women constituents of members of Parliament, and thus to supply the motive-power. (Applause.) In regard to industrial pursuits, also, women were placed at a great disadvantage. There were some three or four millions of women in the country earning their own livelihood, who crowded into the labour market, and were forced to compete with men—they all knew at what disadvantage. Now, what was wanted was to enfranchise the women—to do something that would improve their condition. At present the position of the women as compared with men was very much what the position of the middle classes was to that of the upper class before the Reform Bill of 1832, and what the position of the working classes was to that of the employers of labour previous to the passing of the last Reform Bill. After the latter Act was passed, the complaints of the working classes gradually disappeared—and that was through their having been admitted to the franchise. They got passed a Mines Regulation Act, a Factory Act, an Education Act, which was slowly and surely providing them with the means of education; they had laws passed for protecting trades' unions, and tending to promote the industries of the working classes— (applause)—and all these advantages had come to them since their admission to the franchise—that was, by giving them the power to assist in putting a man into Parliament, or to assist in keeping one out. (Applause and laughter.) Now, they simply asked for women the same power as men in that respect. Miss Beedy proceeded to speak on the other aspect of the question namely, the injury that was done to the community by excluding so large a part of the industry and intelligence of the nation from the electoral body. They did not seek that women might be allowed to draft Parliamentary bills, or to vote on them when they had been drafted. They were not attempting to put into the

hands of women work requiring technical knowledge and large experience, but a voice in the choosing of the men to whom these duties might safely be entrusted. Women were good judges of character—(applause and laughter)—and were peculiarly fitted to exercise such a privilege. Women were also greater sufferers from disorder and immorality in society than men were, and that being the case, their influence would be given more strongly than the influence of men towards putting men into a position of power that would guard against disorderly states of society. She then quoted from an American paper an opinion by a judge in high position, in a territory where women had the right to vote, in which he expressed the opinion that, generally, it would not do to nominate men for whom women would not vote. In referring to the questions in the British Parliament, Miss Beedy went on to say that it was educational and moral questions that had come to the front; and on such questions as those of education, temperance, the treatment of criminals, the treatment of the poor, &c., she held that the experience of women would be even more valuable than that of men; and they were not subjects on which the opinions of women and of men were always precisely the same. For instance, it was generally admitted that women, as a class, are more strongly in favour of temperance than men are. ("No," laughter, and applause.) Not only was that true, but the methods that women would, on the average, employ to promote temperance, were not precisely the same as the majority of men would employ. On that subject Cardinal Manning had, she thought, struck the keynote in his speech at Manchester, when he said—"Men drink, and women suffer." Why, then, should the influence of women not be felt in relation to that and other questions? (Hear, hear.) Then, in regard to the treatment of criminals, she said a great wave of wife-beating had recently spread over England -she was not sure it had reached Scotland-and the lash had been called for as the method of punishment and reformation for these criminal men. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Now, that demand had come for the most part from men rather than from women; because the latter, as a rule, did not believe that by brutalising a man you were likely to make him a more humane husband. (Applause.) As to the treatment of pauperism, she regarded it as an urgent question at the present time, and one in connection with which valuable aid had been received from the opinions and experience of women. When Mr Stansfeld was at the head of the Poor Law Department, under the last Government, attention was called to the boarding-out of pauper children, as there was reason to suspect that the work done was not so good as it should be; and Mr Stansfeld, who wished a woman's view of the working of the system, asked Mrs Nassau Senior to inquire into the matter; and she gave in a report, after two years' work, on the subject, which had attracted a great deal of attention. A little more than a month after the blue-book containing the report had been issued, they could scarcely take up a

newspaper without finding in it an article on the subject-(applause)—the public were so much struck, not only with a woman's view of the question, but with the new view of it. (Applause.) After stating that no Scotch member had spoken against the bill, Miss Beedy referred to the utterance of one English member (Mr Chaplin), who had said that he opposed the bill "because he thought the agitation reflected in no way the opinion of the majority of the women of the country, but rather the restless longing and desire of a few, and these perhaps not the most favoured of their sex." If Mr Chaplin meant by "the most favoured" the most beautiful or richest women in the country, perhaps he was right: so heavy were the demands upon such women by society, that they had no time to devote to the amelioration of their poorer sisters. But if he meant that those engaged in that agitation were not women of the most gifted intellect, she would say he was not right. In proof of that she referred to such women as Mrs Martineau, Miss Florence Nightingale, Miss Carpenter, Mrs Gray, Miss Octavia Hill, and others, who took the warmest interest in the movement. The women whose opinions were quoted in Parliament universally believed that it would be better for women to have the power of voting in Parliamentary elections, and that it would give them greater power in promoting all kinds of philanthropic movements. After some further remarks, Miss Beedy, amid loud applause, concluded by seconding the resolution.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Ex-Councillor ROBERTSON said he had no doubt that the audience had been greatly pleased with the admirable way in which Miss Becker and Miss Beedy had given an exposition of the principles which the society desired to promote. (Applause.) He did not know what better proof they could have of the high qualifications possessed by ladies for the exercise of the franchise than the great power of reasoning which the meeting had had brought before them on the present occasion. (Applause.) In regard to the licensing question, the expression of the views of the ladies, he believed, would have a very powerful effect in regard to its proper settlement; and as to the higher education of women and other questions of a kindred nature, he was sure the views of Miss Becker and Miss Beedy would be considered invaluable. (Applause.) He had great pleasure in moving—"That the thanks of this meeting be cordially tendered to the ladies who have come at this inclement season to attend this meeting, and who have so much gratified their listeners by their able handling of the question." (Applause.)

Ex-Bailie Lewis seconded the motion. He said he was sure there could be but one opinion, that the ladies who had favoured the meeting with their presence had most ably and efficiently advocated their position. (Applause.) It appeared to him, and he never had any doubt of it, that this movement must triumph, and that most speedily. (Applause.) If he were to be called upon to give reasons, the first was that the claim of the ladies was righteous. (Applause.) There were abundant precedents for their claims. In regard to the poor laws, the ladies had a voice in their administration; and as to the Education Act, there was efficient service by the ladies, both in our own city and in England. Besides, in England the ladies had a voice in the municipal arrangements. A good reason, in his opinion, why the ladies would triumph was, that they had not gone about trying to concuss gentlemen to forward their views, but they had done their own work in the way that it ought to be done; and he thought that politicians might well take a lesson from them. (Applause.) He had great pleasure in seconding the motion. He wished to say, in conclusion, that he had seen candidates for Parliamentary and other honours, who, if they had been subjected to the same kind of annoyances as the ladies had experienced from the gallery, would have had great difficulty in proceeding with their remarks, but Miss Becker and Miss Beedy had gone on as if nothing of the kind had occurred, and that could only be accounted for through the confidence they had in the righteousness of their cause. (Applause.)

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

M rs M 'LAREN made a few telling remarks, which were received with much applause.

On the motion of the Rev. Mr SETON, a cordial vote of thanks was given to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

Subscriptions and Donations Balance from last year NCOME YEAR ENDING 18th JANUARY 1876. Stationery and Postages Printing and Publications Expenses of Secretaries EXPE

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TREASURER'S STATEMENT

FOR

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS DURING 1875.

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While warmly thanking our kind friends and subscribers for their support, and congratulating them and ourselves on the balance in our Treasurer's hands, we would remind them that this year's campaign has yet some months to run, and that, even if victorious in the Commons, there will still be struggle before the cause is gained—and so we would request a continuance of their help for another year: and if still able and willing to give their subscriptions, we respectfully inform them that the 1st of February is the most convenient conclusion of our financial year, and we shall gratefully receive and report donations up to that date.

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REPORT

OF TH

Bristol & West of England Fociety

FOR

WONEN'S SURFREE,

1876.

OBJECT.—To obtain for Women Householders and Ratepayers the right of Voting for Members of Parliament.

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BRISTOL & WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Your Committee have to record another year of earnest work, of some progress in the movement to obtain Parliamentary resentation for Women.

The Women's Disabilities Bill, which was introduced by Mr syth during the last Session of Parliament, was ably supported the debate on the second reading by Mr Jacob Bright, Professor vcett, Dr Ward, Sir Robert Anstruther, and Sir Charles Legard. e rejection of the measure was moved by Viscount Folkestone Mr E. A. Leatham. The following members spoke in osition to the Bill: Mr Newdegate, Mr Smollett, Mr Henry plin, Mr Egerton Hubbard, and Mr John Bright. On a ion the numbers were:

For the	Bill	152	Bill on Tur
Against	never failed durin	239	
	Majority against	val est mi osov	

Exactly the same number voted for the Bill as in the division which took place the year previously.

It appears that 120 constituencies in this Parliament give their full vote in favour of the Bill,—as against 94 in the last Parliament.

At the end of last Session Mr Forsyth expressed a wish to resign the charge of the Bill into the hands of Mr Jacob Bright, by whom it was originally introduced in the Session of 1870, and who after a short absence was again a Member in the House. The Bill has accordingly been again brought forward by Mr Jacob Bright, Sir Robert Anstruther, Right Hon. Russell Gurney, and the Right Hon. James Stansfeld. It was read a first time of February 9th, and the second reading is fixed for the 6th of June.

Your Committee desire to record their warm appreciation of the services rendered to the cause of Women's Suffrage by Mr Forsyth, and to acknowledge his promise of continued support to the measure.

In the division which is expected on the second reading of the Bill on June 6th, its supporters will have to regret the absence of Mr Disraeli, who has never failed during this Parliament record his vote in its favour. It is however a cause of satisfaction

that the new Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Sir Stafford Northcote, is a supporter of the Bill.

In the elections which have recently taken place in the West of England your Committee note with pleasure the election of Mr Leonard Courtney, for Liskeard. Mr H. B. Samuelson, the new member for Frome, voted consistently for the W. D. Bill, when previously in the House of Commons. Both these members take the place of former opponents.

The Annual Meeting of this Society took place on the 17th February last year, at the former offices of the Society in Park Street. A large meeting was also held in March in the Victoria Rooms, which was presided over by Mr Mark Whitwill.

Meetings have also been held during the year by this Society Barnstaple, Bridport, Tewkesbury, Wilton, Andover, Lymington, and Poole; a large Meeting was also held at Bath, by the local committee; at all of which resolutions in support of the W. D. all have been passed. Many other towns, such as Bournemouth, Varwick, Weymouth, Dorchester, and Tiverton, have been visited by Miss Beedy on behalf of the Society, and much interest has been aroused through her influence. The Committee cannot too longly express their appreciation of Miss Beedy's indefatigable forts in advancing the cause of Women's Suffrage.

6

At present Petitions to Parliament are the only direct means women possess of making their opinions known to the Legislature. For some years past women have increasingly availed themselves of this privilege, and during the last Session Petitions in support of the W. D. Bill largely exceeded in the number of signatures those on any other question before the House of Commons. The number of Petitions presented was 1,117, signed by 370,166 persons. Of these 25 Petitions were sent from Bristol and Clifton signed by 13,883 persons. From various towns in the West of England 113 Petitions were forwarded to Parliament, signed by 14,330 persons; making a total of 138 Petitions, containing 28,213 signatures, sent through the friends and members of the Society—a much larger number than in any previous year.

As the second reading of the Bill is fixed for a later day that in former Sessions, your Committee would earnestly appeal to the friends of the Society to avail themselves of the additional time thus afforded to extend their work, both by Petitions and Public Meetings. They would also urge upon their friends the important of communicating directly and personally with Members of the own constituencies, to request them to be in the House Commons on the 6th June, in order to support the Bill the will justly confer on Women Householders the right of Voting Parliamentary Elections.

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March 6, 1877 - Examined and found correct,

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Miss Solly	4	0	0
Mr Solomon	0	5	0
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The Misses Southall	0	10	0
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Mrs Stone	0	3	0
Mrs W. Sturge	0	2	6
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Mr J. Summerhayes (don.	.) 0	5	0
Mrs Spencer ···	0	5	0
Mrs Tanner	I	I	0
Miss Taylor	0	5	0
Mrs Charles Thomas	5	0	0
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Miss Tribe	I	I
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Mr Willis	C	
Mrs Travers Wood	C)
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RULES.

Annual Subscribers of any amount will be enrolled as Members, and entitled to receive papers or tracts of the Society on application.

The Executive Committee shall consist of Members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, with power to add to their number.

That five Members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum.

The Executive Committee shall at its first meeting elect the Officers.

(33)

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

Birmingham Society for Momen's Suffrage,

PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 27TH, 1876.

