

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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ON the date of the publication of this issue of the Journal, women will be voting in great numbers in many of the largest boroughs which return members to Parliament, in elections which every year makes more and more distinctly political. As it is a decided advantage to a political party to have the prestige which a majority in the town council gives, the political views of women-ratepayers have now an importance to the community which they did not possess before Mr. Jacob Bright succeeded in placing them on the burgess roll of municipal boroughs. Every woman who is asked for her vote will have a new sense of dignity and of consideration in the eyes of her neighbours, and those local leaders of parties, who have hitherto neglected and ignored the women residents, will seek them out and endeavour to interest them in public affairs now that they can give votes which count equally with those of men. A woman's opinion will be respected as much as that of a man when she has a vote by which to sustain it.

Municipal politics are steadily increasing in importance, partly perhaps from the desire evinced by the Imperial Legislature to throw more and more the responsibility of affairs upon the local authority. But, apart from this general tendency, there is at the present time a determination to make the elections purely political in their character. This is the case in Manchester to a degree which is probably without a parallel heretofore. Doubtless the same tendency will prevail in other boroughs. The effect will be to make the political opinions of women an element of constantly increasing importance in the calculations of political parties, and the spectacle of thousands of women voting along with men in public elections will become so familiar to every one's experience, that the charge of introducing an innovation in this respect, will be no longer applicable as an objection to the Women's Disabilities Bill.

Besides the municipal elections there will be this year in many populous districts contests in which large numbers

of women electors will take a far stronger interest than in ordinary political struggles. Under the Elementary Education Act of last session provision is made for the election of School Boards, and to these boards are confided legislative functions of a most stringent character, the effects of which will be felt in every household. The arm of the law will touch personally every woman who has charge of children, and every child in the land in a manner which no law yet enacted has hitherto done. These boards will have power to enforce on all children compulsory attendance at school. Should they exercise this power the domestic economy of every cottage where there is a family of children will be revolutionised. At present the mother can give the baby to one of the elder children to nurse while she does the household work. But then the school visitor will step in and carry off the little drudge to learn its alphabet, while mother and baby, cooking and washing, cleaning, stitching, and the multifarious, never-ending labours of a busy household must manage as well as they can with only one pair of hands among them. The statistics of the Manchester Education Aid Society show a large per centage of absentees from school under the head, "kept at home nursing." These were mostly girls, but many of them were boys. What is to become of the babies while the nurses go to school? Here is the next pressing question in practical politics to await solution at the hands of a popular constituency. We think it highly proper that such a constituency should contain women.

But we consider that it is not sufficient, in order to secure due consideration of household interests in settling the details of the working of the Elementary Education Act, that a percentage of the electors should be women. We deem it absolutely necessary that the element of knowledge of the inner life of domestic affairs which women alone possess should find its place in the body which is to enact laws dealing so directly with these affairs. We by no means object to compulsory attendance at school; on

the contrary, we hold it to be a wise and necessary regulation, and are desirous of seeing it enforced throughout the country. But in order to become so extended it is necessary to introduce it in such a manner that the inevitable inconveniences shall be reduced to the smallest dimensions, and the advantages presented in the strongest light. Also, that the machinery employed to secure compulsory attendance shall not be felt as either odious or oppressive.

It is very easy for a School Board to pass a law of compulsory education, but who is to put the law in force? The most difficult and delicate part of their task will begin,—will in fact arise out of the enactment of the compulsory law. They will have to select officials to carry out the law, and these officials must deal primarily with little children; secondarily, with the mothers of such children, and not at all, or hardly at all, with men. The father of a family has practically little to do with the matter of attendance, because during school hours he is engaged at work, and the responsibility for this matter must rest with the mother. Without the willing co-operation of busy mothers of families it would be impossible to secure by any system of official terrorism, or the imposition of any amount of pains and penalties on fathers, the punctual appearance of the children at school, properly washed, dressed, and fed. The part of men in regard to compulsory attendance seems limited to making the order for it. It is for women to put it in practice by bringing or sending their charges to school. Therefore, women officials are far better qualified to fill numerous posts which will arise under the Elementary Education Act than men. But a School Board composed solely of men would not be so likely to appoint women to such offices as if their own body contained women. Men are so accustomed to think of men only as government officials, that they would be very likely to overlook, out of sheer forgetfulness, the claims and the superior fitness of women for many of the posts which the School Boards will create and fill.

