

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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APRIL 1, 1890.

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## SIGN THE WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' DECLARATION!

Women who are householders and ratepayers are earnestly requested to sign the Women Householders' Declaration. See next page.

Women desirous to sign are requested to send their names and addresses, with a statement of the nature of their qualification whether as occupier or owner of property, to the Editor, *Women's Suffrage Journal*, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester. Forms will also be sent for collecting signatures on application.

## MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

The whole principle on which the Marriage Law of this land is based is involved in the acceptance or rejection of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. In all countries where the Marriage Law differs from our own in this particular it differs in others, not generally acceptable even to Marriage Law reformers, permitting marriage not only with a husband's brother, or a man and his stepdaughter, but between such near blood relations as uncle and niece.

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- Colonial and Foreign Notes.

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

[Continued from our last issue.]

WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' DECLARATION.

We, the undersigned unmarried women and widows, possessing qualifications which would entitle men to vote in elections for members of Parliament, declare that we consider our exclusion from the privilege an infraction of the principle that taxation and representation should go together, and we hereby express our desire for an alteration in the laws which shall enable such women to exercise the Parliamentary franchise if they desire to do so.

NAME.	Qualification, whether as occupier or owner of houses, land, or other property.	ADDRESS.	Parliamentary division in which the qualifying property is situated.
Miss AIRY	...Occupier of house	...24, Nelson-street, Greenwich	...Greenwich
Miss AYLMER	...Owner of land	...Donadea Castle, co. Kildare	...Kildare, North
Miss SOPHIA BEALE	...Occup. & leaseholder of house	...35, Albany-street, N.W.	...St. Pancras, West
Miss BOWLES	...Occupier of house	...5, Alexandra Terrace, Gloucester	...Gloucester
Miss ANNA BRANDER	...Occupier of house and land	...Linnard's & Manor Farms, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey	...Chertsey
Mrs. ELIZABETH BUTCHER	...Occupier of house	...44, Bathwick-street, Bath	...Bath
Mrs. CASH	...Occupier of house	...Notting Hill, London, W.	...Kensington
Mrs. CATHERINE COHEN	...Occupier of house	...28, Sloane Square, Chelsea	...Chelsea
Miss EMMA CONS	...Occupier and owner of house	...Surrey Lodge, Lambeth, S.E.	...Lambeth
Miss A. E. CRAWFORD	...Occupier and owner of house	...Beaufort East, Bath	...Bath
Mrs. F. S. DICKINSON	...Occupier and owner of house	...Bramblebury, Wandsworth Common	...Wandsworth
"	...Owner of land	...Stroud, Gloucestershire	...Gloucestershire, Stroud
Miss K. E. DIXON	...Occupier of tenement	...25, Brunswick Buildings, Whitechapel, E.	...Whitechapel
Miss EMILIE ELY	...Occupier of house	...The Priory, Croydon	...Croydon
Mrs. M. M. EVANS	...Occupier of house	...3A, Duncannon-street, W.C.	...Strand
Mrs. HELEN GLINN	...Joint occupier of house	...Eigne, Hereford	...Hereford
Mrs. GREEN	...Occupier of house	...10, Vicar's Close, Wells	...Somerset, Wells
"	...Owner of land	...Rugeley	...Staffordshire, West
Mrs. HAYCROFT	...Occupier of house	...17, Portland Place, Brighton	...Brighton
Mrs. REBECCA HOLLAND	...Occupier and owner of house	...35, Duke-street, Southport	...Lanc., S.W., Southport
Miss HOPKINS	...Occupier and owner of house	...53, North Marino Road, Scarborough	...Scarborough
Mrs. HUGHES	...Occupier of house	...43, Beaufort-street, S.W.	...Chelsea
"	...Owner of house	...Queen Anne Road, Maidstone	...Kent, Medway
Miss FANNY JOHNSON	...Occupier of house	...3, Ducie Avenue, Bolton	...Bolton
Miss M. S. JOHNSON	...Occup. & owner of house & land	...The Steppes, Hereford	...Hereford
Mrs. LAWRIE	...Occupier of house	...30, Albert Gate, S.W.	...Westminster
"	...Owner of land	...Gravellye, Hayward's Heath	...Sussex, East
Miss MARION LUXMOORE	...Owner of land	...Okehampton Park	...Devon, Tavistock
Mrs. CATHERINE MASTERS	...Occupier of house	...London Road, St. Albans	...Herts., St. Albans
Mrs. AGNES PAGE	...Occupier of house	...Arundel Cottage, St. Albans	...Herts., St. Albans
Mrs. CATHERINE LLOYD	...Owner of house	...Boroughfields, St. Albans	...Herts., St. Albans
Miss ELIZABETH RANDALL	...Occupier of house	...High-street, St. Albans	...Herts., St. Albans
Dr. ANNIE M'CALL	...Occupier of house	...2, Stockwell Road, S.W.	...Lambeth, Brixton
"	...Occupier of house	...74, Jeffrey's Road, S.W.	...Lambeth, Kennington
"	...Occupier of house	...131, Clapham Road, S.W.	...Battersea
Mrs. HARRIET M'CHEYNE	...Occupier and owner of houses	...Albert Terrace, Bedford	...Bedford
Mrs. M'KINNEL	...Occupier of house	...47, Castle-street, Dumfries	...Dumfries
Miss M. A. MILLARD	...Occupier of houses	...10 and 10A, Pulteney-street, Bath	...Bath
Mrs. M'LINTOCK	...Occup. & owner of house & land	...Grove House, Church Stretton	...Shropshire, South
Mrs. ELIZABETH M. MOORE	...Occupier of house	...Southside, Rockleaze, Stoke Bishop	...Gloucestersh., Thornbury
Mrs. PIERREPONT MUNDY	...Occup. & owner of house & land	...Thornbury House, Gloucestershire	...Gloucestersh., Thornbury
"	...Owner of land	...Castle Townshend, Co. Cork	...Cork, South
"	...Owner of land	...Farranakilla, Co. Kerry	...Kerry, West
Miss MARGARET PAINTON	...Occupier of house	...5, Craven-street, Strand, W.C.	...Strand
Miss SOPHIA JANE PEDDER	...Occup. & owner of house & land	...Tickton Lodge, Clevedon	...Somerset, North
Miss E. D. PONDER	...Occupier of house	...99, St. James's Road, Croydon	...Croydon
Miss MELITA PONSONBY	...Occupier & owner of house	...4, Wilton Crescent, Belgrave Square, S.W.	...St. George's, Hanover Sq.
Mrs. MANNING PRENTICE	...Occupier & owner of house	...The Firs, Westbury Park, Bristol	...Bristol, North
"	...Owner of 12 maltings and other business property	...Stowmarket	...Suffolk, Stowmarket
Mrs. E. F. POULDEN	...Occupier of house	...Combe Lodge, Lavender Hill	...Clapham
"	...Owner of land	...Round Hill, Sydenham	...Kent, Sevenoaks
Miss CLARA ANNE SMITH	...Occup. & owner of house & land	...Northvill, Winchcombe	...Gl'cestersh., Tewkesbury
Miss AGATHA STACEY	...Occupier of house	...30, Calthorpe Road, Birmingham	...Birmingham, Edgbaston
"	...Owner of house	...43, Beaufort Road, Birmingham	...Warwickshire, Tamworth

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MR. M'LAREN has set down his Resolution for April 25th, but as it is only second order it is not probable that a discussion upon it can take place that day. He will, however, go on balloting every Tuesday and Friday, and a first for that day four weeks may be secured at any time.

