

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. IX.—No 100. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

JUNE 1, 1878.

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ON the nineteenth of this month the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill will again be submitted for second reading, and the long-deferred division will assuredly take place. For two years there has been no decisive test of the Parliamentary position and progress of the Bill, and during this interval, which measures nearly half the life of the Parliament, many and great changes have occurred in the composition of the House of Commons. The forthcoming division is, therefore, invested with peculiar interest and importance. We trust that our Parliamentary friends will muster in their wonted strength, and that every supporter of the measure will make a point of being in his place on the nineteenth of June, in order to give his support to the Bill.

Meetings have been held in many districts during the month. At High Wycombe a meeting took place in the Town Hall; Mr. WYETH in the chair. Miss C. A. BIGGS and Miss ANNIE YOUNG attended as a deputation from this Society. At Reading Town Hall there was a meeting presided over by the MAYOR (Mr. J. Silver), when a resolution in favour of the Bill was moved by Mr. GEORGE PALMER, now elected member for Reading. Miss C. A. BIGGS and Miss HART also spoke. At Marlborough a meeting, under the presidency of the MAYOR, was held on May 2nd, which was addressed by Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT and others. At Hereford a large and influential meeting was held in the Shire Hall, under the presidency of Mr. C. ANTHONY, junr. The first resolution was moved by the selected Liberal candidate for the county, Major MEYSEY CLIVE, and the lady speakers were Miss BECKER, Miss STURGE, and Dr. ELIZA W. DUNBAR. At St. George's Hall, London, a meeting was held on May 23rd, under the presidency of Mr. HIBBERT, M.P., which was addressed by Mrs. FAWCETT, Mr. HOPWOOD, M.P., Miss TOD, Mr. THOMAS HARE, Miss BECKER, Professor W. B. HODGSON, Miss DOWNING, Col. HIGGINSON, and Mr. J. HINDE PALMER. At all these meetings the feeling was very strong in favour of the Bill, and the resolutions were carried with little or no opposition.

Drawing-room meetings have been held during the

month at the houses of Mrs. MACDONNELL, The Myrtles, Beckenham; Mrs. THOS. TAYLOR, Hyde Park Gardens; Mrs. HALE, Eton College; and in Dublin at the house of Mr. GREER, Recorder of Derry.

The women householders of Boston have signed a memorial to the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER representing the injustice of taxing them for the expenses of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the election, in which they had no vote, and praying that her Majesty's Government will support the Bill. A similar memorial is in course of signature in Norwich.

Petitions have continued to be sent in. Among others we note petitions under their corporate seal from the Mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of Leeds, Scarborough, Neath, Sunderland, Northampton, Stockton-on-Tees, and Falmouth; from the Provost, magistrates, and Town Council of Paisley, Selkirk, Peebles, and Stromness; from public meetings at Middlesborough, Redcar, Yarm-upon-Tees, Retford, West Hartlepool, Reading, Marlborough, Eston Mines, Batley, Kirkby Stephen, Boston, and Greenwich; from drawing-room meetings at Edinburgh and Portobello; from Good Templar lodges at Bridgwater, Gillingham, Milverton, Yetminster, Yatton, Carlingcote, Wrington, Talke, Ellacombe, Lympstone, and Exeter; from 3,082 inhabitants of Ashton-under-Lyne; from 35 women householders of Bridge of Allan, from 31 women householders of Kelso, from 720 women of Clerkenwell, from 30 women of Kidderminster, from 164 women of Hampstead, from 76 women of Perth, from 38 women householders of Rothesay, from 17 women of Worcester, from 31 women householders of Largs, from 82 women householders of Kelso, from 342 women of Highgate; from 104 women householders of St. Bernard's Ward and from 170 women householders of St. Stephen's Ward, Edinburgh; from a meeting of women at Batley; from the head mistress and teachers of the Gateshead High School for Girls; from teachers in the Bath High School for Girls; from teachers in Croydon High School; and from 19 students of Newnham Hall, Cambridge. We have selected the foregoing from among the numerous petitions

presented during the month in order to show that the movement for women's suffrage is not limited to a district or a class, but that it extends widely over the country.

The time that remains is short, and we urge all our friends who have not already sent in their petitions to do so at once, and to send in a large and increasing number until the period of the second reading of the Bill.

THE New Supplemental Charter granted by Her MAJESTY to the University of London, empowering the University to grant degrees in all faculties to women, was laid on the table at the annual meeting of Convocation on May 14th. The Chairman of Convocation, Dr. J. STORRAR, stated that the Charter had been granted on the petition of himself and the CHANCELLOR of the UNIVERSITY (Earl Granville). He moved "that the University accepts the New Supplemental Charter, dated the 4th day of May, 1878, which has been granted by Her MAJESTY to the University." The motion was carried *nem con.*

Thus was consummated an act which is not only, as the *Times* observes, a "great revolution in the constitution of the University," but a revolution in the academical and social status of the women of this realm. Women are now recognised by the QUEEN and by the University of London as intellectually the equals of men by being admitted to the same examinations, and entitled to the same recognition and rewards. It is impossible that this event should not carry with it important social and political consequences. The benefits of the recognition of the capacity of women for the highest academical honours will extend far beyond the persons who may be actually admitted to these honours. An impetus will be given to the education of girls in every school throughout the land, and an inducement offered to substitute higher subjects for the superficial accomplishments which have hitherto occupied too large a portion of a girl's school life. The artificial barrier which closed the vista of a girl's path in the higher walks of knowledge is now removed, and the limit of future possibilities for her is now determined solely by her personal abilities or circumstances. The effect will be akin to that produced in the French army by the saying that every private soldier carried a marshal's bâton in his knapsack. If only one in a million gained the prize, the possibility of it raised each man in his own eyes, and spread a sense of self respect and mutual respect among all who were subject to it. Now that every girl scholar is a potential graduate, an increase of personal

dignity will be felt by all students, and an increase of public consideration will be given to all girls' schools.

In connection with this subject it is worth noticing that in the report of the Cambridge local examinations this year, it appears that while the number of girls among the candidates was nearly equal to the number of boys, the percentage of failures was lower among the girls than the boys. Among the junior boys the failures appear to have been 24½ per cent, among the junior girls 22 per cent. Of the seniors, 47 per cent of boys and 41 per cent of girls failed. The Syndicate appointed to conduct the local examinations find that the education of girls at school has made so great an advance within the last few years that they propose that an examination shall be held in every year for women.

The increasing prominence of facts like these will render it more and more difficult to maintain the classification of women with idiots and lunatics as persons unfit to exercise the political franchise.