In reviewing the past year, your Committee desire to express their satisfaction with the evident growth and influence of the movement in favour of the Removal of the Disabilities of Women. The last division in the House of Commons, April 7th, 1875, shewed that the hostile majority was reduced to 35, as compared with 67 who voted against the bill at the previous division, and there are many indications that Mr. Forsyth will have increased support this session. Several friends to the measure have been recently returned to the House, and the election of Mr. Jacob Bright by a larger number of votes than have ever before been recorded for any member of Parliament may be regarded as an indication of success for the measure with which his name has always been closely associated. Mr. Forsyth has obtained comparatively early day for the debate on the Bill to emove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, which is to read a second time on Wednesday, April 26th, 1876. amongst other pleasant signs of popular feeling in favour of the Bill, your Committee wish to record the adoption of e principle of enfranchisement for women householders y the hearty consent of the Conference of the National Reform Union, held at Manchester, December 15th. As egards their own share of work, your Committee regret hat lack of funds has prevented them from organising any ublic meetings this year, but they have sent delegates to nose arranged by the Manchester and Bristol Societies. vesham, Stafford, Hanley, and Brecon may be mentioned places in this neighbourhood where good meetings have cently been held. Your Committee continue to circulate Women's Suffrage Journal, and believe that this monthly

mittee shall at its first meeting block

record does much to dispel the ignorance and prejudice with which the claims of women are still often regarded. They confidently anticipate that the laws which deprive women of civil and political rights will not long find a place in the statute books of a free country.

The reports of Women's Suffrage in distant places are encouraging. In Wyoming, the admission of women to the exercise of the franchise appears to give general satisfaction. In Chili, it has recently been decided that universal suffrage includes women as voters. In Canada, Massachusetts, Iowa, and Colorado, opposition to the claims of women is decreasing; whilst in Rhode Island and Michigan our movement has been defeated only by narrow majorities; and turning to Switzerland, we are glad to record success in the Grisons.

Doubtless the liberty which men gain for themselves will enable them to understand that for women also liberty of conscience means liberty of action, and that civil and religious freedom must rest upon the recognition of the individual rights of every human being. It has been well said that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance;" and we appeal to all who value it as their birthright to work constantly and earnestly to remove all restrictions which impede the progress of the human race.

Committee.

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Mr. Alderman Baker		1	0	Road)	0	10	0
Mr. J. E. Baker.	1	1	U	Mr. B. Scott (Northfield)	0	10	0
Joseph Chamberlain, Esq.	1	1	0	Mrs. George Goodrick .	0	10	0
(Mayor) · · ·	1	1	0	Mrs. Southall (Wellington			
(Mayor)	1		0	Road)	0	10	0
Mr Councillor Hadley .	1	1	U	Mrs. Gore	0	5	
Mr. Councillor R. F. Mar-	1	1	0	Mrs. Saxelby	0	5	0
tineau	1		0	Miss Steadman	0		0
Mrs. Middlemore	1	1	0	Mrs. G. S. Mathews	0		0
Mrs. Alfred Osler	1			Mr. Gardner) 5	0
Mr. F. Ryland	1		0	Mrs. G. B. Johnson	0) 5	0
Mr. Councillor Wilde.	1	1	0	Mr. Councillor Perkins .	0	_	
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Professor Massie		0 1		Mrs. Southey			2 6
Mrs. W. B. Smith		0 1				0	
Mrs. G. Twigg		0 1		Miss Evers		0	2 6
Mr. J. P. Turner		0 1	0 (Mrs Matthews		U	2

Printed by JOSIAH ALLEN, Birmingham.

18354

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

OFFICE :-

64, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

HELD IN

THE OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY,

May 13th. 1876.

LONDON:

DUNLOP & CO., 95, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH, S.E.

1876.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

Aational Society for Momen's Suffrage.

Presented to the General Meeting, May, 13th, 1876.

In presenting their report of the work of the past year, your committee have to record that there was an increased macrity against the second reading of the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women in the present session. Neverheless, the increased activity amongst the opponents of the neasure has its encouraging aspect.

After the division of last session a Committee was formed amongst Members of Parliament "for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the Franchise in opposition to the claims for the extension of the Parliamentary suffrage to women." This unusual proceeding has, perhaps not unjustly, been deemed a sign that the growth of the movement is creating alarm among its adversaries. The increased majority against the Bill this year points to the same conclusion.

The Bill was read a first time on April 9th, and was brought forward by Mr. Forsyth for second reading on April 26th. The debate, which was generally characterised by an earnestness exceeding that of previous years, was continued in support of the Bill, in speeches of distinguished ability and dignity, by Mr. Jacob Bright, Dr. Ward, Mr. Fawcett, Sir Robert Anstruther, and Sir Charles Legard. The rejection of the Bill was moved by Viscount Folkestone, seconded by Mr. E. A. Leatham; and apported by Mr. Smollett, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Egerton Hubbard, and Mr. John Bright.

On a division being taken the numbers were—

For the Bill 152 Against 239

The Bill was therefore lost by a majority of 87.

The number of votes recorded in favour of the Bill this year is exactly the same as in 1875. Adding tellers and pairs to the numbers given above, we find

In favour Liberals Conservatives	92 69	Against Liberals Conservatives	88 160
Total	161	Total	248

It appears, therefore, that of the Liberal votes recorded, the majority were in favour of the Bill. Of the Irish votes recorded, as will be seen by the following figures, a majority were also given in favour of the Bill.

In favour	रात अधेव वाम्	Against	
	115	English 195	
Welsh		Welsh 13	
Scotch	00	Scotch 20	
Trich	22	Irish 20	

Petitions in favour of the Bill have flowed in very numerously during the session. Their abundance is the more remarkable from the continued absence (with one single exception) of any petitions to maintain the disabilities of women. Amongthe petitions were the following: from the Birmingham Liberal Association, from 43 Professors and 3 Lecturers of th University of Cambridge, from all the Masters of King Edward School, and from 19 Masters of Harrow School. Twenty-two Town Councils and Municipal Corporations have petitioned for the Bill—twelve English and ten Scotch—namely: Aberdeen Batley, Cupar, Denbigh, Dewsbury, Dumbarton, Edinburgh Forfar, Hanley, Huddersfield, Hull, Kirkaldy, Lincoln, Linlithgo Montrose, Middlesborough, Northampton, Paisley, Selkin Southampton, Sunderland, and Wrexham. One Town Counc namely, Kilmarnock, petitioned against the Bill. The tot number presented up to May 2nd was 1,063 petitions, of which 98 were official or under Seal. The number of signatures w

363,694. This number exceeds, in the proportion of more than three-and-a-half to one, the number of signatures to any one other series of petitions before the House, and is in proportion of seven to ten of all the other petitions together. The number sent from Ireland were 45 petitions containing 4,539 signatures; from Scotland 226 containing 29,363 signatures Of the total number of petitions, 258 containing 121,127 signatures are due to the efforts of friends of the cause in direct communication with your Committee.

During the past season meetings have been held at Buckingham, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Knaresborough, Lincoln, Malton, and Wallingford, and in many other places also in connection with other Committees. Your Committee report with satisfaction that these meetings have created great interest in their respective localities, and been of essential service to the cause.

The leading Committees throughout the three kingdoms have, during the past year, continued their work of promoting public meetings, and circulating petitions and literature with energy and success.

Your Committee desire to express their cordial thanks to Miss Beedy, for the assistance she has given in connection with the meetings, and their sense of her great ability and the unselfish earnestness with which she has devoted herself to the work.

Your Committee have satisfaction in stating that numerous Drawing-Room Meetings have been held in London during the past winter. While tendering their grateful thanks to the friends who have come forward to help in this manner they desire to press on all who sympathise with their endeavours the importance of extending this excellent method of arousing interest and calling attention to the subject.

The past year has been sorrowfully marked by the death of one who, from the earliest foundation of this society, has been its generous supporter. The loss of Mr. Thomas Thomasson will be widely felt, but nowhere more truly than by those who have mown his active, unfailing sympathy for the cause of women. Your Committee would urge all who seek for the more complete union of the sympathies and interests of men and women

especially those women who would receive votes by this measure, to come forward and testify to their sense of its extreme importance.

They trust to see the work of the coming year marked by increased activity corresponding to the more serious light in which the question has come to be regarded both in Parliament and throughout the country.

DIVISION LIST.

AYES.

Anderson, George Archdale, William Humphreys Bateson, Sir Thomas Bathurst, Allen Alexander Beach, W.W. Bramst. (Hants, N.) Beaumont, Major Fred. (Durh. S.) Beresford, Col. M. (Southwark) Biggar, Joseph Gillis Birley, Hugh Blake, Thomas Bourne, Colonel Bousfield, Major Briggs, William Edward Bright, Jacob (Manchester) Brooks, Maurice (Dublin) Bruce, Rt. Hn. Lord Ernest (Marl) Bruce, Hon. Thos. (Portsm'th) Burt, Thomas Cameron, Charles (Glasgow) Carter, Robert M. Cawley, Charles E. Chadwick, David Chapman. John Charley, William Thomas Cholmeley, Sir Hugh Clarke, J. Creemer Clifford, Charles Cavendish Cobbold, Thomas Clement Collins, Eugene Conyngham, Lord F. (Clare) Corbett, John (Droitwich) Cowan, James (Edinburgh) Cowen, Joseph (Newcastle) Crawford, J. Sharman Cross, John Kynaston (Bolton) Davie, Sir H. R. Ferguson (Hadd.) Kinnaird, Hn. Arthur Fitzgerald Deakin, James Henry Dickson, Thos. A. (Dungannon) Dilke, Sir Charles Wentworth Dillwyn, Lewis Llewelyn

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Legard, Sir Charles Leith, John Farley Lloyd, Morgan (Beaumaris) Lopes, Sir Massey (Devon, S.) Lusk, Sir Andrew Mackintosh, Charles Fraser M'Arthur, Alexander (Leic.) M'Kenna, Sir Joseph Neal M'Lagan, Peter M'Laren, Duncan Manners, Rt. Hn. Lord John Marten, Alfred George (Cam. B.) Mellor, Thomas W. Milbank, Frederick Aclom Mills, Arthur (Exeter) Morley, Samuel Mundella, Anthony John Muntz, Philip Henry Neville-Grenville, Ralph Nolan, Captain Norwood, Charles Morgan O'Byrne, William Richard O'Clery, Keyes Palk, Sir Lawrence Pateshall, Evan Pennington, Frederick Perkins, Sir Fredeeick Phipps, Pickering Pim, Captain Bedford Playfair, Rt. Hon. Dr. Lyon Polhill-Turner, Captain Potter, Thomas Bayley Powell, Walter Puleston, John Henry Ramsay, John

Redmond, William Archer Reed, Edwd. James (Pembroke) Richard, Henry Ripley, Henry William Round, James Ryder, Granville Richard Rylands, Peter Sanderson, Thomas Kemp Sandford, G. Montagu W, Sheridan, Henry B. Shute, General Simon, Mr. Serjeant Sinclair, Sir John G. Tollemache Smith, Eustace (Tynemouth) Smyth, Richard (Lond'dy Co.) Spinks, Mr. Serjeant Stacpoole, William Stansfeld, Rt. Hon. James Stewart, Mark John (Wigton) Taylor, Peter Alfred (Leicester) Temple, Rt. Hon. W. Cowper Tennant, Robert Thwaites, Daniel Torrens, W. T. M'Cullagh Trevelyan, George Otto Villiers, Rt. Hon. C. Pelham Ward, Michael Francis Wells, Edward Wheelhouse, William S. J. Whitworth, Ben. (Kilkenny City) Wilson, Chas. (Kings. upon Hull) Wilson, Sir Mathew (Yk. W. R.) Yeaman, James Yorke, John Reginald (Glou. E.)

Tellers for the Ayes, Mr. Forsyth and Sir Robert Anstruther. NOES.

Adam, Rt. Hon. William Patrick Adderley, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Agnew, Robert Vans Allsopp, Charles (Staff. E.) Allsopp, Henry (Worc. E.) Amory, Sir John Heathcoat Arkwright, Aug. P. (Derby, N.) Ashley, Hon. Evelyn M. agge, Sir William alfour, Arthur Jas. (Hertf. Bo.) arclay, Alex. Chas. (Taunton) Barrington, Viscount Barttelot, Sir Walter B. ass, Arthur (Staffordsh. E.) ass, Michael Thomas (Derby) ates, Edward Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Glo. E.) Campbell-Bannerman, Henry eaumont, W. B. (Northum. S.) ell, Isaac Lowthian ntinck, Geo. W. P. (Norf. W.)