Mr. HALDANE has re-introduced his Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, which covers very much wider ground than the Parliamentary suffrage, and deals with many subjects on which public opinion is certainly not ripe for action. It is not possible that this or any Bill dealing with the franchise can come on this session. Were it to remain permanently on the notice paper it would probably have the effect of barring the moving of the Resolution. It is, however, expected that should a day be secured for the latter, arrangements will be made to overcome the difficulty so as to allow of a debate and division on the Resolution.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH, perhaps disappointed that he had no opportunity of delivering a speech against women's suffrage in moving his amendment to Mr. M'LAREN'S resolution, has given expression to his views in a letter to one of his constituents, which he has caused to be extensively circulated through the Press. The manner in which the communication has been received by the Press should make Mr. SMITH doubt the wisdom of his assertions. Very excellent articles, among others, have been published by the *Liverpool Mercury*, the *Leeds Mercury*, and the *Bristol Mercury*. The first-named paper says: "It is impossible to follow the hon. member for Flintshire through his course of reasoning, without feeling that for once his apprehension of ill consequences has outrun his judgment." The *Leeds Mercury* says: "It is necessary to point out that Mr. SMITH'S arguments, so far as they relate to the State, are totally at variance with democratic principles, and closely akin to the line of reasoning which was adopted by the opponents of all the great extensions of the Parliamentary electorate, among male citizens, which have taken place

during the present century. The *Bristol Mercury* says: "He cries out in horror at the notion of women being allowed to settle such questions as leasehold enfranchisement, free trade *versus* fair trade, and mono-metallism *versus* bi-metallism. But, nevertheless, we believe that Mr. SMITH was one of the majority which conferred the right of settling these awe-inspiring problems on HODGE and his brothers who know as little about, say bi-metallism as they do about Euclid or trigonometry."

Mr. H. D. POCHIN, to whom the letter was addressed, has published a reply. We give the correspondence on another page, and our readers will be able to judge for themselves on which side the weight of argument lies.

MANY Bills closely affecting the special concerns of women have been introduced this session. Some of these have no chance of discussion, but others will certainly be brought forward. Among the latter is the Infant Life Protection Bill, which has already passed second reading, and has been referred to a Select Committee. It is to be hoped that the searching ordeal to which the Bill will then be subjected will result in the removal or modification of the cruel and objectionable provisions to be found in its present form.

Vast numbers of honest and respectable women throughout the country eke out their livelihood, and relieve parents by taking in babies to nurse. Undoubtedly abuses do occur. Cases are occasionally brought forward in the police courts which show that the trust has been abused, and that the unfortunate nurslings have been treated with criminal neglect. But it would be most unjust to assume that these instances represent the manner in which babies are usually treated by those in charge of them, and it would be monstrous to subject all houses in which there is a child at nurse, to registration and police supervision because of the delinquencies of a few.

The Bill proposes to enact that the local authority may appoint and remove officers for the enforcement of the Act, and that any officer so appointed may visit any house in which *he* has reason to believe that any infant

under the age of five years is kept for hire or reward, and may inspect the condition of the house and of any infant kept therein.

Surely if any such officers are appointed by the local authority they ought to be women. But the whole system of police inspection of private houses is objectionable. Infants, whether in charge of their parents or of other persons, should be protected against cruelty and neglect, but this should be done by means of the ordinary criminal law for the punishment of actual offences against infants, and not by the manufacture of artificial crimes by an Act which would subject to fine and imprisonment a woman who had taken the best possible care of her nursling merely because she had done so in an unregistered house.

THE marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill stands for second reading on April 30th. We can but repeat our protest against so serious an alteration in the position of the woman in the marriage relation, while women are debarred from expressing their consent or otherwise to the proposed change through the constitutional medium of the suffrage.

THE exploits of Mrs. LECKS and Mrs. ALESHINE are rivalled, if not exceeded, by the experiences of Miss LACY, who was found and rescued from the wreck of the Quetta after she had been swimming for twenty hours. It is not recorded that Miss LACY had a life-preserver, nor whether she had time, before entering the water, to put on black stockings as a preparation for sharks, creatures which one might expect to abound in the waters of Torres Straits. The escape seems almost miraculous, and strong indeed must have been the courage which could have sustained its heroine under the prolonged struggle for life, and the physical endurance which enabled a woman to swim for twenty hours without food or rest. We doubt whether the annals of aquatic exploits contain any record of a feat by a man which exceeds the achievement of Miss LACY.

A BILL relating to the civil rights of women in France has been brought before the Senate by M. CHARLES MARTIN and eighty other senators.

The preamble points out the anomalies of the present state of the law. How a widow may be guardian of her children and grandchildren, but any other woman is incapable of being a guardian. How a woman may be a

witness in a criminal trial, but may not attest the registration of a birth or death; she may testify to the identity of a man in a court of assize where he is being tried for his life, but she may not testify to his identity before a notary, mayor, or justice of the peace in a mere business formality.

The preamble further points out that these anomalies are due to the Code Napoleon, and cites, as showing the law under the First Republic, the instances of M. PASSY, member of the Institute and ex-deputy, who possesses a certificate of birth of an aunt, dated 7 Floreal, year IV., witnessed by his great-grandmother, and VICTOR HUGO, whose certificate of birth was signed, on 8 Ventose, year X., by Madame MARIE ANNE DESSIRIER.

The Bill (the text of which is given in the *Droit des Femmes* for March 2nd) proposes in the first place so to modify the 37th article of the civil code that witnesses in all civil matters may be chosen without distinction of sex, providing, however, that husband and wife shall not both be witnesses to the same deed. In the next place it provides that where a family council has to be constituted to appoint a guardian, in default of any appointed by deceased parents, articles 402 to 405 shall be so altered as to do away with the present preference of the paternal over the maternal line of ancestors, and of grandfathers and great-grandfathers over grandmothers and great-grandmothers. Finally, it proposes to repeal the clause in article 442 of the code which renders women, other than the mother or grandmother of the child, ineligible as guardians. H. B.

THE programme of the "Labour Conference" now assembled at Berlin contains five subjects concerning the regulation of labour, to be discussed and reported upon by delegates from the principal states of Europe. It is expected that the result of the deliberations of these experts will have a great and important influence on the legislation of the future as to the conditions under which men, women, and children shall earn their daily bread.

The first of these subjects is the "regulation of work in mines," and the first question to be considered is whether such employment is to be prohibited for children under a certain age, and for women.

The second concerns Sunday labour, and affects men and women equally.

The third and fourth deal with the regulation of work for children and young people, whether boys or girls.

The fifth subject for discussion is the restriction of

female labour, which, as experience has shown, means in many cases the exclusion of women from trades and occupations not unsuitable for them; and all these are matters of vital importance to their interests and welfare.