AT the conferring of degrees and distribution of prizes at the close of the winter session of the University of Glasgow, the Very Reverend Principal CAIRD made some remarks on the injustice of the exclusion of women from the benefits of university education which are not only wise in themselves, but capable of a more extended application than the occasion which gave rise to them. After speaking of the character of the Scottish university as bringing the higher education within the reach of all classes of the community, the Very Rev. PRINCIPAL said: "Hitherto, however, it has, as I think, unfortunately, though not unaccountably, happened that while all other tests have been swept away, there is one test of a very comprehensive character by which not less than one-half of the population has been rigidly excluded from a university education—I mean the test of sex. In no other case do we say to any intending student or class of students, I have a theory as to your mission in life, and the subordinate, or, at best, purely ornamental, rôle which Providence obviously intends for you; and therefore however clever and intelligent you may show yourself to be, however eager may be your desire for accurate scientific knowledge, my theory as to woman's mission does not allow me to gratify it. You may have the run of the circulating library, or get what scraps of science and philosophy you can pick up from popular lectures, but for you, I regret to say, wisdom at this entrance is quite shut out. In no other case have the professors of our higher schools of learning ever taken

up this attitude, and I am happy to say that during the present session some of the professors of this University, under the sanction of the Senate, have shown that they regard it as a false and untenable one. I am persuaded that if this most rational and wholesome movement for the higher education of women proceed, as I have no doubt it will, much further than it has done, neither you nor any of us on this bench will have any cause to regret it. No one need fear that society will be injured by any of its members being made wiser and better informed; or, to take much lower ground, no one here, I think, need be apprehensive that his future domestic happiness will be disturbed by the too great intelligence of his actual or possible associates. And if either in man or woman a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, the true remedy is not ignorance but deeper knowledge."

If these observations are true of the literary and scientific culture of women, they are equally true of political knowledge and patriotic spirit. If men have no moral right to hinder women in the pursuit of culture, neither have they a right to forbid them caring for or taking part in the affairs of the State of which they form an integral portion and to which they give services equivalent in value, if different in kind from those rendered by men.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH, in a letter on the proposed employment of Indian troops, describes an incident in the time of the mutiny as an example of the spirit he fears may be imparted to European warfare by contact with barbarians. A British officer had been killed in a skirmish, and the infuriated Sikhs, assisted by some Englishmen, proceeded to take their revenge on one wretched man. After dragging him about by the legs and stabbing him in the face, they proceeded to what the narrator describes as "the worst." They made a small pile of dry sticks, and held him upon the fire until life was extinct.

The point to which Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH says he desires specially to call attention is the participation of Englishmen in this hideous act, which some of them actually helped to perpetrate, while others, including the narrator, were looking on. Mr. SMITH accounts for the cruelty of the Englishmen by assuming that "their nature had been altered by contact with barbarians, and by employment in savage war." But if Mr. SMITH would look over the columns of the daily papers, he would discover that acts equally hideous are continually perpetrated by Englishmen who have never been in contact with any

but native barbarians, and whose employment in "savage war" is limited to fighting in their own homes.

The very circumstance he cites can be paralleled in an instance of setting a wife on fire, which has come to hand just as we write. We learn that on May 18th a woman, named Flannaghan, died at the Sheffield Infirmary from the effects of being set on fire by her husband. She had been in the infirmary two or three months. At the last Leeds assizes her husband was sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude for attempting to murder her by setting her on fire. He locked her in the house, and then *lighted her dress with a candle, holding her down in bed whilst her clothes were burning.* We do not know whether he will be liable to a fresh indictment now that his attempt at murder has proved successful, but many men have suffered the extreme penalty of the law for less heinous offences.

We give instances of a few other deeds which have been perpetrated since the last issue of this Journal, the victims in each case being, not foemen engaged in warfare with the doers, but women engaged in ministering to their needs.

Beginning with the beginning of the month, we find that on May 2nd WILLIAM SPENCER was charged at Southwark with committing a savage assault on MARY ANN BEDFORD. The prosecutrix had lived with the prisoner fourteen years, and for a long time supported him by her own exertions. One morning she told him to get out of bed and look for work. This angered him, and he struck her a tremendous blow on the right eye. *She felt her eye roll out.* This result was probably unintentional, but the success of the blow appears to have delighted the ruffian so much that he threatened to knock her other eye out. But for this threat she would not have prosecuted, although he had injured her for life.

On May 3rd, THOMAS TAYLOR was charged at Bury with assaulting his wife. He had kicked her about the house "like a football," and she was so fearfully injured that her life was in danger. On May 6th, GEORGE MORRIS was charged at Worship-street with assaulting his wife. He entered the house, and taking up the tongs, threatened to murder her if she did not leave the house. He struck her on the head with the tongs, knocking her down and cutting her head open. He chased her out into the yard, and because he could not catch her threw a brick at her. On May 6th, PATRICK MAHER was charged at Salford with having assaulted ANN WHITE, the wife of the man at whose house he lodged. He struck her over the eyebrow with a poker, and threatened to take her life.

The woman sustained a severe wound. On May 7th, three cases of wife torture were brought before the Liverpool magistrates. One was that of a cab-driver, who flew into a violent passion because his wife had only provided him with toast and milk for his supper. He made a savage attack on his wife, threw the basin at his son, inflicting a serious wound on the forehead, and threw the milk over his little daughter. On May 16th, PATRICK BIRMINGHAM was charged at Oldham with brutally assaulting his wife. At one o'clock on Sunday morning he came home, saying he had lost all his money. He then kicked the table over and threw things about the house. After this he locked the door and kicked her about the house in a brutal manner, injuring her very much, and knocking two of her teeth out. He seized her by the hair, pulled her to the floor, and although she was approaching her confinement he kicked her three times in the abdomen. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

After these horrors, one is tempted to agree with the sentiments of WILLIAM REYNOLDS, who, being charged at Wakefield with neglecting his wife, starving, and beating her, admitted having given her a black eye, but said she had nothing to complain of compared to what some women have to put up with.

On the whole, a review of these cases might suggest the reflection that Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH'S solicitude, lest Englishmen should be made more barbarous by contact with Indian troops may be misplaced, and that he should rather have feared that the morals of the Sikhs, whose fury was not, at any rate, vented on members of their own households, might suffer if they were brought to this country, and shown the conduct of the British husband and elector, while other Englishmen calmly look on.

All these ruffians have votes, while FRANCES POWER COBBE, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, OCTAVIA HILL, and the noble army of women whose names are less conspicuous, but whose labours in the cause of humanity are not less self-devoted, are stigmatised as unfit to have the same privilege, denied the votes for which they ask, and deprived of the power and influence which the suffrage would afford in their efforts to stem the tide of human misery and crime, and raise the condition of the oppressed.

We record with extreme satisfaction the accomplishment of a reform in the law, which will give to unhappy wives now subjected to brutal assaults a way of escape from further violence at the hands of their husbands. The

amendments introduced by Lord PENZANCE into the Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill, and assented to by the House of Commons, enable a magistrate to give to a wife whose husband has been convicted of an aggravated assault upon her (1) the benefit of a judicial separation from her husband; (2) to secure to her the custody of her children under ten years of age; (3) to make an order upon the husband to contribute a weekly sum for her and their support while they are living apart from him.

