

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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Contents :

Leading Article :—The Progress of the Women's Suffrage Movement.
Political Outcasts.
Parliamentary Intelligence.
Public Meetings : Birmingham, Coventry, Colchester, Chelsea, Maldon, Exeter, Westbury, Ipswich, Wycombe, Droitwich, Leeds. Wales : Ruthin, Bangor.

Portmadoc, Blaenau Festiniog. Ireland : Londonderry, Newry. Scotland : West Wemyss, Borgue, Castle Douglas, Kirkpatrick - Durham, Chirnside, Thornhill.
Universities (Scotland) Bill.
Shall a Women Householders' League be Formed?

Deputation to Mr. A. W. Hall, M.P., Oxford.
Women's Suffrage in the United States.
Poetry :—In the Cold Shade.
List of Petitions.
Obituary.
Treasurers' Reports :—Women's Suffrage : Manchester, Edinburgh, Central Committee.

THE work in support of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill has gone steadily forward during the past month. Meetings have been held in various parts of the country, and a continuous stream of petitions has poured into the House of Commons. The number of petitions presented up to April 21 is 287, with 105,100 signatures; eighty-five of the petitions are from public meetings and other collective or corporate bodies. We exhort our friends to keep up their efforts, and beg to remind them that although the present is the date when the main efforts for the season have usually approached their termination, yet this year, owing to various causes, we have to maintain our exertions for another two months before the critical period of the second reading of the measure arrives.

Mr. FORSYTH has announced his intention to move in Committee on the Bill, that, instead of the proviso as it now stands, " Provided that no married woman shall be entitled to vote in such election," the following words be inserted : " Provided that nothing contained in this Act shall entitle any woman under coverture to be registered or to vote at such election." The amended proviso imposes no new disability, it merely recognises one which exists in regard to every local franchise exercised by women, and declares that the same rule shall be followed in the Parliamentary vote. There was nothing contained in Mr. JACOB BRIGHT'S Bill to enable married women to vote; and we believe that no practical politician who seriously hoped to obtain the consent of the Legislature to a measure for women's suffrage, would have done otherwise than frame his Bill on the precedent afforded by the existing franchise for women in local elections.

It will be seen by a reference to the Parliamentary proceedings that the enemy has begun to show fight. On April 23rd, Mr. CHAPLIN gave notice of opposition to the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. This notification ought to stir as with a trumpet sound the hearts of all our friends, and rouse them to redoubled efforts in support of Mr. FORSYTH'S measure. We believe that the response

will be hearty and general, and we shall be surprised if some of the echoes are not evoked in Mr. CHAPLIN'S own constituency.

The opponents of women's suffrage may be classed in two grand divisions—those who oppose it because they think women ought not to have votes, and those who oppose it because they think women do not desire votes. The first class, again, may be subdivided into those who assume as an axiom or self-evident proposition, which neither requires nor is capable of proof, that women have nothing to do with government but to obey; and those who declare, either that women would not make a good use of a vote, or that their interests would suffer in some way were the suffrage conferred upon them. The first class are beyond the reach of argument, because their proposition is not based on reasoning, but is assumed by them as the foundation on which all reasoning on the subject must rest. The proposition that a part is less than the whole cannot be proved, because it is self-evident. There are some minds so constituted that the proposition that a woman ought not to vote in the election of members of Parliament appears to them equally self-evident. They call a proposal to confer this right upon her a violation of the laws of nature, and when pressed for a reason they have none to give, and, to do them justice, they seldom offer any save the old-fashion formula "because it is." We cannot expect to convince men with minds of this calibre—but they are, fortunately, a minority of the sex, and we may hope to outvote them.

Almost equally impracticable are the opponents who refuse to enfranchise women because they assume that women would vote against what they believe to be sound principles. We really cannot undertake to guarantee suspicious Liberals against the possibility that many women would vote for Conservatives, especially if they should owe their franchise to a Conservative Administration. We can only ask them to do unto women as they would be done by,

were they asking for representative government for themselves, and to have enough faith in the soundness of their own principles to believe that these will ultimately prevail, even though liberty were given to the free cultivation and expression of opinion by all classes of the people.

Those who declare that the interests of women would suffer if they had votes are bound to show in what manner they would suffer before the objection can be admitted. If you give women votes, they say, they will lose the influence they now possess. But experience has not proved that any class which has obtained votes has thereby lost influence. Power and influence usually go hand in hand. Wealth is power, and a woman who has wealth has more influence than a poor woman. Beauty is a power of another order, and a beautiful woman has more influence than a woman who is plain or insignificant in appearance. The poor woman and the plain woman would receive an increase of consideration by the possession of a vote, while the wealthy and the beautiful would not find the influence of these qualifications lessened by the addition of the suffrage.

Those who declare that women do not desire the franchise, must be convinced by the logic of facts. It is a fact that vast numbers of women in all ranks of society feel keenly the degradation implied in the electoral disability, as injurious in itself, and the root of innumerable evils. They have given expression to this conviction in various ways, and the demand for the removal of the disability is pressed with a constantly increasing chorus of voices. It is also a fact that numbers of women who have laboured to elevate the condition of women in social, industrial, and educational matters, have found their efforts hindered or baffled by the want of a motive power, and they are becoming daily more and more convinced that the acquisition of some share of political influence is a necessary condition of any effective improvement in the education and development of the powers bestowed on women by nature. The general and growing feeling among women who give their minds earnestly to thought and action on matters touching the welfare of society, has a fair claim for consideration at the hands of the Legislature, and it is no answer to the demand made by these to allege that there are other women who do not share, or do not express similar desires.

When a proposal for the extension of the franchise among men has been mooted it has never been thought necessary to prove that the whole, or even that a majority of those to be enfranchised actually asked for votes. It

has been deemed sufficient to show that the claim is fair and reasonable in itself, and that the demand is made by leaders who represent matured opinions, and large numbers of their class. These conditions have been fulfilled in the movement for the removal of the disability of sex in Parliamentary elections, and we trust that the time is not far distant when the boon may be granted.

POLITICAL OUTCASTS.

The qualification for voting for members of Parliament is the ownership or occupation of houses or lands and the payment of taxes. It is generally admitted that "taxation without representation is tyranny," yet hundreds of thousands of persons qualified to vote are denied the right to vote. These political outcasts are not, as might at first be supposed, convicts or outlaws; for even convicts and outlaws, on the expiration of their terms of punishment, can reassume the right, but these outcasts are denied all political rights for life. Nor are they lunatics, for lunatics may be restored to reason and recover all their rights. They are not children, for children grow up and may obtain the right to vote. These outcasts are not hopelessly sunk in ignorance or given to drunkenness or violence; and, indeed, none of these things hinder people from voting. Mr. Gladstone and the Liberals generally were most anxious to retain the vote for men who could only make a cross in place of writing their names; so that ignorance is no bar, whilst drunkenness, judging from the evidence on various election petitions, would seem to be thought rather a qualification than otherwise. These outcasts from English citizenship are women. That is their only disqualification. The men, by whose injustice they are thus disqualified, are the sons, the husbands, and the fathers of women; and they all swear allegiance to a woman as supreme ruler of the State and head of the Church. Can any man who denies women the first plain right of citizenship be regarded as the faithful subject of a female sovereign? Surely his is a sham allegiance to a queen—a sham chivalry, without truth or justice to mother, wife, or daughter!

