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# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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THE new year dawns with an encouraging prospect for the friends of our cause. We have to congratulate ourselves on growing strength, on a widening organisation, and on increased manifestations of public sympathy and assent to the justice of our claim. In 1871 there were 125 constituencies clearly ranged, by the votes of their members, in favour of the Bill. In 1872 the number was raised to 141. In 1871 there were 75 petitions from public meetings and corporate bodies in favour of the measure, and in 1872 there were 176. In 1871 six Town Councils petitioned for the Bill; last year 27 petitions were sent from Town Councils in its favour. The total number of signatures was, in 1871, 186,976, and last year the number was 355,806, and the number of public meetings recorded in the volume of this journal for 1871 was 126, while the volume just concluded contains the record of 172. Although our notices of these meetings are, from the limits of our space, necessarily scanty in the extreme, yet in most cases ample and excellent reports have appeared in the local newspapers, and a large number of persons been thereby instructed as to the merits of our cause.

One of the most remarkable changes in the tone of public sentiment in regard to the electoral disabilities of women has been manifested in the reception given to the announcement, made, apparently with some authority, by the *John Bull*, that the Tory party would cordially support the claims of women, themselves householders and possessors of property, to the electoral franchise. The rumour is intrinsically probable, seeing that Mr. DISRAELI and five members of the late Conservative Cabinet have already voted for the measure, and the report derives additional likelihood from the circumstance that the *Standard* and the *Globe* have lately contained articles in favour of the claim. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, commenting on the announcement, says—"A Conservative newspaper is not likely to be taken in by a fiction of this sort; and it is still less likely, if it were, that another Conservative newspaper, writing two days later, would express its

readiness to reconsider the subject, and stating various reasons for changing its mind upon it. Under these circumstances we cannot fairly be accused of haste if we accept the statement of the *John Bull* as substantially correct."

Without attempting to forecast the future, or allowing our imagination to dwell unduly on the prospect of a substantial accession to our numbers from the left of the Speaker's chair in the next division, we may yet be permitted to regard the fact that the announcement has been made, and not contradicted, and been generally accepted as correct by opponents as well as friends, as marking a distinct advance of public opinion in our direction, and as a real and present gain. Whether the gain shall be turned to future advantage or not depends mainly on the exertions of the friends of the Bill. Whatever may be the desire of the leaders of the Conservative party to do justice to women householders, it will not be in their power materially to influence their followers, unless evidence of a growing and popular demand for the measure shall find its way to the House of Commons. Let the workers, then, redouble their exertions, and increase their numbers; let them promote public meetings, and memorials, and deputations to members of Parliament and other influential persons; and, above all, let them assiduously and continuously petition the House of Commons in favour of Mr. JACOB BRIGHT'S Bill. If our friends do this, and if, as we trust, the demonstrations of public opinion and desire for the measure shall exceed those of last year, we shall have the satisfaction of feeling that we have done what we could to deserve and to profit by any disposition to support our claim that may be manifested by the leaders on either side of the House of Commons.

For it is surely not to the leaders of the Conservative party exclusively that women should be taught to look for a measure of political justice. It is from the Liberal ranks that the great majority of the supporters of the Bill have come, although the Liberal leaders have lagged

strangely behind the Tories in giving adhesion to the principle. We may attribute to Mr. DISRAELI the credit of Mr. GLADSTONE'S half-conversion, for it was not till the Prime Minister found that the leader of the Opposition had come to the House on purpose to support the Bill that he withdrew his own resistance. Although he then left his followers free to vote according to their convictions, after making a speech which must certainly preclude him from ever voting again against the Bill, not so many occupants of the front bench on the Liberal as on the Conservative side followed Mr. BRIGHT into the lobby. This circumstance is greatly to be deplored by all who desire that Liberals should act in such a manner as to commend their principles to their countrywomen. There appears to be a kind of panic among certain Liberals as to the possible effect on party interests of the accession of a moderate number of women to the electoral ranks. More than one member of Parliament professing to be Liberal has voted against the enfranchisement of women on the avowed ground that women would vote against the Liberal party. There seems a disposition in certain quarters to avert this catastrophe by forcibly repressing claims the justice of which cannot be denied. We ask Liberals to consider whether this is a likely method of enlisting the confidence and the sympathies of women on behalf of their party. We have lately heard through an article in the *Guy's Hospital Gazette*, quoted by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of a class of women patients who are, in the opinion of the writer, "benefited by being garrotted." When they become hysterical and troublesome, this amiable practitioner scientifically chokes them. We fear that women will hardly appreciate the benefits of the practice of these medical garroters. We hope that a similar course of treatment will not be carried out in St. Stephen's, and that Mr. GLADSTONE and his Government will not give the women of this country cause to regard the leaders of the Liberal party in the light of political garroters.

The complaints of women with respect to existing laws are, as Mr. GLADSTONE knows, well-founded and grievous. In his own words "English law does women much less than justice." Women ask for a voice in making the laws in order that all such injustice may be amended, and because men have found such security indispensable as a protection for their own interests and liberties. They ask for a share of the power which men possess of influencing the Legislature to consider their affairs; they ask for the extension to them of the protection which men enjoy. Surely they will not ask in vain at the hands of a Liberal

Government for the political freedom which a Conservative Opposition seems willing to accord! The true solution of the question as to the bearing of women's suffrage on the interests of the two great parties in the State is indicated in a few words recently uttered by Mr. JACOB BRIGHT at the conclusion of his speech at Manchester, which we may thus paraphrase:—"The party which takes the most generous view of the rights and safeguards of women, the one which endeavours most to conform its conduct to the great and glorious maxims of our constitution, will in the long run possess their confidence, and enjoy the largest measure of their support."

#### THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The *John Bull* says: "We believe that the Tory party will cordially support the claims of women, themselves householders and possessors of property, to the electoral franchise, believing that the right to a vote should be given with regard to property and not to sex."

From the *Standard*, Monday, December 2, 1872.

The secretary of the National Union has forwarded us for publication the following extracts from a letter, addressed to him by a lady:—

"I also should be glad to know what action, if any, the Conservative Association is prepared to take on the important question of the so-called 'women's suffrage,' to my mind more properly to be named 'property suffrage.' Many, I know, concur with me in opinion that the right of property to representation should not be forfeited by the accident of a woman being in possession. I am so convinced myself of this being a thorough Conservative measure, though involving a radical change, that I am grieved to see it treated with such indifference by our party. It seems to me that the Conservatives are throwing away an opportunity which can rarely occur to them, doomed as they are in general by the necessity of their position to a passive attitude in politics.

"The axiom that taxation and representation should go hand in hand is a Constitutional and Conservative one. The enormous amount of political power thrown into the hands of the subversive classes by the last electoral Reform Bill made it most important to secure the rights of property, too long suffered to remain in abeyance. But the greater part of the members of the House on our side either vote against the Bill or decline to vote at all—actuated principally by merely sentimental reasons.

"I rejoice to see in the minority in the last division the names of some of my friends whom I formerly failed to convince in personally canvassing them; but I want to see the question taken up seriously by the party. I am in no hurry to see the measure carried, feeling quite secure that truth and justice must prevail in the long run; but I do grudge the monopoly of those virtues (in politics) to the extreme section of the Liberal party."

THE TORY PARTY AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The editor of the *John Bull* writes:—"In reference to doubts as to the accuracy of our assertion with regard to women's suffrage, allow me to say that what our correspondent intended to affirm and we to confirm was not, of course, that there had been a formal meeting of the Tory party to consider the question, but that the leader of the party had seen and approved the very letter which subsequently appeared in the *Standard*, but to which at the time he did not feel at liberty to refer."