Yet, as far as can be seen from the reports, in none of these countries have women been consulted or represented at this Conference. Moreover, this is not a case in which it can be said in truth, that the interests of men and women are identical; in the present struggle for existence it is not so. All who have been brought into contact with the men and women most deeply concerned with the conditions of labour know that much jealousy is felt, and much selfishness, conscious or unconscious, may be shown in dealing with this matter in a conference where the interests of women labour are entirely unrepresented. N. C.

MANY of our readers have probably never heard of the "yellow ribbon," familiar though we all are with the blue ribbon and white ribbon of temperance organisations. Nevertheless the "yellow sunflower ribbon" seems rapidly becoming as marked an emblem of a supporter of women's suffrage in the United States as the blue ribbon is of a temperance advocate amongst ourselves.

The idea emanated from Kansas, where the president of the Kansas Equal Rights Association first suggested it about three years ago, and was received with enthusiasm by men and women, whether members of the association or not. In a few weeks the idea spread beyond Kansas, and was taken up by both the National and American Woman Suffrage Associations. Already it is beginning to attract to itself those associations of ideas which give force and significance to a badge. Thus a correspondent in Kansas writes: "Fancies have gathered round it, as that the sunflower is peculiarly appropriate for suffragists, since this flower follows civilisation, always looks towards the light, is trampled on but not killed, and comes up anew every year in spite of discouraging frosts. The colour is also appropriate in itself, being one of the primal tints, 'born of purity and light,' the hue of cheering sunshine, of precious gold, and of the fruitful heart of flowers, and the symbol of dawn." H. B.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *March 3rd.*  
THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. M'LAREN asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the memorials presented to him in 1888 and 1889, largely signed by members of that House, asking that a day might be kept for the discussion of the Women's Franchise Bill, he would

undertake not to take Government business on Tuesday, March 4th, before the motion on this subject was disposed of.

Mr. W. H. SMITH said he was sorry he could not give an answer satisfactory to the hon. gentleman. The debate on the Report of the Special Commission would take precedence of all other orders until it was concluded. He was therefore afraid the hon. gentleman would lose his day.

Mr. M'LAREN said he should move that the debate be postponed until after his motion. (Laughter.)

*March 4th.*

Mr. W. H. SMITH moved that the order for resuming the adjourned debate on the Special Commission (1888) Report have precedence on every day for which it is set down of all other orders of the day and notices of motion.

Mr. W. M'LAREN said the subject in reference to which he had to appeal to the right hon. gentleman was of even more importance than that mentioned by the right hon. member for West Belfast—namely, the resolution for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women which stood in his name, as the first order for that day (Tuesday). (Laughter and "Hear, hear.") Hon. members might laugh, but the subject was one of great and still growing importance, and a very much larger number of persons were interested in that question than in the one referring to the National teachers of Ireland, and great disappointment and regret would be caused by its delay. Whilst he had no wish to divide the House on the matter, yet he felt it necessary to make a protest against the course adopted. They had been repeatedly deprived of their day for discussion, and during the last two sessions the First Lord of the Treasury had been waited upon by deputations from both sides of the House, who had presented memorials that a day should be given for the discussion of the question. He would therefore ask the right hon. gentleman to give an undertaking that if they managed to get another day he would not deprive them of it.

Mr. WOODALL hoped that the Government would take the question into consideration.

Sir R. TEMPLE ventured to recommend to the consideration of the Government what had fallen from the hon. member for Crewe.

Mr. W. H. SMITH admitted that there was a hardship in the case of the motion of the hon. member for Crewe, but he was afraid that the circumstances under which the House was placed by the length of the speeches to which his hon. friend had referred formed a difficulty which it was not in the power of any leader of the House to remedy. The circumstances of the case were known to the House, and he believed that the House desired to continue this debate until it was concluded, as was the usual practice in debates of this character. Therefore he was obliged to pass by what were called the rights of private members in order that this debate might be taken up and finished as speedily as was consistent with the gravity of the question. With regard to the request of the hon. member for Crewe for an undertaking that if they were fortunate enough to secure another day it would not be taken away from them, he did not think that any Minister would be justified in making an absolute promise of that kind, because he could not tell what might be the circumstances of the case at the time. He could only say that he was most anxious that the hon. member should have his opportunity, and he could say that he would not wilfully or mischievously, so to speak, deprive him of it.

*March 6th.*

#### WOMEN AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Commander BETHELL asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was true, as stated in the Press, that women at present sat on the London County Council; and whether, in that case, the Council was legally constituted; and if it was not, whether Her Majesty's Government proposed to take any action in the matter.

Mr. W. H. SMITH: I am informed that it is true that two ladies sit on the London County Council. Their right to do so is a question of law, which it is not the duty of the Government to deal with, but I understand that the action of these ladies will form the subject of legal proceedings. It is alleged that the fact of disqualified persons taking seats at a council does not in any way affect the legal constitution of the council as a whole, but the disqualified persons by such action lay themselves open to legal proceedings.

March 18th.

## LADY REPORTERS AND "THE GALLERY."

Mr. BRADLAUGH asked the Speaker whether in the event of a vacancy occurring in the reporters' gallery there was any order of the House which would prevent the application of a lady for admission to the reporters' gallery being granted.

The SPEAKER: There is no order of the House against a lady being admitted as a reporter to the reporters' gallery. Within the last few days an application has been made to the sergeant-at-arms by a lady, who stated that she was the representative of a journal which advocated the political and social rights of women—(hear, hear)—and the sergeant-at-arms, in my opinion very properly, replied that he had no authority to deviate from the existing practice. (Hear, hear.) Nor shall I think it right to intervene in any way unless I have the express and direct sanction of the House in a matter which is a novelty, and which might lead to consequences which it would be difficult at this moment to foresee. (Loud laughter.)

March 21st.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Mr. Haldane introduced a Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women.

March 24th.

## NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. McLAREN: On this day four weeks to move a resolution in favour of conferring the Parliamentary franchise on women.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

## NORTH ST. PANCRAS.

A vacancy occurred in this district by the succession to the peerage of Mr. Cochran-Baillie. The candidates were Mr. H. R. Graham, Conservative and Unionist, and Mr. Bolton, Liberal. Mr. T. D. Bolton was elected. In a letter to Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Graham wrote as follows: "I am very glad to be able to answer your question in the affirmative, that I am in favour of giving the franchise to women who possess the legal qualification for it." The opinions of Mr. Bolton on the subject are not known, as he reserves the expression of his views to some future occasion.

## GLAMORGAN, MID.

The lamented death of Mr. C. R. M. Talbot caused an election in this constituency. Mr. S. T. Evans was returned unopposed. In a letter to a lady who wrote asking him to support Mr. McLaren's resolution on March 4th, Mr. Evans wrote: "There is no chance of Mr. McLaren's resolution coming on to-morrow, as the Government have appropriated the whole time. If it does come on, I should out of conviction vote in favour of it, although my opinion is that it will be a sorry day for the Liberal party when the franchise is extended to women. I may be wrong, and I hope it may turn out that I am."

## AYR BURGHS.

The retirement of Mr. Sinclair caused a vacancy in these burghs. The candidates were Mr. Routledge (Radical) and Mr. James Somervell (Conservative). The election took place on March 24th, and resulted in the return of Mr. Somervell, who is in favour of women's suffrage. The following letters were sent by the candidates in reply to Miss Kirkland, secretary to the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage:—

King's Arms Hotel, Ayr, March 20th, 1890.