Women would have been deprived of this vote in all great towns and corporate districts, but for the passing of Mr. Jacob Bright's clause in the Municipal Franchise Act of 1869. Neither he nor anyone could at the time foresee the great accession of importance which this clause would derive from, and would give to the Education Act in the succeeding year. By its means we have, during the past session, obtained a perfectly new franchise for women,—obtained it as a matter of course, without a question or a murmur of opposition from any quarter.

It occupies an intermediate position between the municipal and the parliamentary vote. Though in one sense a local vote, it is not a mere question of rates and local government which the electors have to solve,—they have to deal with questions of the deepest social and political importance, and of such complexity that the Imperial Legislature has found itself unequal to the task of determining them. Shall compulsory education be extended to every child in the country? Shall the rate-supported schools be religious or secular? These questions Parliament has been unable to decide. It has created local constituencies to which it refers them for solution. No public questions excite such fierce controversy as politico-religious ones. It is admitted on all hands that where the interests of religion are supposed to be at stake, women have as strong feelings as men. Parliament has now bestowed on them the power to give effect to these feelings by voting on the question of religious teaching in schools; it has thereby recognised their right to be consulted in the decision of questions which occupy the attention of the Imperial Legislature, and their ability to pronounce a verdict on matters which it has referred to the decision of the people.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

A correspondent of the *Christian World* writes:—"The first appearance of the Marquis of Lorne, as a candidate for Parliament, was made on February 8th, 1868, in the pleasant little town of Dunoon, and though he modestly remembered he was a very young man, being then only turned twenty-two, and seemed to avoid the saying of smart things, it was apparent that he took an independent view of most questions, and was able to give pithy expression to his opinions. He announced that he would vote in favour of giving the franchise to women."

The sympathies of the Princess Louise are understood to be warmly enlisted in the cause of the elevation of the condition of her sex. It is possible that the liberal sentiments of the Marquis of Lorne may have commended him to the favour of this amiable and accomplished Princess, and helped to win for him the honour and happiness on which the whole country is just now congratulating him.

GALLOWAY BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

On the 25th inst. a committee was organised in Galloway in connexion with the above-named society, composed of the following ladies, with power to add to their number:—

Mrs. SHERWOOD,	Miss DALZIEL,
Miss L. E. TAYLOR,	Mrs. MATTHEWS.
Miss TAYLOR, Belmont, Stranraer, <i>Hon. Secretary.</i>	

The protest against the continuance of the war issued by the International Association of Women has been signed by fifteen thousand Englishwomen of all classes of society.

STOLEN MARRIAGES AND THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT.

The following details of an elopement, which lately took place at Llandudno, have been published:—"Miss Byrch, a young lady said to be in her 16th year, had been lodging with her sister and her sister's husband in a fashionable part of Llandudno, near to which an enterprising and youthful wine and spirit merchant, named Lloyd, also resided. By some means or other Mr. Lloyd had got an introduction to Miss Byrch, and it would appear that they must have had stolen interviews, in the course of which they had so arranged matters for an elopement as to leave unexcited the suspicions of the lady's friends. Having obtained a special licence, Mr. Lloyd and Miss Byrch appeared at the parish church of Llandudno on Friday morning last, when the respected and unsuspecting rector united the two in the bonds of wedlock. It was arranged that they should separate at the church door, that the lady should walk on the road leading to Conway, where she was to be picked up in a carriage by her newly-acquired husband, and the arrangement was successfully carried out. The parties drove to a small village in the vale of the Conway, named Treffview, when, having sent back the vehicle, the "happy pair" ordered "dinner for two," and while it was being prepared took a walk in the neighbourhood. In the meantime the fact of the marriage was discovered by accident. The overseer of Llandudno having business with the rector, called upon him, when the latter pointed to the recent entry in the register, on which the parish functionary proceeded to impart the information to the lady's friends. A hue and cry was immediately set on foot, the fugitives were traced to Treffview, but beyond that place nothing could be heard of them. On Saturday bills were issued offering £50 reward for the discovery of the lady, who, it was represented, had been "decoyed" away from her friends. On Wednesday other bills were issued withdrawing the offer of the reward; and up to Wednesday night the whereabouts of the newly-married couple had not been discovered. It is said that the lady has a large property in her own right."