#### BIRMINGHAM. CONFERENCE AT THE MASONIC HALL, AND GREAT MEETING IN THE TOWN HALL. CONFERENCE.

A public conference, to promote the objects of the National Association for Women's Suffrage, was held on December 6th, at the Banqueting Room, Masonic Hall, New Street. There was a very good attendance, including the following delegates: Mrs. Arthur Arnold (London), Miss Becker (Manchester), Mrs. Sims (London), Mrs. Webster (London), Mrs. Pennington (London), Miss Ashworth (Bath), Mr. B. Elmy (Congleton), Professor Hunter (London), Rev. U. J. Thomas (Bristol), Mrs. Binns (Birkenhead), and Miss Williams (London). Amongst the other ladies and gentlemen present were Mrs. C. E. Mathews, Alderman Hawkes, Dr. J. A. Langford, Mrs. Wm. Taylor, Mrs. R. W. Dale, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Southall, Mrs. Saxelby, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rogers, Mrs. Ashford, Mrs. Gore, Rev. H. W. Crosskey, Professor Massie, Mrs. Middlemore, &c.

Mrs. FEAST, of Birmingham, was voted to the chair.

Mrs. ARTHUR ARNOLD, London, read an able and eloquent paper, advocating the claims of women to the suffrage.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

Miss BECKER read the following paper:—"The subject which has been propounded by the friends at Birmingham for the paper which they have done me the honour to ask me to contribute to the discussion to-day has three distinct aspects. First, there is the future to which the suffrage movement itself will lead—the alteration in the social and legal position of women which will be effected by the possession of the franchise; next, there is the probable course of the movement during the longer or shorter period which must elapse before Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill becomes law; and, lastly, there is the course to be adopted in the immediate future, in order to secure the greatest attainable measure of success for the Bill in the coming session of Parliament. It is with the last of these questions only that I desire to deal on this occasion, and I propose to confine the present paper to suggestions for the development and organisation of the forces at our command, so as to bring the greatest amount of influence in favour of the Bill to bear on the Government and the House of Commons next session. The first condition of success in regard to any pursuit is to have a definite object to aim at. This condition we have clearly enough. There are four distinct directions in which efforts should be made, and in each case there is a definite object to be, if possible, secured—1. The Government; 2. The Opposition; 3. The House of Commons; 4. The Country. From the Government we desire to obtain an assent to our principle, and official support to Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill. From the Opposition we seek a similar recognition, and the official support, as leaders of their party, of that Bill which Mr. Disraeli and so many members of his administration, have supported individually. In the House of Commons we aim to secure a larger numerical support than heretofore, and our efforts should be directed to obtain a following of at least 160 members when Mr. Jacob Bright next time divides the House on the Women's Disabilities Bill. From the country we should elicit a strong expression of feeling by means of public meetings, and similar demonstrations; and above all things, by an increased number of petitions in favour of the measure. In order to influence the Government, I would suggest that memorials to Mr. Gladstone should be sent from all public meetings held to promote our object, praying that her Majesty's Government will give its support to Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill. Since the Government supported the proposal to extend the

municipal franchise to women, and itself introduced and carried the proposal to give them, not only the School Board franchise, but to make them eligible for seats in these local educational Parliaments, it seems not unnatural to conclude that it only needs some demonstration of public opinion in favour of the justice of the claim to cause it to proceed further in the same direction, and consent to the removal of the last remaining electoral disability of women. This view derives strength from the fact that Mr. Gladstone has formally withdrawn his opposition to the Bill, stating that there was more presumptive ground for a change in the law than the opponents of the Bill were disposed to own, and his remaining objection appeared to be founded on a condition of the proceedings at elections, which the Ballot Act of last session has considerably modified, if not altogether removed. Turning to the Conservative party, we find that Mr. Disraeli and seven ministers and officers of State, under the late Conservative government, have supported Mr. Bright's Bill. It would be highly desirable to bring the subject especially under the notice of Mr. Disraeli, and to endeavour to induce him to give his active support to the measure when next it comes before the House of Commons. The House of Commons should be approached, not only collectively by petition, but also through its individual members. Every member who has at any time voted for the principle should receive some expression of approval of such vote from his constituency, should be encouraged to persevere in his course, and especially be urged to be present and support the second reading of the Bill in May next. It is probable that the result of the manifestation of such interest in the question would be a considerable increase in the number of votes recorded for the measure. The next most promising subjects are those members who have never yet recorded their votes either for or against the Bill. Considering the pressure and persuasion that have been exercised to induce members to oppose it, we are justified in assuming that those members who have abstained from voting against the Bill during the present Parliament are not very decided opponents, if they are opponents at all, and that they might be converted into friends and supporters, if reason and persuasion, and some expression of opinion from their constituents were brought to bear on them. Turning next to those who have recorded their votes against the Bill, we find various gradations of opposition. Many have voted against it at first, and have not done latterly. These might almost be classed as neutrals. Many members who retain their personal objection to the Bill have let it be understood that they have refrained from voting against it in deference to an expression of opinion from a portion of their constituencies. Many former opponents have become supporters, and there is no reason to suppose that the process of conversion has altogether ceased. But there is a section of the opposition which it cannot reach. A certain set of members have recorded their votes in successive divisions against the Bill with such regularity and persistency as to leave little hope that they would be amenable to any influence we could bring to bear upon them. The only course to pursue in regard to such is to make them the channel for conveying to the House of Commons as many petitions as possible in favour of the measure they oppose. We may, and we do, hope to unite the leaders of both sides of the House in assent to our Bill, so that neither side will deem it a party victory or a party defeat; but no doubt there will, even to the last, remain a certain number of individuals of both parties who will yield to nothing but a majority of votes against them. The country should be worked upon by means of lectures, public meetings, and petitions. Many are indifferent or adverse to our views, simply for want of understanding them. When such persons

hear the subject set forth by an able, and intelligent, and accomplished lady, the light thrown on it convinces them, and they become friends and supporters. Public meetings called avowedly in support of the Bill have a still more powerful effect in influencing opinion. The interest thus evoked may be turned to practical account in collecting signatures to petitions. After every public meeting petition sheets should be sent round, and as large a number of signatures as possible collected. The petition has a great value in educating the people independently of its use in strengthening the hands of the supporters of the Bill in the House of Commons. When the object of the petition has been explained and the signature given, one supporter of the measure has been secured. Men are much more likely to take an interest in a subject which they have done something, however little, to promote; and those who obtain support of this kind, by taking round the petition for signature, have their reward, not only in the material and visible support of the tale of names, but in the consciousness that the collection of those names has been the means of diffusing information and creating interest which it would have been impossible to accomplish by means of any other agency. In all questions brought before the House of Commons, members who promote such questions desire to be supported by large and numerous petitions. But in the matter with which we are concerned, this agency has an exceptional value. Men have the right of voting and the right of petition. They have, therefore, two constitutional methods of approaching or influencing the House of Commons. Women have one only. They are debarred from the right to vote, and thus cut off from the most potent method of influencing the Legislature. But the right of petition remains. The only shred of privilege which connects women with the House of Commons is the privilege of petitioning the House. Their duty, then, is to use that privilege assiduously and persistently until they have succeeded in convincing the House of Commons that there does exist among women a widespread, earnest, and serious demand for the suffrage, which will not be stayed until Parliament consents to remove the disability which at present precludes them from its exercise. One of the objectors to the measure last year remarked that there was no evidence to show what proportion of the signatures were those of women. To meet this objection, I would suggest that it is extremely desirable that men's and women's signatures should be taken on separate sheets. This is easily accomplished, and we are adopting this suggestion in Manchester. The result shows an overwhelming preponderance of women's signatures in the petitions from Manchester. This is caused, not by any unwillingness on the part of men to sign, but simply by the fact that the signatures are mostly collected at the homes during the day, when the men are out at work. When the latter come home, they sign willingly enough. But a petition for the franchise signed by 10,000 women in one town, would have a kind of value different from, if not greater than, a mixed petition of a larger number of persons. In order to obtain these demonstrations so necessary to the successful prosecution of our object, it is highly desirable that the organisation of the society should extend and increase in strength. Great centres of population such as Birmingham, should become centres of activity for influencing and working all the surrounding districts. Manchester, Birmingham, and Bristol are each doing work of this kind in England, with more or less efficiency. But more work ought to be done by all these than they have accomplished hitherto, and new centres should be planted. An organisation as powerful as any yet in being is needed for Leeds and the great Yorkshire towns, and another for the district round Newcastle-upon-Tyne. If there are friends present from either