Mr. Edmund Routledge begs to acknowledge the receipt of Miss Kirkland's letter and enclosure, and in reply would point out that he is not a candidate for Ayrshire, and that the matter referred to by Miss Kirkland has not yet come before the Ayr Burghs electors.

Ayr, 22nd March, 1890.

Dear madam,—In answer to your letter of 19th inst., I assure you that I have long been of the belief that women should have the same privileges in Parliamentary elections as they at present have in municipal and school board elections, and if returned for the Ayr Burghs I should certainly support a measure having that object.—Believe me, yours faithfully,  
JAMES SOMERVELL.  
Miss Eliza Scott Kirkland.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

## BRISTOL.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage was held at 69, Park-street, on March 8th, under the presidency of Miss EMILY STURGE. There were also present Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., General Still, the Rev. T. W. Openshaw, Dr. Beddoe, Mrs. Beddoe, Mr. S. Tanner, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Mr. T. G. Palmer Hallett, Mrs. Hale, the Rev. E. S. Bayliffe, &c.

Miss STURGE said they were met once again, though they hoped that every time would be the last. For the last two or three years they had been very unfortunate in Parliament, for owing to various circumstances they had not been able to introduce their Bill. It seemed to be very much more difficult to get a day than it used to be. They were, she was glad to say, a non-party organisation, but they suffered a little on that account, because each political party was a little afraid of them, and consequently they did not get the hearty help of either. She rejoiced, however, to think that they were not attached to any one political party, and she thought it had been shown that the fears of those parties were groundless, and that women were as much divided into parties as men. This was proved by the number of women's political associations which existed. It was very satisfactory to note that all the societies had united on their resolution to be brought before Parliament, and she might add that several local members had promised to support that resolution. (Applause.)

Miss Helen Blackburn (secretary) presented the report and balance sheet, which showed that the income for the year was £127. 3s. 1d.

Mr. LEWIS FRY, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, said he had been asked by Colonel Hill to say that he was prevented by another engagement, which he could not possibly put aside, from being present, but he was a hearty supporter of the objects they had in view. (Applause.) He (the speaker) had always supported this movement, because he thought it was founded upon principles of justice and equal rights of citizens, and those principles he believed to be true and right in regard to legislation, and he fully believed that this movement was destined before long to be successful. He did not think that the promoters of the movement had reason to be disappointed at the position it now occupied. He thought that they had, perhaps, a right to complain of the misfortunes that had attended the progress of the matter in Parliament in the late sessions, but if they took a wider view, and considered the opinion of the country now as compared with but a few years ago, they would be surprised that a question of this kind had made such rapid and such great progress in a comparatively short period of time. (Hear, hear.) It was quite within his recollection when it was thought altogether exceptional for a woman to take part in matter of a social or benevolent or religious nature, and still more was it thought almost unbecoming for a woman to express her opinions upon political matters. All that had changed in a very short time. The municipal vote and the County Council vote had been conferred upon women, and the majority of the members of the present Parliament had expressed opinions favourable to this movement, and all political parties rather fought with each other in their endeavour to get the advantages of women's influence on their side. There were Women's Liberal Associations, as had been stated, and there was the Primrose League, and that small—unfortunately small—party, as he thought, the Liberal Unionists, had reason to be very grateful for the help of women. Therefore they had no reason to be disappointed, and he fully believed that before long a measure conferring women's suffrage would become law. Experience had done away with nearly all the prejudices in the matter. It used to be supposed that if there should be universal suffrage, which was the hope of some, then, inasmuch as women outnumbered men, it would be equal to handing over the Government of the country to women. They found that that idea was now changed, and they observed that women possessed as varied opinions in politics as men. Liberals believed that they would enlist women's sympathies, and Conservatives trusted that they might induce women to support the old historic traditions and institutions of the country; while Liberal Unionists had already secured the help of some of the strongest voices amongst the women.

## NOTTINGHAM.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Notts. branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Exchange Buildings, Nottingham, on March 13th. Mr. JOHN WARREN was voted to the chair. Amongst others present were the Rev. T. B. Ferris, Messrs. J. C. Warren, Green, and W. J. Douse, Mrs. Farmer, Miss Woods, Mrs. Green, Miss Hopkins, Miss Hutchinson, Miss Leavers, Miss Guilford, Mrs. Cowen (hon. sec.), &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said he thought it quite unnecessary for him to say anything in furtherance of the cause in aid of which they had assembled. They were pretty well agreed about the matter, and were doing their best to carry it through, so much so that in a very short time he thought their labours would be concluded, and all women who paid rates and taxes should have the suffrage the same as men. (Applause.)

Mrs. COWEN (hon. secretary) read the annual report. The committee felt disappointed that the council of the Women's Liberal Federation had not yet ventured to place women's suffrage amongst the objects to be obtained. They hoped that all friends of the suffrage, of whatever political colour, would urge their associations to take a stand upon this phase of "justice for women." It was gratifying to find that the principle of women's suffrage had been more and more assented to by speakers of all shades of politics; indeed it seemed to be altogether illogical that politicians who asked the aid of women to canvass or speak for them should still deny them the right of giving effect to their opinion by the silent vote. The committee were glad to report that at the last school board election, three ladies, Mrs. Cowen, Mrs. Bayley, and Mrs. McCallan, were elected. If ladies were capable of fulfilling such a responsible position as that of member of a school board, surely they should be capable of voting for members of Parliament.

Mrs. COWEN also read the financial statement, in the absence of Mrs. Jessie Hind (hon. treasurer) though ill. The statement showed a balance due to the treasurer of £2. 11s. There was a falling off in subscriptions, partly due to persons leaving the town.

On the motion of Mr. J. C. WARREN, seconded by the Rev. T. B. FERRIS, the report and financial statement were adopted.

The Committee of Management were re-elected with the exception of Mr. J. A. Cooke, who has left the town, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

## BEDFORD.

A meeting was held at the Corn Exchange, Bedford, on February 26th, in favour of the women's suffrage movement. Canon Haddock, a prominent member of the local Conservative party, occupied the chair, and the principal speakers were Mr. Justin M'Carthy, M.P., and Miss Balmorie. Mr. Lafone, M.P. for Bermondsey, was to have spoken, but an attack of influenza prevented his attending. Dr. Carter, a leading Radical, in moving a vote of thanks to the speakers, said he considered women's suffrage was a question outside of party politics, and one strongly advocated by partisans on both sides. A local society has been started in connection with the movement.