These provisions are in the main those which were devised by Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE, and published by her in the April number of the *Contemporary Review*. They afford an eminent example of the benefits conferred upon poor and suffering women through the political wisdom and influence of able and philanthropic leaders of their own sex. So long ago as 1874 Mr. CROSS said, in answer to a question in the House of Commons from Colonel EGERTON LEIGH respecting aggravated assaults on women, that the matter was under the consideration of the Government with a view to ascertain whether any measure could be introduced in regard to it. The problem seems to have been too hard for Her Majesty's advisers, seeing that four years have elapsed and nothing came of their deliberations. It has been reserved for a woman to propound a really practical measure of reform, and to find it accepted and ratified by the Legislature.

A CORRESPONDENT, in expressing the thankfulness for the prospect of relief to outraged wives afforded by the measure which has now passed through Parliament, wonders whether it will apply to the following case, which she quotes as that of a near connection of her own. The wife supports herself and four children by keeping a school, her husband not giving anything—forcing himself to live with his wife, and partly living on what she earns. He is careful to keep within the law by not personally abusing her. He has never paid the rent, nor the expenses attendant on the birth of a child. He has had seven hundred pounds of his wife's money, and her home has been broken and sold up three or four times. She can get no relief, and she dare not keep boarders for fear of him coming home intoxicated night or morning, and so she is in a constant state of misery in trying to keep the home safe.

In his great speech at Manchester on April 30th, Mr. BRIGHT made an eloquent and passionate appeal to the

whole people of England not to go to war. In his appeal he, according to his wont, pointedly included women as well as men. But the policy of the country is controlled at the polling booths, and if women are to give any effective answer to an appeal to influence the action of Ministers or the complexion of a Parliamentary majority, the answer must be given through the ballot-box. It is idle mockery to ask women political questions, and to deny them the right to respond in the only manner in which an effective response can be given.

We desire to call attention to the advertisement of the offer of £50 from a friend, on condition that £950 is subscribed by others. We trust that the whole sum of £1,000 may be subscribed, as it could be well utilised in the work we have in hand.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

LONDON.

A public meeting was held on Thursday evening, May 23rd, at St. George's Hall, Langham Place, in support of Mr. Courtney's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. The chair was taken by J. T. HIBBERT, Esq., M.P., and there were also present Mr. O'Sullivan, M.P., Mr. Blennerhasset, M.P., Mrs. Blennerhasset, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, M.P., Mr. C. B. Eastwick, C.B., and Mrs. Eastwick, Mrs. P. A. Taylor, Mrs. Pennington, Miss Arabella Shore, Mr. Hyde Palmer, Q.C., Miss Sharman Crawford, Mrs. Ewart, Miss Buss, Col. Higginson (U.S.), Dr. W. B. Hodgson, Mr. C. H. Hopwood, Q.C., M.P., Mrs. Cairns, Mr. Thomas Hare, Miss Becker, Miss Downing, Miss C. A. Biggs, Miss Tod, &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the meeting, said that in taking the chair he felt to some extent in a position of difficulty, for he had to make the confession to his numerous lady friends that this was the first time he had ever opened his mouth in favour of their proposal. He had, however, been a silent supporter and worker in the cause, and had on many occasions given his vote in favour of the Bill which they desired to see become an Act of Parliament. (Applause.) He had the privilege of voting for it on the first occasion when it was brought forward by the late Mr. John Stuart Mill—(applause)—whose eloquent manner of introducing it must, he felt, have had a deep influence throughout the country generally. Ten or eleven years had now passed since the proposal was made, when the present Reform Act was in committee, to alter the word "man" into "person"—apparently a very simple thing to do—and leading men on both sides of the House had been found giving their support to the Bill which proposes to admit women to the suffrage. During the present session of Parliament something like 150 members voted in its favour, but that number did not fairly represent its supporters, some 200 having either voted or promised to vote for it. Great progress had also been made in respect to public opinion, for whereas in 1867 there were found to be only 13,400 persons who signed petitions to Parliament in favour of the proposal, last year there were 268,400, or more than twenty times as many. Petitions came also from many of the great municipalities such as Birmingham, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Southampton. (Applause.) The vote had been given to women in municipalities, certainly one of the greatest steps

that had ever been taken towards removing the exclusive privileges of whose existence women complained, and there are at the present time on the registers something like 108,000 women voters, or one woman voter to every seven enfranchised male persons. That law had now been for some years in operation, and had it been found to operate very injuriously we should more likely find the municipalities petitioning Parliament against the vote than in favour of its extension for Parliamentary purposes. The Education Act, to a certain extent, enfranchised women, for it gave them the power to sit as members of School Boards, and there were doubtless many ladies in the room who were serving their districts well in this respect. One lady on his left, Miss Becker—(loud applause)—he knew to have accomplished very good work on the School Board of Manchester. (Applause.) Supporters of the movement had therefore no reason to be discouraged, and besides, it must be remembered that it always took a long time to pass anything like a good measure. It took a long time to remove the disabilities which in past years were placed upon various sections of our countrymen, Roman Catholics, Nonconformists, and Jews; and it took a long time to extend the suffrage to the men of the country. It must be agreed that, if measures for the benefit of the male portion of the community were difficult to pass into law, still greater must be the difficulty with any measure for the exclusive benefit of women, because, as he was sorry to say, women had not yet the same influence that men have. This question, though one of a very simple character, seemed to put in great fear and trepidation those who were opposed to it. They seemed to think that if women ratepayers were admitted to the franchise, almost a revolution would immediately take place. He ventured to say that if that were the case, it would be one of a very satisfactory character. (Applause.) But there could be nothing like a revolution, as the greatest number of women householders who could be admitted would be something like one out of seven added to the present number of electors; but even their operation would be intensely beneficial to the country in every way. It was said by the opponents of the measure that women had better attend to their home duties rather than meddle with questions of a political character. (Hear.) But there were home duties for men as well as for women—(hear, hear, and applause)—and he did not know that men were the worse for attending to their political duties as well as to their home duties. Unfortunately, in many cases, the charge was to be brought against them, that they do not attend to their home duties, particularly as regarded their wives and children. But as he had already observed, the Bill would not affect any very large proportion of the women of England. It did not propose to give votes to married women, but merely to women occupiers who are in other respects in just the same position as men who are occupiers. For his own part, he saw no distinction between a man occupier and a woman occupier, but thought the woman occupier as much called upon to vote as she was to perform other duties to her neighbourhood and to her country that men perform. ("No, no," and "Question.") He maintained that was the question. (Applause.) As a matter of justice, and to carry out the principles of the constitution, women occupiers ought to have votes. One of the principles of the constitution was that taxation and representation should go together, but that was not carried out so far as concerned women occupiers in the matter of parliamentary representation. What were the reasons that a woman should not have a vote if she occupied a house and paid rates and taxes, just as well as a man? It had been said that a woman would not be able to carry out all the responsibilities which she might, as a voter, be called upon to perform. That she could not, for