Biddulph, Michael Blackburne, Col. John Ireland Bolckow, Henry W. F. Brassey, Henry A. (Sandwich) Brassey, Thomas (Hastings) Bright, Rt. Hn. John (Birmingh. Bright, Richard (Somers. E.) Bristowe, Samuel Boteler Broadley, William H. Harrison Brown, James Clifton (Horsham Burrell, Sir Percy Butler-Johnstone, Hen. A. Butt, Isaac Buxton, Sir Robert Jacob Campbell, Colin (Staffordsh. N. Campbell, Sir Geo. (Kirkcaldy Carington, Hon. Colonel Wm. Cartwright, Wm. C. (Oxfords.) Cave, Rt. Hn. S. (New Shoreham

Cavendish, Lord G. (Derbysh. N.) Cecil, Lord Eustace H. B. G. Chaplin, Henry (Lincolnsh. M.) Childers, Rt. Hon. Hugh Churchill, Lord Randolph Clifton, Thomas Henry Clive, Col. Hn. G. Windsor (Lud.) Hardy, John Stewart (Rye) Clowes, Samuel William Cobbett, John Morgan Cole, Henry Thomas (Penryn) Colebrooke, Sir Thomas Edward Corbett, Colonel (Salop, S.) Cordes, Thomas Corry, Hn. H. W Lowry (Tyrone) Cotes, Charles Cecil Cotton, Rt, Hon. William J. R. Crichton, Viscount Cress, Rt. Hn. Rd. A. (Lanc. S. W.) Dalkeith, Earl of Dalrymple, Charles Davenport, W. Bromley Davies, Richard (Anglesey) Denison, W. E. (Nottingham) Dodson, Rt. Hon. John George Douglas, Sir George Duff, Mount. Elph. Grant (Elgin) Duff, Robert William (Banffsh. Dunbar, John Dyke, Sir William Hart Dyott, Colonel Richard Eaton, Henry William Edmonstone, Admiral Sir Wm. Edwards, Henry Egerton, Hn. Alg. Fulke (Lan. S.) Lewis, Chas. Edwd. Londond'y Egerton, Adm. Hn. F. (Derby, E.) Lewis, Owen Carlow Borough Elcho, Lord Errington, George Fellowes, Edward Foljambe, Francis John Savile Forster, Rt. Hn. W. E. (Bradford) Lowe, Rt. Hon. Robert Foster, Wm. Hen. (Bridgnorth) Gallwey, Sir William Payne Galway, Viscount Garnier, John Carpenter Goddard, Ambrose Lethbridge Goldney, Gabriel Goldsmid, Julian (Rochester) Gooch, Sir Daniel Gordon, Sir Alex. H. (Aberdeen) Gordon, William (Chelsea) Gower, Hon. E. F. Leveson Bod. Greene, Edward Gregory, George B. (Sussex, E.) Grey, Earl de Halsey, Thomas Frederick Hamilton, Lord Cl. J. (King's L.) Hamilton, Lord George (Midd'x.)

Hamilton, Marquis of (Donegal) Hamilton, Hon. R. Baillie (Berw.) Hankey, Thomson Harcourt, Sir. W. Vernon Hardcastle, Edward Hardy, Rt. Hn. Gathorne (Oxf. U) Havelock, Sir Henry Hay, Rt. Hon. Sir J. C. Dalrymple Hayter, Arthur Divett Herschell, Farrer Hildyard, T. Blackb. Thoroton Hinchingbrook, Viscount Holford, J. Price Gwynne Holland, Sir H. T. (Midhurst) Holms, John (Hackney) Hood, Capt. Hn. Arthur W. A. N. Hope, Alex. J, B. Beresford Hubbard, Egerton (Buckingham) Hubbard, Rt. Hn. John (London) James, Walter, H. (Gateshead) James, Sir Henry (Taunton) Johnstone, Sir Harcourt (Scarb.) Jolliffe, Hon. Sydney Kavanagh, Arthur Mac M. Kay-Shuttleworth, Ughtred Jas. Kingscote, Colonel Knowles, Thomas Lawrence, Sir J. Clarke (Lamb.) Lawrence, Sir Trevor (M. Sur.) Lee, Major, Vaughan (Som. W.) Lefevre, George John Shaw Legh, Wm. John (Chesh. E.) Lindsay, Lord (Wigan) Lloyd, Thomas E. (Cardigansh.) Lopes, Henry C. (Frome) Lorne, Marquis of Macartney, J. W. Ellison MacIver, David M'Arthur, William (Lambeth) Maitland, J. (Kirkcudbrightsh.) Maitland, Wm. Fuller (Breconsh) Majendie, Lewis Ashurst Makins, Colonel Malcolm, John Wingfield Marling, Samuel Stephens Massey, Rt. Hon. Wm. Nathaniel Merewether, Charles George Mills, Sir Chas. Henry (Kent, W.) Monckton, Froncis Monk, Charles James Montgomerie, Roger (Ayrshire) Montgomery, Sir G. G. (Peebles) Moore, Arthur (Clonmel)

Morgan, Hon. Fred. (Monm. Co.) Morgan, G. Osborne (Denbighsh) Mowbray, Rt. Hon. John Robert Mulholland, John Mure, Colonel Naghten, Lt.-Colonel Newdegate, Charles Newdigate Newport, Viscount Noel, Rt. Hn. Cerard J. (Rutland) North, Colonel O'Callaghan, Hon. Wilfrid O'Conor, Denis M. (Sligo Co.) Paget, Richard Horner Parker, Lt. Col. Windsor Pease, Joseph Whitwell Peel, Arthur Wellesley (Warw.) Peel, Rt. Hn. Sir Rob. (Tamworth) Pell, Albert Pemberton, Edward Leigh Pennant, Hon. George Peploe, Major Percy, Earl Plunkett, Hn. D. R. (Dublin Uuiv.) Plunkett, Hon. R. (Glouc. W.) Portman, Hon. W. Henry B. Praed, Chas. Trying. (St. Ives) Praed, H. Bulkeley (Colchester) Raikes, Henry Cecil Ridley, Matthew White Ritchie, Charles Thomson Robertson, Henry Roebuck, John Arthur Rothschild, Sir Nath. M. de Russell, Lord Arthur (Tavistock) Russell, Sir Chas. (Westminster) Salt, Thomas Samuda, Joseph D'Aguilar Scott, Montagu D. (Sussex, E.) Scourfield, Sir John Henry Sidebottom, T. Hyrrop Simonds, William Barrow

Smith, Samuel Geo. (Aylesbury) Smith, Wm. Hen. (Westminster) Smyth, Patrick Jas. (Westmeath) Smollett, Patrick Boyle Somerset, Lord Henry R. C. Sotheron-Estcourt, George Stanhope, W. T. W. S. (Y'k, W. R) Starkie, J. Pierce C. (Lanc. N. E.) Steere, Lee Stevenson, James Cochran Stuart, Colonel (Cardiff) Swanston, Alexander Sykes, Christopher Talbot, John Gilbert (Kent, W.) Tavistock, Marquis of Thornhill, Thomas Thynne, Lord Henry Fred. Torr, John Tracy, Hn. Chas. R. D. Hanbury Tremayne, John Trevor, Lord Arth. Edwin Hill Walker, Thomas Eades Wallace, Sir Richard Walsh, Hon. Arthur Walter, John Waterlow, Sir Sydney H. Watney, James Weguelin, Thomas M. Wellesley, Captain Whitbread, Samuel Whitelaw, Alexander Williams, Sir Fred. M. (Truro) Williams, Watkin (Denbigh) Wilmot, Sir Henry (Derbysh. S.) Wilmot, Sir J. Eardley (Warw. S.) Winn, Rowland (Linc. N.) Wolff, Sir H. Drummond Woodd, Basil Thomas Wynn, Chas. W. Williams (Mont) Yarmouth Earl of Yorke, Hon. Eliot (Camb. Co.)

Tellers for the Noes, Viscount Folkestone and Mr. Leatham.

PAIRS.

Mr. W. Johnston Rt. Hon. G. W. Hunt Mr. Ashbury Mr. Parnell. Capt- G. E. Price Major Dickson Sergeant Sherlock

Lord H- Scott Hon. W. Egerton Mr. Onslow Mr. Sackville Mr- Flover Mr. T. W. Evans Sir Colman O'Loghlen

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Balance at Bank ... Subscriptions in hand . Cash in hand ...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE SOCIETY'S OFFICE, 64, BERNERS STREET, ON SATURDAY, MAY 13TH, 1876. MR. W. H. ASHURST IN THE CHAIR.

The Report of the Executive Committee and Statement of accounts were read.

FIRST RESOLUTION.—Proposed by Mrs. Lucas, seconded by the Hon. Miss Canning: -

"That this Meeting adopt the Report and Financial Statement just read, and direct that they be circulated."

SECOND RESOLUTION.—Proposed by MISS BEEDY, seconded by Mr. Bennett—

"That the Executive Committee for the ensuing year consist of the following persons:

Professor Sheldon Amos Mrs. Sheldon Amos Sir Robert Anstruther, Bart., M.P. Lady Anstruther Miss Ashworth Miss L. Ashworth W. H. Ashurst, Esq. Miss Becker Alfred W. Bennett, Esq. Miss Ashurst Biggs Miss Caroline Biggs Miss J. Boucherett Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P. Mrs. Jacob Bright Hon. Emmeline Canning Miss F. Power Cobbe Miss Courtenay Hon. Mrs. Maurice Drummond E. B. Eastwick, Esq., C.B. W. Forsyth, Esq., Q.C., M.P. Mrs. Forsyth Miss Rhoda Garrett Miss Agnes Garrett

Mrs. R. R. Glover Miss K. Hill Frederick Hill, Esq. C. H. Hopwood, Esq., Q.C., M.P. Lady Anna Gore Langton Mrs. Samuel Lucas W. Johnston, Esq., M.P. Mrs. E. M. Lynch Duncan McLaren, Esq., M.P. Mrs. Duncan McLaren Miss Agnes McLaren Frederick Pennington, Esq., M.P. Mrs. Frederick Pennington Miss Ramsay Miss Reeves Mrs. George Sims Mrs. James Stansfeld Miss Sturge J. S. Symon, Esq Mrs. Thomas Taylor Miss Tod Mrs. Webster Miss Williams

and of delegates, the same being members of Local Committees, appointed by Local Associations to represent them."

THIRD RESOLUTION.—Proposed by MRS. SIMS, seconded by Miss C. Biggs:—

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Ashurst for presiding on this occasion."

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

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Eiloart, Mrs					0	10	0
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NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The object of the Society is to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same conditions as it is or may be granted to men.

The Society seeks to achieve this object-

By acting as a centre for the collection and diffusion of information with regard to the progress of the movement in all parts of the country.

By holding public meetings in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.

By the publication of pamphlets, leaflets, and other literature bearing upon the question.

RULES.

PASSED AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SUBSCRIBERS TO ITS FUNDS, HELD JULY 17TH, 1872.

1. The Central Committee shall consist of the present members, and such others as the Executive Committee may, from time to time, elect.

2. The Executive Committee shall consist of Members of the Central Committee, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and of single delegates, the same being Members of local Committees, appointed by Local Associations to represent them; the Executive Committee having power to add to the number of the Central Committee, and to its own number, and to appoint the officers.

3. A subscription of any amount constitutes membership of the National Society.

4. A General Meeting of the Central Committee shall be held once a year, to appoint the Executive Committee,, to receive the Annual Report and the Financial Statement, and to transact any other business which may arise.

5. The Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting appoint the officers.

6. A Special General meeting may be called by the Execu-

tive Committee at any time; or at the written request of not less than twenty-five members of the Central Committee, the Secretary or Secretaries shall call a Special General Meeting to discuss such matters only, as are mentioned in the notice of such meeting.

7. Eight day's public notice shall be given of all General Meetings.

8. The above rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting, after fourteen days' notice of the proposed alteration, given to the Executive Committee.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
NOVEMBER 29th, 1876.

MANCHESTER
GUARDIAN LETTERPRESS AND LITHOGRAPHIC WORKS.
1876.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. 1875-1876.

AT the close of another year of their labours your Committee have to report a continuance of the support, both Parliamentary and general, which has been heretofore accorded them, and to record many events having an important bearing on the progress and prospects of the measure which have occurred during their term of office.

Among these events, the re-election for Manchester of the original author of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, Mr. Jacob Bright, is first in order of time, and calls for especial recognition from this committee, who have the honour of numbering him among their members, and the advantage of his personal co-operation in their work.

The lamented and unexpected death of Mr. Callender in the early part of the year, caused a vacancy in the representation of Manchester. The election took place on the 17th of February, when Mr. Jacob Bright was returned by 22,770 votes, against 20,925 polled for his opponent, Mr. F. S. Powell—a majority of 1,785.

The election of Mr. Jacob Bright occurred a few days after the opening of Parliament, therefore when he took his seat the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill was already before the House of Commons. Mr. Forsyth introduced the measure on February 9th, and the second reading was fixed for Wednesday, April 26th. Sir Robert Anstruther, the Right. Hon. Russell Gurney, and the Right Hon. James Stansfeld again put their names on the Bill.