## SOUTHPORT.

The annual meeting of the Southport branch of the Guild of the Unrepresented was held at the Town Hall, Southport, on February 25th. The Mayor of Southport (Mr. A. Pilling) presided. On the motion of Mrs. Sherbrooke, it was resolved that a vote of condolence should be sent to Mrs. Thomasson, Bolton, one of the vice-presidents of the Guild, on the death of Mrs. Bright Lucas. Mrs. Eva McLaren proposed a resolution in favour of the extension of the franchise to women who possessed the qualifications that entitle men to vote. She expressed a hope that women would not work for men who were not in favour of their enfranchisement. The only reason, in her opinion, that this question was not settled at once was that neither party was quite sure which party was going to gain by it. (Laughter and applause.) Women ought to be placed in a position to vote on the great questions which were rapidly coming to the front. Mrs. Sherbrooke seconded the resolution, and read the following paper which had been prepared by Lady Knightley,

They ought not to be discouraged by what had occurred in Parliament. They had no reason to find fault in the slightest degree with the manner in which those who had taken up the matter in Parliament had acted. He believed that they had done their best under the circumstances. No one who had not gone through the little ordeal of bringing in a private Bill knew the difficulty of getting a matter of this kind before the House. A day had to be selected at a moment's notice, and it was excessively difficult to avoid such pitfalls as Ash Wednesday, the Derby Day, and other such traps. He believed that the best had been done that could be done, but certainly they had been unfortunate. Still they had a chance left with their resolution, and he hoped they might be successful in getting the matter discussed. (Applause.)

General STILL had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, and trusted that they would be more fortunate this year in Parliament than they had been in the past. It would, however, be a great thing if they could get the Bill brought in as a Government measure. Private members had very great difficulty in bringing forward Bills, but now they had in power a great Unionist Government, not composed absolutely of one party, either Liberal or Conservative, but pledged to maintain the power of the Empire, and it seemed to him that they would do well to pass a measure enfranchising women. He did not at all regard the question in a party light, and now that they had in power a great National party anxious to do what was just and right, this measure, which was both just and right, should commend itself to that Government. (Applause.)

The resolution was adopted.

The Rev. T. W. OPENSHAW proposed the re-election of the General and Executive Committees for the ensuing year.

Mr. S. TANNER seconded the resolution, and it was carried.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT proposed: "That this society has noted with interest the official return for England and Wales just issued by the Government stating that there are 685,202 women voters to County and Town Council elections, and trusts that the Government will deem it just and necessary to extend the Parliamentary franchise to these and other qualified women in the United Kingdom before the next general election takes place." This return, of course, was in regard to the residential qualification. It did not include the lady landowners or the residential voters and the landowners in Scotland and Ireland. And if they added these they would find that the total of the women for whom they asked enfranchisement was very much the same as they had estimated it for the last twenty years, that was something between 700,000 and 800,000, the latter being about the outside figure. They were much disappointed at the result of their attempts in Parliament. There it seemed as if they had got nothing but what the poet called "The babble, babble, babble," which he hoped that England would not go down with at last. In the old days the Parliamentary etiquette was that if a question were carried by a substantial majority of the House of Commons, the Government would before long embody it in a Bill. Therefore she hoped that the present Government would take the step that General Still had indicated if their resolution were carried by a good majority of the House. (Hear, hear.) There were several proposals to increase the taxation, and for all these women were to pay their share, but they were to be denied any voice in the representation. Women were fully aware of the unfairness of these proposals, and were prepared to act accordingly. She quite agreed with Mr. Lewis Fry that though they had reason to feel disappointed with Parliament, they had made enormous strides in the country. (Hear, hear.) Their question had really been the pioneer of every one of the movements in which women were now taking an active part. A long list of grievances had already been swept away, and, therefore, she for one did not feel discouraged, although she felt very tired, and she hoped that their friends would help them as much in the future as in the past, so that they might work on and not allow the question to drift, but still endeavour to direct it, and to bring what pressure they could, not only on members of Parliament, but, above all, on members of the Government, should their resolution pass this session in the House of Commons. (Applause.)

Dr. BEDDOE seconded the resolution, and it was carried.

Miss BLACKBURN proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Emily Sturge for presiding, and this, on being seconded by Mrs. HALE, was cordially adopted.

vice-president of the Guild, and also vice-president and member of the Grand Council of the Primrose League, who was prevented by home duties from attending. Lady Knightley stated that she had been in favour of the enfranchisement of women for more than twenty years. That taxation and representation should go together was one of the fundamental principles of our Constitution, and if that were so, why should not women who paid rates and taxes have a voice in the selection of those by whom the money was to be spent? The argument that women must not vote because they could not fight, if carried out logically would involve the disfranchisement of all men too old or too weakly to fight, and an army deprived of the ministrations of all non-contestants—doctors, nurses, and ministers of religion—would be sorely handicapped in many wars. Moreover, in this country, with our voluntary enlistment, the argument was far less applicable than it might be in countries where conscription prevailed. Another argument frequently used was that the giving of the franchise to women must necessarily involve their sitting in Parliament. The clergy voted but were not eligible for election, and she most earnestly trusted that when women's suffrage was carried it would be most carefully guarded by a similar enactment. Of those women who would be entitled to vote under household suffrage the greater number were already voters at municipal, school board, and council elections, &c., and exercised their privileges without any detriment to home duties and avocations. There could not be the slightest doubt that the possession of a vote made a very great difference in the attention paid to the grievances of various classes. Something had been done for the merchant seamen, but much more remained to be done, and it would have been done long ere this—Mr. Plimsoll's agitation being sixteen years ago—but that as a body they were without votes. If women's suffrage were granted, so that their wives could be put on the register as occupiers when their husbands were away at sea, she had little doubt that a great impetus would be given to this much-needed legislation. And though, of course, on the whole good government for men included good government for women, yet there were certain injustices as between men and women which our present laws—even though greatly amended in the last twenty years—were powerless to redress, and which the influence of a large body of women voters would probably speedily see removed. She said a large body, for she was one of those who wished to see our present system of household suffrage carried to its logical conclusion by everyone who paid the rates of a house having a vote, whether male or female, married or single. (Applause.) Not to enfranchise married women who held separate property would be a gross anomaly and injustice which ought not to be inflicted. To her mind the strongest argument in favour of women's suffrage was the absolute barrier it would oppose if passed now to universal suffrage. In this country where from our peculiar circumstances the women far outnumbered the men, universal suffrage would never be adopted if once the principle of women's suffrage were conceded. And conversely unless women's suffrage was passed now before the question of universal suffrage came within the range of practical politics it would never be passed at all. With our already exceedingly democratic institutions—with a Constitution which had been the admiration of all thinking men for centuries, yet which was absolutely without a safeguard of any kind except the House of Lords to protect it from a sudden wave of popular opinion—universal suffrage would indeed be, as she once saw chalked up on a pailing near Versailles during the German occupation, ruin. As to the allegation that the influence of women on politics would be of the sentimental and not of the practical kind, her idea was that the proportion of folly to wisdom was about the same in both sexes. (Laughter and applause.) The disestablishment of the Church would sooner or later be brought about, and as this was a matter in which women of all classes were deeply interested, it would be nothing short of a monstrous injustice that it should be decided without their having a vote in it. In conclusion she referred to the opposition offered to women's suffrage by many ladies in the upper classes, and said it would take a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, and then she hoped they would have the happiness of seeing the throne of the Queen resting on the solid foundation of a legislature chosen by the votes of the whole of the responsible citizens of this country, male or female, married or unmarried. (Applause.) The motion was also supported, in a capital speech, by Miss Ellen Chapman, Winchester, and carried unanimously. The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

## POLITICAL SOCIETIES.

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS  
IN LONDON.