of these districts I would urge them to set seriously to work to perfect such an organisation. Besides the demonstrations to be obtained directly through our own society, there is another method of influencing the Government and the country which might be even more efficacious. There are rumours abroad of the prospect of a new Reform Bill, the main provision of which is to be the extension of the principle of household suffrage to the counties. In anticipation of such a Bill various political societies are holding meetings and framing resolutions pressing upon the Government the desirability of such a proposal. I suggest that an earnest effort should be made to induce politicians who are working for the extension of the principle of household suffrage to the counties to include in their proposals the demand that household suffrage shall be completed in the town, by being granted to all householders, irrespective of sex. It is difficult to see how an earnest demand for the suffrage made on behalf of householders now excluded could be resisted by those who are asking for the extension of the principle to the counties, consistently with the arguments they will be compelled to use when they urge their own object. Men who did so resist would have to adopt and use against women the very arguments which their opponents use against them. Out of their own mouths they would be condemned—and out of their own utterances would their opponents be able to put them to shame. I believe, therefore, that with proper pressure and perseverance, our claims might be pressed upon the Government through their own supporters, on their own principles, and through ordinary political agency. It is certain that the claim so pressed would present itself with greatly increased strength. The Government might possibly be induced to include it in their own proposals, should they have any intention of introducing a Bill for the extension of household suffrage to the counties, or they might consent to adopt an amendment having that effect. It is obvious that should such a measure be in contemplation it will afford a most favourable opportunity for pressing our claim for a small share in any proposed redistribution of political power, and we earnestly exhort all our friends to urge this claim on all occasions, and by every means in their power, on the attention of those whose representations and efforts will have an influence in determining the shape in which the proposals for such redistribution shall be presented to Parliament."

Dr. LANGFORD said that the question they were conferring about had always seemed to him to be a very simple one, and he had always been surprised that any member of the Liberal party could oppose the extension of the franchise to women. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in moving the following resolution:—"That this meeting approves the object of the Women's Suffrage Society, and is of opinion that every effort should be made to unite all parties in support of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women."

Alderman HAWKES, in seconding the resolution, said it was urgent that women who were taxed should have a voice in the representation of the country; because he believed in the old axiom that taxation without representation was tyranny. (Hear, hear.) He could not allow that a test should be raised as to the mental calibre of one sex or the other. It would be a woeful thing for her sex if the test of stupidity should be the test of franchise—(laughter)—because if that were done a very great number of voters would be taken off the list on account of their gross ignorance and stupidity with regard to the franchise. Professor MASSIE supported the resolution. He thought they might say that they now saw the beginning of the end of this question. (Hear, hear.)

Professor HUNTER also supported the resolution. He said that they were now at the turning point. They had a strong

body of supporters independent of political parties. He was glad that the Tory party had seen their way to helping them, and he thought that the Liberal party could not now stand aloof long. A long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether would give them a triumphant success. (Hear, hear.)

Mrs. SIMS urged them to take care that they did not run aground on either side of the political ocean.

Mr. ELMY said that this was not a party question in any sense, and ought not to be made one.

The Rev. U. J. THOMAS suggested that a similar conference should be held at Bristol; and that, during the coming session, a large petition should be presented from women ratepayers.

After a few words from Mr. CAPERN and Mrs. BINNS, Miss STURGE said she hoped that when women got votes they would use them for the purpose of stopping drunkenness. (Applause.) She also hoped that one result of the conference would be that subscriptions would be volunteered in the town and neighbourhood.

Miss BECKER hoped that the discussion would not be without benefit to the cause. Mr. Bright had expressed a desire to be supported by means of petitions, extensively signed; and she thought it was their duty to support him, as he wished to be supported. With regard to politics, the policy of the leaders of this question had been to keep it apart from either party or social politics.

The resolution was unanimously passed.

Votes of thanks to the readers of the papers and to Mrs. Feast terminated the Conference.—*Abridged from the Birmingham Morning News.*

#### TOWN HALL MEETING.

A meeting—following the conference—was held in the Town Hall, in furtherance of the movement for granting the suffrage to women. Mr. G. DIXON, M.P., presided, and amongst those on the platform were Professor Fawcett, M.P., and Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Becker, Mrs. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Dale, Miss R. Garrett, Miss Sturge, Rev. H. W. Crosskey, Aldermen Hawkes, Goodrick, and Sturge; Councillors Barratt, G. Baker, Rolason, and Austin; Messrs. J. S. Wright, W. Middlemore, Schnadhorst, Kneebone, Raffles, McKenzie, and Biddle. There was a good attendance.

Mr. C. E. MATHEWS said letters of apology for non-attendance, and sympathising with the objects of the meeting, had been received from Mr. George Dawson, Alderman Ryland, Mr. J. C. Cox (Belper), the Rev. Mr. Vardy (Head-master of the Grammar School), Mr. A. Arnold, Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., the Attorney-General, and Mr. J. S. Mill.—Mr. P. H. Muntz, M.P., said, "You may rely upon my vote whenever the question comes before the House." (Cheers.) Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., said, "I wish you all success with your conference and annual meeting."

The CHAIRMAN said their speakers were so unusual both in number and quality that he would content himself with the statement that he should feel it both a pleasure and a duty to vote in favour of women's suffrage in the House of Commons.

The Rev. H. W. CROSSKEY moved a resolution affirming the principle of the society.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. FAWCETT, who was received with great enthusiasm, and supported by Miss STURGE, who, in the course of her speech, said as a Liberal she had naturally felt often grieved that the Liberal Association seemed to care very little for women's suffrage. This was because they thought women would be Conservatives. (Laughter.) But how could Liberals expect women to be other than Conservatives, so long as Liberals were conservative towards them. (Laughter and cheers.) It seemed as if they trained up

women in the way they should not go, and then expected them to depart from it. (Laughter and cheers.) How could any one expect to reap when they had not sown? (Hear, hear.) The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. R. W. DALE moved a resolution affirming that the extension of the franchise to women upon the same conditions as to men, is demanded by the social, political, and educational aspects of the present time.

Miss RHODA GARRETT seconded the resolution.

Professor FAWCETT, M.P., in supporting the resolution, after referring to some questions affecting women, said—Similar examples might be repeated almost indefinitely. One other refers to a measure which will soon engage the attention of Parliament, and which vitally concerns the welfare of the industrial classes. The measure to which I refer is called the Nine Hours Bill, and proposes to enact, amongst other provisions, that women in certain trades should only be employed nine hours a day. So far as the Bill relates to children, I do not intend to say a single word about it; but it is at once obvious that the interests of all those hundreds and thousands of women who have to live by daily toil must be vitally affected by a proposal to impose this legislative restriction upon their labour. I learn from a competent authority that in the Lancashire factories the number of women employed considerably exceeds the number of men. Therefore, what does this proposed Nine Hours Bill do? It would virtually declare that a great proportion of the women of England, who live by daily toil, so far as their industrial interests are concerned, are to be declared by law to be children, who are unfitted to look after their own affairs. Before such a serious industrial disability is imposed upon a considerable portion of the nation, should not those who are to be thus dealt with have some voice in determining their own future destiny. I would venture to suggest to the working women of this country that before the Nine Hours' Bill becomes law, they should say to the men who so eagerly demand it,—“If you think such legislative interference so good a thing, we are not so selfish as to desire to appropriate the boon entirely to ourselves; we will share it equally with you. Let the measure be made applicable to men as well as to women.” To be a politician it is not necessary to care about the struggles of rival parties for place and power. These are the mere bubbles which float upon the surface. If it is good that a man should sometimes look beyond the workshop and the counting-house, and concern himself with those great movements which make or mar the happiness of a nation, is it less fitting or less desirable that a woman should sometimes cast a glance beyond the absorbing routine of her daily life? High authorities tell us that experience is the best test of the truth or error of any opinion. If this is so, I can certainly, with some confidence, assert that a sound knowledge of politics, and a keen interest in political affairs, render a woman not less but far more capable of becoming the helpmate of a man, not less in his domestic than in his public life. (The audience frequently cheered Professor Fawcett's remarks.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Miss BECKER moved, "That petitions to both Houses of Parliament be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and that a memorial to Mr. Gladstone, praying that he will, on behalf of the Government, support Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, be also adopted."