The debate on the second reading was opened by

Mr. Forsyth in a sound and effective speech. Viscount Folkstone moved and Mr. E. A. Leatham seconded the rejection of the measure. The Bill was ably supported by Mr. Jacob Bright, Dr. Ward, Professor Fawcett, Sir Robert Anstruther, and Sir Charles Legard, and opposed by Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Smollet, Mr. Henry Chaplin, Mr. Egerton Hubbard, and lastly by Mr. John Bright. Up to the rising of Mr. Bright the improved tone of the debate and of the temper in which the House appeard to regard the question justified the expectation of a corresponding improvement in the division list. But, as on a former occasion, when the House of Commons had assented to the principle of the measure, further progress was arrested by the action of a professedly Liberal government, so now when the House again appeared disposed to give favourable consideration to the claim a check was interposed through the agency of a professedly Liberal statesman. The opponents of the Bill appear to have been spurred to desperation by the smallness of their majority last year, and they brought forward the most powerful living advocate of free and representative government for men to contend against the application of the same principle to women. But though they succeeded in increasing the number of votes against the Bill, and in raising their majority from 35 last year to 87, it is a noteworthy proof of the strength of the movement that the eloquence of the most powerful voice in the House of Commons could not diminish, even by a unit, the numbers of those who stood firm by the principles of political justice without distinction of sex or class. Mr. Bright's speech was a remarkable one; it was characterised throughout by a tone of doubt and hesitation very unusual with the speaker; it contained the admission that the claim might become irresistible some time; it was rather a string of tentative objections than a connected argument; and it did not appear to contain anything which

need preclude the speaker from reverting to his original vote, should further reflection cause him to perceive the untenable character of most of the objections which he found to urge against the proposal.

The votes for the Bill were the same as last year, namely, 152; the votes against, 239; majority against the Bill, 87. The numbers last year were, for the Bill, 152; against, 187; majority 35.

Counting tellers and pairs in the divisions of 1871, 1872, 1873, 1875, and 1876, there were—

	/-						53							F. C. D.	
TO A STATE OF THE														1875.	
English	.109	112	121	122	116	172	191	180	163	194	197	160	165	173	148
Welsh															
Scotch	. 25	25	26	24	20	14	14	15	16	20	22	21	19	20	20
Irish	19	22	22	20	21	34	28	33	19	18	53	55	50	63	64
	- 	-	10-		1000			E 52	134			<u> </u>			
Totals	.159	163	172	170	161	228	242	239	205	246	289	253	247	274	245

The following table shows the numbers for and against the Bill in six divisions beginning with 1870:—

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Votes Tellers Pairs	89 1 9	(63	152	ENT.—187	72	115 2 12	187 2 16
	99		71	170		76	129	205
Votes Tellers Pairs	$ \begin{array}{c} 90 \\ 1 \\ \hline 3 \\ \hline 94 \end{array} $		$ \begin{array}{r} 62 \\ 1 \\ 4 \\ \hline 67 \end{array} $	2	76.	86 1 1 — 88	154 1 6 	239 2 7

The Irish Home Rulers, thirteen of whom voted for and eight against the Bill, are here classed as Liberals.

Several changes have taken place in the constituencies since the division, but taking them as they then stood, the following result appears compared with the last Parliament. Those members who took part in the last division, and those who have at any time voted for the Bill, and have not given any indication of a change in their sentiments, are counted as supporters. On this basis six of the three-cornered constituencies—namely, Birmingham, Buckinghamshire, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, and Manchester—give either their full vote, or each a majority of their vote, in support of the Bill. Thirty-four constituencies, as against twenty-four in the last Parliament, give their full vote of two each in favour of the Bill, namely:—

Blackburn	Exeter	Portsmouth
Bolton	Edinburgh	Preston
Brighton	Finsbury	Salford
Bristol	Galway	Salisbury
Cavan	Kingston-on-Hull	Southampton
Cork Co.	Leicester	Stockport
Devonport	Macclesfield	Waterford
Devon, E.	Mayo	Wenlock
Dover	Meath	Wexford Co.
Dundee	Merthyr	Worcester
Durham, N.	Newcastle-on-Tyn	eYork
Essex, E.	5 - AND AND AND A	

Eighty-three constituencies, as against seventy in the last Parliament, give their full voice of one each in favour of the measure, namely:—

	MONOCOCCUPANT PRINCIPAL	Manager Co
Aberdeen, City	Ennis	Marlborough
Abingdon	Evesham	Morpeth
Ashton-u-Lyne	Falkirk	Newport, I. W.
Athlone	Fife	Newry
Banbury	Flint Dist.	Northallerton
Beaumaris	Forfarshire	Orkney and Shet-
Bewdley	Glasgow and	land
Burnley	Aberdeen Uni-	Paisley
Caithness	versities	Pembroke Dist.
Calne	Gravesend	Perth
Cardigan Dist.	Greenock	Portarlington
Carrickfergus	Grimsby	Richmond
Chatham	Haddington Dist.	Rochdale
Cheltenham	Haverfordwest	Stockton-on-Tees
Chichester	Hawick	Swansea
Cirencester	Helston	Tewkesbury
Cockermouth	Hythe	Tynemouth
Coleraine	Invernessshire	Wakefield
Darlington	Inverness Dist.	Wallingford
Devizes	Kidderminster	Walsall
Dewsbury	Kilkenny	Warrington
Droitwich	Kilmarnock	Westbury
Dudley	Kinsale	Wexford
Dumbarton	Lanark, S.	Wick
Dumfries	Launceston	Wigton
Dundalk	Leith	Wilton
Dungannon	Leominster	Windsor
_	Linlithgow	Youghal
St. Andrew's	Maldon	siell eilt es anon ge
Universities	Malmesbury	
Darlington Devizes Dewsbury Droitwich Dudley Dumbarton Dumfries Dundalk Dungannon Edinburgh and St. Andrew's	Inverness Dist. Kidderminster Kilkenny Kilmarnock Kinsale Lanark, S. Launceston Leith Leominster Linlithgow Maldon	Wallingford Walsall Warrington Westbury Wexford Wick Wigton Wilton Windsor

Twenty-two constituencies gave one vote to the Bill, their other vote being neutral on the last division:—

Carmarthen Co. Hants, N. Marylebone Devon, N. Ipswich Queen's Co. Dublin City Kildare Southwark Fermanagh King's Co. Stoke Galway Co. Leicester Yorkshire West Grantham Limerick Co. Riding N.D. Greenwich Londonderry Co. Yorkshire North Halifax Louth Co. Riding

Twenty-five constituencies gave one vote for and one against the Bill, being twenty-five on each side:—

Bath Down Penryn & Falmouth Bedford Durham S. Reading Boston Gloucester E. Scarborough Bradford Hackney Sheffield BurySt.Edmunds Leicester N. Somerset Mid. Cambridge Northampton Sunderland Northumberland S. Surrey W. Chelsea Coventry Oldham Wolverhampton Devon S.

Thus 119 constituencies, as against 94 last Parliament, give clear and full votes for the Bill; and 26 clear, though not full, votes for it. Therefore 145 constituencies appear as clearly ranged in favour of the Bill.

The changes which have occurred in the representation of several of these constituencies since the division do not seem have a material influence on the calculations. The most noteworthy of these changes is the removal of Mr. Disraeli from the House of Commons to the House of Lords as Earl of Beaconsfield. Your Committee desire here to recognise the services

rendered by Mr. Disraeli to the cause of just and constitutional representation. He was the first member of the House of Commons who declared, during the debates on the Reform question which preceded the Act of 1867, his conviction that political rights were not the sole heritage of men. In April, 1866, Mr. Disraeli is recorded in Hansard to have said :- "If there is to be universal suffrage, women have as much right to vote as men; and more than that, a woman having property ought now to have a vote." In the revised and corrected edition of Mr. Disraeli's speeches on Parliamentary Reform the passage appears thus amplified:-"I say that in a country governed by a woman—where you allow women to form part of the other estate of the realm-peeresses in their own right, for example-where you allow a woman not only to hold land, but to be a lady of the manor and hold legal courts—where a woman by law may be a churchwarden and overseer of the poor-I do not see, where she has so much to do with the State and Church, on what reasons, if you come to right, she has not a right to vote."

Mr. Disraeli consistently acted on the principles here avowed by voting for the second reading of the Women's Disabilities Bill, when that motion was brought forward, whether by Mr. Jacob Bright or Mr. Forsyth. His vote was given in the divisions of 1871, 1873, 1875, and 1876—and in gratefully recognising his past services to their cause, your Committee desire to record their sense of the great loss which they have sustained in the withdrawal from the arena of the next campaign of so powerful and consistent a supporter as the head of Her Majesty's Government.

During the session of 1876, there were presented to the House of Commons 1,117 petitions, signed by 370,166 persons in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill. This far exceeds the number of petitioners for any other object during the session. One petition was presented against the Bill. This was from the Town Council of Kilmarnock, and it is conspicuous as a solitary instance of opposition to the measure. The petitions sent through the efforts of members and friends of the Manchester Society were 263—with 128,174 signatures. The petitions from Manchester received 40,059, and from Salford 20,159 signatures. Huddersfield sent a petition from 2,143 electors, headed by the leading members of both political parties, and containing some of the most influential names in the town. In addition to this, there was a general petition signed by 7,639 men and women, a petition signed by the chairman of one of the largest public meetings ever held in Huddersfield, and last, but not least, a petition in favour of the Bill from the Town Council. From this it is evident that whatever success the objections of Mr. Leatham may meet with in other quarters, he has failed to convince his own constituency that it is either just or wise to mar the recognition of the principle of household suffrage for men, by the confiscation and denial of the rights of thousands of householders whose claims both in equity and conformity with the laws regulating every other representative government in this country, are as good as those which are allowed. Your Committee desire to urge the great importance of the petition and to exhort their friends to continue this mode of action.

The meetings held during the past year have not been so numerous as formerly. Your Committee have proceeded on the principle that it was more desirable to use the resources at their disposal in endeavouring to make every meeting organised by them thoroughly successful

than to attempt to hold a larger number at the expense of bestowing less pains to render each one effective.

In the month of November, 1875, a great and densely crowded meeting was held in the Armoury, Huddersfield, when resolutions in support of the Bill were carried with hardly any dissentients. The meeting was characterised by the Huddersfield Examiner as one of the largest and most influential ever held in Huddersfield. There was a fair representation of all classes, the speaking was of the highest order, and the interest was fully sustained to the close. Meetings were also held at Stalybridge, York, under the presidency of Lord Houghton; Kendal, Batley, and Brighouse. Your Secretary has taken part in all these meetings, and has also attended meetings organised by other branches of the National Society at Kings Lynn, Lincoln, Knaresborough, Malton, Bath, Barnstaple, London (three), Ipswich, Edinburgh (three), Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin. Miss Becker has also delivered lectures at Rhyl, Llandudno, Llanrwst, New Brighton, and Harrogate.

Some of the foregoing meetings were arranged or attended by Miss Beedy, who also arranged and spoke at a meeting at Bangor on behalf of your Committee, and visited the following places with good results:—Shrewsbury, Denbigh, Wrexham, Mold, Welshpool, and Newtown. Miss Beedy's able and energetic services to the Society during the few years of her residence in this country are deserving of the highest praise, and will be gratefully remembered by all interested in the movement.

During the past year your Committee's agent, Mrs. M'Cormick, has visited the following places:—Ripon (twice), Northallerton (twice), Middlesbrough (twice), Thirsk (twice), Huddersfield, Preston, Stalybridge, Southport (twice), Blackburn, York, Derby, Lichfield,

Hanley, Stafford, Batley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley, Kidderminster, Kendal, Bolton, Wigan, Liverpool, Congleton, Llandudno, Rhyl, Llanrwst, Colne, Harrogate, New Brighton, Carlisle, Grimsby, Hull, Darlington, Redcar, and Seaton Carew. Mrs. M'Cormick arranged and attended the five meetings organised by your Committee, attended at the five lectures delivered by Miss Becker, and devoted 173 days to office and other work in Manchester.

In the month of March proposals for an amalgamation of the Yorkshire Society with the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage were agreed to by the committees of both Societies. Your Committee believe that this arrangement will conduce to the efficiency and economy of the work in the North of England.

The Society continues to receive an accession of new members, and the Women's Suffrage Journal obtains a wider circulation. The income of the Society has been larger than that received in any previous year, and while a large proportion of the liabilities at the end of the last financial year have been discharged, the balance in hand shows a slight increase over that of the corresponding period of last year. There is urgent need for a continuance and an increase of support of this kind, for which your Committee desire earnestly to appeal to the friends of the cause.

They have to deplore the loss by death of valued friends and supporters. Pre-eminent among the friends thus mourned stands the name of the late Mr. Thomasson, of Bolton. He was one of the earliest and most generous contributors to the funds of the Society, and as his acquaintance with the movement grew his interest in it increased. He was an active member of your Committee, he was constant in his attendance at their meetings, and

ever ready to aid them with his counsels and his support. Your Committee desire to place on record their deep sense of his worth, of the value of his services to the cause of the enfranchisement of women and to political progress generally, and of the incalculable and irreparable loss they have sustained by his sudden and premature death.