instance, be called upon to serve her country upon juries, or as a soldier upon the battle-field. ("Oh, oh.") In regard to the question of juries, he thought that women would be very well and very advantageously placed as jurors in many cases that came before our courts of law. (A voice: "In breaches of promise." Laughter and applause.) They would come to, at least, as just and as proper, if not a more just and more proper conclusion than many of the juries of twelve men now called upon to give a verdict. But, without putting it in that extreme light, he would like to point out that at present there were great numbers of men who were excluded from serving on juries, perhaps because they were magistrates, or by reason of the profession they followed, who were yet allowed to vote for their representatives. (Applause.) As to women going into the battle-field, he did not suppose that anyone wished to see them as soldiers fighting our battles for us. But there were many positions in which women could serve their country in time of war. Florence Nightingale herself—(applause)—went out, if not to fight our battles, yet to fight against the disease and sickness suffered by those who did, and she was serving her country equally as well as any man who bled on the battle-field. (Applause.) And surely in the great question of peace and war women were equally able with ourselves to give an opinion. (Renewed applause.) It was said also that if the suffrage were given to women it would make them unfeminine, but, he would like to know, had the result of giving municipal suffrage to women been to make them less feminine than before? ("Yes.") It was very easy to say "yes." (Laughter.) But as general elections only came round on an average once in every four or five years, he did not think that the fact of a lady or a woman giving her vote on such occasions could render her less feminine. (Laughter and applause.) He must think that the strength of a woman's character was of a very uncertain kind if she could not stand a few months' canvassing and the going up to give her vote, and of a kind that would hardly bear examination. (Laughter.) He had no fear that giving the voting power to a woman would render her less feminine. She would have her home duties to perform whether she voted or not, and that objection, therefore, must be regarded merely as a piece of sentiment, as were most of the other objections. Women in respect to the parliamentary franchise were in a different position from any other class of people in the country. If male suffrage were limited to incomes of £1,000 per year it would no doubt be immensely restricted, but even the very poorest man by dint of hard labour and of economy might hope to attain to the position of a voter. But even that was denied to women. No efforts on their part to increase their income would admit them under such a law to the suffrage, and therefore they were in a position of exclusion different from any other class of the community. On these grounds, therefore, that women were unjustly excluded from the franchise, and that the principles of the constitution demanded their admission, he came forward to-night to support the measure, and to express his sympathy and encouragement. He trusted his lady friends would have confidence, and go on as they had been doing, obtaining converts and making efforts all over the country. (Applause.) He was sure that it only required their sincere, their earnest, and their energetic efforts to succeed in admitting women householders within the constitution of the country. (Applause.)

Mrs. FAWCETT moved the first resolution, which was as follows: "That by the exclusion of women from the right of voting in the election of members of Parliament, a considerable portion of the property, intelligence, and industry of the nation is deprived of representation in the House of Commons; and that the extension to women of political rights, by

strengthening in them the sense of the responsibilities and duties of citizenship, would be conducive to the highest welfare of the state." Every one, Mrs. Fawcett said, would agree that at least the first part of the resolution was a truism: that some part of the property, intelligence, and industry of the nation was vested in its female members. (Applause.) Of property it was needless to speak. Half-a-dozen names would at once arise in one's mind of women possessed of vast wealth; and in every rank of life there were women possessing property of some kind or another. Then as to intelligence, not even the most violent denier of the rights of women would maintain that they did not possess at least some intelligence, however humble. (Laughter.) And as for the industry of the nation, one could not look around without seeing that women were employed in all parts of the country. In the cotton industry more than three-fifths of the persons employed were women, 300,000 of them; and in the whole textile trade of the United Kingdom two-thirds of the persons employed, or 611,000, were women. That part of the resolution, therefore, might be passed by, and she only wished that it had included one thing more, viz.: that by excluding women the great proportion of the law-abiding, good people, who are not dangerous to society, were omitted. (Laughter.) According to the criminal statistics in 1876, out of 16,000 persons committed for trial, only about 3,000 were women; also the number of women in the country was about half-a-million in excess of the number of men. (Applause.) As a fact, then, for she did not bring the statement forward in the least as an argument, women were about four times more orderly than men. This question had to contend with the difficulties that always beset, in such a country as ours, every question that was new. People here would not adopt a new thing unless it were shown to be really valuable and good in itself. But this was a very good feature of our society, and one at which a woman should be the last to grumble at, as it was a great safeguard against rash, hasty, and foolish legislation. It would also protect us from being run away with by the so-called logic of some people to the effect that if women were granted the vote to-day, they would be on the wool-sack and in command of the army to-morrow. (Laughter.) She trusted that the practical, sound sense of her countrymen would save us from these absurdities; and that it would be recognised that the granting of a reasonable request would place them in all the stronger position to refuse at any future time a request which might be unreasonable. She wished also to point out that this was not a new question. True, this particular development of it, the demand of women for parliamentary suffrage was new; but the movement as a whole was as old as Christianity itself—the movement, that was, of men and women towards a higher life and greater freedom, which had characterised all countries as civilisation progressed. If we looked at the great national movements that had most strongly convulsed the nations of this and the last century, we should see that women had almost invariably played a part in them that had not been dishonourable to themselves. In the anti-slavery movement in America, women took an active and foremost part, and bore the brunt, to a great extent, of its most unpopular stages. In the great Italian movement for the freedom of the Unity of Italy, women again were not afraid to bleed and die for their country. A remarkable change had taken place in the position of women in the present, as compared with the last century. The chairman had already referred to the admission of women to the vote in municipalities, and of what they had accomplished in reference to the School Boards, but there were other subjects which might be mentioned. Take, for instance, the medical education of women. Ten years ago no woman could get on the medical register. That matter was now nearly

settled, but the battle was not altogether won yet. (Applause.) Then in regard to general education, how much had been done during the last ten years? Ten years ago the Schools Inquiry Commission issued its report, and what they had to say was that slovenliness and showy superficiality were the characteristics of girls' education. Now the country is studied from one end to the other with good high schools and grammar schools, where girls receive sound education. The universities have opened their doors, and at the local examinations every year several thousands of girls are admitted by the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London—(applause)—and the London university examinations would soon be within the reach of all women of sufficient intellectual calibre to "go in" for them. There were also universities for women at Girton and Newton, where young women were at present enjoying the advantages of a university education, and judging from her knowledge of them the cause of women need have no more efficient missionaries than they. Looking at these results they had reason to be well satisfied. (Applause.) If the cause made as much progress during the next decade as it had done in the past, they would not, she prophesied, be meeting together at the expiration of that period to advocate the admission of women to parliamentary suffrage. (Applause.) Many must have noticed that public men in their recent speeches had made appeals to the women of the country to exercise their influence in reference to so important a public matter as the Eastern Question—particularly Mr. Bright and Mr. Forster. (Applause.) She was glad to see that recognition that women had political influence. Then why deny to women the right to exercise a direct influence on the election of members of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Was it for the good of the country that this power should always be used indirectly? It was not likely, she thought, to be used with so much sense of responsibility and devotion to duty as if it were used directly. She did not say that was always the case, but she thought it was always likely to be so. (Hear, hear.) It was the duty of every woman who was making this claim for parliamentary suffrage to do something, every one of them, every day of their lives, to show that women were deserving of it. Some might ask, "How? What can we do? We cannot be always making speeches." That was not the way in which to work. What she specially would wish to see was that all women who are really in earnest on this question should study to make their every-day lives a sample of the good work that women can do in whatever department of life they may find themselves called. Let them be good housekeepers, good needlewomen, good wives, good mothers. Let every one feel that in moving for this privilege, they are not at all undervaluing the duties of their home life. (Hear, hear.) They could also show that they are worthy of this trust by doing good work on School Boards; by giving conscientious and faithful votes in electing members of School Boards. Evidence of the good work that was being done by the female school teachers of Ireland was to be found in a letter written to the Under Secretary of State for the sister country, which proved by statistics which had come to the writer's knowledge that a larger sum per head of the capitation grant was earned by them than by the male teachers. The reason, probably, why the women had been more successful than the men was that there were fewer avocations open to them. If a man had special ability, he left his school for some more lucrative employment. She wished especially to remind young women that it was not by being bad needlewomen and bad housekeepers that they would show themselves worthy of the trust they claimed. It was just the contrary. They must do all that they were capable of doing as well as they were capable of doing it.