Mr. ARTHUR ALBRIGHT seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Miss AGNES GARRETT, seconded by Mr. C. E. MATHEWS, votes of thanks were passed to the Chairman for presiding, and to the Mayor, for the use of the hall.—*Abridged from the Birmingham Morning News.*

## ARDWICK, MANCHESTER.

A meeting was held in Ardwick Town Hall, on November 29th, in support of Mr. Jacob Bright's measure for the removal of the electoral disabilities of women. Mr. Alderman Bennett presided, and there was a good attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said since the passing of the last Reform Bill he had had a conversation with Mr. Disraeli, in which he ventured to ask that statesman why he did not make his household suffrage scheme complete. Mr. Disraeli replied that he had made it complete. He (Mr. Alderman Bennett) replied that he was sorry to contradict him, for he considered he had not made it complete. Mr. Disraeli responded that it was his intention to make a complete Bill, and asked an explanation. He (the Chairman) said he knew a block of houses inhabited by 20 householders who ought to have had a vote. Only 16 of them, however, had got it. Mr. Disraeli had left out four who paid the same rent and taxes, and were in every way equal to the rest, except as regarded their sex. Mr. Disraeli said that was an omission in his Bill, but it was an omission which he would remedy the first opportunity he had. If it was Mr. Disraeli's intention to do this on his return to power, he did not see why it should not be Mr. Gladstone's intention to do so before he left power. (Cheers.)

Mr. Councillor THOMPSON moved, and Mr. Councillor TOWNSEND seconded, a resolution declaring the principle.

Miss MARY BEEDY, M.A., supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Councillor LITTLE, Mr. R. PAYNE, Councillor BOOTH, and Miss BECKER addressed the meeting in support of a resolution adopting petitions to both Houses of Parliament, and memorials to the members for the city of Manchester, praying that Mr. Bright would introduce, and that Sir Thomas Bazley and Mr. Birley would support, the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill in the coming session of Parliament. The resolution was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Miss WILSON, a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Alderman Bennett for presiding, and the meeting then terminated.—*Abridged from the Manchester Examiner and Times.*

## LIVERPOOL.

A conference of the Liverpool branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was held at the Bible Society Rooms, Slater-street, on December 18th. Mr. W. S. Caine occupied the chair. The chairman said he felt an interest in that movement second to none in Liverpool. Mr. Rea read the annual report, which spoke of the steady progress and good work done by that branch of the society during its year's existence. The report was adopted on the motion of Mrs. Mactaggart, seconded by Miss Merryweather. A resolution affirming the principle was moved by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Miss Merryweather, supported by Mr. M'Andrew, and unanimously agreed to. It was also moved and agreed to that petitions should be sent to Parliament, and that the borough members should be requested to support Mr. Bright's Bill. Mr. James Stuart, Mr. Cooke Taylor, and the Rev. Mr. Elliot spoke in support of the resolution. After the appointment of a committee had been moved and carried, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

## ST. HELENS, LANCASHIRE.

A public meeting was held in the Independent School-room, St. Helens, on November 22nd, to hear an address from Miss TAYLOR, of Stranraer, in favour of an extension of the suffrage to women. This lady has addressed no less than 132 public meetings in Scotland, in advocacy of the political enfranchisement of her sex, and St. Helens being the place selected by

her for her first appearance in England, considerable interest was felt in the meeting. There was a good attendance, and judging from the tone of the meeting, as expressed in plaudits and otherwise, almost every person present was favourable to the cause. Miss Taylour came to plead.

The Rev. R. J. WARD accepted the chair, and introduced Miss Taylour to the meeting. Mr. J. F. ALLEN moved the usual resolution, the Rev. Mr. HASLAM seconded it. The CHAIRMAN having put the resolution to the meeting, declared it carried against "a minority of one."

The Rev. W. MILLER moved a vote of thanks to Miss Taylour, which was seconded by Mr. W. J. BLINKHORN, and having been carried by acclamation, Miss Taylour acknowledged it, and urged the formation of a committee for the purpose of carrying on the local work.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.—*Abridged from the St. Helens Newspaper.*

## BOLLINGTON.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this association, which has come to be regarded as a demonstration by Macclesfield and Bollington politicians of Liberal principles, took place on November 30th. Mr. J. Brooke occupied the chair, and among the speakers were Mr. George Melly, M.P., Sir Edward Watkin, Miss Becker, and others. In the course of a speech, referring to the general policy of the Government, Miss Becker took occasion to express the hope that while Liberal politicians sought for the extension of the principle of household suffrage to the counties, they should take care that the measure was made complete in the towns by the inclusion of householders, now excluded on the ground of sex.

## NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A meeting of the Local Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society was held on December 5th, at the Newcastle Working Men's Club, Nelson-street. The Rev. B. Glover was present as a deputation from the Manchester society, and intimated that that society were of opinion that the boroughs of Newcastle and Gateshead should again be canvassed with respect to this important question. Mr. W. Steadman Aldis was appointed president; Mr. John Glover, vice-president; Mr. Wm. Wilson, treasurer; and Mr. Robert Fisher, secretary. The following gentlemen were then chosen to act upon the committee:—Dr. Rutherford, Dr. Carrick, Mr. D. Richardson, Mr. S. Tomkins, Mr. John Smith, and Mr. Jas. McKendrick; after which the proceedings terminated.—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

## HARWICH.

On December 5th, a public meeting was held at the Crystal Palace Room, Harwich, in support of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. The audience, composed of equal proportions of ladies and gentlemen, was a much larger one than was expected, as the subject is new, and one little understood. The chair was taken by Luke Richmond, Esq., who claimed a patient hearing for those who were about to lay the subject before the meeting, and especially for the deputation of ladies, Miss Taylour, of Scotland, and Miss Biggs, a niece of the Right Honourable J. Stansfeld, one of Her Majesty's Ministers, whom he should have the honour to introduce to the audience.

Mr. DORE moved the usual resolution in a few well chosen remarks and arguments.

Mr. HENRY GRICE seconded the resolution, and was supported by Miss TAYLOR.

In putting the resolution, the chairman was very anxious

that all present should clearly understand the issue, and upon a show of hands, it was carried almost unanimously. Miss Biggs moved that the above resolution should be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and sent to Colonel Jervis, and that petitions embodying the resolutions should likewise be sent to both Houses of Parliament.—Miss Biggs, in a very clear and lucid speech, gave a summary of the disabilities under which women in this country are still subjected. Her remarks were listened to with much interest, and appreciated by all present.—A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.—*From the Harwich and Dovercourt Newsman.*

## LUTON.

A crowded meeting comprising a fair representation of the respectability and intelligence of Luton was held at the Town Hall on November 25th, William Bigg, Esq., in the chair. Every seat was occupied, and before the chairman's opening remarks were concluded, numbers of persons crowded into the room and were content to remain standing until the close.

After a few preliminary remarks by the chairman, Miss BEEDY, M.A., delivered an address, which was received with acclamation. Mrs. HENRY KINGSLEY following with an able exposition of some of the points in which the law is unjust and injurious to women. Resolutions affirming the principle, and adopting petitions in support of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, were proposed and supported by the Rev. E. R. Adams, Mr. Johnson Willis, Mr. Henry Wright, and Mr. Gutteridge, J.P., and carried unanimously.—Rev. H. WONNACOTT moved a hearty and cordial vote of thanks to the ladies who had addressed this large meeting.—Mr. J. DREWETT supported this motion; carried by acclamation and with much cheering.—Miss BEEDY responded.—Mr. A. T. WEBSTER moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. J. Cumberland, and carried amidst hearty cheers.—*Abridged from the Luton Times.*

## DAVENTRY.

A lecture on the above subject was given in the Assembly Hall, Daventry, on November 26th, by Miss Beedy, M.A. The chair was taken by Mr. P. O. Hillman. There were on the platform, also, the Rev. P. Hale, B.A., the Rev. T. Adams, E. A. Briggs, Esq., H. J. Potts, Esq., Mr. C. Rodhouse, and Miss Blind, the daughter of Karl Blind, the expatriated German.