It was impossible during the general election for a woman to see without indignation all interests—repeal of income tax, local government, any measure except the one which proposes to raise her sex from the condition of slavery—take prominent positions in the addresses of candidates. It would seem that no electors are supposed to care for the interests of women. The demand by women for the suffrage is no small thing. Hundreds of thousands have asked Parliament urgently for it, and will do so again until it is obtained. Those who know how men assume to themselves all the power, and know how little money and how few opportunities women possess, believe it rather to be wondered at that women have done so much, and have so plainly expressed their desire for freedom. If there be any human being who would prefer to be a puppet in the hands and at the mercy of the opposite sex, it is quite possible for him or her to be so, without endeavouring to prevent his or her equals from thinking and acting for themselves. Many men prefer low pleasures or elegant ease to the trouble of giving a vote, but this lack of energy cannot be supposed to make them the superiors of others, or give them the right to urge their example as a reason why men generally should be deprived of political influence; nor can it be different in the case of women. Law should be the collective will of the intelligent adults of a nation, expressed by their representatives. If half

a nation is arbitrarily excluded from representation and legislation, the laws made by the other half, who usurp the power, can have no just authority over, and cannot be binding on the conscience of, the excluded half of the nation. Is it not time that the voice of women should be heard in legislation?

It has been said that the Liberals feared to give the vote to women because women would favour the Conservatives. But as all governing parties have hitherto kept women in subjection, and as they have had no opportunity of expressing their political opinions, it would seem to be only a fear which comes of the so-called "Liberals" inward knowledge that they deserve no support from those to whom they have denied the rights of citizenship. Happily among all parties there are good and true men working for women, and this gives some ground for hoping that they will be admitted to the right of voting for Parliamentary members before the next general election, which in that case will deserve to be called "general," for it will not be, like the recent one, an election to choose representatives of, and by, only one half of the nation. The new Parliament has the glorious opportunity of restoring to women the right to vote for members of Parliament. If this should be one of its first acts, then it might indeed be looked to with confidence by the entire nation.

CHARLOTTE E. BABB.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Saturday, 21st March.—Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women ordered to be brought in by Mr. Forsyth, Sir Robert Anstruther, Mr. Russell Gurney, and Mr. Stansfeld.

Women's Disabilities Removal Bill presented and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th June, and to be printed. [Bill 14.]

Women's Disabilities Removal Bill: Second reading deferred till Tuesday, 23rd June.

Thursday, 23rd April.—Notice given by Mr. Chaplin, on second reading of Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, to move that it be read a second time upon this day six months.

Wednesday, 15th April.—Married Women's Property Act (1870) Amendment Act: Mr. Morley moved the second reading of this Bill. Many unmarried women were engaged in business, but their creditors would have no remedy against them in case of their marriage or against their husbands. Mr. Lopes supported the Bill. Mr. Marlen, who had given notice of an amendment to read the Bill a second time this day six months, opposed the Bill. Sir F. Goldsmid said if he saw any chance of comprehensive legislation on this subject he would willingly wait. Mr. Staveley Hill, Sir R. Baggally, and Dr. Ball spoke in support of the Bill. Mr. Meldon was opposed to this kind of piecemeal legislation. Mr. Gregory spoke in favour of the Bill. Mr. Morley, in reply, thanked the House for the reception accorded to the Bill, the defects of which could be easily removed in committee. The amendment was negatived, and the Bill read a second time.

Friday, 24th April.—Mr. Morley moved, on the order of the day being read for going into committee on the Married Women's Property Act (1870) Amendment Bill, "That the order be discharged, and that the Bill be referred to a select committee—Mr. Morley, Sir Francis Goldsmid, Mr. Staveley Hill, Mr. Lopes, Sir Charles Mills, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Muntz, and Mr. Gregory—three to be the quorum.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BIRMINGHAM.

The annual meeting of the Birmingham Branch of the Women's Suffrage Association was held March 23rd, in the Midland Institute. Alderman Hawkes presided, and among those present were Mrs. W. W. Ashford, Mrs. Archer, Mrs. Charles Clarke, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Hawkes, Mrs. W. H. Tyndall, Miss Sturge, Miss Kenrick, Miss Gore, Miss Beddowes, and the Rev. W. H. Crosskey.—Miss Sturge (hon. secretary) read the fifth annual report of the committee. After referring to the events of the past year, it stated, at present, they were largely in debt to the treasurer. The services of an occasional secretary and the offices in Broad Street had seriously added to their current expenses. They desired to organise meetings in the surrounding towns, and in order to do this, they wanted the constant services of a secretary, and must have an organising gentleman. The committee appealed to their friends to strengthen their position with improved funds, that they might return to their work with increased energy.—Mrs. W. W. Ashford read the treasurer's statement of accounts for the year ending March, 1874. It showed that the balance in the hands of the treasurer at the beginning of the year was £10. 10s. 10d.; the subscriptions amounted to £53. 17s. 7d.; the sale of tickets and other small items made a total on the side of income of £70. 9s. 5d. The expenditure on stationery, printing, advertising, railway fares, rents, office furniture, &c., was £98. 16s. 10d.; so that the balance due to the treasurer was £28. 7s. 5d.—The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts. With regard to the working of the society he would only say this, that what little connection he had with the society arose from this feeling, that so long as the law of England diverted from the *feme-covert* the possession of property that would otherwise come to her, so long as the present unfair laws prevailed with regard to the custody of children, so long as the abominable distinction was made with regard to the laws of divorce, so long, he thought every thinking man ought to do something to give to the women of England the right to vote, in order to secure, if they could, representatives in the House of Commons who would insist upon these flagrant violations of fairness being removed from our statute book. But even if those legal features of the case did not prevail, he should still advocate the enrolment of women upon the electoral list, because it would stimulate intellectual thought amongst women. A lady would be ashamed if reproached for not knowing the past history of the country; why would she be debarred from acting the history of the present? He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.—Mrs. Tyndall seconded, and the motion was agreed to.—Mrs. Alfred Southall proposed the following ladies and gentlemen as the committee for the ensuing year:—Mrs. Wm. Taylor, president, Mrs. T. S. Bartlett, Miss Bailey, the Rev. H. W. Crosskey, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Hawkes, Mrs. Frederick Impey, Mrs. C. E. Mathews, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Middlemore, Mrs. A. Osler, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Wm. Taylor, Mrs. Tyndall, Miss E. M. Sturge, hon. sec., and Mrs. Ashford, treasurer.—The Rev. H. W. Crosskey seconded, and alluded to the good effect which the training they had received at the last municipal election had upon the women voters of Birmingham. If they could by extending the electoral roll have other minds, who were now outside, devoted to the interests of legislation, he believed they should have a larger chance of flinging into political life some generous enthusiasm, and somewhat redeeming it from the mere strife of partisans. The motion was carried, and a vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the meeting separated.