There were two instances which might be quoted to show that the admission of women to political privileges and to some kinds of public work had not, so far, produced a deteriorating effect upon their household work. There had been of late years a great enthusiasm among ladies in regard to needlework and cookery. Art needlework was no longer the fashion of the hour, but the intelligent pursuit of a large number of ladies. In regard to sewing, the requirements of the New Education Act were perfectly appalling to anyone brought up under the old régime. Schools of cookery also had been established all over the country, where young ladies were taught to make all kinds of delicacies; and they seemed to be imbued with the idea that if they were to be housekeepers, they ought, at least, to know something about it. (Applause.) This showed that if once women got the idea of wishing for excellence, they would carry it into the regions of housekeeping as well as of politics, and into every-day life. In regard to the question, then, of women's sphere, she would say that she should seek to find the highest work that she was capable of doing, and do it with her whole soul and strength, at the same time not neglecting the humbler duties lying nearer to her hand. Women, if asked the extent of their aspirations, might, she thought, answer in the words of a modern writer: "We trust that it yet may happen that in the future no civilised man or woman will lack the opportunity of being physically and mentally the best that God has made them." (Much applause.)

Mr. C. H. HORWOOD, Q.C., M.P., seconded the resolution.

Miss TOD supported the resolution. The franchise was asked for, as the resolution said, for those women who held the necessary qualifications, in order that the property, industry, and intelligence of women at present unrepresented, might have fair representation. (Applause.)

Mr. HARE said he intended only to say a few words as to how the intelligence of the country could best be brought to bear, and concentrated in the election of members of the House of Commons. Under the present system the expression of opinion of a large number of people was prevented. At least one-half of the population of the country was not represented. He thought that the bringing of the women into the voting power of the country would have a beneficial effect upon the men also.

Mr. WILLIAM FRANCIS HALE, a gentleman in the body of the meeting, who asked permission to address a few remarks, maintained that the ladies were not suffering any disabilities worth speaking of, and were fast getting all that they needed.

The resolution was then put and carried, there being but very few dissentients.

Miss BECKER moved: "That women being held equally with men responsible for the laws of the country, should therefore have a voice in electing those who make the laws; and that the chairman be authorised to sign on behalf of this meeting a petition in support of Mr. Courtney's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women." Miss Becker contended that as women are amenable to the laws of their country, they had a very strong interest in making them. In conclusion, Miss Becker said she would take an illustration from one of the newest developments of science. At present the parliamentary ear was only attuned to loud voices, but there were others in the country—undertones of misery—and it was important that Parliament should hear these too. The marvels of scientific progress came upon us so quickly that we could hardly keep pace with them. There was a new instrument called the microphone, the object of which was to magnify sounds; and so powerful was it that the steps of a fly in its walk appeared to the listener like the tramp of a horse, and when it lifted up its proboscis the sound was

like the roar of an elephant. According to scientific men it was not impossible that by means of this they might hear the working of the molecular forces and thus obtain a deeper insight into the construction of the universe. This Woman's Suffrage Bill was a parliamentary microphone which would enable Parliament to hear the still small voices murmuring throughout the country. (Applause.) We were told by the great poet of France, M. Victor Hugo, that woman was the problem of the nineteenth century, as man was the problem of the eighteenth. It would have been impossible to settle the problem of man without the voice of man being heard; it would be equally impossible to settle this problem of woman unless the voices of women are heard.

Professor HODGSON, in reference to the objection to giving women the franchise on account of their being unable to fulfil all the duties which men were called upon to perform, dealt with the objection regarding their inability to serve in the army, and said that if this argument were carried to its legitimate and logical conclusion, the only persons entitled to the franchise would be those who had served in the army. Another fatal objection to this argument was that of all classes of the community the one exempted from the franchise was that engaged in military service. They being subjected to the orders of the Government of the day this, he thought, was very properly the case. (Applause.) To the objection that the enfranchisement of women would draw them away from the performance of domestic duties, the answers were manifold. In the first place married women would not have the votes, which would be given solely to women who are householders and ratepayers, and who, as such, were clearly entitled to exercise the same powers as men. Making a contrast between woman's domestic pursuits on the one hand, and man's intellectual or political pursuits on the other, Dr. Hodgson argued that some political knowledge on the part of the wife did not make her a less fit companion for her husband any more than a capacity for domestic enjoyment made the husband a less fit companion for his wife and family. There was no more necessity for her to neglect her domestic duties on account of her having the suffrage, than there was for the man to neglect his business on account of his having a wife and family. A distinguished woman of science, a Mrs. Somerville, one of the greatest mathematicians ever produced by this country, being observed one day by a friend apparently absorbed in thought, was asked what mathematical problem she was solving. "Well," she replied, "to tell you the truth I was thinking of a new bonnet." (Laughter.) Miss Martineau, so eminent a woman and historian, was also eminent as a needlewoman. He (Professor Hodgson) had seen her carrying on a conversation by means of an ear trumpet, and at the same time never losing a stroke of her knitting-needle. All went on together. Feminine industries were carried on together with researches into philosophical and economical questions. In regard to domestic duties, he would say one thing more. One would suppose to hear the outcry raised against this question of the franchise, that general elections came about at least once a week, and that voting for members of Parliament obviously occupied five or six hours. (Laughter.) It was not only proper that women should interest themselves in politics; it was of the utmost importance that they should do so. Politics, it had been well said, were "history in the making." We talked of history as though it were simply a matter of the past; as if a wide and impassable gulf separated the past from the present. Every one of them, and members of Parliament especially, was making history. What they are doing now will be read by those who come afterwards, and will be found assuredly not less interesting than the French revolution at the

close of the last century, and events still further back. Unless women were to be cut off from the study of history, they must study politics. It was far more important that they should study the reign of Queen Victoria than the reign of Queen Elizabeth or of Queen Anne. The great point of view in the study of history was that we might leave the world better than when we entered it. (Applause.) The one grand thing which women wanted was elevation of view—an enlargement of interests beyond the petty sphere in which it was the destiny and, we might say, the doom of very many of them to move. They needed enlargement of their interests so that they shall feel that they are members of a great community: that, in the words of the Scripture, they are citizens of "no mean city;" and that there rests upon them a great responsibility, which they can only discharge by acquiring the largest amount of knowledge and mental power which is within their capacity. (Much applause.)