After the lecture a resolution, affirming the principle, was moved by the Rev. P. HALE, seconded by Mr. BRIGGS, and supported by Miss MATHILDE BLIND.—The resolution was put to the meeting and carried without a hand held up against it.—The Rev. T. ADAMS proposed the second resolution:—"That the petitions, now read, to both Houses of Parliament be adopted and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting; and that memorials to Sir Rainald Knightley, Bart., M.P., and to Major Fairfax Cartwright, M.P., the members for the Southern Division of this county, requesting them to support Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, be signed by the chairman, and forwarded by him."—Mr. C. RODHOUSE seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. H. J. POTTS.—The resolution was put, and carried *nem. con.*—Mr. BRIGGS proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Beedy and Miss Blind.—Mr. RODHOUSE seconded it, and it was carried with great enthusiasm.—Miss BEEDY responded.—The Rev. T. ADAMS proposed, and the Rev. P. HALE seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman. The vote was given by acclamation, and was duly acknowledged; and the very successful meeting terminated. The hall was well filled with company.—*Abridged from the Daventry Spectator.*

## READING.

A public meeting in support of the Bill for the extension

of the Parliamentary Franchise to women was held in the Town Hall, Reading, on December 12th. Mr. George Palmer presided, and there was also on the platform, the Revs. J. F. Stevenson, J. Wood, Messrs. G. Colbrook, J. W. Masterman, and W. Exall. Miss Rhoda Garrett read a paper explanatory of the reasons for the political enfranchisement of women. The Rev. J. F. Stevenson moved a resolution in support of the object of the meeting; it was seconded by Miss Lillias Ashworth, and carried with two dissentients. The Rev. J. Wood, and Miss Agnes Garrett, and Mr. W. Exall also spoke. The hall was crowded by ladies and gentlemen, the ladies being accommodated principally in front seats. The *Berkshire Chronicle* contains a full report of the meeting.

## WINDSOR.

A public meeting in support of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women householders and ratepayers was held in the Town-hall on Friday evening, the 13th December. There was a good attendance. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. Edward Hale, M.A., of Eton College. The resolutions were supported by Mr. Chamberlain, Miss Rhoda Garrett, Mr. Alsager A. Hill, Mr. Lundy, Miss Lillias Ashworth, and Professor Hughes, and carried with four or five dissentients. Votes of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and to the Mayor for the use of the Town-hall, were proposed by Miss Agnes Garrett, and responded to. A vote of thanks to the deputation, more especially the ladies, was proposed by the Vicar, and responded to by Miss Agnes Garrett, after which the meeting separated.

## BILLINGHURST, SUSSEX.

A meeting was held in the Baptist Chapel, Billinghamurst, on December 9th, 1872. After an address by Miss Craigen, a petition in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill was adopted and signed on behalf of the meeting by Mr. John F. Remand, chairman.

Miss Craigen has also addressed meetings at Landport, near Portsmouth, on November 18th, and at Yeovil, Somerset, on December 18th, at which petitions in favour of the Bill were adopted.

## LAMBETH.

The London campaign for women's suffrage opened on December 4th, with a large meeting, more than one-third composed of working-class women, in the Lambeth Baths, Lower-marsh. The Rev. G. M. Murphy occupied the chair, and among those present were Miss Blind, Mrs. Wm. Burbury, Mrs. Amelia Lewis, Mrs. Mansfield (barrister-at-law, from Iowa), Mrs. Orme, Miss Eliza Orme, Miss Taylour (from Scotland), Mrs. Webster, Messieurs P. W. Funnell, George Hilton, R. D. Hill, W. E. Jones, Mansfield, Geo. Prichard, Webster, C. White, and many members of the South London vestries. A speech from the chairman in cordial approval of the objects and work of the London National Society, and in advocacy of the claims of women to the Parliamentary franchise, was followed by a resolution, proposed by Mr. J. T. Dexter, seconded by Miss Taylour, and supported by Mr. R. D. Hilton (a member of the St. George's Vestry)—"That in a system of Government avowedly representative, the interests of the unrepresented are certain to suffer." The adoption of a petition to Parliament in favour of extending the franchise to women householders and ratepayers, was proposed by Mr. George Prichard, seconded by Miss Orme, and supported by Mr. W. E. Jones (member of the Lambeth Vestry). A resolution of thanks to the chairman, moved by Mrs. Wm. Burbury, and seconded by Mr. Charles White (member of the Lambeth Vestry), brought the proceedings, which were characterized by great unanimity, to a close.

## WALES.

## HAVERFORDWEST.

## MONSTER MEETING AT THE MARKET HALL.

On November 25th last, a most enthusiastic and crowded meeting was held in the above Hall, on behalf of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Though our town has never been the scene of any agitation on this highly important question, yet the successful meeting of Monday last testified unmistakably to the popularity of the righteous demand that women should be placed on an equal electoral footing with the rougher sex. Every available inch of room was occupied, and great numbers of persons were unable to gain admission. The chair was occupied by Mr. George Phillips.

The Rev. J. MYRDDIN DAVIES, moved the usual resolution.

Miss CAROLINE A. BIGGS, of London, seconded the resolution in a most accomplished and witty speech delivered with great clearness, and commanding the strictest attention from her hearers.

Miss SPENDER, of Bath, supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. JAMES PHILLIPS, ex-Mayor, moved that the petitions now read, to both Houses of Parliament be adopted and signed by the Chairman on behalf of this meeting, and that a memorial to Lord Kensington, M.P., for the borough of Haverfordwest, and J. H. Scourfield for the county of Pembroke, requesting them to support Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women be signed by the Chairman and forwarded by him.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Miss LILIAS S. ASHWORTH, a niece of the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., to second the resolution which had just been proposed.

Miss ASHWORTH, who on coming forward was received with long-continued and deafening applause, commenced her address by a reference to the question of the inequality of the laws with respect to women. She pleaded that until women were politically enfranchised it was impossible to expect justice for them in the Legislature. The members of the two adjacent counties, and Lord Kensington, member for this borough, had voted for Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill, but Lord Kensington had omitted to vote for it the last two years, and she hoped his constituents would remind him to record his vote next time the Women's Disabilities Bill was brought forward. The member for the county, Mr. Scourfield had however been one of the most persistent opponents of this measure, and had made a speech three times against the Bill. He remarked that women as a rule did not care for the franchise. "What does he expect us to do?" observed Miss Ashworth, "does he expect us to pull down the park railings or to mob his mansion?" Miss Ashworth proceeded to make some quotations from his speech of last session which she said was more respectful in its tone to women than the preceding ones. Mr. Scourfield had said that men and women travel in the same direction upon parallel lines, and that they would have much more happiness as long as each kept on their separate line. She contended that as a matter of fact those lines were continually intersecting each other from childhood to old age, but if they were really parallel lines that never meet, it was so much the more reason that each line should be represented. (Cheers.) Mr. Scourfield had lamented the condition of a man, who on coming home found it cold and comfortless, and instead of a nice mutton chop awaiting him, he was forced to listen to a lecture on metaphysics from his wife. "Did you ever hear such rubbish from a Member of Parliament?" said Miss Ashworth. (Laughter.) "Since a vote for members of Parliament and even a seat in that legislative assembly does not make a man always either a logician or a politician, she was at a loss to conceive

how giving a woman a vote could make her a metaphysician. (Cheers.) Miss Ashworth concluded by expressing a hope that the men of Haverfordwest would do their utmost to obtain the electoral privileges for women, and that a committee would be formed to carry out that object.

Mr. JOHN LLOYD, solicitor, supported the resolution in a very eloquent and humorous speech, expressing his entire sympathy with the great and noble movement.