A large and influential conference of delegates from the Women's Liberal Associations of London and the Home Counties was held at the National Liberal Club, London, on the 28th February. Margaret, Lady Sandhurst, took the chair at the morning sessions. In the course of the proceedings, resolution No. 2 was moved by Miss Conybeare (Chelmsford), seconded by Miss Florence Baggallay, and supported by Mrs. Ashton Dilke: "That the franchise should be extended to women on the same terms as to men and that the time had come when the question of the enfranchisement of women ought to be included in the Liberal programme." Mrs. Massey (Oxford) moved and Mrs. Conley (Westminster) seconded an amendment expressing the view that although it was desirable that women's suffrage should ultimately be conceded, the time had not yet come when it should be made an object of the Liberal programme. Lady Sandhurst put the amendment first, which was only supported by six, and afterwards the resolution, which was carried almost unanimously.

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS AT  
SOUTHPORT.

A Conference of the Women's Liberal Associations of Lancashire was held at the Town Hall, Southport, on February 25th. Mrs. Eva M'Laren presided. There was a large attendance of delegates from Accrington, Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Crewe, Darwen, Davenham, Liverpool, North Manchester, North Meols, Leigh, Stalybridge, St. Helens, Southport, Stockport, and Waterloo. The President said the Federation felt that delegates were allowed very little time to discuss questions of importance at the Council in London in May, and it was therefore thought wise to afford opportunities of considering them quietly and leisurely, so that they might be prepared to give their opinions upon important matters which must inevitably come before the Council. Mrs. Teschemacher (Southport) moved a resolution in favour of the Parliamentary franchise being granted to women on the same terms as it has been to men. This was seconded by Miss Bristowe (Crewe), and supported by Miss Houghton (Southport). Miss Biggs (Liverpool) objected to the lodger franchise. Was it wise and prudent and politic at the present time to press this question? The vote of women was still an absolutely unknown quantity. The only thing they were certain of was that if they got the franchise it would embarrass their machinery and cripple and hamper Liberal work. She thought they ought to be patient and wait till the present crisis was over. Mrs. Sherbrooke, Mrs. Boulton (Waterloo), Mrs. Thew (Southport), Miss Chapman (Winchester), and Mr. R. Fomby also took part in the discussion in support of the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

## COVENTRY WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

A public meeting in connection with the Coventry Women's Liberal Association was held on February 27th in the New Assembly Hall, Union-street. Mrs. Joseph Cash, president, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. Mrs. John Cash proposed a resolution that women householders should be given the Parliamentary suffrage on the same terms as they now had the municipal suffrage, and authorising the president and secretaries to append their signatures to a memorial in favour of the Bill introduced by Mr. W. S. B. M'Laren. This was seconded by Mrs. Streetly, and carried unanimously. Miss Chapman, of Winchester, afterwards addressed the meeting, and at the close of her speech she was cordially thanked, on the motion of Mr. Ballantine, M.P., seconded by Mrs. Kinder.

NEWPORT (MONMOUTHSHIRE) WOMEN'S LIBERAL  
ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Newport and South Monmouthshire Liberal Women's Association was held at Newport, on March 6th, under the presidency of the Hon. Mrs. Pelham. A petition was adopted in favour of women's suffrage.

## NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. W. S. B. M'Laren, M.P., lectured on March 18th, at the rooms of the Nottingham Women's Liberal Association, Wheeler Gate, on "Women's Work in Politics." Mrs. Cowen took the

chair. After discussion, a resolution, copies of which are to be forwarded to the local Liberal members, was unanimously carried in favour of the adoption of female suffrage. A vote of thanks to Mr. M'Laren for his long and interesting lecture was heartily seconded, and the meeting then concluded.

## KELVEDON WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting in connection with the Women's Liberal Association was held at the Public Hall, Kelyedon, on March 5th, when Miss Conybeare presided; and Mr. M'Laren, M.P., gave an address upon "Woman's Right to a Vote." Miss Conybeare said she was pleased to be present at that meeting. She considered it an honour to take part in a meeting with Mr. M'Laren, who spent so much time in advocating women's rights. (Cheers.) She thought women ought to pay more attention to public affairs. Their toiling sisters, who worked hard for their daily bread, wanted their sympathy and help. Many women worked as hard as men, but got less pay. If women had a vote, this state of things would be altered. Women's Associations should be educational, and not simply machines for carrying out elections. Politics should be part of their religion. Mr. M'Laren followed with an able address, in which he stated that he did not ask for votes for all women, but only for those who paid rates. Mr. Hudson (Tolleshunt D'Arcy) moved: "That the exclusion of women from Parliamentary votes is unjust and unfair, and ought to be speedily remedied." The Rev. A. Smith seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously. The proceedings concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

## PECKHAM LIBERAL CLUB.

On March 3rd, at the Peckham Liberal Club, a meeting of the Peckham Women's Liberal Association was held to discuss the question of women's suffrage. Mrs. Seel, who presided, was supported by Lady Sandhurst, Mr. Walter M'Laren, M.P., Mr. J. Pellatt Rickman (Liberal candidate for the division), Mrs. Aylett, Mrs. Dunsmore, Mrs. Bonsall, Miss Griffin, and many others. After addresses from Mr. M'Laren and Lady Sandhurst, Miss Quinn moved a resolution affirming that the franchise should be extended to women upon the same terms as it is given to men, and demanding that the principle should now be one of the chief planks in the Liberal platform. Mrs. Grant seconded the resolution, which was warmly supported by Mr. J. A. Lyon, who said it was calculated that in making up the Parliamentary register from the rate-books, every eighth name had to be excluded by reason of sex. Mr. Rickman gave a hearty support to the resolution, which was agreed to with only one dissentient, and the proceedings closed with the usual vote of thanks.

## MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S NIECE.

At the Wilts Assizes, held at Devizes, on February 24th, by Mr. Justice Stephen, Annie Bailey, a domestic servant, aged twenty-two years, was charged with wilfully making a false declaration of marriage. From the evidence it appeared that early in August last defendant went to the Salisbury Registry of Marriages Office and signed the customary declarations and notices necessary to a marriage between herself and a man named William Clapp, aged forty-two years. She told her master, the Rev. S. W. Mangin, vicar of West Knoyle, near Salisbury, of what she had done. From inquiries made by this gentleman he discovered that the girl Bailey was a daughter of the sister of Clapp's deceased wife. He accordingly called the parties together into his study, and showed them the prohibited degrees of affinity in the Prayer Book. They professed to be convinced, but on the 9th of September Annie Bailey went to the Registry Office of the Wilton district and signed another notice and declaration of marriage with William Clapp, which was duly solemnized at the Salisbury office. For the defence, Annie Bailey said she thought the prohibitive tables in the Prayer Book were only binding on Church marriages, and that marriages before a registrar came under a different law. She had diligently searched the Scriptures, and had not been able to discover any word which prohibited a man marrying his deceased wife's niece. Mr. Justice Stephen said the sooner people learnt that religious belief has nothing to do with the law of marriage the better. The jury acquitted the prisoner; and the judge informed her that she was not legally married.

## MR. SAMUEL SMITH, M.P., ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The following letter has been sent the round of the Press, and has appeared in many of the principal daily papers:—

Sir,—Enclosed I beg to hand you copy of my reply to one of my constituents who wrote expressing his disapproval of my action in giving notice to move an amendment to Mr. M'Laren's motion in favour of women's suffrage, and for which I hope you will be able to find room in your valuable paper.—Yours, &c.,

SAMUEL SMITH.