Persons who for interested reasons pursue the course adopted by the enterprising hero of the above story have ample cause to be thankful that we have a House of Lords. Had the Peers not struck out of the Married Women's Property Bill the clause declaring that every woman married after the passing of the Act should hold all her real and personal estate free from the disposition or control of her husband, in all respects as if she had continued unmarried, no one would be able to possess himself of a fortune by the simple process of decoying a child of fifteen years of age from her friends, and confiscating her wealth by means of the marriage service. In all probability the knowledge that marriage would not give power over one farthing of the lady's fortune would suffice to prevent the formation of the scheme; but supposing trust is reposed in the chance of coaxing or bullying the wife into making him a gift of her money this could not be accomplished till the lady is of age. She would thus have five years of wedded life in which to acquire experience of her husband's character, and probably children would appear to press their claims on her maternal heart. Her friends and legal advisers would have ample time to propose equitable arrangements for the security of her fortune; and under all these influences it would be strange if some satisfactory settlement could not be made.

The laws do not allow a male person under age to divest himself of his property by any act of his own. They very properly protect the young against the arts of designing persons who might take advantage of their inexperience to rob them. The property of a boy of fifteen is safe—so far as his own acts can affect it. But a girl of fifteen may, in an unsuspecting

hour, throw her whole wealth into the hands of an adventurer, and the bait thereby held out to unscrupulous, designing, and dishonourable men may cause the shipwreck not only of her fortune but of her life's happiness. For the continuance of this risk to young girls, and for the misery that may hereafter result from it, we have to thank the Peers who rejected Mr. Russell Gurney's Married Women's Property Bill.

PUBLIC BABY FARMING.

The following paragraph appeared last month in the London papers—

STARVATION IN A WORKHOUSE.—On Monday evening Mr. Humphreys held an inquest at the Duke of Wellington Tavern, Globe Road, Bethnal Green, respecting the death from starvation of Mark Stevenson, aged five weeks. Elizabeth Stevenson, a girl of 18, said she was a weaver, living at 21, East-street, Bethnal Green. About 12 months ago she went to live with her young man, a bricklayer. Six months ago he got out of work, and witness supported him and herself upon one meal a day, which her mother gave her. Some weeks ago she told him that she should have to go into the Bethnal Green workhouse to be confined. He then left her and enlisted as a soldier in the 60th Rifles. Witness, who had been able to get no work at her trade for several months, then went into the workhouse and gave birth to a child. She was in such a starving state that she had no milk to give the child. In the workhouse they starved her. She felt it nearly as bad as being outside. They gave her at six o'clock in the morning for breakfast 4oz. of bread and a pint of tea; for dinner they gave her, about half-past twelve o'clock, 5oz. of meat and 4oz. of bread; for tea she got 5oz. of bread and a pint of tea; twice a week she got vegetables at dinner. For the first three days after the birth of the child they gave her a pint of beer, but when they found she could not suckle the child they stopped the beer. She felt so starved that her mother took her out of the workhouse. The baby was allowed half a pint of milk for breakfast and half a pint for tea, and that was all the baby got. The child died three weeks after she left the workhouse. Dr. Massingham stated that the child had died from want of food. He thought that it had been starved from birth. A pint of milk a day was too little to allow it. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from want of food," and they said that the mother was evidently in a starving condition.

We should like to know wherein the conduct of the workhouse authorities, who neglected to give to a child, entrusted to their care, a sufficient quantity of food to support life, and thereby, according to the medical testimony and the verdict of the jury, caused its death, differed from that for which Margaret Waters was hanged.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING OCTOBER.