Your Committee also have to deplore the death of Miss Mary Anne Humble, of Vicar's Cross, Chester, who for some years was a munificent though anonymous donor to their funds. The death of this esteemed lady, at a ripe age, closed a long life adorned with Christian graces and generous deeds, and sanctified by grateful memories.

Within the year there has likewise passed from among us one who was not only pre-eminently the political woman of the century, but pre-eminent among the political writers and thinkers of the time. Harriet Martineau died on June 25. She was an early and firm adherent and exponent of the necessity for the political representation of women, and though from the infirm condition of her health in her later years she was unable to take an active part in the movement, she signed the petitions year after year, and remained a warm and sympathetic friend of the movement to the close of her long and useful life.

At the Conference of the National Reform Union, held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, in December of last year, an amendment was moved by Miss Sturge, and adopted by the Conference by a large majority, which pledged the Union to agitate for an extension of the franchise to all householders in counties, it being understood that the word "all" was intended to include women householders. The recognition of the principle of women's suffrage by so large and representative a

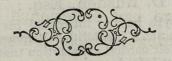
gathering is to be regarded as a mark of the advance of public opinion on the question, and as a proof that the claim cannot be logically resisted by an organisation of men who are putting forth similar claims for themselves.

On the re-election of Mr. Jacob Bright to the House of Commons, Mr. Forsyth intimated his desire to resign the charge of the Bill into the hands of its original author, a decision which he has subsequently carried into effect. Your Committee hereby record their grateful sense of the services rendered to the movement by Mr. Forsyth in taking charge of the Bill in 1874, by his able guidance of the question during the sessions of 1875 and 1876, and for his promise of continued support to the measure whenever it shall be again brought forward in the House of Commons. The Bill has passed through two divisions while in Mr. Forsyth's hands, in one it met with the smallest opposition majority it has ever encountered, and if the hostile majority was increased last session, it was by the activity of opponents and not by any lack of energy or loss of support on the part of the supporters of the measure.

It is with feelings of cordial satisfaction that your Committee record the resumption by Mr. Jacob Bright of the charge of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. Those who have had experience of the earnestness, ability, and prudence which he displayed during the four years of the last Parliament when he had charge of the measure, have a reasonable ground for looking forward with confidence and hope to the renewal of the campaign next session under the auspices of their old and tried leader.

Your Committee feel that the record of the past eventful year marks an era which calls for renewed and increased exertion. The issues are drawing closer, the

struggle is becoming more earnest. The increased activity of the opponents is a tribute to the growing strength of the cause, and demands yet more strenuous efforts to withstand. Much will depend on the result of the next debate and division in the House of Commons. It rests with the friends of the cause and of political justice to give adequate support to the efforts now to be made, and in asking for a renewal of their trust, your Committee earnestly appeal to those friends to sustain them in that persistence in the demand for the measure to which, as well as to its intrinsic justice, is doubtless owing to the fact that the number of its Parliamentary adherents is so large, and the support they give to the measure continues so steady. It is with the earnest conviction that the anomalous political status of women is not only unjust in itself, but injurious to the best interests of the country, that the promoters of this measure of reform press it for consideration and desire to see it removed by the wisdom of Parliament.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of the Society, held in the MAYOR'S PARLOUR, TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER, November 29th, 1876.

The MAYOR of MANCHESTER in the Chair.

The Secretary read the Report of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer read the Statement of Accounts.

Resolution I.—Moved by Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P., seconded by Rev. S. Alfred Steinthal:

That the Report and Statement of Accounts just read be adopted, and printed for circulation under the direction of the Executive Committee.

Resolution II.—Moved by Mrs. Heywood, seconded by Mr. Councillor Booth:

That the following persons be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:—Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Jacob Bright, Miss Maria Atkinson, Miss Becker, Mrs. Butler, Thomas Chorlton, Esq., Thomas Dale, Esq., Mrs. Gell, Rev. B. Glover, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. B. B. Messes Dr. Brakkwart Mrs. Oliver Seatabord, Bay S. Mrs. R. R. Moore, Dr. Pankhurst, Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, Rev. S. Alfred Steinthal, Mrs. Sutcliffe, J. P. Thomasson, Esq., Mrs. Thomasson, Miss Alice Wilson, with power to add to their

Resolution III.—Moved by Mrs. Oliver Scratcherd, seconded by Dr. John Watts:

That the earnest thanks of this meeting are hereby rendered to Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, the Right Hon. the Recorder of London, Sir Robert Anstruther, Bart., Mr. Jacob Bright, Dr. Ward, Professor Fawcett, and Sir Charles Legard, Bart., for introducing and supporting the Women's Disabilities Bill, also to the Members of the House of Commons who voted or paired in its favour in the division on the second reading of the measure on April 30th, 1876.

Resolution IV.—Moved by J. P. Thomasson, Esq., seconded by R. D. Rusden, Esq.:

That Mr. Forsyth having intimated his desire to resign the charge of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, this meeting hereby express their cordial satisfaction that Mr. Jacob Bright has consented to re-introduce the measure in the forthcoming Session of Parliament, and they pledge themselves to support his action by every means in their power.

The Chair was taken by the Rev. S. ALFRED STEIN-

Resolution V.—Moved by Miss Becker, seconded by Miss A. Wilson:

That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Mayor of Manchester for allowing the Society the use of the Town Hall, and for presiding on the present occasion.

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Fox, Mr. W. J. K.	(Batl	ey)									0	5	0
Fairburn, Mrs. (2)	vears)				4.					Ö	5	0
Fairburn, Mr. J. (2	vear	s)						•••	•••		0	5	0
Fisk, Rev. Thos.									•••		0	5	0
Fogg, Mr. J									•••			5	0
Fothergill, Mr. W.											0	5	0
Fox, Mrs									• • • •		0	5	0
Freeston, Rev. J.											0	050	
Freeston, Mrs. I											0	5	0
Freeston, Mrs. J. Frost. Mr. A									•••	•••	0	5	0
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Fuller, Mrs										•••	0	5	0
Furness, Mr. T.											0	3	0
Foggitt, Mr. W	Mig										0	2	6
Fawcett & Acomb	Donli	note									0	2	6
Fisher, Mr. S. G. (Dalli	11500	,,							•••	0	2	6
Fothergill, Mr. S.											0	2	6
Fox, Mr. D			•••	4							0	2	6
Francis, Mr. J	•••	•••									0	2	6
Franks, Rev. E.	•••										0	2	6
Furnivale, Mrs		•••				777							NO.
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Gell, Mrs	_ ···										5	0	0
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Goldsmid, Lady							•••				2	0	0
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Gwynne, Mrs									£ s. d. 1 1 0
Goldsmid, Miss					•••		- • • •	•••	
Gilman, Messrs. S. & R		•••	•	•••				•••	
Glaisyer, Mr. J				•••	•••		•••	•••	
Gregson, Mr. Thomas	•••	•••	•••	•••					0 10 6
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Gatenby, Mrs. (2 years)		•••		•••					0 10 0
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Goffey, Mr. Thomas					•••		,		0 10 0
Greatrex, Mr. F	••		***						0 10 0
Grece, Mrs		•••				• • • •	•••		0 10 0
Grece, Dr	•••		•••	•••					0 10 0
Grist, Mr. J		•••							0 10 0
Guthrie, Mr. James (2 years) \		•••						0 10 0
Garnett, Mrs. (Ripon) (2 yes									0 5 0
Garrett, Mr. George								•••	0 5 0
Gasquoine, Rev. T				•••					0 5 0
Gee, Mr. W. T				,					0 5 0
Gerard, Mrs. H. C									0 5 0
Gibbs, Mr. G. S		•••							0 5 0
Gibson, Mrs. (Stafford)									0 5 0
Gibson, Mr. T. (Kendal)									0 5 0
Gilbert, Mr. J. W									0 5 0
Glover, Mr. J									0 5 0
Goouch, Miss J									0 5 0
Grange, Mrs									0 5 0
Gregson, Mrs. S. E									0 5 0
Grundy, Mr. James									0 5 0
Guthrie, Mrs. A. (2 years)									0 5 0
Griffiths, Mrs									0 2 6
Gendall, Mr. P									0 2 6
Gibson, Mr. (Hartlepool)									0 2 6
Gidley, Mr. J., sen									0 2 6
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Golding, Mrs									0 2 6
Gray, Mr. T									0 2 6
Guest, Mr. E									0 2 6
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Holland, Mrs. Chas. (Liscard									2 2 0
Hervey, Miss Rosamond									2 0 0
Hamshaw, Mr. J									1 1 0
Haworth, Mr. A. (Bowdon)									1 1 0
Haworth, Mrs. Jesse									1 1 0
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Holden, Mr. E. T. (Walsali)				,					1 1 0
Hunt, Mrs									1 1 0
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Harris, Dr							•••	•••	1 0 0
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Hall, Miss Emily (I	Bowd	lon)										0	0
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Hadfield, Mr. Mose											0	5	0
Hall, Mrs. J. W. (T	hirsl	(2)	year	(s)							0	5	0
Hall, Mr. W	•••							•••			0	5	0
Hardcastle, Mr. F.						•••			***		0	5	0
Harding, Mr. W.				***						•••	0	5	0
Hare, Mr. S	•••	•••							•••	•••	0	5	0
Henderson, Mrs. J.		:::							•••	•••	0	5	0
Hey, The Venerabl					•••	•••				•••	0	5	0
Hibbert, Miss											0		0
Hill, Mr. James					•••				•••		0	5	0
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Hinton, Mr. A						***	•••		4		0	5	0
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Hargreaves, Mr. J.	(M10	ddles	boro	ough)		•••				0	3	6
Heap, Mr. Thomas	•••			•••		•••	•••				0	0	6
Hadley, Mr. Josiah	1				***				•••	•••	0	2 2	6
Haigh, Mr. Joseph		•••				•••				•••	0		6
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Harvey, Mr. J. P.	•••	•••	•••				•••	•••		•••	0	2	6
Hawke, Mr. J. O.						•••	•••			•••	0	2	6
Heaton, Mrs. (Wig	an)			•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	0		6
Hickson, Mrs				•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	0	2 2 2	6
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Hirst, Rev. J			•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	•••	•••	0	2	6
Hobson, Mr. W.		1	•••		•••	•••	***				0	9	6
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Hunt, Captain R.							•••	•••	•••		0	2	6
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Maude, Mr. J.

Micks, Mr. R.												£	s. d.
Mogerley, Mr.	G		•							. 18.		. 0	2 6
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Morgan, Mr. J.	п.		• •••									0	2 6
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Moses, Mrs	•••		• •••	•••								0	2 6
Martin, Miss	•••		•••	•••								0	2 0
Mudd, Mr. S.	•••											0	2 0
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Newman, Prof.	F.	W.								•••		i	
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Owen, Mr. J.				•••									5 0
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Pease, Mr. Henry	7									•••	•••	1 1	
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Sawyer, Mrs.	1000		/	:	•••							0	10	6	
Scott, Miss E.	R.				100							0	10	0	
Senior, Mr. W.					•••							0	10	0	
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Severs, Mrs. G	. (2	vear	s)							•••		0	10	0	
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Stainsby, Mr.	J. (2	vear	(8)					•••				0	10	0	
Stewart, Mr. C	harl	es						••••				0	10	0	
Stuart, Miss (I	Balgo	nie)						•••				0	10	0	
Scanlan, Mr.								•••		•••		0	10	0	
Senior, Mr. Ge	orge								•••	•••	•••	0	5	0	
Severs, Mrs. (2	yea	rs)							•••	•••		0	5	0	
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Sibthorpe, Mrs											•••	0	5	0	
Sinclair, Mrs.	•••									•••		0	5	MAR THE	
Silvester, Mr.	W.										•••	0	5	0	
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Smith, Mr. R. (Grin	nsby	(2)	year	's)							Ö	5	0	
bomerven, Mr.	J.		•••									Ö	5	0	
Spencer, Mr. J.			•••									0	5	0	
Sproster, Mr.		***										0	5	0	
Stephenson, Mr. Sutcliffe Mr. D.	· (G	rims	by)									0	5	0	
Sutcliffe, Mr. R Sutcliffe, Mrs. 1	D.	•••	•••									0	5	0	
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Sinclair, Mr. Fi	···	•••										0	5	0	
Snow, Mrs. (2)	700 PC	5	•••									0	4	0	
Salsbury, Mr.	dais)			•••	•••						0	4	0	
Saunders, Mrs.	Τ.				•••							0	2	6	
Sheard, Mrs.	٠.			•••	•••	•••						0	2	6	
Shelton, Miss		•••		•••	•••	•••			•••			0	2	6	
Sherratt, Mr. Ja	as.							•••				0	2	6	
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Simpson, Mrs.	100.		**				•••	•••	•••			0	2	6	
Smith, Mrs. (Yo	ork)			•••	•••							0	2	6	
Smith, Mr. F. H	I.			•					•••			0	2 2	6	
Southern, Mr. J				•••				•••	•••			0	2	6	
Stroyan, Mrs.												0	2	6	
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Turnbull, Mr. (Hartle	poo.	1)	•••								0	5	0
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Temperley, Mr								•••			0	2	6
Thomas, Mrs. (Llandy	ssu.	1)									0	2	6
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Turner, Mr Thos. (D	udle											2	6
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Turton, Mr. G											0		
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Tenby, Mr	••											-	•
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Unwin, Mrs													
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Villiers, Rt. Hon. C.	P., 1	1.P	• • • •			•••					0	2	6
Vero, Mrs. David		•••		•••							0	2	6
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Winkworth, Mrs. Ste	ephe	en			•••	•••	•••				1	1	0
Walker Mr. J. J. (H	anit	3 y)									1	1	0
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Worthington, Mr. T.	(H	anl	ey)	• • • •							1	1	0
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Wilkinson, Misses (Y	UIK	T	•••								1	0	0
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Ward, Mr. A												10	6
Whiteside, Dr												10	6
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Worthington, Mr. T	hom	nas	(Ma	nch	ester)					0		
Walton, Mrs							•	• ••					