COVENTRY.

A crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held in St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, on April 10th. The Mayor presided, and there were also present Miss Beedy, M.A., Miss Sturge, and Mrs. Ashford, the deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage; Alderman Hill, Revs. E. H. Delf, W. T. Rosevear, and J. W. Kiddle; Messrs. T. Wyles, John Cash, John Bill, J. Farish, W. F. Taylor, T. Stevens, Dr. Lynes, J.P., Arthur Atkins, T. Burbidge, E. Price, &c. After some opening remarks by the Mayor, who stated that in his own locality he could, when standing on his own doorstep, see twenty-four houses occupied by women, the gross rentals of which was £1,107, where income and house tax were paid by every one of the occupants, but which for all purposes of Parliamentary representation were disfranchised.—Miss Beedy delivered an address, after which a resolution affirming the principle was moved by the Rev. E. H. Delf.—Mrs. Ashford, of Birmingham, seconded the motion. They came before the audience, she said, in no flippant spirit. They were determined not to cease their efforts till success rewarded their exertions. They asked for the franchise as a means to an end. (Hear.) They found numbers of their fellow women suffering from laws which they had no power to alter, and they asked who made the laws, and which was more important, who made the law makers? (Hear.) The answer was the tax-payer, and women were very often tax-payers, but because they were women they were disqualified from voting. She contended that taxation and representation ought not to be separated. (Hear, hear.) Quoting Sir Henry James, who said that women did not possess the fitness and capacity for voting, their excessive sympathy shut out this fitness. A man might be a drunkard, a wife beater, or even a ticket-of-leave man, but if he paid 3s. 9d. a week rent he could vote. Having referred to other utterances of public men, she alluded to the objection that women who interested themselves in these matters were social failures. For herself she might say that she was a wife and a mother, but she found room amid the discharge of domestic duties, she could give some thought and time to this question. Indeed, she found it enlarged the sympathies and sphere of thought, and they might still discharge all their home duties. (Hear, hear.)—Mr. T. Wyles supported the resolution, which was carried with two dissentients.—Mr. A. Atkins moved that petitions to the House of Commons be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; and that memorials to the members for Coventry, and for North Warwickshire, requesting them to support Mr. Forsyth's Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him.—Mr. T. Stephens seconded the resolution.—Miss Eliza Sturge, member of the Birmingham School Board, seconded the resolution, which was carried. Votes of thanks to the Mayor and to the ladies were proposed by Mr. Councillor Cash and Mr. Councillor Farish, and the meeting, which had been very enthusiastic throughout, then terminated.

In reply to the memorial, the Mayor has the following letters: "17th of April, 1874.—My dear sir,—I have received the memorial signed by yourself and the inhabitants of Coventry, requesting that I would give my support to Mr. Forsyth's Bill to remove the election disabilities of women. I have not yet seen his Bill, but I have no doubt I shall be able to give it my support.—Believe me, yours truly, HENRY W. EATON.—To the Mayor of Coventry."

"7, Oxford Square, W., April 18, 1874.—My dear Mr. Mayor,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of a memorial signed by yourself as chairman of a public meeting held at Coventry, in reference to the proposed Female Suffrage Act. I need hardly say that the subject shall have my best attention.

I remain, Mr. Mayor, yours very truly, H. M. JACKSON.—H. Soden, Esq."

COLCHESTER.

A public meeting was held at the Town Hall, Colchester, on March 26th, for the purpose of hearing addresses from a deputation of ladies from the National Society for the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Ratepayers. The assembly room was crowded, and the speeches were doubly interesting from the fact that they were delivered by ladies of undoubted forensic ability, well qualified to handle the subject in all its bearings. The mayor (E. R. Round, Esq.) occupied the chair, and he was supported by Mrs. Henry Kingsley, sister-in-law to Canon Kingsley; Miss C. Ashurst Biggs, a niece of the Right Hon. J. Stansfeld; and Miss Helena Downing, a niece of Mr. McCarthy Downing, M.P. We also observed present the deputy mayor (Major Bishop), the Rev. R. S. Cummins, St. James'; the Rev. Carter W. Moore, St. Martin's; the Rev. T. Batty, Stockwell Chapel; the Rev. E. Miller, Head Gate Chapel; Dr. Bree, Dr. Finch, Messrs. C. H. Hawkins, J. A. Tabor, F. Smythies, S. A. Brough, E. Thompson Smith, A. T. Osborne, Henry Goody, A. R. Clench, K. Francis, G. Rickword, H. B. Harrison, W. Buck, C. Mills, J. Z. Peggs, S. G. Boggis, J. Wicks, jun., G. Fairhead, J. Hope, H. Baker, &c. Amongst the ladies were Mrs. Edward Round, Mrs. George Round, Mrs. Bree, Miss Brook, Miss Irvine, Miss Smith, Mrs. Benham, the Misses Deed, Mrs. Ward (Bergholt), Mrs. and Miss Marriage, &c.—The Mayor in opening the proceedings said women vote already in minor things, and I say there should be no half measures in the matter of voting, and that if allowed to vote on one question, they should do so on another. (Hear, hear, and applause.)—Mrs. Henry Kingsley addressed the meeting in a long and able speech, and was followed by Miss Caroline Biggs, after which Mr. C. H. Hawkins spoke in opposition to the object; he concluded by saying that if it was understood that the Mayor would take the sense of the meeting both for and against the resolution, he would not move an amendment, otherwise he would move that it was not desirable that the franchise should be given to women.—Dr. Bree said he was not going to support an amendment of Mr. Hawkins; on the contrary, he was going to express his entire approbation of the resolution before them.—Mr. J. Wick, jun., also supported the resolution.—The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting. A few hands were held up against it, but the majority in its favour was overwhelming.—Major Bishop then moved the adoption of petitions and memorials to Col. Learmouth and Mr. Herbert Praed, members for the borough. The resolution was seconded by Miss Helena Downing, and as in the case of the first, two or three hands were held up against it, but it was carried by acclamation. Votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

CHELSEA.