Mr. SAMUEL THOMAS proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies who had come at a great sacrifice of personal comfort at such an inclement season of the year, to advocate their just claims to a voice in the representation of the country.—This was seconded briefly by Mr. JOHN LEWIS, borough treasurer.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed and put to the meeting by Miss ASHWORTH, and carried by acclamation, after which the meeting broke up, everyone being apparently highly satisfied with the rich intellectual treat they had received from these talented ladies. We understand that a local committee is in course of formation in this town, as suggested by Miss Ashworth.—*Abridged from Potter's Newspaper.*

## SWANSEA.

A public meeting, under the presidency of the Mayor of Swansea, was held in the Music Hall, on November 27th, the object being to secure popular support in the next session for Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill for Removing the Electoral Disabilities of Women. The announcement that several ladies were to be present and speak on the occasion, attracted to the hall a very large, and on the whole a decidedly sympathetic audience, and the proceedings altogether were of a highly interesting character.

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, read a letter from Mr. Talbot in which he stated that he had always supported the principle in Parliament.

The usual resolution was moved by Rev. J. J. S. MOORE, seconded by Miss CAROLINE BIGGS, and supported by Miss EMILY SPENDER and Mr. MORGAN WILLIAMS. On being put by the Mayor, the motion was carried almost unanimously.

A resolution adopting petitions and memorials was moved by the Rev. S. HIGGINSON, seconded by Miss LILIAS ASHWORTH.

The motion was supported by the Rev. Dr. REES and Mr. L. WILLIAMS, and carried almost unanimously.

On the motion of the Rev. R. T. HOWELL, seconded by Captain HUDSON, a vote of thanks was passed to the ladies who had spoken that evening, and on the motion of Miss Ashworth a similar compliment was accorded to the Mayor, which concluded the meeting.—*Abridged from the Cambrian.*

## PEMBROKE.

A public meeting was held in the Assembly-room, Pembroke, on November 26th. Mr. F. L. Clarke in the chair. The Rev. D. Salmon, Miss Caroline Biggs, Miss Emily Spender, the Rev. H. Chester, of Cardiff, and Miss Liliash Ashworth spoke in support of the usual resolutions, which were unanimously carried. Votes of thanks to the deputation and to the chairman were supported by Mr. Jones, Dr. Newsman, and Miss Biggs, and carried with acclamation. The chairman briefly responded, and the meeting separated.

## CARMARTHEN.

A crowded meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms on the 29th November, to promote the extension of the suffrage to women. The Mayor, Mr. De G. Warren, presided. The first resolution was moved by Professor Morgan, and seconded and supported by Miss Biggs and Miss L. Ashworth. The second resolution, proposing the adoption of a petition to Parliament, and a memorial to the member for the borough, was proposed by Mr. Chester, and seconded by Prof. Evans. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

## SCOTLAND.

## CROSSHILL.

Miss TAYLOR, late of Belmont, delivered a lecture on Women's Suffrage, in the Queen's Park U.P. Church Hall, Crosshill, on November 21st. There was a large attendance. Mr. John Athya occupied the chair. The usual resolutions were supported by the Rev. Mr. Sprott, Mr. Brown; Mr. Wilson, and the Rev. Dr. Black, and agreed to. A vote of thanks to Miss TAYLOR, on the motion of the chairman, and a similar compliment to that gentleman on the motion of Miss M'LAREN, Edinburgh, brought the proceedings to a close.—*Abridged from the North British Daily Mail.*

## STRANRAER.

A public meeting in favour of conferring the Parliamentary Franchise on duly qualified women, was held in the Queen's Hall, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, N.B., on the 2nd December. Ex-Provost Guthrie presided.

Mrs. RONNIGER, of London, delivered an address.

After which, a resolution was proposed by the Rev. Mr. URQUHART, of Portpatrick, in favour of the Bill to Remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women, and also empowering the chairman to sign in name of the meeting a petition to both Houses of Parliament, along with a memorial to the Lord Advocate. The Rev. Mr. CHARLES, of Stranraer, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Dr. MCGREGOR and BAILE MCGIBBON moved votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

## GLASGOW.

A meeting was held in the Religious Institute Rooms, on December 2nd, with a view to arrange for a public meeting, to be held early next year, in support of the movement for extending the franchise to women. A resolution affirming the principle was moved by Dr. Young, and seconded by the Rev. R. Craig. The Rev. Professor Lindsay moved "That a public meeting should be held for the purpose of explaining the grounds on which they advocated this Reform Act, and that Mrs. Fawcett should be invited to take part in such a meeting." On the motion of the Rev. Palmer Grenville, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Birkmyre, a Provincial Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for carrying out the previous resolution. Mr. Edward Caird supported the proposal. Mrs. Smith, who, in conjunction with other ladies, has already done good service to the cause, consented to act as treasurer, and an appeal was made to the meeting to assist in providing subscriptions for furthering the object of the meeting.—*Abridged from the North British Daily Mail.*

## PAISLEY.

On December 2nd, a public meeting was held in the Old Low Church, Paisley. The attendance was large. On the platform were Miss Beedy, M.A., of Antioch College, St. Louis; Provost Murray, Bailie Watson, ex-Bailie Eaglesim, Rev. James Brown; Thomas Coats, Esq.; P. C. Macgregor, Esq. of Brediland; James Coats, Esq.; Mrs. W. Robertson, Mrs. John Paterson, &c., &c. James Arthur, Esq. of Bradshaw, presided. Miss Beedy delivered an able and eloquent address, after which the usual resolutions were carried unanimously.

## GREENOCK.

On Thursday, the 5th instant, Miss M. E. Beedy, M.A., addressed a meeting in the Temperance Institute, Greenock, on Women's Suffrage. Ex-Provost Morton occupied the chair, and declared that he was in favour of the extension which Miss Beedy had come forward to claim. The lecture was comprehensive, and delivered with marked ability, winning frequent applause from the audience. Dr. Guinon

moved and Mr. Livingstone seconded the usual resolution—"That the exclusion of women otherwise legally qualified from voting in the election of Members of Parliament is injurious to those excluded, contrary to the principle of just representation, and to that of the laws now in force regulating the election of municipal, parochial, and all other representative governments." The Rev. E. Maclean proposed and Mr. Wm. Bowman seconded the adoption of petitions to Parliament, to be signed by the chairman in the name and on behalf of the meeting. Mr. Thomson, of the Industrial School, proposed that no action be taken in the matter, but no one seconded the amendment. The Chairman proposed the thanks of the meeting to Miss Beedy for her well-sustained argument, which was accorded amidst applause.

## ABERDEEN.

On December 16th, a lecture was delivered in the Mechanics' Hall, by Miss Beedy; subject, "Women's Suffrage, in its Educational and Industrial Aspects." There were about 300 present. Bailie Urquhart occupied the chair, and was accompanied to the platform by Professor and Mrs. Bain, Professor and Mrs. Struthers, Miss M'Combie, Mount-street; Bailie Esslemont, Mr. James Ross, draper; Rev. Mr. M'Kay, Original Secession Church; Rev. Mr. Fairbairn, E.U. Church, St. Paul-street; Mr. Duguid Milne, advocate; Mr. W. Minto, M.A., Examiner in Arts; Mr. A. S. Cook, clothier; Mr. William Clark, Rosemount; Mr. Lindsay, publisher, &c. After the lecture the usual resolutions were proposed and supported by the gentlemen whose names are given, and carried unanimously. Miss M. Combie moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, after which the meeting separated. A full report of the meeting appears in the *Aberdeen Free Press.*

## EDINBURGH BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

At the first regular meeting of the Edinburgh committee of the above society after the recess, Miss M'Laren reported on behalf of Miss TAYLOR and herself that they had held eighteen public meetings in the West of Scotland within the last two months. These were presided over in nearly every instance by the most influential citizen of the place, and had been attended by very large numbers, and in all but one the vote of the meetings had been given in favour of women's suffrage, and petitions had been agreed to and signed by the chairmen in behalf of the meetings, and committees to promote the cause had generally been formed. Miss TAYLOR having intimated her intention to leave Scotland shortly for a residence in England, it was agreed by the committee to record their appreciation of her generous, disinterested, and most indefatigable services in having given three years of zealous labour to the cause of women's suffrage, during which she had delivered one hundred and thirty-one lectures, characterised by much care, thought, and talent, which have awakened interest not only in the question of granting Parliamentary suffrage to women, but also in the higher development of women generally.—*Scotsman.*

Miss Beedy has also lectured in Forres, Nairn, and Inverness. Petitions were adopted at these meetings.