Walton, Miss											£	s.	d.
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White, Mr. George	(9 -	•••		•••	•••	•••			•••		0	10	0
Whitmell, Mr. C. J.	Cana	tank	10-	•••							0	10	0
Wilson, Mr. Chas. (Gars	ion)	(2)	years	5)						0	10	0
Wilson, Mr. J. Whi	well	(Ke	naa.	1)							0	10	0
Wright, Mr. B. P. (8	stand										U	10-	0
Watts, Mrs. Alfred									8		0	5	0
Wason, Mr. J											0	5	0
Wayham, Mrs. (2 y	ears)										0	5	0
Whitelegge, Miss											0	5	0
Whittle, Dr		•••									0	5	0
Wildman, Mr										•••	0	5	0
Wilkes, Mr. Job											0	5	0
Wilkinson & Airey,	Mes	srs.									0	5	0
Wilson, Miss Alice											0	5	0
Witty, Mr. Thomas											0	5	0
Woodhead, Mrs. (M	anch	ester	(2)						•••		0	5	0
Woodhead, Mr. H. (Man	ches	ter)						•••			5	0
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Woolley, Mr. W. J.	-,						•••	•••			0	5	
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Wright, Mr. Thoma	s (Ms	anch	acta	19		•••					0	5	0
Wright, Mr. S. (Mic	dles	hrou	orh)	1)							0	5	0
Widdows, Mr. H.	caros	DIOU	84)					•••			0	5	0
Wright, Miss L. (Da	rling	ton)	***		•••					•••	0	4	0
Walker, Mr. Thomas	o (H)	iddo	nafia	12)	•••						0	3	0
Walmesley, Mr. L. S	5 (111	iuue.			•••	•••		•••			0	2	6
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Waugh, Mr. James	lin a		•••	•••	•••						0	2	6
Webster, Mr. J. (Dan	riing	ton)	•••								0	2	6
Wenney, Mr		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••					0	2	6
Whyte, Mr. James			•••	•••							0	2	6
Woodhead, Mrs. (L.	eeds)										0	2	6
Wright, Mr. E. A. (C											0	2	6
Walton, Mr											0	2	0
Wheeler, Mrs											0	2	0
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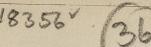
The following Subscriptions and Donations have been received since the Accounts were made up.

Pickup, Mrs. (Broughton) .			 •	 	1 0	0
me.merrow, nev. Dr.					0 10	6
Dale, Mr. David (Darlington). Lomas, Mr. W., J.P		•	 •••	 •••	0 10	0
Willitraker, Mr. John					0 10	0
Derry, Mr. James			 	 	0 10	0
Fletcher, Mr. Peter Graham Mr. Joseph		•	 	 •••	0 10	0
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muriey, Mr. R. J					0 10	0
cowgiii, Mr. G					0.10	0
Nutter, Mr. H			 	 	0 5	0

Thompson, Mr. John										0	5	0	
Dean. Dr										0	5	0	
Hall, Dr. and Mrs. S.	T.									0	5	0	
Howarth, Miss				•••				•••		0	5	0	
Hurtley, Miss						•••			•••	0	5	0	
Cronkshaw, Miss .					•••				•••	0	5	0	
Shepley, Mr. Thomas	3		•••				•••			0	5	0	
Baldwin, Mr. W.									•••	0	5	0	
Sager, Mr. Thomas .								•••	•••	0	5	0	
Taylor, Mr. John .					•••			•••		0	5	0	
Hartley, Mr. Francis										0	5	0	
Maw, Mr. N										0	5	0	
Haddock, Mrs					•••	•••		•••	•••	0	5	0	
Lascaridi, Mr. P. T									•••	0	5	0	
Blacker, Mr. G. O				•••.						0	5	0	
Martin, Mr. J. P				•••		•••	•••		•••	0	5	0	
Fisher, Mr. A. G							•••		•••	0	5	0	
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11 111109			•••	•••			•••		•••	0	2	6	
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Heap, Mr. James	•••		•••	•••		••••	•••		•••	0	2	6	
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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Edinburgh Aational Society

FOR.

Momen's Suffrage,

HELD IN THE

LARGE SALOON of the ROYAL HOTEL, Princes Street,

1st February

1877.

EDINBURGH: PRINTED BY JOHN GREIG & SON.

MDCCCLXXVII.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MRS M'LAREN, Newington House, PRESIDENT.

Miss Burton, Liberton Bank. Miss CALDWELL, 2 Victoria Terrace, Portobello. Miss CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street. Mrs CRUDELIUS, 14 Inverleith Terrace. Mrs FERGUSON HOME of Bassendean. Mrs Hodgson, Bonally. Miss HOPE, Bordlands. Miss HUNTER, 5 Great Stuart Street. Mrs Masson, 10 Regent Terrace. Mrs M'QUEEN of Braxfield. Mrs NICHOL, Huntly Lodge. Mrs ORD of Muirhouselaw. Mrs PRYDE, 10 Fettes Row. Mrs ROBERTSON, 25 Blacket Place. Miss SIMPSON, Portobello. MISS RAMSAY SMITH, 3 Bruntsfield Crescent. MISS E. STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent. Miss Louisa Stevenson. Mrs Wellstood, 14 Duncan Street. Mrs WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street.

MISS A. CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street, TREASURER.

MISS WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street,
MISS AGNES M'LAREN, Newington House,
MISS E. KIRKLAND, 13 Raeburn Place.

SECRETARIES.

Sir, yours very truly,

This Society consists of all friendly to its object, and who subscribe to its Funds.

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Ninth Annual Meeting of the above Society was held in the large saloon of the Royal Hotel, Princes Street, on 1st February 1877. Professor Hodgson occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance, especially of ladies.

Professor Hodgson said that, before proceeding to the business of the meeting, he should read a letter that had been received from Mr M'Laren, the senior member of Parliament for the city:—

"Newington House, Edinburgh, 1st Feb. 1877.

"Dear Professor Hodgson,—I am very sorry not to be able to be with you to-day to testify my unabated confidence in the cause of women's suffrage, but prudential considerations on the score of health oblige me to remain quiet at home for a few days longer. I may repeat once more what I have often stated, that I have never been able to see any logical or other valid reason why women who occupy houses of their own should not have votes equally with men occupying the same comparative position as householders. Wishing you a successful meeting, I am, my dear

D. M'LAREN."

(Applause.) Professor Hodgson then said the chairman of a public meeting was always in somewhat of a difficulty in this respect, that while he was expected, and in a manner bound, to say something, it was, on the other hand, very undesirable that he should forestall the arguments of the subsequent speakers. He should be brief. In fact, if this were a popular agitation, if this were a cause likely to be very speedily successful, he did not think he should be there at all, because he must confess he had no love for platform or other public appearances. It was only from a strong sense of duty that he appeared there that day, or on any similar occasion. When a cause was popular, and likely to be

ere long victorious, there was never any want of persons eager to come forward, and, as the poet said-

"Pursue the triumph, and partake the gain."

But he was afraid there were few content to ask, not, Is the cause popular? but simply, Is it just? Now, it was because he thought the claims of women in this matter were essentially, entirely, and indisputably just, that he was glad to be able in a small way to advocate these claims. Many persons, perhaps more from confusion of mind than any other cause, were apt to think that women in this matter were putting forward claims to some peculiar privilege on the ground of their sex. There was no such thing. It was exactly the reverse. Instead of pleading their sex as a qualification, they simply pleaded that their sex should not be a disqualification. Surely the difference between these two things was wide enough and clear enough to render further argument unnecessary. Here they had a law which provided that men who were householders, paying rates and taxes, should have a right to vote for representatives in Parliament; and by the same Act, or by the interpretation of the same Act, women who were actually householders and actually ratepayers, and in all other respects equally entitled to the suffrage, were debarred from the exercise of that suffrage. Surely this was not right or just. He did not care to go into the question, what evils, or cruelties, or hardships might result from the present state of law. He was quite convinced that what was unjust must be mischievous—whatever was just must be beneficial. (Applause.)

Miss Wigham then read the Ninth Annual Report, as follows:-

"The close of another business year calls for some notice of the position in which our Society stands. It might have been supposed that long ere this the justice of our claim would have been admitted, and our work accomplished; but it is difficult to combat and overcome long-established national usages, however erroneous, and national prejudices, however unjustly founded. Since our agitation commenced in 1866, remarkable progress has been made in the recognition of the right and capacity of women to exercise the franchise; and the number of women who annually take part in the municipal elections in England shews their appreciation of the power entrusted to them. W regret that the women of Scotland are still denied this right. The School Board elections in Scotland last year again proved that there is no difficulty to women in recording their votes; and that, so far from being injured, they are dignified by exercising the rights of Citizens in matters closely concerning, not only the interests of children,

but the general national welfare. The School Board elections also proved the capacity of women to act as members of boards, and their power to give an account of their stewardship. No one who heard the lucid statements and wise suggestions of Miss Blyth and Miss Flora Stevenson, could fail to acknowledge that they were well qualified for the position they occupied on the Edinburgh School Board, a position for which they were largely indebted to the votes of women householders. If the women householders have thus repeatedly shewn a right discrimination in voting at the School Board elections, may we not conclude that they would shew an equally sound judgment were they entrusted with the Parliamentary franchise?

"The operations of our Committee during the past year have been

mainly directed to upholding the principles of the Society by distributing facts and arguments, by holding drawing-room and public meetings, and by sending petitions to Parliament in support of the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. In pursuance of the latter branch of operations, our secretary, Miss Kirkland, and other members of the committee, have visited many towns in Scotland. Town councillors, ministers, and other persons of importance, have been interested in and have aided the movement. A large correspondence has been maintained by the Committee with friends of the cause throughout Scotland, and these efforts have resulted in sending up from Scotland 256 petitions, signed by 32,450 persons. Among these petitions were ninety from women householders, fourteen from Town Councils, sixteen from Good Templar lodges, seventeen from public meetings, seven from drawing-room meetings, one from twentyfour professors and teachers of Scottish Universities, and one from ladies engaged in professions. The Bill received similar support from all parts of the United Kingdom, and from all classes of the community.

"The total number of petitions presented was 11,171, and the signatures amounted to 376,166. These figures far exceed the number of petitioners for any other object during the session, and the analysis of the petitions shews that they were signed by persons of every class, description, and character. Among the signitaries were peeresses and commoners, naval and military men, landed proprietors and commercial traders, numerous professors of the university, and distinguished authors.

"The Bill was brought into the 'House' by Mr Forsyth, Q.C., and submitted for second reading on the 6th April 1876. So much interest had been manifested in the debate in the session of 1875, as indicated by the position given to it in all the leading newspapers, including the Times, that the opponents of the measure were stimulated to use greatly increased efforts to bring influence to bear against it in the House, and so well did they succeed that the ablest oratory—we do not say the soundest argument—was employed on the occasion of the debate. In consequence of this the division list shewed 234 votes against the Bill, as compared with 152 votes for it.