A meeting in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women was held in the hall of the Eleusis (Workmen's Democratic) Club on March 25th. The chair was occupied by Mr. F. H. A. Hardcastle, who after an address introduced Mrs. King, who read a paper on "Female Conservatism," the general purport of which was that women if enfranchised would be Conservative; that word being used, not in its usual sense, but as denoting the tendency to retain as opposed to the disposition to change for change's sake. This kind of Conservatism might be described as conservation of political energy, economy of energy in contrast to waste; a disposition to make everything go the farthest—a most valuable, indeed an essential element in healthy political life. It was retentive only of good, and favoured no abuses or inequitable privileges or restrictions.

IPSWICH.

SPEECH OF MR. J. B. COBBOLD, M.P.

On April 16th, a meeting in support of Mr. Forsyth's Bill for removing the electoral disabilities of women was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ipswich. In the absence of the Mayor (Dr. Chevallier), who had been announced to preside, but who was unavoidably detained at Portsmouth, the chair was taken by Mr. Edward Grimwade, who was supported right and left by Miss Helena P. Downing, Miss Florence Fenwick Miller, Mr. J. P. Cobbold, M.P., and Mr. A. F. Vulliamy. There was a large attendance, which included Lord and Lady Gwydyr, Mr. E. Packard, Rev. Goodrich Langley, Mr. J. B. Fraser, Mr. William Alexander, Mr. F. J. Bugg, and many others, including a good proportion of ladies.

The CHAIRMAN, who expressed himself in favour of the Bill, called upon

Mr. J. P. COBBOLD, M.P., to move the first resolution. He said he had expressed himself more than once rather freely on this matter, and he had ever thought the movement one of justice. He saw before him many who had taken a part in placing him in the proud position which he now occupied, of being one of the representatives of the borough of Ipswich, and he saw many too who had taken a remarkably adverse part in that election. (Laughter.) He was not here this evening as a party man. Nor, indeed, was the measure which had been introduced into Parliament a party measure. The names on the back of the Bill, which was a remarkably short one, was evidence of this. First there was the name of Mr. Forsyth, who, like himself (Mr. Cobbold), was a newly-elected Conservative member of the House of Commons; then there was the name of the Right Hon. J. Stansfeld, an ex-member of the late Government; Mr. Russell Gurney, recorder of London; and lastly, Sir Robert Anstruther, a name which the county of Suffolk could much appreciate. He (Mr. Cobbold) did not know what objection could be taken to this Bill. He had always entertained the notion that women had as much right in their respective capacities to the use of the Parliamentary franchise as they had to the municipal franchise. (Applause.) The resolution he had to propose was:—"That the exclusion from the Parliamentary franchise of women who as freeholders, householders, and ratepayers, are in every respect, save that of sex, legally qualified to vote in the election of members of Parliament, is injurious to those excluded, and is contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force, regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments." He had heard it objected that the ladies themselves did not ask for the privilege. He was bound to say that with the majority of those to whom he had spoken on the subject, said they should "like it very much on principle, but pray don't carry it into practice." (Laughter.) It must, however, be remembered that the ladies he had spoken to were the higher class of ladies, who had all that they could wish at home, and who perhaps did not feel to require the privilege of voting so much as other ladies of a different class to themselves. His belief was that a vast majority of the ladies did desire the privilege, and his firm conviction was that everyone was entitled to it, and that when they obtained it they would exercise it for the benefit of the country at large. He wished it to be understood that he did not come here this evening in his capacity as a Conservative member of this borough to introduce a Conservative measure; but he had heard it generally stated that it was a measure likely to affect for good the Conservative interest. He had had so recently the opportunity of eliciting the feeling of this borough, and he was elected by no inconsiderable majority, and if he thought by advocating this measure he was going to add

The world had yet to learn the real beauty of Conservatism. There was no reason why it should belong to one party, it would have an influence on all parties, and might ultimately efface party distinctions. The paper, which was a very able one, was listened to with great attention.—Mr. Bartlett moved a resolution affirming the principle, which was seconded by Miss Downing, and carried unanimously. A resolution adopting petitions to Parliament, and memorials to the borough members urging them to support the Bill, was moved by Miss Williams, seconded by Mr. Pennack, and carried; after which the proceedings terminated.

MALDON.

On March 27th, 1874, Miss Mary Beedy and Miss Biggs addressed a public meeting at the Public Hall, Maldon. The attendance was large, the bulk of those present consisting of ladies, of whom a very fair proportion appeared to be interested, not only in the speakers, but in the subject brought before them. Mr. H. Sprague presided. Miss Biggs, who rose amid great applause, proposed a resolution petitioning Parliament for the right of voting to be conferred on women. This was seconded by Miss Beedy, and carried with four dissentients. A vote of thanks to the ladies, responded to by them, and on their proposition conveyed also to the Chairman, closed the proceedings.

EXETER.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF EXETER.

A crowded public meeting was held in the Royal Public Rooms, Exeter, on April 14th. The chair was occupied by Mr. T. Ensor, and on the platform were also Miss Beedy, M.A., Miss L. S. Ashworth, Mr. J. F. Newman, and Mr. F. Townsend, hon. sec. of the Exeter branch. Mr. F. Townsend, hon. sec., read letters of apology for non-attendance from Mr. A. Mills, M.P., Mr. J. G. Johnson, M.P., Lady Deborah Bowring, the Rev. Preb. Percival, and Captain Walrond. The Bishop of Exeter wrote: "I am sorry to say that my engagements will prevent me from taking the chair at the meeting to be held on the 14th April, to promote the extension of the suffrage to women. I very heartily sympathise with your purpose, and shall always be ready to the utmost of my power to promote it." The Chairman in opening the meeting said he felt the full justice of the claims; he went in heart and soul for the claim that women should be placed in the same position and footing with regard to the Parliamentary vote as that they held now with regard to the vestry vote and the municipal vote. The justice and reasonableness of the claim seemed to him so apparent and clear, that he thought when the subject came before the House of Commons there would certainly be a majority in the House to support it. (Applause.) Resolutions in favour of women's suffrage were proposed and supported by Mr. Newman, Mr. Townsend, Miss Beedy, Miss Ashworth, and Mr. W. J. Richards, and carried unanimously. Votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

WESTBURY.

This borough being privileged to send a representative to Parliament, a deputation from the association formed to advocate women's suffrage visited the town on April 16th, and held a public meeting at the Laverton Institute, in furtherance of the object of the association. There was a numerous attendance, especially of the ladies. Mr. Allan Greenwell occupied the chair. Resolutions, advocating the principle, were moved and supported by Miss Beedy, the Rev. J. Rudduck, Miss Lilius Ashworth, and the Rev. Mr. Drew, and carried. After a vote of thanks to the ladies, moved by Mr. N. H. Laverton, the meeting separated.

materially to his majority, he should hesitate very much about occupying the position he now did—(much laughter)—of proposing this resolution, because he might possibly think that so overwhelming would become his majority that those who were already disheartened might be so entirely beaten down that it might be considered to be a sort of life-long inheritance for himself. (Much laughter.) One of the clauses of the Bill provided that married women should have no right to exercise the vote. With this he cordially agreed, because, as far as married women were concerned, he despaired of them altogether—(laughter)—and if they could not speak through their husbands he would not let them speak at all. (Laughter.) On the other hand, it was quite a question with him as to whether it might not be a serious bar to ladies being married. (Much laughter.) It was said that this might prevent ladies becoming married because of reluctance to give up their privileges. Well, that he must leave to them. (Laughter.) He could well understand that if in ignorance of the impending election that auspicious day, the 5th of February last, had been fixed upon as the wedding day, a lady might have hesitated in choosing between the right to vote in an election of a representative in Parliament, and accepting a husband—(laughter)—but those mere minor details which he must leave. He proposed the resolution most cordially. (Applause.)