Miss DOWNING supported the resolution.

Mr. HENRY JONES, who claimed to be an "intelligent opponent" of the movement, moved the following amendment: "That in view of the present position to which woman has attained in the social and political systems of this country, it is unwise and inexpedient further to seek to disturb the satisfactory relations—('Oh, oh,')—which those conditions have called into existence."

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone second the amendment?

Mr. JAMES THOMPSON said that, although he did not altogether agree with the remarks of the mover of the amendment, he would second it, seeing that the meeting had been challenged by the chairman.

The amendment was then put and declared lost by a very large majority. The original motion was afterwards put and declared carried.

Colonel HIGGINSON (America) moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and to the speakers, and in the course of some pithy remarks he observed that he thought all the speeches delivered that evening had been eminently calculated to help forward the movement, and particularly the last speech from the gallery. (Applause.)

Mr. HINDE PALMER, ex-M.P. for Lincoln, seconded the resolution.

The response of the chairman brought this very successful meeting to a close.

HEREFORD.

On Tuesday evening, May 21st, there was a public meeting in the Shire Hall, Hereford, with the object of considering the question of women's suffrage, with special reference to the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women householders. The meeting was held under the auspices of the National Society for the Promotion of Women's Suffrage, at whose request the chair was taken by Mr. CHARLES ANTHONY, jun. The meeting was one of the largest ever held in Hereford, every single seat in the noble Shire Hall being occupied, while a great number of persons were turned from the doors unable to obtain admission. The audience was a representative one, and all classes in the city and county furnished some representatives of both sexes and of both parties. The proceedings throughout were of the most orderly character, and during the delivery of the speeches, to use a familiar expression, "a pin might have been heard to fall." The two resolutions submitted to the meeting were carried almost unanimously, less than a dozen hands being held up against the first, and not more than half-a-dozen against the second.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the business of the meeting, asked for a full, a fair, and, without implying any agreement of views, a friendly hearing for the several speakers. As he

occupied the position of chairman at the request of the friends of women's suffrage, on account of the affirmative views he was known to hold, perhaps he might be allowed to occupy a few minutes of their time before entering upon the more interesting business of the evening. The claim for the enfranchisement of women is a claim which touched so many questions all round the entire circle of social and political thought, that it was most difficult to approach it without feeling that they were only touching it with the tips of their fingers, and that they were in danger of damaging the cause they desired to serve by the ill choice or the inadequate choice of the facts which lie before them in the vast domain of reason, of experience, and of speculation. Although the subject of the enfranchisement of women no longer excited laughter and ridicule, as it did when ten years ago its advocacy in Parliament by the illustrious John Stuart Mill fixed the attention of the country, it was still a little staggering to find one's self face to face with the necessity to support, in a few imperfect sentences, a principle which had been discussed in every conceivable form since the days of Plato, and which was interwoven not only with the best men's thoughts but with all the more occult phases of the world's history. How is it, he asked, that women do not already possess the franchise? They, equally with men, were concerned in good government; and, in all that related to the suppression of violence, whether of blows or of domestic tyranny, they were even more concerned on account of their physical weakness. The answer had become stereotyped. Both the advocates and the opponents of women's suffrage agreed that it was to be found deep down in physical force. (Applause.) But if it be might more than right which had so far been the ruling force of the world, was not the relative strength of those forces a very good measure of the civilisation of a country or of an epoch? And might not progressive civilisation be defined as the substitution for might of right, and as the substitution for the rougher methods the higher and nobler warfare of man against nature, or rather the comprehension and adaptation of the powers of nature by man to his use and elevation? (Applause.) It followed then that any exclusion of a weaker set by a stronger set afforded no proof or presumption that it was either just or beneficial. Pitt, Coleridge, and some European statesmen of the last century opposed universal suffrage on the ground that it necessarily led to the enfranchisement of women. Talleyrand could not reconcile the exclusion of women on any abstract principles; de Tocqueville expressed the same opinion; and it seemed to him (the Chairman) that the debates in Parliament during the present century on the extension of the suffrage to men were conclusively in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women. (Hear, hear.) It had been argued that the franchise should be placed on an educational basis; would that test exclude all women? It had been argued that taxation and representation should go together; would that test exclude all women? It had been argued that a certain rating or rental qualification should confer a vote; would that test exclude all women? It had been argued that habitual drunkenness or the conviction of any crime should disqualify for the franchise; would that test exclude all women? (Laughter and applause.) It had sometimes been argued that the sufficient reason why more than half the race was excluded from the franchise, although no one denied them an equal concern in the laws, was that women do not thereby suffer any practical grievance. But the legal disability was in itself a practical grievance of the very worst kind, and so long as human nature remains what it is, so long must the interests of the unenfranchised suffer. (Hear, hear.) The suffering had been so real and substantial that in the words of Lord Brougham "there must be a total reconstruction of the law before women can

have justice." (Hear, hear.) Nor did recent measures which had slightly ameliorated her condition, and which were the direct result of the agitation by women for women, diminish the truth of that dictum, or of the yet more sweeping statement of Lord Macaulay, who said that "even in those countries where women are best treated the laws are generally unfavourable to them with respect to almost all the points in which they are the most deeply interested." (Applause.) These opinions were uttered without any reference to the question of women's suffrage. Therefore they may be taken for what they are worth as the calm and judicial utterances of a great law reformer and a great historian, who had thus placed upon record their solemn conviction that the wrongs of woman—whatever their cause and whatever their remedy—were deep, organic, and universal. (Applause.) With regard to the two old questions which appeared to underlie all the rest, viz., What is the proper "sphere" of woman? which was only another form of the question, What is the "nature" of woman? and Ought that "sphere" to be decided in any way except by leaving women, perfectly unfettered, and on a perfectly equal footing before the law, to decide for themselves? He (the chairman) said that no one believed politics to be the sphere of all women any more than of all men. They ought not to try to map out woman's sphere as they did a garden. It is action, not speculation, which reveals natural laws, and a woman's ability is the measure of her sphere. Without any legal disability, women should be allowed to judge for themselves what is their proper "sphere," whether of duty or of employment. (Applause.) He believed that the more they considered this question the more they would be disposed to think that the disability of women was founded more in might than in right, that it was maintained more by prejudice than by reason, and that what was commonly condemned as "unnatural" would often be found to be only "unconventional." (Applause.)