"Although the majority against us was larger than that of the previous year, it by no means indicated retrogression; on the contrary, one well qualified to judge said that it appeared to him there were as many signal marks of progress in the year that had just closed as in any year in the course of the agitation. When greater combatants entered the arena of discussion, whether they took sides with or against them, it was a proof of growing interest in that question, and of its increasing importance. It was satisfactory to find that all the efforts of our opponents did not succeed in detaching a single friend from our cause. Owing to the debate taking place immediately after the Easter recess, not a few of our friends were unavoidably absent; this was particularly the case with the Irish members. The analysis of the vote was-Minority, including tellers, 116 English, 20 Scotch, 18 Irish members. The majority, by which the Bill was rejected, also including tellers, was 201 English, 20 Scotch, and 19 Irish representatives. It is encouraging to notice the progress which the question is making in the country at large, as the minds of the people are becoming more familiarised with the idea of the franchise being exercised by women. At the meeting held in Manchester last year, to re-organise the National Reform Union, when the subject of the assimilation of the county and borough franchise was under discussion, an amendment was carried, on the motion of Miss Sturge, of Birmingham, by which the wording of the resolution was so altered as to affirm the principle that the suffrage should be granted to all householders, irrespective of sex. The Birmingham Liberal Committee of 400—a committee of no small importance—have also adopted the principle; and there are other important committees who have done the same.

"As another instance of the appreciation of the way in which women perform their public duties, we may mention the banquet lately given in London to Miss Helen Taylor, which was attended by Mr Stansfeld, M.P., Sir George Campbell, M.P., Mr Roebuck, M.P., and other distinguished men.

"As in past years, we have to record the loss by death of many able supporters, among whom we may mention Harriet Martineau, George Hope, Esq. of Bordlands, Mr Thomasson, Dr Duncanson, of Alloa, and the Rev. Henry Renton, of Kelso. We gratefully acknowledge the sympathy we received from these and other friends at a time when the cause met with but little support. They felt the cause was that of justice, and did not hesitate to give in their adhesion to it from the commencement. Two valued members of our Committee, Miss Margaret Hunter and Mrs Low, have also passed away. They were among the earliest members of the Committee, and we deeply lament their loss.

"A change has again taken place in the leadership of the movement in the House of Commons. Mr Jacob Bright having been re-elected for Manchester, Mr Forsyth expressed a wish to resign the charge of the Bill. We feel grateful to Mr Forsyth for his leadership of the

measure for three years, and for his assurance that it shall have his ready support by whomsoever introduced in the future. At the urgent request of all the Committees throughout the kingdom, Mr Jacob Bright has consented again to introduce the Bill next session. We hope in thus meeting the wish of all the friends of the cause, he will receive that support which is due to him for his faithful adherence to the principle of our constitution in all its integrity—that representation and taxation should go together, when equal laws and equal justice shall apply to every class and section under the rule of the British nation."

MISS WIGHAM also submitted an abstract of the Society's income and expenditure during the year.

Mr James Cowan, M.P., moved the adoption of the Report, and that it be printed with list of subscriptions and treasurer's abstract, and circulated under direction of the Committee. He also moved the appointment of the Committee. Speaking in support of the motion, Mr Cowan said that he particularly agreed with the Report in what it said about Mr Forsyth. His efforts on behalf of the cause had been signal, and had been one great means of having the large minority in the House of 152; and when a minority reached that height a measure was likely to succeed in the end. The cause, he thought, had been going on increasing. The petition in 1867 was signed by only 13,000, and last year they had 415,000 signatures. The petitions had come from all parts of the country, crowded meetings had been held in many large towns, and the extraordinary thing was that their opponents had never even had the courage to get up a public meeting in any town against the measure; and why? because they knew they would not have the least chance of being successful. The feeling was growing in the country that women, single women, who paid rates and taxes, should be represented in Parliament. They had as much right to vote for members of Parliament as men had, and he could not but conceive that at the end of a few years their efforts would be successful, and they would attain their desire. The arguments used against the bill were more arguments as to what might happen if the bill were to pass. It was stated that the ladies wished to go into the House of Commons and to be ambassadors. The same argument applied to every scheme brought before the House. There was one petition presented in favour of the bill from Cambridge, signed by no less than thirtytwo Fellows. This and other influential petitions shewed that the cause they had so much at heart was supported by the

best and most learned men of the country, and was by no means confined to the women themselves. There was no doubt that the hon. members who were so eloquent against the measure took their ideas from the ladies they met with in London society; and he need not tell them how the ladies in London society were not the ladies to go in for women's rights. Those who went for them were ladies of that class of women who strove to keep houses over their heads, to keep themselves from the poorhouse, and who, therefore, had an interest that economy should be practised in the Government. He thought the admission of women to the electoral rights would also exercise a wholesome supervision over that feeling for war which so often had taken hold of the people, and might do so again. Giving women votes would add thirteen per cent. to the already numerous constituency of voters, and the thirteen per cent. he felt sure would always be on the side of peace. There was another thing that was agitating the whole country at present from Land's End to John o' Groat's House, and that was the question of sobriety. There was a strong feeling in the country that something should be done. He thought that thirteen per cent. of women's votes would always be in favour of sobriety. On this ground, that, if enfranchised, their support would be given to the cause of peace and sobriety, he would warmly advocate that they should proceed with due vigour in the prosecution of their object. It was with great regret that all their friends in the House of Commons last year listened to Mr Bright's speech on the question, because, knowing Mr Bright's influence, and how he was listened to with the utmost respect by the House, and knowing his honesty, they felt that it had been a great blow to their movement; but they also rejoiced that they had Mr Jacob Bright, one member of the family, on their side. He earnestly hoped, however, that the cause would prosper, and that soon the minority they now had would be turned into a majority. (Applause.)

Mr Macfie of Dreghorn, in seconding the motion, said that he was sanguine enough to believe that when this reform was carried it would tend to the improvement of the personal qualities of candidates for Parliament, whether for the representation of cities, burghs, or other communities—(applause)—because a very so-so candidate would never be presented to a constituency largely composed of ladies. There were many matters of very great

importance to the community which did not receive sufficient attention at present, because they were not party questions; and there was one question, a very important one, that ladies would be sure to take an interest in—the cheapening of books. It appeared to him that the way had been happily prepared for the exercise of the suffrage by ladies. It appeared as if Providence had prepared the way for female suffrage in the institution of the ballot. (Applause.)

The motion was then passed.

Miss ToD, Belfast, moved—"That in the opinion of this meeting the exclusion of women householders and ratepayers from the electoral franchise is inconsistent with the constitutional principle that taxation is the basis of representation, and that the rejection of a large portion of the industry and intelligence and prosperity of the country from direct representation is unjust to those excluded and injurious to the community at large; further, resolve that a petition to this effect be forwarded to Parliament, signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting, praying the House of Commons to pass a bill removing the electoral disabilities of women, to be introduced into the House this session by Mr Jacob Bright." In supporting the motion, she said that she supposed that at this, the ninth annual meeting of the society, the majority of those present had made up their minds that the claim of duly qualified women to be represented in Parliament was a just one, and its success would be productive of benefit to the community at large. Not long since a distinguished writer said to her that he was sure that the claim of women householders was a right one, and he certainly wished to see all legal obstacles put out of their way, but he thought it was a cold thing to care so much for. She was afraid that was the feeling of a great many shallow-minded people who were willing to acknowledge the cogency of political facts and arguments when put before them, but without having had their attention sufficiently called to the moral facts that lay behind them. They too often forgot, although it had been acknowledged by all true statesmen, that morals underlay all politics. When this was the ground and basis of politics, and the province in which it was acknowledged by all that the opinions and convictions of women were of some weight, was it not worth while considering whether what they pleaded was not the best means, as had already been suggested, of relieving politics from

coldness and shallowness? They wanted to gain two objects by their proceedings. They desired to have certain specific reforms achieved, and they desired also to raise the status of women by removing a conspicuous disability. They had reason to congratulate themselves upon the point which they had reached. They had not, indeed, got the privilege which they claimed; but year by year, and almost day by day, they saw how general the sense of the necessity and justice of their claim was becoming, and how deep and strong the feeling was which led ladies to set aside their objections to taking part in public life, and the conviction that this claim which they were presenting was one which would enable them to do their duty in a greater number of respects much better than at present. They were not asking to enter into a new sphere, but into an old one. They only asked for the removal of obstacles; and if the Suffrage Bill were passed to-morrow, while it would not extinguish the duties which were already woman's, it would greatly deepen her sense of responsibility in regard to others. With many drawbracks, women have always had an influence in public life in every healthy society. From the time of the early Christian martyrs down to the last struggle for the extinction of slavery, women had raised their voices no less effectively than men. In all Christian countries public life was simply an extension of home life; and they knew very well that legislation now, at least the greater part of it, was emphatically domestic legislation; that was, of a kind in regard to which women were likely to have as cool and judicious views as men. Great gain had accrued to their cause during the past year in the very important department of professional employment. She alluded to the satisfactory conclusion of a long struggle to obtain medical diplomas for ladies. She hoped they would pardon her if she said with a little pride it was an Irish University that had been the first in the kingdom to admit ladies into these institutions. After pointing out the importance of a higher and wider education for girls to give them a chance of developing more fully their powers and faculties, and, in fact, to give them an opportunity of being whatever their Creator meant them to be, Miss Tod proceeded to maintain that women were citizens of the State as well as men; guardians with men of the best life of the nation; bound as much as men were to consider the good of the whole; and justified as much as men in sharing in the good of the whole. They pressed their claim because they thought it was

right in itself, and because they believed it would bear good fruits. If women were not prepared for the franchise, they were growing so every day; and, as Mr Gladstone said about another matter, "freedom itself is the best preparation for freedom." Every advance in constitutional government brought us nearer the ideal in which Government would find the means of satisfying the feminine as well as the masculine idea of human nature. She believed the success of their movement would benefit men as much as women, tend to the spread of Christianity, and, in the present circumstances of modern society, lead much towards promoting practical religion in all departments of daily life. She had great pleasure in moving the motion entrusted to her.

Mrs Masson did not think there was half the opposition to the movement at present that existed formerly. Public opinion appeared to be rapidly coming round to their side, especially among the more educated classes of the people. The system of representation in this country had always been in an unsatisfactory condition. Many reforms had been made in it, but the reforms had all been made by men and for men; whereas this reform was distinct from those which had come before it, in that it had been instituted by women and for women. The tendency in these reforms was, and had always been, to extend the basis of representation. Almost every class of men in the country had now their representatives, and women were beginning to ask, Why are we to be left out in the cold? Mr Bright tells us we are not a class, and should object to be treated as a class. Certainly we were not a class. It would be difficult to put all women into any one class; on the contrary, there were as many classes among women as among men; or, rather, there were a variety of classes in society, each of which consisted, not of women only and men only, but of women and men. (Applause.) When the women in all these classes were sifted out and set aside to be treated and governed by themselves, then, and then only, were they driven to think of themselves as a class, and the world began to speak of them as such. It was because they objected to be treated as a class that they asked to share the privileges that are supposed to belong to all classes of men. Mr Bright has spent his life very nobly in obtaining for the working man—that is, one class of men-the privilege of representing themselves in Parliament. But there are numbers of women householders as deserving of this privilege,

intellectual, highly educated, with more money and more time to give to others than Mr Bright's working man, that much-to-becared-for, much-to-be-legislated-for individual whom nevertheless Mr Bright has put in front of all his countrywomen. (Applause.) It was not that women objected to political freedom being given to working men, they only asked that the same privilege be conferred on working women. They might ask, Why was this bill which they all advocated so long in getting through the House of Commons? and some of them who had been working might begin to feel a little discouraged. Well, they would need to remember, in the first place, that it was an old right they were invading. She did not think, if the Parliamentary franchise were a new right to be granted now to men, that it would be given to men and not to women. They saw that that was the natural process when the educational franchise was given a few years ago. There was nothing said then about excluding women. They had been ten years at work, and their bill was still in its first reading. But, after all, ten years was not a very long time to carry a great reform in. The Ballot Bill was as long in passing, and our recent reforms in national education were first brought before Parliament by Brougham in his youth. After speaking of the manner in which the Association had endeavoured to gain its ends, particularly by petitioning, Mrs Masson went on to say that this movement was not a mere vulgar agitation for rights, but the most beneficent scheme that women had to deal with in the present day, and asked their help to carry a great public measure which would put an end to, or at least ameliorate, a great part of the misery and discomfort which they saw around them. It would make it easier for women to live honestly, and would put an end to various forms of injustice, the laws affecting temperance, sanitary regulations, and a number of other important matters, would run a chance of being wiser and more thorough when women as well as men helped to make them.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Mr Graham, Newhaven, then moved—"That the thanks of this meeting be cordially tendered to Mr Forsyth, M.P., for his kind leadership of the bill; to all the members who spoke in its favour; to all the members who voted for it, especially to our Scottish members, and pre-eminently to our city members,

who have consistently voted for the bill on every division." For years, he said, he had signed the petition in support of this bill, and held the cause to be a just and righteous cause, and also a truly Christian cause. Being so, he had felt it his duty to speak at all times in his own way and sphere in favour of it. Christianity was the religion of the race in Britain, and as it enfranchised all, women as well as men, through the truth within the churches, it equally in the coming future would help to enfranchise all within the State. Until then, however, taxation was the principle on which the electoral franchise rested, and it seemed to him a logical necessity that women having houses and paying taxes should have an electoral voice for members of Parliament. He therefore held it would be for the good of the community to have woman's influence, quietly exercised, as a moderating influence amid the strife of parties; that it would be a liberal thing to give women householders a direct vote in the legislation of the country; nay, that it would be a liberal and conservative thing to grant woman suffrage as a counterbalancing element to the fiercer passions of the wild democracy, and that to deprive women householders longer of this privilege (which when got some might not use, though a great number would) was injurious to the community, and unfair to a large portion of the industry, intelligence, property, and wealth of the kingdom. The Edinburgh Society for Women's Suffrage aimed at amending the recent Reform Act so far as to give to women householders (widows and spinsters), who were legally qualified in every respect, except that they were women, the right to vote for members of Parliament, and the statesman who did this would have done as much for England as if he had abrogated the Salic law in France, and enabled that nation to have the rule of a Victoria, by the grace of God and the free choice of the people, Empress of the French. (Applause.)