Miss FLORENCE FENWICK MILLER seconded the resolution, was carried with only three dissentients.

Mr. A. F. VULLIAMY, in an able and exhaustive speech, proposed the second resolution, which was to the effect that a petition should be presented to both Houses of Parliament, and that a memorial to the members for the borough and the Eastern Division of the county requesting them to support Mr. Forsyth's Bill for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women, be signed by the Chairman, and forwarded by him.

Miss HELENA P. DOWNING seconded the proposition, which was adopted.

On the motion of Rev. G. LANGLEY, seconded by Mr. F. J. BURG, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to both ladies for their admirable addresses.

Miss MILLER proposed, and Miss DOWNING seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman. It was very satisfactory to know that Mr. Cobbold would give the measure his best support, and perhaps that gentleman might be able to convert Mr. Bulwer, if he was not already converted.

Mr. J. P. COBBOLD said he could not speak on behalf of his colleague, because he had not consulted him upon the matter. Mr. Bulwer, however, had the misfortune of being an unmarried man—(laughter)—and if a deputation of those ladies who desired to be electors of this borough would wait upon him in his chambers, no doubt he would be perfectly willing to receive them; but he (Mr. Cobbold) must ask them to be very brief, because, as a barrister, Mr. Bulwer believed very much in briefs. (Loud laughter.)

The resolution was carried amidst much applause, and the CHAIRMAN having acknowledged the vote, the proceedings terminated.

WYCOMBE.

A meeting was held on March 5th, in the Town Hall, Wycombe. The chair was taken by the Mayor (Councillor Gilbert), and there were also on the platform Miss Beedy and Mrs. S. Lucas, of the Women's Suffrage Association, Councillors Thurlow and Wootton, and Mr. T. Lucas. After some remarks by the chairman the usual resolutions were proposed and supported by Miss Beedy, Councillor Thurlow, Councillor Wootton, and Mrs. Lucas, and carried; and after a vote of thanks to the Mayor the meeting separated. [The above meeting was erroneously reported in the last issue of the *Journal* as having taken place at Aylesbury.]

DROITWICH.

A public meeting was held on behalf of women's suffrage in the Town Hall, Droitwich, on April 8th. The chair was occupied by Dr. Roden, the mayor. Miss Beedy delivered an interesting address, of considerable length, and Mrs. Ashford, Miss Sturge (of Birmingham), and Alan Greenwell, Esq. (of Clifton), also spoke in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women householders and ratepayers. Resolutions in favour of the object, and memorials to the members for the borough and county, were proposed and carried unanimously.

LEEDS.

A meeting of the members of the Kirkstall Liberal Association was held in the Independent Schoolroom, Kirkstall, on April 14, when an able lecture was delivered by Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, on "The present political position of women." The lecturer began her remarks by stating the real meaning of the question, saying that the opponents of women's suffrage could offer no reasonable opposition to it, that she had not even seen a pamphlet of four pages against it. Speaking of the late elections, she said a great many Liberals held that women would go in for Conservatives. This, however, was no argument, as at the late elections women had no voice, and Conservatives had been returned by wholesale. She contended that this argument fell to the ground. It was a question that people did not take much interest in, because they did not understand it. Before concluding, she spoke of the Nine Hours Bill of Mr. Mundella, although she thought nine hours quite long enough for women to work; she was opposed to Parliament interfering between employers and employed. A petition in favour of the removal of the electoral disabilities of women was adopted unanimously; as was also a vote of thanks to Mrs. Scatcherd for her lecture, proposed by Mr. Thomas Harding, and seconded by Mr. Strothers. A vote of thanks to Mr. W. H. Rinder, who had occupied the chair, was also carried unanimously. Mrs. Scatcherd, the hon. secretary of the Yorkshire Branch of the society, gives the following account of her work in Leeds:—"During March I held five different ward meetings, all of which I attended myself. In each case I strove, by an active distribution of leaflets and handbills, to move the women householders to attend. And on the whole the end was attained; the meetings, though small, were representative. The audiences being composed of women only, I was able to enter more fully into the various ways in which women suffer from want of representation. I asked and received questions as I went along. I spoke very simply but earnestly, and I feel that real good has been done. The women crowded round to shake hands as I left, many wishing me to go and speak in their cottages on the suffrage. At each of the meetings petitions were adopted, and signed on behalf of the meeting. The great thing to do is to impress on these women the absolute necessity of work on their part—to show that they have no moral right to come and applaud and hold up hands in favour of women's suffrage, and then go away and never do anything to bring the desired end nearer. The very friendliness of the meetings enabled me to appeal personally to each woman. They often said, 'It is such meetings as these we want, where plain words are said; you know we don't understand all that is said at large meetings. We want you to tell us what some words mean which you use.' Thus, for example, the word 'suffrage' was a regular mystery to many, also the words 'legal,' 'qualify,' 'representative government,' and several others. I wish women of leisure would, in every town, undertake to devote an evening now and then to such gatherings, their reward would be indeed great. My very heart was touched as I saw the women's eager faces, their anxiety to hear and profit by every word. If I imparted knowledge, verily I gained some."

W A L E S.

RUTHIN.

On March 25th a meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the ex-Mayor, E. Edwards, Esq., in support of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. Mrs. Lucas, Miss Beedy, M.A., and "Gohebydd," attended as a deputation from the National Society. The Rev. D. Lloyd Jones and other friends also took part in the proceedings.

BANGOR.

A meeting for promoting women's suffrage was held, on March 27th, in the Penrhyn Hall, Bangor, when a numerous audience assembled to hear the claims of the association advocated by a deputation comprising Mrs. Lucas, Miss Beedy, and "Gohebydd." On the motion of Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. R. Griffith, the Ven. Archdeacon Evans was voted to the chair. After some remarks by the chairman, in the course of which he observed that the claim could not long be withheld, the meeting was addressed by Miss Beedy in a long and argumentative speech. "Gohebydd" then addressed the meeting in Welsh, laying before the audience many of the points to which Miss Beedy had alluded. After an address by Mrs. Lucas the meeting unanimously adopted petitions and memorials, which were signed by the chairman. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

PORTMADOC.