7, Delahay-street, Westminster, S.W.,  
14th March, 1890.

Dear sir,—Many thanks for your letter in which you strongly support women's suffrage. You ground it on the belief that the women householders are more competent than the men, and only number some 800,000 in the whole country. When I first began to study this question, I rather inclined to the same view as yourself, but I soon came to see that we could not confine the franchise to women who were householders and ratepayers. Neither could we confine it to spinsters and widows. The claim put forward on behalf of women is that they should have the same qualification as men, that was the proposition put forward by Mr. M'Laren, which I gave notice to oppose. Now it is quite clear to me that if you admit this claim you will be drawn inevitably to womanhood suffrage. We have already bills before Parliament for manhood suffrage, and, considering that most neighbouring nations have already adopted it, we may reckon that it will ultimately come here also. If, then, you have placed men and women on identically the same footing, you are logically drawn to womanhood suffrage. I do not see how you can avoid it if you once concede the principle. In democratic countries you find every principle pushed to its logical conclusion.

The question, then, that you have to face is "Are you prepared to enfranchise eight or ten millions of women?" I have never met a man who in his heart believes that such a scheme would answer. The vast bulk of these women neither know nor care the least about politics; most of them have never read a political speech. You will find this to be true if you investigate the reading of factory girls, bar girls, domestic servants, &c., working men's wives, and those classes who form the great majority of women; and surely you would not leave to their decision the enormously difficult and complex questions that spring out of the government of the largest empire the world ever saw. In my opinion it would soon lead to anarchy, and the ruin of the Empire. Fancy such questions as the future government of India, the confederation of Australasia, &c., being settled by the votes of several millions of women who could hardly point out those places on the map; or such domestic questions as leasehold enfranchisement, proportional representation, free trade *versus* fair trade, monometallism *versus* bimetalism, &c.

It is said that many men electors are also very ignorant. So they are; but that is no reason why we should add to that mass of ignorance another mass infinitely greater. Most men have acquired from the rough battle of life practical common sense and a knowledge of public affairs which but few women can get. Men associate together, discuss politics, read newspapers, in a way that most women never do or can do. Women's tastes are entirely different to men's. Examine what servant girls or factory girls read, and you will find that few go beyond the serial story, the novelette, the religious periodical; not one in ten either knows or cares for politics, and the great majority neither wish nor ask for votes.

In no country since the world began have women enjoyed the political franchise. Every form of government has been tried, but this experiment has never been tried. The United States is the most democratic country in the world. It contains thirty-eight States, each of which has the right of fixing its own franchise, but not one has adopted women's suffrage. Much is made of the fact that in one small outlying district called Wyoming women's suffrage was carried, I am told, by an accident. You will see the account of it in Mr. Bryce's "American Commonwealth." Surely it is better for us to wait till we see this experiment fairly tried in some of the newer countries of the world, where the problems of life are far simpler than in this old country, whose social conditions and far-reaching dominions furnish us with the most difficult

problems any State has ever had to grapple with. If smaller States like Switzerland, of the most democratic type, and where all classes are well educated, have not attempted to make this experiment, surely we, with an empire which covers one-fifth of the globe, and includes every variety of mankind, may pause before taking so tremendous a leap in the dark.

Have you ever considered what would be the effect of canvassing this body of women at election times? Men electors are almost worried to death with canvassing nowadays, but if their wives and daughters were also to be canvassed life would be intolerable. How would a man, when at work in the daytime, care for a stream of people coming in to canvass his wife and daughters? What abuses would certainly spring out of it? Have you considered the consequences that would follow from enfranchising the multitudes of fallen women in our large towns, or the effect on young men of visiting their abodes to canvass them? You know that at an election nowadays every consideration is thrown to the winds in order to obtain success; the heat and virulence of politics are increasing daily. Think of the impetus that would be given to lying and misrepresentation when the issue of an election, and the fate of a Ministry, depended on the votes of millions of girls employed in shops, factories, refreshment bars, public houses, &c. Think of the weapons that would be employed to gain their votes, and the consequences to the social state of the country.

The fact is the great bulk of women are not fitted by their nature and constitution of mind to take part in the rough work of war and politics. They reason more through their heart than through their head. Their very tenderness would make them dupes of endless deceptions. Politics would become sentimental, in place of being practical, and foolish experiments would be tried which would end in utter failure.

Besides, in Roman Catholic countries women are mostly under the control of the priests, and woman suffrage would mean absolute clerical domination. There are parts of England where the same thing might happen even under our Protestant clergy.

But my main objection is the lowering effect it would have on woman's nature. She was meant to be a "helpmeet for man," not his rival. She is not meant to fight him on equal terms, and if she attempts it she will receive rough treatment. Her strength, and it is very great, lies in moral influence, not in force. She possesses that at present, let her be content with it, and not covet what God never intended her to have. Do not try to unsex her, it is against nature, and will signally fail.

These are, in brief, the views I hold, and yet I will yield to none in seeking to obtain for women their just rights. I have been in favour of every measure that has sought the elevation of women, and the removal of their hardships and wrongs. There is no fear of women nowadays not receiving their due. The spirit of the age is all in favour of it, and if there are any remnants of injustice they will soon be removed. I will add in conclusion that the great bulk of women do not wish the franchise. Hardly a single lady of my acquaintance does so; most of them are vehemently opposed to it; and I trust when you have further considered this subject you will see that I am not acting without good reason, in the stand I am making against a most dangerous innovation.—Yours, &c., SAMUEL SMITH.

Mr. H. D. Pochin, to whom the foregoing letter was addressed, has forwarded the following letter to Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P.:

Bodnant Hall, Denbighshire, 17th March.

Dear sir,—I am obliged by your letter in answer to mine respecting your motion on women's suffrage.

The question of women's suffrage has been a matter of serious consideration to me for more than twenty years, and the more I think of it the more certain I am that, first, it is a matter of substantial justice to women; and, secondly, that the best interests of the country would be served by such enfranchisement. I told you in my last, and again repeat, that I am certain the average status of the voter would be raised by such enfranchisement, both morally and intellectually.

I regret exceedingly that your study of the question has not led to more correct conclusions. I need not refer to all your objections to the enfranchisement of women, as they have been stated a thousand times, and as often answered; but you say that we cannot stop after we have enfranchised the 800,000 women who are entitled to

the franchise (as they have the necessary property qualification) if equal justice were dealt out to women as to men. I do not see any obligation on anyone because he voted for that enfranchisement to vote for universal women's suffrage.

You do not feel that you must now vote for manhood suffrage because you have previously given the extended suffrage to men.

When members of Parliament have no better answer they usually cry, "This measure will involve sooner or later further legislation in the same direction." This has been described as "the bottle-jack philosophy," which I regret you are disposed to perpetuate. This doctrine, however, is neither logical nor just.

If a starving man asked you for a half a loaf, would you refuse to give it, and say, "If I give you a half a loaf now, I know you will ask for the other half, and that would not be good for your health?" Yet, that is precisely the way you are treating the application for women's suffrage.

You say, however, that no neighbouring nation has adopted it. Englishmen have their own sense of right. They did not wait for free trade and some other good measures that have been passed because other nations had not adopted them. I am not content that Englishmen should always be behind other nations in matters of general advancement, and I hope it will not suit the majority of the members of the House of Commons or your constituents that you desire to be always behind other nations.