Mrs. Webster	£0 10 6
Miss Corney	0 1 0
Mrs. King	1 1 0
Mrs. Westlake	1 1 0
Mr. T. H. Bastard	2 0 0
Miss Ursula Taylor	0 10 6
Mrs. Layton	1 0 0
Sir Charles Lyell, Bart.	1 0 0
Miss Florence Hill	1 1 0
Professor F. W. Newman	2 0 0
Mrs. Gordon Barlow	1 1 0
	£11 6 0

LYDIA E. BECKER, TREASURER.

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SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

Newcastle, September, 1870.

THE LADIES' CONFERENCE.

PRESIDENT—LADY BOWRING.

This section assembled in the afternoon, as usual, in the Savings Bank, Westgate-street. There was again such a very large attendance, however, that an adjournment had at once to take place to the Theatre of the Literary and Philosophical Society. Amongst the ladies present on the occasion were Miss Adams, the secretary; Miss E. C. Wolstenholme, Miss Porter, Mrs. G. W. Hodge, Miss Ellen Richardson, Mrs. Edward Charlton, Mrs. I. L. Bell, Mrs. J. C. Street, Mrs. Abbot, Mrs. and Miss Blackwell, Miss Singers, and Miss Tod.

WOMEN AS INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

A paper on this subject, by Miss NEWSOME, was then submitted as follows:—The Elementary Education Bill has successfully passed through Parliament, and received the Queen's assent. From that simple fact we believe a crisis in the history of England will be dated. But its preparation and establishment as law, are but successive steps towards realising the great idea embodied in that Bill. The next step is so to arrange the executive of it, that its provisions shall have the chance of being carried out with the best results, and on this we have a few words to say. First, let us see what is the result aimed at. Year after year, from one source after another, there has been forced on thinking England the dire conviction that a very large mass of her people are utterly uneducated, sunk in ignorance, and sinking deeper and deeper. Philanthropy has tried to mitigate the evil. Ragged schools, town missions, mother's meetings, temperance societies, reformatories, penitentiary homes, are all doing their respective work, and raising some of the many out of their state of ignorance and moral degradation. But the sense of failure remains, and is strong; the best and most successful efforts are hardly appreciable on the work that has to be done. Convinced of this, the State has given forth its fiat. We must do our best, imperfect as it is, for the generation now grown up; but another shall not be added to it. From this time forward every child in England shall be taught, if possible, well taught. The gift of our generation to the next, must be a race of men and women, educated, intellectually and morally, to act their part in life as becomes the people of this great Christian England. It is a grand end to set before us, and no right means must be neglected for attaining that end. One potent means lies close at hand—the agency of women in the executive of the Bill. Equally interested with men in its practical success, they must be united with them fully and equally in the responsibility of its working. Women must sit on the education boards, personally, not by proxy, with voice and vote; and they must take their share of work as organised official inspectors from the very beginning. We have seen too much of the inherent weakness which exists in the past exclusion policy. Again and again benevolence has to step in, to correct with female volunteer labour, the radical defects engendered by that policy. Mrs. Fry, Miss Nightingale, Miss Twining, Miss Rye, and their co-workers, all tell the same tale, of prisons, hospitals, workhouses, and emigration. But trying to right what has become wrong, by even the wisest volunteer efforts, is but touching the outside of the evil. In this great national measure let us start differently; let us try what the combined efforts of men and women, equally responsible to the State, can do. Mistakes will be made at first; experiments will have to be tried, more or less successfully, but the foundation will be secure, and sooner or later the structure will take its proper size