Mr. MEYSEY CLIVE said he had the honour of proposing the following resolution, viz., "That by the exclusion of women from the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament, a considerable portion of the property, intelligence, and industry of the nation is deprived of representation in the House of Commons, and in the opinion of this meeting the parliamentary suffrage should be given to women on the same conditions as it is granted to men." He urged that, in considering this question, all prejudices should be put on one side, and that while they might discard if they would the argument that women were entitled to the suffrage as a right, they might contend that they were entitled to it on the ground that it would be for the interest of the community at large; and if it would be for the interest of the community at large, there could not be the slightest doubt that it was right that the suffrage should be granted to women. (Applause.) He believed that the community at large would benefit if women were permitted to have a vote, and that the interest of all, especially of women, would be promoted. That being so, he contended that it was for those who would exclude any portion of the community from exercising the franchise, to prove that the granting of the franchise would not be for the benefit of the community at large. More than one-half of the community were women. Some people said that the interests of women were identical with those of men, and therefore that it was quite unnecessary that they should have the suffrage. He considered that such an argument as that would not hold water for a single instant. (Hear, hear.) It was generally admitted, he believed, that there were many cases in which the interests of women were separate from those of men. The speaker alluded to an article by Miss Cobbe in the *Contemporary Review*, in advocacy of women's suffrage, and quoted the opinion of John Stuart Mill,

as follows:—"The majority of women of any class are not likely to differ in opinion from men of the same class, unless the question is one in which the interests of women, as such, are involved; and if so, they ought to have the suffrage." (Hear, hear.) If the intellectual argument were admitted to the fullest extent, no one would pretend to say that women were intellectually inferior to many of those men whom the legislature in its wisdom had seen fit to endow with the suffrage. (Applause.) All they were urging by the resolution which he proposed was, that women who had the same qualifications as men should be admitted to the exercise of electoral rights in parliamentary matters. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. G. H. KIRWOOD seconded the resolution, and contended that there was not found a greater proportion of intelligence among men than among women. Some of the sweetest poetry was written by women, and some of the most beautiful language was written by women. They were successful in Universities, and in the Cambridge examinations; and therefore, without doubt or hesitancy, they had a great claim for women with regard to intelligence. (Hear, hear.) With regard to industry, he was bold to say that women worked not only quite as hard as men, but even a great deal harder; and when they remembered that in England and Wales, there were three millions of women who were earning their own living in a respectable way, without the help of men, they could not say that the whole nation was represented in the House of Commons, when so many persons were excluded from the Suffrage. The laws passed by the Legislature had as much to do with the women as they had to do with the peasant or the peer. Did they think that if the mind of woman had influenced the House of Commons, that they would have argued for twenty long years before they passed the Bill for the Abolition of Slavery? Women were equal to men in intellect; they shared with men the happiness of wise laws, or had to bear with men the misery of bad legislation. (Hear, hear.)

Miss BECKER supported the resolution, which was carried by a large majority, the dissentients numbering less than a dozen.

The Rev. J. O. HILL proposed that a petition to the House of Commons be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and that memorials be sent to the members for the city and county of Hereford, and to the member for the borough of Leominster, asking them to support Mr. Courtney's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

Mr. PHILIP RALPH (ex-Mayor of Hereford) seconded the resolution, and said he believed that if women were admitted to the Parliamentary franchise there would be no reason whatever to regret the passing of the Bill. (Hear, hear.)

Miss STURGE and Dr. ELIZA DUNBAR also supported the resolution, which was carried almost unanimously, only about half a dozen hands were held up against it.

On the motion of Mr. F. WILDING, seconded by the Rev. G. H. KIRWOOD, a vote of thanks was accorded to the ladies who had addressed the meeting.

Miss BECKER acknowledged the compliment, and proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding.

The Rev. W. D. V. DUNCOMBE, seconded. Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN acknowledged the compliment, and the meeting, which had lasted over two hours, then broke up.

HIGH WYCOMBE.

A meeting was held in the Wycombe Town Hall on April 25th. The chair was occupied by Mr. Wyeth, and there were also on the platform Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss Annie Young, delegates from the National Society for Women's Suffrage; Alderman Thurlow, Councillor Wootton, Mr. W. Butler, and Mr. D. Clarke.—The Chairman, in his opening remarks, spoke

of the importance of any question that affected the representation of the people, and expressed a strong opinion that taxation and representation should go together.—Councillor Wootton moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Alderman Thurlow, and carried unanimously.—Miss Annie Young and Miss Caroline Biggs also addressed the meeting in support of the movement, and a resolution was unanimously agreed to that a petition to Parliament should be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and that memorials to the members for the borough and the county requesting them to support Mr. Leonard Courtney's "Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women" should be signed by the chairman and forwarded by him.

READING.

A public meeting was held on May 2nd, in the Reading Town Hall, in support of the Bill for conferring the Parliamentary suffrage upon women householders. The MAYOR (Mr. J. Silver) presided, and was supported on the platform by Mr. George Palmer (since elected member for Reading), the Rev. C. D. DuPort, the Rev. C. R. Honey, Lady Spokes, Mr. J. A. Brain, Mr. D. Clark, Miss C. A. Biggs and Miss Hart (deputation from the National Society of Women's Suffrage), &c.

The CHAIRMAN said the question before them was a public, not a private or a party political question; and the text was "Is it right?"

Mr. PALMER moved the first resolution—"That it is contrary to the principles of free constitutional government that any class or number of persons should be deprived of direct representation in Parliament; and this meeting is of opinion that the Parliamentary vote should be given to women on the same conditions as it is now given to men." For some reason he could not explain why the question of women's rights had been treated with ridicule by men who otherwise were very sensible. But there were women as hard-headed as men, as capable of defending their own position, who asked no favour, but were prepared to support their claim to the suffrage upon sound, logical grounds, as they thought, and as he also ventured to think. Having spoken of the influence exerted by women upon the progress of the race in all ages, he said the principle of giving equal rights to those who were upon an equality as to property and rateable value had already been conceded, whether by design or accident, in matters of local government. When women exercised their legitimate and natural right to interfere in the choice of Parliamentary representatives, questions would be brought to the surface which had been kept out of sight until now, but which nevertheless needed attention. (Applause.)

The Rev. C. D. DUPORT seconded the motion, which was supported by Miss C. A. Biggs, and carried, with two or three dissentients.

Alderman EXALL proposed a resolution requesting the members for the borough and county to support Mr. Courtney's Bill, which was seconded by Miss HART, and passed unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor concluded the proceedings.

MARLBOROUGH.

On May 2nd a highly respectable audience assembled at the Town Hall, Marlborough, at a meeting called to promote the extension of the parliamentary franchise to women householders. The MAYOR of Marlborough presided, and was supported by Mrs. L. S. Ashworth Hallett and Rev. A. C. Macpherson, who formed a deputation from Bristol.