I am glad to say I have not such a low opinion of the female mind as you appear to have from the general tone of your letter.

No mischief, so far as I know, has been done since women had a vote in municipal elections to either men or women by canvassing for their votes, and I believe that so far the municipal vote in the hands of women has been an unmixed good; which cannot be said of many of the Acts of Parliament passed by the House of Commons.

As to the danger of giving to ignorant persons the representative franchise, you are arguing against the present franchise as it now exists, with which I should be disposed to agree; but you did that, I did not. I was always against political power being placed in the hands of any one class.

You helped to give political power to those people, placing the political affairs of the country in the hands of the least educated, which you now declare against.

From the whole tone of your letter I am almost compelled to conclude that your experience of women has been amongst the lowest and least intelligent. I am very happy to say that my experience has been of a very different character. I find women in the main are both right-hearted and right-headed, and you may find thousands of such women if you care to look for them.

I find one paragraph in your letter in which you say that God never intended women to have the franchise. That they will have it I am quite sure before very long, and then, perhaps, you will have to alter your mind as to what is God's intention that you assume to know all about.—I am, dear sir, yours very faithfully,

HENRY D. POCHIN.

Obituary.

SIR EDWARD BAINES, BART.—We record with great regret the death in his ninetieth year of Sir Edward Baines, which occurred last month at Leeds. Sir Edward Baines represented Leeds from 1859 to 1874. He was one of those who voted with Mr. Mill, in 1867, in the first division on women's suffrage in the House of Commons, and he supported the cause steadily as long as he lived. He was a member and subscriber of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage.

THE HON. MRS. THOS. LIDDELL.—We regret to record the death of the Honourable Caroline Elizabeth, widow of the late Hon. Thos. Liddell, which occurred at her residence, 3, Granville Place, Portman Square, on March 4th, in her ninety-first year. Mrs. Liddell was one of the earliest supporters of the movement for the enfranchisement of women.

MR. E. SWETENHAM, Q.C., M.P.—We record with much regret the sudden death of Mr. Edmund Swetenham, M.P. for the Carnarvon Boroughs, which occurred on March 19th. Mr. Swetenham was a Conservative, and a supporter of the enfranchisement of women.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM JAN. 24TH TO MARCH 24TH, 1890.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for Bristol and West of England Society from Jan 24th to March 24th, 1890. Includes names like Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Charles Thomas, Mrs. Crawshaw, Dr. Eliza W. Dunbar, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. W. H. Colby, Mrs. (Emma) Marshall, Miss Catherine Porter, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Treasurer.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, TREASURER. Office, 69, Park-street, Bristol.

CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED MARCH, 1890.

Table listing subscriptions and donations received for Central National Society for Women's Suffrage in March 1890. Includes names like Mrs. Ashton Dilke, Bridport Society for Women's Suffrage, Mrs. G. B. Hunter, Mrs. Massingberd of Gunley, Mrs. Grimshawe, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mr. A. W. Hunt, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Nichol, Mr. Joseph Wates, Mrs. Joseph Wates, Mrs. John Holland, Bristol Women's Liberal Association, Miss E. C. McKee, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wycliffe Wilson, Mrs. Dowson, Mrs. Stanton Blatch, Mr. H. J. Rawson, Miss Yardley, Miss M. Colby, Mr. Turle, Mr. Thos. Young, Mrs. Revell, Mrs. Walter Sickert, Mrs. Travers, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, Miss Florence Phillips, Miss Charlotte Lupton, Miss Wall, Mrs. Todhunter, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Harold Jacobs, The Hon. Mrs. Arthur Pelham, Newport Women's Liberal Association, Mrs. Sellar, Miss Grove, Miss M. E. Fellows, Mrs. de Benitta, Dr. Julia Mitchell, Dr. Kate Mitchell, Mrs. Bucknell, Dr. Mary Jane Hall, Madam Deraismes, Mrs. S. J. Johnson, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Southey, Mrs. Sainsbury, Miss Turle, Mrs. Newman Hall, Miss Agnes Kilgour, Mrs. Masters, Miss Beale, Miss Pauline Hall, Mr. A. Miller Lawson, Miss Atkin.

Mrs. FRANK MORRISON, TREASURER, Central Committee Office, 29, Parliament-street, London, S.W.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, MARCH, 1890.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage in March 1890. Includes names like Mrs. Charles Holland and Miss Mabel Holland, Mrs. Winkworth, Mr. and Mrs. Wycliffe Wilson, Miss Barnes, I. M. B., Mr. Jas. Aldis, Miss Gooch, Miss Marsh, Mr. W. F. Bramley, Miss E. B. Drewry, Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. O. Oldham (Hyde), Mrs. John Brooks (Hyde), Mr. F. Earp, Miss Dixon, Miss J. E. Clarke, Mrs. Curfew (Hyde), "Women First, Party Second", Mrs. Robert Adamson, Treasurer.

ROBERT ADAMSON, TREASURER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM FEB. 23RD TO MARCH 24TH, 1890.

Table listing subscriptions and donations for Central Committee National Society for Women's Suffrage from Feb 23rd to March 24th, 1890. Includes names like Miss Aylmer, Mrs. G. Cotton, Miss Light, Mrs. Charles Thomas, Miss Allen, Dublin Committee, Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, Mrs. Ashmore, Miss Grove, Miss Reeves, Miss M. H. Hart, Mrs. Rawlings, Mrs. P. F. Smith, Miss F. Sterling, Mrs. Stopes, Mrs. Richard Bailly, Miss Buckland, Miss M. S. Burt, Miss Gonino, Miss Hamley, Miss Rawlings, Mrs. Singleton, Miss Louisa Bigg, Mrs. Bigg, Mr. Michael Cook, Mrs. Webster, Mr. John Webdale, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Alford, Mrs. Bailey (two years), Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Thurnham, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Wootton, Mrs. Boutwood.

Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, TREASURER.

Central Committee Office, 10, Great College-street, Westminster.

Table with columns: NAME, Qualification, whether as occupier or owner of houses, land, or other property, ADDRESS, Parliamentary division in which the qualifying property is situated. Lists names like Miss J. STEEL, Mrs. CATHERINE THOMPSON, Miss ELIZABETH ANN TOURNIER, Miss LOUISA TWINING, Mrs. ROBERT VANSITTART, Mrs. WAYMAN, Miss LYDIA M. WEBB, Miss FLORENCE WIMBUSH, Mrs. S. A. PLENTY, Mrs. ISAAC TAYLOR, Mrs. ELLEN WANNELL, Mrs. JANE HUDSON, Mrs. MARGARET NICHOLS, Miss E. WILLIAMS, Mrs. EMERY, Mrs. E. TARR, Mrs. JANE TARR, Mrs. HERAPATH, Mrs. PROCTER, Mrs. SCOTT WATSON, Mrs. ELLEN WOODWARD, Miss MARION A. TAYLOR, Miss M. S. WALKER, Miss GEORGINA WISHART, Mrs. BYERS, Mrs. PATTESON, Mrs. MARGARET M. CRAIG, M. B. FLEMING.

Signatures previously reported, 677; signatures reported up to date, 748.

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