and proportions. In many places women would bring to the school-boards a practical knowledge of the poor in their own neighbourhoods, acquired by attendance at mothers' meetings, and by district visiting; and they would see to it that girls, equally with boys, enjoy all the advantages; the same coercive attendance, if necessary (no mistaken kindness allowing domestic claims to excuse non-attendance), the same hours and the same teaching; and as inspectors, from their experience in a higher class of elementary teaching, they would be of great practical value in directing and judging these schools. The necessary contact into which educated gentlewomen would be brought with the lowest class of our boys and girls, is in itself an element of education, not the less powerful that it is undefinable; and the teachers of these schools would be strengthened by the help and sympathy of women above them, and yet equally with them interested in their success. The advantages to all concerned are manifold and palpable; the cause of education generally will gain by a judicious course. With the Elementary Education Bill, successive sets of children ought to be sent up to the higher schools well taught in the elements of learning; and the inspectors, whether men or women, must watch that the whole school is up to a certain level, and guard against the natural temptation of the teacher to push on the cleverer children beyond that level, neglecting the slower ones. The gain of this joint work would not alone be to schools and education generally; the more men and women are associated together in work the better that work will be done, the natural gifts of the one supplementing those of the other for the common good of the country. The objections to that course are so futile! Theory and practice, in this country, are diametrically opposed; and in public, as in private, acting a lie is weakness, not strength. Theory says, men are to do all external work, and women are to remain at home, to attend to domestic duties. Practice gives hundreds of thousands of women no such duties to perform, and sends them forth to struggle, as they best can, for scope for their energies, and work for their bread. Theory says, women have not nerve or strength to become doctors. Practice sends them to hospitals and battle-fields in other capacities, but demanding the same amount of nerve and strength. Theory says, women must have no voice in legislation. Practice sees them having to waste time, and strength, and energy, trying to get undone mischievous, because one-sided, legislation. Theory keeps women off public boards, and refuses them official recognition as ratepayers. Practice gives them large property to be rated, and consequent powerful, but irresponsible and secret influence over those boards. It is time theory and practice were made one. Where no legal impediment exists, make men and women equally responsible and equally eligible for any post, personal fitness alone considered; and as soon as may be, let all the old one-sided legislation be swept away, and end the miserable antagonism, which is growing up between them as sexes; as hurtful to the well-being of the whole community, as union would be beneficial; and men no less than women would be gainers; for the latter there would be new and greatly needed fields for abilities, where they exist, and for energies which must find work, and the sense of responsibility will bring more thorough and regulated action; and men will profit by a more equitable division of work. It is one of the sad sights of the present day, to see them, young and old, everywhere breaking down and becoming prematurely old; while women, conscious of abilities, are obliged to sit by with folded hands. Businesses have become so large and complicated, and the claims of public life and charity so many and pressing, that their powers are strained to the utmost, and beyond it; while some petty red-tapeism or conventionalism prevents men in the higher and middle classes seeking, and women giving them

trained, regulated help in their public and private work. "Ce n'est que le premier pas qui coute." Let that first step to a better state of things be taken at once, and at least let one of our national institutions, this new, great measure, share the work and responsibility and the advantages between men and women alike. Whence comes the reluctance to break through a custom acknowledged to be found wanting? We are unwilling to ascribe it to the littleness, which would dread women as dangerous pecuniary rivals; it may be rather from a morbid dread of their being spoiled as women. A most baseless fear! The same great Creator who gave women undeniable mental ability to act a part in the world has also an instinct stronger for its ends than any bonds, deeper than any teachings. When this two-fold truth is recognised, and untrammelled action is given to women, limited only as with men, to individual capacity for any particular work, then will be found what "help-meet" really means, in the sense which our age and generation requires. The country will gain, in its great need, by utilising all the power for good within it. Co-operating in great as well as in little things, men and women will strengthen and harmonise one another, and increase in mutual respect; and, looking steadily to the end, the establishment of a higher, truer, purer life among all classes, they will learn to work effectively together for that end.

"Distinct as the billows, yet one as the sea."

Lady BOWRING said she hoped they had all heard the paper distinctly, as it contained some very valuable suggestions as to the obtainment of the object which it purported to set forth, namely, that of inspectorships for women. They would be of great importance in connection with the university education which it had been proposed to give to their sex, and which had already been in some instances secured. She understood that Miss Wolstenholme desired to address them on the subject, that a resolution would afterwards be submitted for consideration, and, therefore, they would doubtless all give their best attention. (Applause.)