The motion was seconded by Mr Wellstood, and passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr Walter M'Laren, a vote of thanks was passed to Miss Tod, of Belfast, and the other speakers; after which a vote of thanks, moved by Mrs Nichol, Huntly Lodge, to Professor Hodgson for his conduct in the chair, brought the meeting to a close.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 18th JANUARY 1877.

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EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

Birmingham Zociety for Momen's Suffrage.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 22nd, 1877.

THE Committee regret that their Annual Report due to their iends and subscribers in March, has been delayed by pressure of ork for the Conference of the National Society for Women's uffrage, which was held at Birmingham, April 17th, under the residency of Henry Hawkes, Esq. J. P. Perhaps the most portant point in the Conference was contained in the able paper ontributed by Mr. Sidney Smith, of the City of London Liberal ssociation. The writer stated that his official duties had led him examine the merits of the claim of women to the franchise and was convinced, notwithstanding the adverse decision of the ourt of Common Pleas, that all householders have a legal right be registered as voters in Parliamentary elections. He adduced any facts in support of this opinion and it was resolved to uire into the practicability of following out his suggestion that rliament should be moved to have the legal argument for the at of women householders to the Suffrage, heard at the bar of House of Commons. The Committee were also much indebted Miss Williams and Miss Tod, for interesting papers which were ened to with marked interest by a numerous audience. The eting held in the Town Hall at night and presided over by the for, George Baker, Esq., was well attended and the Committee tefully recognize the kind help given them by many friends, ich largely contributed to the success of the meetings emorials were signed by the Chairmen on behalf of the meetings forwarded for presentation to the Council of Birmingham the ough and County members also to the Prime Minister soliciting support of her Majesty's Government for the "Bill to Remove Electoral Disabilities of Women."

As regards other work in the past year, our share in it has chiefly

consisted in the collection of signatures to petitions and the distribution of literature. Of the Petitions one was sent from the Birmingham Liberal Association, and another was signed by the President, Mrs. R. W. Dale, on behalf of the Women's Liberal Association. An analysis of the votes in the last Parliamentary Division, April 26th, 1876, shews "that six of the three cornered constituencies have given either their full vote or a majority of it for the measure, 34 constituencies have given their full vote of two each; 83 their full vote of one each; and that 119 constituencies as against 94 in the last Parliament, appear as clearly and full ranged in favour of the Bill." As on this occasion our senio member gave his powerful eloquence to the task of opposing the enfranchisement of women householders it is satisfactory to not that his speech did not apparently diminish the number of ou adherents. The majority who voted against the Bill was greated than in 1875, but the number of its supporters remained exact the same as in the previous division.

We feel that our work grows faster than the resources of the Committee; we therefore earnestly appeal to those friends of the cause who think that it has been advanced by past efforts, to manifest their approval by aiding us to continue and extend of operations.

Committee.

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4 B	
MRS. ARCHER.	Mrs. Middlemore.
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Mrs. T. S. Bartlett.	Mr. Rogers.
REV. T. G. CRIPPEN.	Mrs. Rogers.
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Miss Foxall.	MR. WILLIAM TAYLOR.
Mrs. Gore.	MRS. WILLIAM TAYLOR.
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MKS. C. E. MATTEWS.	D 1 1 David

Hon. Secretary—Miss E. M. Sturge, 17, Fiederick Road.

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Office—4, Broad Street Corner.

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REPORT

OF THE

Pristol and West of Gugland Society

FOR

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,

1877.

OBJECT.—To obtain for Women Householders and Ratepayers the right of Voting for Members of Parliament.

BRISTOL:

I. ARROWSMITH, PRINTER, 11, QUAY STREET.

1878.

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Tavistock - Miss Rachel Evans
Tenby - Mr. Howell Davies
Tewkesbury - Rev. T. Webster
Tiverton - Rev. E. S. Bayliffe, B.A.
Worcester - Mr. W. Weaver

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Mr. G. A. Bessell
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ALAN GREENWELL, M.A., 4 Arlington Villas, Clifton

Secretary:

Mrs. BIRT

Office-16 PARK STREET, BRISTOL.

REPORT, 1877.



THE last Annual Report of this Society was presented at a meeting which took place in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on the 8th of March last. Lady Anna Gore Langton occupied the chair, and the meeting was one of the largest ever held in this district. Your Committee look back with a sense of satisfaction to the fact that among those who took part in the proceedings they may record the name of Mary Carpenter. This was probably one of the last, if not the last, great meeting she ever addressed. In moving a vote of thanks to the President, she said "she very warmly sympathised in the principles of the Society and wished it success." She was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, and one of its most distinguished members, and your Committee deeply deplore the loss the cause of Women's Suffrage, in common with so many other important movements in the direction of human progress, has sustained in her death.

Although rather less than a year has elapsed since the issue of their last Report, your Committee consider that they have a satisfactory amount of work to record. A large meeting was held in the spring at Exeter, addressed by Lady Bowring, Mrs. Bright Clark and Miss Tod. Meetings also were held by the friends and members of this Society at Cheltenham, Worcester and Frome. During the autumn there were two meetings in the rooms

Redland Hall, by invitation from the Misses Venning. In the former Miss Francis Power Cobbe took part, and over the latter Lady Anna Gore Langton presided. Both drawing-rooms were crowded, and the meetings were characterised by animated discussions of the question. obligations to the ladies who have so kindly granted the use of their drawing-rooms. They would also express their acknowledgments of the valuable services rendered by many ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood who by their speeches have so largely contributed to the success of these meetings.

An influential conference of the members of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held at Birmingham, in May, which was attended by delegates sent from this society.

On the 5th of June, the day before that fixed for the second reading of the Women's Disabilities Bill, a deputation, consisting of delegates from different parts of the country, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Mr. Jacob Bright, has introduced the Women's Disabilities Stafford Northcote) at his official residence. The deputa- Bill. It was read a first time on 19th of this month. tion was accompanied by several members of Parliament, The second reading is fixed for the 19th June, and the and was introduced by Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., M.P. A full Committee trust that the interval thus afforded will be report of the proceedings will be found in the Women's made the means of valuable moral support to Mr. Suffrage Journal for July. Sir Stafford Northcote has Courtney, in the shape of numerous petitions and meetvoted on several occasions in favour of the measure, and ings, and by obtaining pledges of support from Parliamenhis support, from his character not less than from his tary candidates at any elections which may arise. They position, is esteemed of great value by the promoters of would also remind those interested in the work of the Society this reform. The Women's Disabilities Bill was introduced of the absolute necessity of increased material assistance in in the House of Commons on 9th February, and the second order to carry that work forward to a successful issue.

of the Society, in Park Street, and a public meeting at reading was moved by Mr. Jacob Bright. The rejection Bedminster. Drawing-room meetings have been held at of the measure was moved by Mr. Hanbury, and seconded Stoke House, by invitation from Mrs. Budgett, and at by Mr. Cartwright (Oxfordshire). The following members spoke in support of the Bill: -Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Hopwood, Mr. M'Laren, Sir J. M'Kenna, Right Hon. J. W. Henley, Mr. Jacob Bright and Mr. Leonard Courtney. The O'Donoghue, Sir W. Barttelot, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Beresford Hope and Mr. Butt represented the opposition. Mr. The Committee desire to express their strong sense of the Courtney, who rose in reply to Mr. Butt, was interrupted importance of these social meetings, and to mark their by loud cries and persistent uproar until the time was passed for taking a division, and the debate, in consequence, stood adjourned.

> During the session of 1877 there were more petitioners in support of the Women's Disabilities Bill than for any other measure brought before Parliament. In all, 820 818 petitions were presented, signed by 266,263 persons; of these, 140 were sent through the friends and members of this Society, signed by 31,538 persons, including 24 petitions, signed by 5,637 persons, sent through the Bath centre of the Society. No petitions were presented against the Bill.

In the present session of Parliament Mr. Leonard Courtney, in the regretted absence from ill-health of The accounts for the year show a balance against the Treasurer of £44 10s. 9d., and to clear this deficit, as well as to provide for renewed and energetic action in promoting their enterprise, the Committee ask for the liberal help of all who have that enterprise at heart.

The Committee record with regret the resignation of their late Secretary, Mrs. Turner, who in the summer left to join her family in Australia; and in so doing would express their appreciation of the unremitting services rendered by her to the work and aims of the Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY, 16 PARK STREET,

JANUARY 25th, 1877.

As the Rev. Dr. CALDICOTT was unable to be present at the beginning of the meeting, Alan Greenwell, Esq., took the chair till his arrival.

The Secretary read the Report of the Executive Committee and the Statement of Accounts.

Resolution I.—Moved by Rev. A. C. Macpherson, seconded by Miss Sturge, and supported by Mr. W. Jennings,

"That the Report and Statement of Accounts just read be adopted and printed for circulation under the direction of the Executive Committee, and that the following persons be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:-Joseph Bartlett, Esq., Mrs. Beddoe, Mrs. Colman, T. W. Dunn, Esq., Alan Greenwell, Esq., J. G. Grenfell, Esq., Mrs. Grenfell, David Lloyd, Esq., Miss Mary Price, The Misses Priestman, Miss Solly, Miss Lillie Thomas, J. G. Thornton, Esq., Dr. Eliza W. Dunbar, Mrs. Charles Thomas, Mrs. H. Lawes, Rev. J. B. Spring, Mrs. Mills Baker, Rev. U. R. Thomas, Mrs. Hallett, T. G. P. Hallett, Esq., Dr. Davis, Miss Tribe, F. N. Tribe, Esq., George Bessell, Esq., Rev. A. C. Macpherson, Patrick Watson, Esq., Miss Pass and Miss Sturge, with power to add to their number."

RESOLUTION II.—Moved by Dr. J. W. CALDICOTT, seconded by Mrs. L. Ashworth Hallett,

"That the cordial thanks of this meeting are heartily rendered to Mr. Jacob Bright, the Right Hon. James Stansfeld, the Right Hon. the Recorder of London, Sir R. Anstruther, Bart., Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., Mr. Hopwood, Q.C., Mr. McLaren, Sir J. McKenna, Right Hon. J. W. Henley, Mr. Leonard Courtney, Mr. S. Morley, Mr. K. D. Hodgson, and also the West of England Members, for introducing and supporting the Women's Disabilities Bill."

RESOLUTION III.—Moved by Rev. U. R. Thomas, seconded by Miss Priestman,

"That petitions to both Houses of Parliament, based on the foregoing resolution, be adopted and signed by the Chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that memorials to Samuel Morley, Esq., and Kirkman D. Hodgson, Esq., Members for the City of Bristol, and to the Right Hon. Sir M. E. H. Beach, Bart., J. R. Yorke, Esq., Hon. R. R. E. Plunket and Lieut.-Col. Kingscote, Members for the County, requesting them to support the Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, be signed by the Chairman and forwarded by him."

RESOLUTION IV.—Moved by Miss Mary Price, secondary by Alan Greenwell, Esq.,

"That the best thanks of the meeting be given to De Caldicott for presiding on the present occasion."

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

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Mrs. Alfred Shipley	0 10 6								
Mrs. Frederick Smith	1 0 0								
Mrs. Julius Smith	0 5 0								
Mrs. Henry Smith	0 5 0								
Miss Solly	3 1 0								
Mr. W. Sommerville	4 0 0								
The Misses Southall	0 10 0		0	-27	7				
Rev. J. B. Spring, B.A.	1 0 0		7						
Min Charleson	0 5 0								
Miss Stephens	0 5 0								
Mrs. J. P. Stephens	0 3 0								
Mrs. Stone	0 2 6								
Mrs. W. Sturge									
	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY O								

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TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 7th, 1877.

> MANCHESTER: ALEXANDER IRELAND & CO., PRINTERS. 1877.

SUFFRAGE for 1877.	£ 8	17 1	38		117 1	51	162 1	25	36]	1
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