On March 30th a meeting was held in the Salem (Congregational) Chapel, Portmadoc. The deputation consisted of Mrs. Lucas and Miss Beedy, M.A., and the well-known Welsh bard "Gohebydd." The chair was occupied by Mr. Rowland, of Messrs. Pugh and Jones' bank, and the following gentlemen were on the platform in addition to the deputation:—Major Casson, Captain G. Griffiths, Mr. Owen Morris, Mr. Henry Williams, Mr. Morris Roberts, Mr. William Jones Morris, Mr. William Jones, and Mr. Davies, Grammar School. Mrs. Lucas having addressed the meeting, Miss Beedy delivered an able speech, advocating the principle. The fair lecturer sat down amidst great applause. "Gohebydd" having spoken in Welsh, the petitions and the memorials were read. Mr. G. Davis, Grammar School, Portmadoc, moved: "That the petitions just read, to both Houses of Parliament, be adopted by this meeting, and signed by the chairman, and that memorials be sent to the Hon. Douglas Pennant and Mr. Bulkeley Hughes, to request them to support the Bill." Captain G. Griffiths seconded the motion, and it was carried with only two or three dissentients. Major Casson said that he was requested to move that the thanks of the meeting be given to the ladies and Mr. Griffith, the deputation, who had come forward to agitate this question before the country. Nothing would be lost by agitating this question. He was glad to see that it was not made a party question. He was pleased to see that his friend, Archdeacon Evans, a thorough Conservative, presided at their meeting at Bangor. If the votes of the women were given for religious education, and against beer, he would say let them have women's votes. Though the ladies had made considerable impression on his mind, he was not yet quite won to their side. Mr. Owen Morris, Bank Place, having seconded, and the Rev. W. Jones supported the motion, it was carried. Mrs. Lucas briefly replied, and proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and Miss Beedy, in complimentary terms, having seconded it, it was carried, the chairman acknowledged it, and the meeting ended.

BLAENAU FESTINIOG.

On March 31st a public meeting was held at the Assembly Room of this place in support of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. On the motion of Mr. William Davies,

Cae'r Blaidd, seconded by Mr. John Edwards, Glanpwl, Mr. E. Evans, Viewfield House, was voted to the chair, and, after a short address, called upon Mrs. Lucas, and Miss Beedy, M.A., to address the meeting. The addresses of the two ladies were very well received, and loudly cheered. "Gohebydd" and Mr. R. Rowlands, banker, Portmadoc, also addressed the meeting in Welsh. The attendance was large.

I R E L A N D.

L O N D O N D E R R Y.

T U R B U L E N T P R O C E E D I N G S.

A meeting had been announced to be held on March 30th, in the Corporation Hall, Derry, but long before the hour for opening the proceedings the room was densely packed in every part by respectable citizens of all denominations. The gallery was also crowded by a number of people who seemed determined to mar the success of the meeting. A perfect storm of hooting, yelling, and shouting was kept up. At eight o'clock Mr. Alderman McCorkell, with the ladies of the deputation, entered the hall and were met by a storm of hooting and groaning. Mr. W. F. Bigger, J.P., high sheriff of the city and county moved, and Mr. Foster, J.P., seconded, that Alderman McCorkell take the chair. The chairman then rose to address the meeting, but after several vain attempts to procure order, it was announced that the meeting was adjourned. The conduct of the occupants of the gallery was condemned as disgraceful by the newspaper press of Derry, and the respectable inhabitants, and it had the effect of creating a strong feeling in favour of and sympathy with the ladies and their cause.

A N A D J O U R N E D M E E T I N G

was held next evening. The admission was by ticket, and the utmost precautions were taken to avoid a repetition of the disturbances. The body of the hall was crowded, but the gallery was kept empty. Mr. McCorkell occupied the chair, and was accompanied by Miss Tod, Miss Ashurst, and Miss Liliashworth. The chairman then rose, and was received with boisterous applause, and said that having been compelled to adjourn the meeting of last evening, they were now met for the purpose of giving these ladies an opportunity of discussing women's suffrage. (Applause.) He called on Rev. Mr. Murphy to move the first resolution, which was seconded by Miss Liliashworth, and carried amid applause. Professor Shaw moved the adoption of petitions, Miss Tod seconded the resolution, which passed unanimously. A vote of thanks to the ladies was moved by Mr. John Osborne, and seconded by Dr. Bernard, after which a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

A branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage has been formed in Londonderry. The hon. secretary is Mrs. Shaw, 36, Clarendon Street.

N E W R Y.

A meeting was held in the Assembly Room, Savings Bank, on March 26th, for the purpose of hearing a deputation, consisting of the Misses Ashworth, of Bath, and Miss Tod, of Belfast, on the women's suffrage question. Although the admission was regulated by tickets, a limited number of which were issued in order to prevent overcrowding, the room was well filled in every part, the utmost interest having been manifested in the proceedings. At eight o'clock the chair was taken by John G. Richardson, Esq., Movallon. After addresses by the ladies, a vote of thanks was moved by the Rev. Mr. Dodd, seconded by the very Rev. Dr. Bagot, Dean of Dromore, and carried with applause. Henry Barcroft, Esq., having been called to the second chair, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Richardson, on the motion of the Rev. Francis King, seconded by Mr. James Henderson, B.L. The proceedings then terminated.

SCOTLAND.

WEST WEMYSS, FIFE.

A crowded meeting took place, on February 23rd, in the Public Hall, West Wemyss. After an address by Miss Craigen a petition in favour of women's suffrage was voted by the meeting.

BORGUE, KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

On February 26th Miss Craigen addressed a meeting in the Schoolroom, Borgue, and on the 27th she addressed a very crowded meeting in St. Stephen's Hall, Gatehouse of Fleet, which passed a resolution adopting a petition.

CASTLE-DOUGLAS.

On March 2nd Miss Jessie Craigen gave a lecture on women's suffrage, under the auspices of the Free Templars' Lodge, in the Town Hall, Castle-Douglas, and in a very eloquent and well-put address she instructed and amused a large audience for nearly two hours, going over the leading points in favour of the enfranchisement of women. A petition to Parliament was passed by the meeting.

KIRKPATRICK-DURHAM, KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

On March 6th Miss Craigen spoke in the Mason's Hall, Kirkpatrick-Durham. There was a good meeting, and the petition was adopted by a unanimous vote.

CHIRNSIDE, BERWICKSHIRE.

On March 9th there was a good meeting in the Volunteers' Hall, Chirnside, which was addressed by Miss Craigen. The petition was carried unanimously.

THORNHILL, DUMFRIESSHIRE.