Miss WOLSTENHOLME remarked that the paper which had just been read represented but a very tiny fraction of a very large question, and that question was the fitness of women for general educational work. It was agreed on all hands that women made the best teachers. Love, hope, and patience, the three best elements of woman's nature, were the grandest requisites in the character of every teacher. (Applause.) But people qualified the admission of that fitness by saying that although women could carry on elementary education admirably, they ought to stop at the point where higher education joined on to the elementary stage. Now, she thought they would all agree in thinking that as they were already in possession of the three principal requisites, the moral elements of education, all that was needed to enable women to carry on the task of instruction to the highest degree was higher instruction and special training in the work of teaching. (Hear.) The means of obtaining that higher instruction, however, had been almost entirely wanting in the past; but in a short time the deficiencies were likely to be supplied. The university examinations to which her friend Miss Tod had drawn attention at an early part of the proceedings of the Congress, would, if carried out, apply a good test to their schools, and would succeed in bringing up the character of many of them to a much higher standard; while the teaching and discipline would also be greatly improved. She might be allowed at this stage to mention, for the information of those who objected to competitive examinations on principle, that the University of Cambridge offered school examinations, as such, to schools of boys and girls indifferently; and this might be of use to those ladies who

objected to allowing their children to enter any close competition. She did not know whether the ladies present had paid any attention to the passing of the Endowed Schools Bill; but she would like to interest them in the Educational Council Bill, the second of the Endowed Schools Bills, so called, a measure which had been postponed through a pressure of other business until some forthcoming session. Whether it would be brought forward in the next session of Parliament or not, they were not yet informed; but should that measure pass into law in the shape in which it left the House of Commons, it would provide, through the proposed Educational Council, of which some women ought to be members, first, compulsory registration and inspection for all endowed schools whatever; secondly, voluntary registration and inspection for all schools above the grade of elementary schools; and, thirdly, the examination and certification of all teachers. Should the measure ever pass into law, it would be the business of women to qualify themselves to obtain certificates, to throw open their schools for registration and examination, and in every respect to avail themselves of the great measure, which they might fairly call the supplementary Reform Act of English legislation. (Hear, hear, and applause.) It was her wish, also, to call attention to certain practical steps by which at the present moment they might help forward the cause of education in general, and that of women in particular. The municipal vote, as they were all aware, was granted to women last year. (Hear, hear.) Some of them, perhaps, would not have cared for the vote if it had only affected questions of rating; but it was of the greatest importance, in consequence of allowing them to exercise their influence in regulating matters of health and public decency, and in many other ways. But the question of education was of the highest importance to women, and the municipal vote had in this respect acquired a new value. (Hear, hear.) The school boards, established under the Elementary Education Act, were to be elected by those ratepayers who were on the burgess list, or who held the municipal vote for the cities and boroughs of this country; and, therefore, the way in which she would ask ladies to apply their votes would be to secure the election of women on school boards, where their presence would be of essential service in carrying out the provisions of the Education Act. (Applause.) There were many matters, as affecting boys, in which the help of women would be of great importance; but they must bear in mind, also, that unless women were elected on such school boards the education of girls was very likely once again to go to the wall. She did not say that men would wilfully neglect the interests of women, but she thought they would be much more likely to be neglected if the direct representatives of women were not present. (Applause.) Miss Newsome's paper had specially brought before them the value of female inspectors of schools. With reference to that matter, she had to say that any of the ladies present, who were connected with educational societies or associations, could give them most practical help by getting their association to memorialise the Committee of Council of Education in favour of the admission of women as inspectors of schools. It was a matter of great importance, because at the very next meeting of the committee referred to the question would be brought forward. If they desired to have women appointed in that capacity, they should bring their influence to bear on the matter immediately. (Applause.) In a letter on the subject from Mr. Arthur Hobhouse, Q.C., one of the Endowed Schools' Commissioners, he said, "I trust you will succeed in introducing female inspectors of schools. Every step of this kind will break down something of the enormous barrier of prejudice which deprives us of the services of women in so many relations of life, and will also