During the last two months, Miss Craigen has addressed meetings at Grangemouth, near Stirling; Girvar, Ayrshire; Inskip, near Greenock; and Johnstone, Renfrewshire. At all these meetings petitions were adopted in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill.

I R E L A N D.  
CORK.

Under the auspices of the local Scottish Society, a lecture was delivered on December 3rd, in the Protestant Hall, by Miss Becker, on "The Social and Political Disabilities of Women." There was a numerous and respectable attendance, a very large proportion being ladies. The lecture was listened to with much attention throughout. Shortly after eight o'clock, Miss Becker entered the hall, attended by the Mayor, and the following gentlemen:—Messrs. J. E. Pim, J.P., Conservative candidate for the representation of the city; J. W. Bourke, H. Unkles, J.P., R. Scott, J.P., J. A. Harley, T.C., W. Morgan, A. Greer, J.P., M'Kenzie, Ritchie M'Kechine, Langlands, &c. The Mayor presided. After the lecture, which was concluded amid loud and prolonged applause, Mr. Pim moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by Mr. Unkles, and carried with acclamation.—Miss Becker, in acknowledging the vote, took occasion to refer to the loss they had sustained in the lamented death of Mr. Maguire, and concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to the Mayor, which, having been carried, the meeting separated.—Full report of the meeting appeared in the *Cork Constitution* and *Cork Examiner*.

## DEPUTATIONS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

## BIRKENHEAD.

On November 28th, a deputation from the Birkenhead Women's Suffrage Association waited upon Mr. John Laird, M.P., at his residence, Hamilton Square. The deputation consisted of Mrs. Charles Holland, Mrs. R. V. Yates, Mrs. W. Binns, Mrs. F. A. Nosworthy, Mrs. J. G. O'Brien, and Miss Finch. The ladies were accompanied by the Rev. W. Binns and the Rev. Dr. M'Leod. The Rev. Mr. Binns having briefly introduced the deputation,

Mrs. CHARLES HOLLAND (addressing Mr. Laird) said she was a large ratepayer; she had to pay income tax, property tax, taxes on servants, and other taxes, and she felt that an injustice was inflicted on her by not possessing the Parliamentary franchise. She considered that women in a similar position to herself, by being deprived of the franchise, were practically reduced to an inferior position, and did not exercise that influence in the State, and even their own families, that they had a positive right to exercise. Many questions turned up in Parliament which materially affected the interests of women, and on which it was desirable that their opinions should be constitutionally known; and, besides, she contended it was injurious to the welfare of society at large to exclude a large section of the community from all active participation in public life.

Mrs. R. V. YATES and Miss FINCH, as householders and ratepayers, expressed their general concurrence in the remarks of Mrs. Holland.

Mrs. Binns (president of the Birkenhead Women's Suffrage Association), Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Nosworthy, the Rev. W. Binns, and the Rev. Dr. M'Leod spoke in support of the object of the deputation.

The deputation having expressed their views,

Mr. LAIRD thanked the ladies and the two reverend gentlemen for their courtesy in waiting upon him. He was, he said, always glad to receive his constituents on any subject. The deputation was an influential and able one, and its opinions should receive his earnest consideration. He must be permitted, however, to differ from them in thinking that at present ladies were nonentities, as indeed the members of

the deputation had themselves shown the contrary; but this was the first time that any female had spoken to him on the subject of women's suffrage, or that his constituents had in any sense officially named the matter to him. He could not hold out any hope that he would vote for Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill; but he would carefully weigh the question on all sides, and act according to the best of his judgment.

The deputation then thanked Mr. Laird for the courteous manner in which he had received them, and withdrew.—*Abridged from the Liverpool Mercury.*

## AYR.

A deputation of gentlemen favourable to women's suffrage met with Mr. Craufurd by arrangement in the ante-room of the Assembly Rooms on December 10th, to confer with him on that subject. The deputation consisted of Messrs. H. C. Gray, James Macdonald, LL.D. (rector of academy), Thomas M'Murtrie, James Smith, George Wilson, John Flint, and J. M'Kenzie. Mr. H. C. GRAY stated that a committee had been appointed to promote the enfranchisement of women, and knowing Mr. Craufurd would soon be here, they thought the most respectful way of bringing the matter before him would be to ask him to meet a deputation who would state their views to him on the subject. Mr. Gray went on to urge the merits of the question in an able speech, and was supported by Dr. Macdonald and Mr. M'Murtrie.

Mr. CRAUFURD said he was always glad to meet with his constituents, and he was the more glad to meet with them on this occasion, because he had long wished, and regretted that that wish had not been fulfilled, that those members of the constituency who took an interest in particular points or particular questions would approach him in a way by which he might hear their views, so that he might take them into full and fair consideration; and not leave it to himself to find out as best he could their wishes and desires. He was therefore, grateful to them for meeting him in this way, although they were no doubt aware his opinions were somewhat strong on this matter. But he was not one who refused to reconsider his views or to listen to suggestions that might be made. All he could say was that he would bear in mind the views they had laid before him, and if he could see his way to adopt them or to modify his own opinions, he would do so. He could not, however, allow them to go away with the idea that he was prepared to adopt some of the arguments that had been brought forward. Mr. Gray has laid it down as a principle that it was property that conferred a vote. Well, he must say frankly that he was surprised to hear such a doctrine. That was not the doctrine he held regarding the conferring of the franchise; and in legislation they had departed from it, only retaining the qualification of property not as the qualification for a vote, but as the measure of a man's capacity to exercise it. But they had gone beyond that even, for recent legislation had conferred the franchise upon lodgers, and by that means had carried out the views of the Liberal party, that it was the individual and not the property that should have the vote. He had not given his vote on this question without much consideration hitherto, and he could see no cause for altering his views, and supporting Mr. Jacob Bright's bill. Whether the matter could be put on any other ground, or in any other shape, was for after consideration. He certainly should never be indisposed to consider any recommendations submitted to him, especially by so influential a deputation as that now before him. He could not help thinking, however, that the absence of ladies rather militated against the weight of the movement. Mr. Gray had assigned as a reason for this, that the ladies had left it to the gentlemen to obtain the

right for them. He thought this was hardly the way to attain their end, and he would have great doubts about conferring a political right unless he was satisfied that the parties for whom it was asked were themselves anxious for it, and took the usual means to obtain it. Whenever a majority of the females of this country expressed a desire to have this right, then the question would acquire a larger position, and would call for fuller consideration, than it would do so long as it was left in the hands of a few, who did not seem to be supported by the bulk of those for whom they agitated. His own experience was that the majority of the females of the country were opposed to the movement, and did not thank those who professed to be acting for them. At the same time, the matter was one intimately connected with their political life, and if he saw his way to change his views, he should not hesitate to do so.

Mr. GEORGE WILSON said they were indebted to Mr. Craufurd for his kindness in meeting them to talk over this matter, and he moved a cordial vote of thanks to him for his courteous reception of the deputation. (Applause.)

The deputation then withdrew.—*Abridged from the Ayr Advertiser.*

## MR. C. R. M. TALBOT, M.P., ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

At a great Liberal demonstration at Cardiff, on December 12th, Mr. Talbot, member for the county of Glamorgan, in the course of his speech said there was one point, however, he thought he ought to say something about, especially in the present assembly, which he saw was graced with the presence of ladies. (Cheers.) He was a strong advocate for female suffrage. (Loud cheers and some laughter.) He would tell them the reason why. It was not a fanciful theory of his, but the result of his practical experience, that for one good man there were five good women. When he saw the influence females exerted upon elections he felt that that ought to be encouraged (cheers), and though at present he stood alone—for his hon. friends voted against him on the subject—(laughter)—he hoped now they would see, from the interest ladies took in politics, that the time had come to give them the voting power to which they were entitled. (Cheers.)