On April 2nd Miss Taylour delivered a lecture on women's suffrage in the Freemasons' Hall, Thornhill, under the auspices of the Thornhill Institute and Young Men's Society. The hall was crowded. Dr. Grierson, who occupied the chair, introduced Miss Taylour. The lady spoke with great clearness, and argued the question with much talent; again and again her remarks elicited great applause. At the conclusion of the lecture the chairman spoke at some length, expressing his admiration of the lecture, and urging that the most effectual means of making mankind better was to elevate the standard of women. Mr. Black proposed that the meeting should petition both Houses of Parliament to grant the suffrage to women, which was seconded by Mr. Burel, and passed unanimously.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The Bill introduced by Mr. Cowper Temple "To remove doubts as to the powers of the Universities of Scotland to admit women as students and to grant degrees to women" has been published. The clauses are as follow:—

1. The admission of women as students, and the providing instruction for women, either in separate classes or otherwise, and the granting of degrees to women, and the enacting and issuing of regulations for all or any of the above purposes, shall be deemed to be within the powers conferred by sec. XII., sub-section 2, of an Act of the 21st and 22nd year of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, ch. 83, intituled "An Act to make provision for the better government and discipline of the Universities of Scotland, and improving and regulating the course of study therein, and for the union of the two Universities and Colleges of Aberdeen," upon the University court of each University effecting improvements in the internal arrangements of the University.

This Act shall be read and construed as part of the said recited Act.

SHALL A WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' LEAGUE BE FORMED?

The advocates of the extension of the suffrage to women householders have been lately frequently challenged to prove that the wish for it is general. The ladies of Bristol accepted such a challenge recently with success, and thus gained the support of Mr. Kirkman Hodgson to their cause. Not the less is it unreasonable to impose such a condition upon women in their present position. That machinery for the encouragement and registration of a united public opinion which the Parliamentary vote brings in its train has no existence among them. The success of our public meetings, and the number of signatures to our petitions, prove that it is not difficult to interest women in a just cause; but in order to give continuous effect to this enthusiasm, and to secure an influential expression of opinion, it is desirable to promote a closer union among women householders by a systematic and extensive organisation.

The first object of the movement would be to obtain a complete estimate of our forces, and to add to their strength and efficiency by union and organisation. With this view a circular might be addressed by the central society to every provincial committee, and to each country correspondent, asking to be furnished with the number of women electors standing either on the Burgess, parochial, or school board list of the district. Thus would a knowledge be obtained by the central committee of the numerical strength of those persons in whose behalf this agitation is carried on.

The next step should fix the attention of each woman householder upon the fact that she is a member of a confederacy strong in numbers and united by the possession of common responsibilities and a common cause. Women have not yet realised their powers; and, unfortunately, the community has not recognised the important issues depending upon their exercise of them. There is this anomaly in the position of women,—that while votes have been conferred upon them, by the use of which they can affect in a most important degree the welfare of their fellow citizens, that franchise has, with fatal inconsistency, been withheld, which alone brings in its train political education. After each extension of the Parliamentary franchise, the conviction has come (to use Mr. Lowe's famous words on the last occasion) that "we must educate our masters." Hitherto, not even the imperfect political training which men have received in their clubs and public houses, has fallen to the lot of women. Their partial enfranchisement only makes their exclusion from the advantages of organisation more serious, not only to themselves, but to the country. It would be a step in advance to encourage a periodical intercourse between women of every social grade, for the consideration of the privileges they possess, and those to which they aspire. There is no reason why the social instincts of women, which now run so lamentably to waste, should not be led into a more useful channel. In each rank of society, it would be a wholesome innovation to induce women householders to meet together periodically for mutual instruction, discussion, and concerted action. The public duties for which such women are now responsible, can only be satisfactorily discharged after a thorough and careful consideration of many questions of national importance; and such a study must necessarily make them feel the disadvantage of their political disabilities. The cause of the suffrage has been, perhaps, most promoted by those whose earnest desire to elevate their fellow women in every possible way, has led them into close and sympathetic intercourse with them. Such teachers have learned with their pupils to desire political enfranchisement. Having worked out together the connection that exists between the health and prosperity of the community and its local government, they have learned to prize the municipal fran-

chise. Every step in their education has enhanced in their eyes the value of the school board vote, and has impressed upon them the injustice of their political disabilities. It would be as impossible as it is unjust to withhold the suffrage from women householders if they were leagued together by the sense of common responsibility. In a recent admirable pamphlet by Miss Cobbe, she says, "we must avail ourselves of the utmost care of every fragment of civil rights which have hitherto been conceded to us." As if foreshadowing our League, she continues, "If it were possible for us to act in each locality mainly in concert (a committee of the more leisurely obtaining and transmitting the information needed) and everywhere upholding the best candidate, our action would in time come to be felt throughout the country."

Lastly, in inviting each woman householder to join our League, we must offer membership as a privilege to be obtained by a payment, however small. Thus, while no woman householder need be excluded from the League, the option is left to all of assessing themselves more liberally by taxing the weeks instead of the months of the year. The tickets of membership, to be obtained by the payment down of a year in advance, would, it is hoped, be at once a sign of the desire to co-operate, and a pledge that periodical meetings would be arranged with that object.

In conclusion, the aim of these remarks is gained if the following points have been made clear:—

First: That it is for the interest of the whole sex (of which women householders are now the public representatives), that they should be thoroughly organised, and for the interest of the whole country, that their opinions should be matured and made widely known.

Secondly: That the machinery already in existence for the promotion of women's suffrage may work legitimately for these ends, and that, therefore, in supporting the League we shall be greatly extending the usefulness of our society.

Thirdly: That as the movement can scarcely fail to add strength to our cause, we may confidently appeal to all those who desire the enfranchisement of women for help in originating the plan, whether by money, or speech, or pen.

CAROLINE WILLIAMS.

April, 1874.

9, Porchester Square, London, W.

OXFORD.

DEPUTATION TO MR. A. W. HALL, M.P.

A deputation of six ladies resident in Oxford and the neighbourhood, headed by Mrs. Mark Pattison, wife of the Rev. the Rector of Lincoln College, waited on Mr. A. W. Hall, M.P., on April 2nd, in order to present to him, on behalf of the Oxford Branch of the National Association for the Promotion of Women's Suffrage, the following address:—

"Sir,—The Bill for which we have come to request your support simply proposes to do away with disabilities. We are constantly told that it is a doctrine of the British Constitution that taxation and representation should go together. By this is meant that to take money without the consent of the person from whom it is taken is a violation of the liberties of a British subject. One sixth of those who hold the qualification to vote are women, and are debarred at present from exercising the electoral franchise by reason of their sex. They have to pay taxes over the imposition of which they have no control. They claim as ratepayers to be admitted to share in the rights and privileges, as well as in the responsibilities and burdens of property. Women ratepayers have already been permitted to vote for poor law guardians, for boards of education, and at municipal elections. They ask that this principle should be

extended, and that they should be admitted to vote for the election of members of Parliament. . . . As matters now stand years are passed in indirect and painful agitation (for the successful prosecution of which our home training and life peculiarly unfit us) before we can succeed in getting the ear of Parliament, or obtain redress for any injustice under which we may be suffering. We do not question the upright intentions of those who sit there, nor their willingness to redress injustice which they have once duly recognised as such, but we submit that the constitutional means of remedying injustice is by influencing members of Parliament in a constitutional way. We, therefore, earnestly desire that you will give your support to the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.—Signed on behalf of the Committee,

"EMILIA FRANCIS STRONG-PATTISON."