diminish the more essential difficulties which lie in the paucity of the women who have training and experience sufficient for the work." (Hear, hear.) The Endowed Schools' Commissioners were also very anxious to procure female trustees for endowments, but the difficulty of doing so was very great. They would all know that the Endowed School Commissioners were very busily at work reforming all the endowed schools. It was for the ladies of England to take care that in any redistribution of the funds of endowed schools, and in any redistribution of the benefits, the girls of the country should have their full advantage. (Applause.) She believed herself that the problem of equal educational advantages for both sexes would never be solved until the principle of mixed schools was fully admitted; and she held it to be of paramount importance that the commissioners should be urged to declare the school, in all places where the funds were insufficient to maintain two separate places of education, to be for the instruction of children or youth, and so to permit, not to compel, the inhabitants to use the school for both sons and daughters, if they thought proper to do so. Whether that would be accomplished or not it was impossible to say, but at any rate there was a great deal of work for women to do in coming to the aid of the commissioners. Local help everywhere was what was needed in the interests of both boys and girls. Miss Wolstenholme then urged the ladies of Newcastle to collect all the information they could respecting the endowments of their schools, in order that the whole thing might be properly adjusted during the ensuing sittings of the commissioners. In conclusion she proposed: "That this section desires to draw the attention of the Council of the Association to the fitness of women for the work of education, especially as teachers in schools of every grade, as members of school boards under the Education Act, as inspectors of schools, and as trustees of endowed schools, and to urge upon them the desirability of memorialising the Committee of Council and the Endowed Schools Commissioners with reference to these subjects."

Miss PORTER, in seconding the resolution, said she was sure they would all feel that it was important that women should take some part in the great educational movement of the day. (Hear, hear.) So great was now the importance of special training in education—not merely for teachers themselves, but for ladies who were mothers of families—that some strenuous efforts would speedily have to be made to supply the necessary means of imparting it. With the exception of those excellent institutions in London and other places, for the training of national school teachers, there was no present means of women gaining that instruction and training which was so very much needed and desired. (Loud applause.)

The motion, which, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously, was then ordered to be forwarded to the secretary of the Social Science Association for presentation in the proper quarter.

A work now in Messrs. Trübner's hands will incidentally throw some light on the intellectual capacity of Hindoo women, commonly treated as *nil*, but this history of Hindu poetry will give names and specimens of 28 poetesses.

During the next few weeks it is probable that many Members of Parliament will address meetings of their constituents, to give an account of their stewardship. We earnestly exhort the friends of Women's Suffrage to take every such opportunity of questioning their representatives on the subject, and of urging them to support the Women's Disabilities Bill to be introduced by Mr. Jacob Bright in the forthcoming session.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—I trust you will excuse my troubling you, but seeing your name so frequently associated with the difficulties of our sex, and having applied to a lawyer without being able to obtain a satisfactory reply, I have thought it probable that you would be able and willing to answer the question I put to him, namely,—whether under the new Act a married woman living with her husband can carry on a business independently of him, and to be safe from his creditors. It is useless for me to trouble you with details, but we can see no other means of recovering ourselves from utter ruin; if we can do it we shall soon be able to pay all that we owe.—Yours faithfully,

DELTA.

[We cannot undertake to answer questions as to the meaning of an Act of Parliament; but we print the letter, hoping that some of our legal friends may be able to give a satisfactory reply.—EDITOR.]