## REPLIES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO MEMORIALS FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The following are some of the replies which have been received by the chairmen of meetings in reply to the memorials transmitted to members:—

Mr. T. W. Mellor, Ashton, writes:—"I am much obliged for the trouble you have taken to forward the copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of inhabitants of Ashton, recognising and thanking me for the services I have rendered by voting for the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. I assure you I feel myself highly honoured by the resolution, and promise that my support shall be given so long as I am in Parliament, and hope the day is not far distant when those disabilities will be removed."

Mr. Hick, Bolton, writes:—"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial in favour of female suffrage, which shall have my best attention and support."

Mr. Brocklehurst, Macclesfield, writes:—"I promise to continue to support the measure."

Mr. Charley, Salford, writes:—"My votes on the Bill for enfranchising female ratepayers were given under a deep sense of the injustice of their exclusion from the franchise, and so long as I have the honour of a seat in Parliament I shall vote in favour of their enfranchisement."

## DECISIONS AS TO THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

A solicitor applied to Mr. D'Eyncourt, at the Marylebone Police Court, on December 10th, for a protection order, under the following circumstances:—The applicant was a lady, and was deserted by her husband on the 7th of January, 1870, and she had not heard of him since. Her brother was a wealthy gentleman at Sydney, and at different periods he sent her money for her support. She had bought articles with the money, and in order that her husband should not come and take them she wished the magistrate to grant a protection order. Mr. D'Eyncourt said he did not see the use of granting a protection order, for her goods and money were protected by the recent Married Women's Property Act. The solicitor said it was always better to have the protection order, for then there was evidence of the fact, and she could produce it if the husband ever interfered with her property. Mr. D'Eyncourt said he knew that persons wished to have the order, but it was useless in law. However, he would grant the order, but it would have to be registered in the County Court in which the applicant resided.

It seems to us that Mr. D'Eyncourt could not have been aware of the decision in the Court of Common Pleas in the case of *Digges v. Gadderer*, by which it was ruled that presents given to a married woman deserted by her husband were not protected by the Married Women's Property Act. Such presents were held to be not her's but her husband's, and liable to be seized under an execution against him. Had Mr. D'Eyncourt remembered this case, he would not have said that goods under these circumstances were protected; nor had he followed the story to its conclusion, would he have said that protection orders were useless in law. For Mrs. Digges, failing in her application under the Act of 1870, fell back on the old law, and applied for a protection order, which was granted, and under which her property was secured from seizure for the debts of her husband.

Another illustration of the property law affecting women has just occurred at Stalybridge. We take the following statement and commentary from the *Northern Echo*:—"A woman named Mary Pollard, who had been married for 20 years, and had brought up a family, applied for an order to protect her goods from her husband. This scoundrel has not done a stroke of work for many years. His wife has supported herself and brought up a family. The husband and father spends his time in drinking. It seems he does not always inflict upon his family the curse of his presence, which is the only benefit he confers upon it. Every now and then, however, he emerges from his haunts; and, when his wife is at the mill, earning her living, he goes to her house, and strips it of every rag or stick he can raise a penny upon. Gathering up his plunder, he takes it away and sells it for money, on which he invariably gets drunk. In expectation of another raid of this description, Mrs. Pollard applied for an order of protection for her bit things. *The magistrates informed her that they could do nothing. Until her husband deserted her they were powerless.* They could not touch him or protect her so long as he paid these domiciliary visits, even although he only came to rob. *Such is British law. Such is the chivalric way in which man legislates for woman,* leaving her and her earnings at the absolute disposal of her lord and master, even although that lord and master is a rascal for whom the cat-of-nine-tails and the triangles would be a trifle too lenient a punishment. Assuredly if women had votes, this and a good many other laws would be promptly amended. Such a gain is worth more than the risk of the new voters being Tories."

**PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!**  
Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to begin the new year with the work of collecting signatures for the petitions to be presented on the opening of Parliament in February. Written petitions ready for signature, and printed forms for the collection of additional signatures will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Cooke .....	1	1	0
Mrs. Murray .....	0	10	0
Mr. Fred. Harcastle.....	0	10	0
Mrs. Dehersant .....	0	10	0
Mrs. Roberts .....	0	10	0
"A Friend" .....	0	5	0
Mr. Paterson .....	0	2	6
"A Young Friend" .....	0	1	6
	£3	10	0

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

**Obituary.**

**Mrs. SOMERVILLE.**—We record with deep regret the death at Naples of Mrs. Mary Somerville, in her 92nd year. She was the authoress of a summary of the "Mécanique Céleste" of Laplace, the "Connection of the Physical Sciences," and "Physical Geography," the latter published in 1848. In 1835 Mrs. Somerville was elected an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society. In the course of a long life she received, amongst other well-merited acknowledgments of her literary services, a grant of £300 a year from the Civil List. She was twice married. Mrs. Somerville took a deep interest in the effort to remove the electoral disabilities of the sex of which she was so distinguished an ornament. Her name, in conjunction with those of Florence Nightingale and Harriet Martineau, still happily spared to us, headed one of the earliest petitions presented by Mr. Mill to the House of Commons.

**VISCOUNTESS BEACONSFIELD.**—On the 15th December the wife of Mr. Disraeli, Viscountess Beaconsfield in her own right, died at the age of 83 years. She was the daughter of Captain Viney Evans, niece of General Sir James Viney, of Taynton Manor, Gloucestershire, and widow of Mr. Wyndham Lewis, M.P. for Maidstone. She was created Viscountess Beaconsfield in 1868. Through a marriage which was fortunate in every sense of the word, her life exercised no inconsiderable influence on English politics; and when her husband asked honours for her as the most grateful recognition of his own services, he but gave public expression to the sentiment of chivalrous devotion which animated his domestic life. The sympathy of the whole nation is with Mr. Disraeli in his bereavement, and not the least deep and sincere, though it must remain silent and unobtrusive, is that of his countrywomen in thousands of English homes.

**THE ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES,** 34, Davies-street, Berkeley Square, London, W., provides monthly, medical, surgical, fever, and small pox Nurses; Mental Attendants, male and female, who can be engaged at any hour on application, either personal, per letter, or telegram, to Miss HODGES, Superintendent. N.B.—Some of the Nurses are total abstainers.

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	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Wm. Browne .....	25	0	0
Professor Newman .....	5	0	0
Mrs. Charles Thomas.....	5	0	0
Mr. Henry C. Stephens.....	2	2	0
Miss Estlin .....	2	0	0
The Misses Priestman .....	2	0	0
Mrs. T. Taylor .....	2	0	0
J. Whitwell Wilson, Esq. ....	2	0	0
"A Lady" .....	1	1	0
Mrs. Ogden .....	1	1	0
Mrs. Walton .....	1	1	0
Mr. & Mrs. T. S. Aldis .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Cochrane Carr .....	1	0	0
Miss Lilius Craig .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Lindsay .....	1	0	0
Miss Thomas .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd .....	1	0	0
Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Wilson .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Whittle .....	1	0	0
Miss Alice Vickery .....	0	10	6
Misses Hervey .....	0	10	0
Mrs. J. B. Whitehead (donation) .....	0	10	0
Mrs. Owen .....	0	5	0
Mrs. Livins .....	0	2	6
Mrs. James Walton .....	0	2	6

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LYDIA E. BECKER, Treasurer.

28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.**—Edited by LYDIA E. BECKER.—This Journal is published monthly, and contains full information of the progress of the movement for removing the Electoral Disabilities of Women; accounts of public meetings, and lectures; correspondence, and original articles on the subject. It also records and discusses other questions affecting the welfare of women—such as education, employment, industrial or professional, and legislation affecting their property and personal rights. The Journal furnishes a medium of communication among the members, and a record of the work done by the different branches of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, and by other persons and societies interested in improving the condition of women. Friends of the cause are urged to endeavour to aid it by promoting the circulation of the Journal, and the beginning of the year offers a favourable opportunity for enlisting new subscribers.

Price for one copy, monthly (post free for one year), 1s. 6d.

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