"To A. W. Hall, M.P."

Mr. Hall, in reply, stated that he could not pledge himself to support the measure, but that he would give the subject his attentive consideration.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times* writes:—Female suffrage is making some rapid advance just now. In Michigan and in Iowa, one branch of the State Legislature in each case has passed an amendment to the State Constitution providing for female suffrage. In the Michigan House the vote was 56 to 39, and in the Iowa Senate it lacked but one of being unanimous. The influence of the "grangers" in both States contributed to this result, the "patrons of husbandry" holding the doctrine that their male and female members ought to have equal rights. A similar female suffrage amendment has passed the Lower House of the Rhode Island Legislature by a vote of 44 to 17. In all these States, if the legislation is matured, it is quite probable that the popular vote will ratify the proposed amendments.

IN THE COLD SHADE.

When spring through thrush and cuckoo cries,
The root that in some cavern lies,
To cold and darkness thrall,
But dimly hears her call.

With sick shoots—pallid, piteous hopes,
Wan, idiot fingers—how it gropes;
Lost for defect of light,
A scandal to the sight.

Such are the minds unfed, untaught,
Not blooming in the light of thought;
Poor, sickly growths that shame
E'en vegetation's name.

What! suffer human souls to dwell,
Thus dark in ignorance's cell?
Oh, give them to the light!
Teach them, it is their right!

Of knowledge all men must be heirs,
Her pathways should be thoroughfares:
Free as the woodland wild,
To every human child.

Whatever can by man be known,
Common as grass-seed should be sown;
Oh, stint not! let it fall
Free, free—for all, for all!

HENRY W. SUTTON.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.—IN FAVOUR.

Table of petitions in favour of the Women's Disabilities Bill, listing locations like BUCKHAVEN, WEST WEMYS, BRIGHTON, etc., and their respective counts.

Table of petitions from various locations including MANCHESTER, SALFORD, CHELSEA, BRISTOL, LERWICK, STORNAWAY, FORRES, PEEBLES, KIRKWALL, HALIFAX, MANCHESTER, WESTMINSTER, BATH, NOTTINGHAM, BIRKENHEAD, LAMBETH, LEITH, WEST WICKHAM, SAINT JAMES, GOUROCK, WESTMINSTER, BURMANSTON, FINSBURY, ASHTON, ARMLEY, LEEDS, WATERFORD, BROMLEY, SALFORD, ARDROSSAN, BANCHORY, MANCHESTER, BREDBURY, etc.

Table of petitions from various locations including EDINBURGH, JAMES MARSHALL, WEST LINTON, CLIFTON, LEICESTER, WESTMINSTER, BECKENHAM, LEICESTER, MAIDENHEAD, BARRHEAD, NEW DEER, WESTMINSTER, WOMEN OF MANCHESTER, MALDON, CHEETHAM, SOUTH WARK, MANCHESTER, CHELMSFORD, EDINBURGH, PORTSMOUTH, MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION, GREENLAW, TIVERTON, ALDERSHOTT, ARDWICK WARD, WOMEN OF MANCHESTER, INHABITANTS OF GLASGOW, ABINGDON, EDINBURGH, MARY BURTON, INHABITANTS OF GROOMBRIDGE, SOUTHBOROUGH, TUNBRIDGE, LANGTON, LEITH, EDINBURGH, EDINBURGH, WREXHAM, etc.

Table of petitions from various locations including ARDROSSAN, AIRDRIE, BRIGHTON, LEEDS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, WOMEN OF SALFORD, NEATH, CHINNOR, COLCHESTER, EDINBURGH, CRIEFF, COMRIE, CHIRNSIDE, BRISTOL, DUNKELD, BROMLEY, CORSTON, BECKENHAM, etc.

The petitions marked ¶ have the addresses of some or all of the petitioners affixed. The petitions marked § are signed officially.

SUMMARY OF PETITIONS PRESENTED UP TO APRIL 21st, 1874.

Summary table with columns: No. of Petitions signed Officially, Total No. of Petitions, Total No. of Signatures. Row: Women's Disabilities Bill—In favour 85 ... 287 ... 105,100

Obituary.

Miss MAY M'COMBIE.—We regret to record the death, at the age of 33 years, of Miss May M'Combie, daughter of the late William M'Combie, editor of the Aberdeen Free Press. Miss M'Combie had rare abilities and high culture, which she devoted to the various public questions of the day, particularly those regarding her own sex, and was remarkable for the work she did in a quiet unobtrusive way.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING APRIL, 1874.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Mr. Hugh Mason | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Lady Bowring | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. E. W. Binney, F.R.S. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Dr. Pankhurst | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. R. V. Yates | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Acworth | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Henry Gaddum | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Peiser | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Makdougall Gregory | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. H. Measham | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lady Emerson Tennent | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. W. Garnett Bennett | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| "Omega" | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Joseph Atkinson | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Colling | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dr. Gammage | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Atkinson | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Maria Atkinson | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. le Blanc | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. W. Shields | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. A. Leighton | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Coppock | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. Alfred Webb | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. E. Griffiths | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. John Lloyd | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. P. T. Lascaridi | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Alexander | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Carter | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. W. D. Brittain | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Mrs. W. D. Brittain | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Mrs. Oldham | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Rev. J. Page Hopps | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mr. Paterson | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Jacob | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mr. Dornan | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. Hannah Busby | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. Ewing | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Mrs. J. H. Simpson | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| "A Friend," per Mrs. H. Busby | 0 | 1 | 0 |

£38 8 1

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, Treasurer.

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

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE MARCH 20th, 1874.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|
| Mrs. McLaren | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. J. H. Renton | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Alloa Committee | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Countess Dowager of Buchan | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Duncan McLaren, jun. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Millar | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hodgson | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. J. S. Oliver | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Provost Murray | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. McCulloch | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. McKinnel | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Boyd | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Ramsay Smith | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Gregan | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| "E.C." | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. T. Niven | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Gregan | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. Murray | 0 | 2 | 0 |

£29 11 0

Further contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, Miss A. Craig, 6, Carlton Street, Edinburgh.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

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

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Miss Hall | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss C. Williams | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Frances Allen | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Cazalet | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Glover | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. Garth Wilkinson | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| J. R. Shearer, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Sparling | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Champ | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Browne | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Mouat | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Pennington | 25 | 0 | 0 |
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