The MAYOR said he had been asked to preside over the meeting, and he agreed with the object, as he thought that those ladies who were householders or who were the owners of property should be allowed to give a vote.

The Rev. A. G. BLEECK moved the first resolution which was to the usual effect. It was seconded by the Rev. A. C. MACPHERSON.

Mr. J. H. HARRISON moved as an amendment—"That this meeting, while approving of the extension of parliamentary franchise to women, condemns the agitation in favour of pushing women forward to fill every office now held by men." The Mayor declined to accept the amendment as having anything to do with the meeting, which only dealt with the parliamentary franchise.

Mr. A. CHURCH begged to propose as the amendment "That this meeting does not consider it necessary to alter the law with regard to women's suffrage." Mr. J. A. HARRISON seconded the amendment.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT seconded the resolution. The Mayor then took the sense of the meeting, and declared the resolution carried.

Mr. HALLETT proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, and expressed himself extremely gratified with the support given that evening to the proposal for extending the franchise without distinction of sex.

The MAYOR, in reply, said it was a great pleasure to him to preside over a meeting which, although opinion was divided, had passed off so pleasantly.

MONAGHAN.

A lecture on "Women's Rights" was delivered by Miss Tod, of Belfast, in the Court House, on 25th April, which was largely attended. The chair was occupied by J. Buchanan Rose, Esq., president of the Young Men's Improvement Association, by whose invitation the lecture was given. The Rev. J. Alison, Messrs. Little, Heatley, &c., took part in the proceedings, which were very cordial and unanimous.

LEGACURRY.

Miss Isabella M. S. Tod, of Belfast, gave a lecture at Legacurry, near Lisburn, on "Women's Rights from a Christian point of view," in Legacurry Presbyterian Church, on Friday evening, for the benefit of the local Sunday School. The house was well filled with a respectable audience. The Rev. Mr. Brown introduced Miss Tod, who sustained for more than one hour the attention of her hearers. The address elicited warm applause, and the object in view was fully attained.—*Northern Whig.*

LINLITHGOW.

A meeting was held in the County Rooms, Linlithgow, in April last, the deputation from Edinburgh being Mrs. Masson, Miss Louisa Stevenson, and Miss Kirkland. The Rev. Dr. Millar Nicolson in the chair. Mrs. Masson and Miss Louisa Stevenson gave short addresses, clearly explaining their views, and claiming equal rights for proprietors and ratepayers as proprietors and ratepayers. A petition in support of the Bill was adopted.

DRAWING ROOM MEETINGS.

LONDON.

On May 17th, Mrs. Thomas Taylor had at her residence, 1, Hyde Park Gardens, an "At Home," which was very numerously attended, and at which a discussion took place on "Women's Sphere, Political and Social." Mr. Fitch, who filled the office of chairman, in some opening remarks alluded to several favourable symptoms with regard to the future of women, including the increased facilities for their higher education and the opportunities afforded for their entrance into honourable, useful, and remunerative employments, some being in the public service; and it would, he thought, be a proper sequel to these social improvements to admit women to the exercise of political rights.—Miss Orme spoke to the same effect.—Mr. Whateley

Cooke Taylor, one of her Majesty's factory inspectors, gave a brief history of factory legislation in its bearing upon women.—Miss Tod and Miss C. A. Biggs continued the discussion.—The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and one to the hostess, Mrs. Taylor.

ETON.

A drawing-room meeting was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hale, Eton College, on the 18th May, which was addressed by Mr. Fitch, Inspector of Schools, Miss Tod, and Miss Helen Taylor. An opportunity was then given for discussion, when a number of questions were asked by gentlemen present, which were answered by the speakers. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Hale for their kindness in giving so many the opportunity of hearing the subject of women's suffrage so fully treated. A petition to the House of Commons was signed by the Chairman (Mr. Hale) on behalf of the meeting.

[Several notices of meetings are postponed owing to want of space.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Dear Madam,—It has been represented to me that, as I was secretary of the London National Society for Women's Suffrage, it may be useful for me to send you for insertion in your journal a short statement respecting the amalgamation of the London National Society with the National Society. This desirable result has been effected entirely through the instrumentality of our new leader in the House of Commons, Mr. Leonard Courtney. He represented very strongly to the executive committees of both societies that the existence of the two societies in London, having the same object in view and working in the same groove, was a weakness to the cause which we all had at heart, and he advocated amalgamation. The London National Society were the more willing to follow his advice as they believed that the difference of opinion that had caused the separation some years ago had practically disappeared, and that both societies were convinced of the desirability of confining their efforts to the obtaining the suffrage for women. This being so, there was no longer any reason for the existence of two societies in London, and thus Mr. Courtney found his work of reconciliation easy. The two societies are now united under the title of "The National Society for Women's Suffrage," and meetings of the joint committee have been held. I have only to add that I believe we are all heartily desirous of working together in the future so as to promote as efficiently as possible the success of our cause; and I have no doubt that we shall find union to be strength.—I remain, Madam, yours faithfully,

ELIZA C. CAIRNES,

Hon. Sec. of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

London, 20th May, 1878.

TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—I reside as below, and, as a householder, have a parliamentary vote. My neighbours of Nos. 4, 5, and 6, same sized houses, same rents, rates, taxes, &c., &c., have no vote, being women householders, widow ladies, though their husbands each had when living. Now, if "taxation without representation" be "tyranny" to me, surely it is equally so to my neighbours, females though they be.—Yours very truly,

3, St. Thomas's Square, W. E. CORNER.
Hackney, London, May 8th, 1878.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING MAY, 1878.

Table listing names and amounts for Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage, including Mr. E. Binney, Mrs. Long, Mr. M. M. Warburg, etc.

DUBLIN COMMITTEE.

Table listing names and amounts for Dublin Committee, including Mrs. Brooks, Charles Cobbe, Mr. Charles Eason, etc.

Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, } Hon. Miss McDOWELL, 45, Mespil Road, } Secs.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM APRIL 20 TO MAY 20, 1878.

Table listing names and amounts for Central Committee, including Mrs. F. Pennington, Mrs. S. A. Allen, Mr. Babb, etc.

PETITIONS.

FIFTEENTH REPORT. 10 April—7 May, 1878.

Table listing petition details for the fifteenth report, including location, date, and number of signatures.

Main table of petition details on page 94, including location, date, and number of signatures.

Table of petition details on page 95, including location, date, and number of signatures.

Total No. of Petitions 303—Signatures 63,053

SIXTEENTH REPORT.

8—10 May, 1878.

Brought forward, Petitions 303—Signatures 63,053

Table of petition details for the sixteenth report, including location, date, and number of signatures.

Table of petition details on page 95, including location, date, and number of signatures.

Total No. of Petitions 336—Signatures 72,239

SEVENTEENTH REPORT.

13—17 May, 1878.

Brought forward, Petitions 336—Signatures 72,239

Table of petition details for the seventeenth report, including location, date, and number of signatures.

Table of petition details on page 95, including location, date, and number of signatures.

Total No. of Petitions 403—Signatures 87,408



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