BABY FARMING.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—Margaret Waters was executed on the 11th inst. as a murderess. She had undertaken to bring up a number of illegitimate children, and they died under her care—for this she was condemned. Nobody accused her of poisoning or drowning the children, but they were simply suffered to die of inanition from the want of proper food and proper care, which was an impossibility for anyone but a mother or a nurse to give them. Now, it ought to be a question for everybody to ask himself or herself—Are the laws in reference to this case perfectly just? Because if not, then each individual, for want of lifting up a voice against them, is guilty of being accessory to the murder of Margaret Waters. Doubtless she never expected them to live; and as statistics will tell that nine out of ten babies put out to nurse do not live, and her poverty drove her to make a trade of it. Now, no one could regard such a trade without horror, but what a pass of wretchedness must a woman be driven to before she could take up with it. She herself blames the parents of the children as the sole authors of their death; but, indeed, is it not rather the unjust laws which throw all the disgrace and burden of illegitimate children on the woman? Her character is gone—she has the child to keep and to get her own bread too. How can she do it? Even if helped to a situation she has to place her baby out, and ten to one it dies. I knew a young woman, a housemaid; while in one situation she got seduced under promise of marriage, and went home to her father to be confined. He was naturally very angry, as he had a large family of his own to bring up, and was a poor man. He was on the point, immediately after her confinement, of turning her on the streets, when a friend came forward, got her a situation, and so saved the girl. The baby was placed out and fed upon milk, but it did not thrive, though it was a fine baby. Eventually the girl's mother took compassion on it and brought it home, and did the best she could; but with ten children to see to, and no mother's love, it dwindled away and died. Now this is only one of thousands of cases, and the great, the solemn question must be answered by our law makers—What have they done to prevent this crying iniquity? What have they made to force the father to own his paternity, to pay adequately for the keep of the child? The reply must be—none at all; they let the seducer go free, consequently baby farming goes on and the children die. Oh, ye lawgivers of England, who turn judgment to wormwood and leave off righteousness in the earth, think ye not that unless ye

seek good and not evil ye will not be able to stand when God deals with you?—Yours, &c.,
October 12, 1870.

FIDES.

[The following practical commentary on this letter appears in the police reports in the *Daily News*, October 24:—Emily Vivian, a very respectable young woman, 30 years of age, was placed at the bar of the Southwark Police Court charged with being found destitute in the public street, creating a disturbance, and refusing to leave the step of a house in Blackman-street. It appeared from the evidence of police-constable 142 M, that between 11 and 12 o'clock at night his attention was called to the prisoner sitting on the steps of a door in Blackman-street, screaming. He walked up to her and asked her what she wanted, when she said she had been ejected from the house, and she would not go away. He was compelled to take her to the station house, when she gave the following account of herself to Inspector Fox, who took her statement down in writing:—"I am a native of Weymouth, where my friends reside. About twelve months ago an insurance agent courted me, and decoyed me from my home under the promise of marriage. We came to live in Trinity-square, Borough, as man and wife. My family are highly respectable, and in independent circumstances. The man who seduced me obtained large sums of money from me, and when I pressed him to marry me I found he had a wife, and he turned me out. His wife died two months ago, and on the night in question I went to his house to know what his intentions were towards me, when he called a constable to eject me. I do not wish to injure him. All I want is to die on the door-step. If you let me go I shall go back and lay there till I die. I went to a chemist in the evening, and had he supplied me with what I wanted I should have been dead by this time and all my sorrows forgotten." The magistrate directed the constable to take the prisoner to the office of the Rescue Society, and see what could be done for her.]

MAZZINI ON THE FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN.

(Extracts from a Letter to an English Lady.)

My dear Friend,—Can you doubt me? Can you doubt how eagerly I watch from afar, and how heartily I bless the efforts of the brave, earnest British women who are striving for the extension of the suffrage to their sex? Is not the idea of the equality of man and woman sacred to every logical and fearless man who strives for the equality of any class or section of mankind?

Is your question less sacred than that of the abolition of slavery in America, or of serfdom elsewhere? Ought it not to be even more sacred to us—in reverence for our mothers—and if we remember that the most important period of human life—the first—is entrusted to woman?

Are not all questions of equality mere baseless rebellion, unless they derive their legitimacy from an all-embracing religious principle? And is not that principle—the oneness of the human family—the soul of your country's religion?

Have the men who deny the righteousness of your claims abjured that religion, or forgotten the holy words of Jesus and of Paul?—

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

"That they all may be one; as thou Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us."—John xvii., 20, 21.

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."—Ephis. Galatians iii., 26, 28.

Do they tell you these words apply to heaven? Ask them.

Who has taught them to pray, that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven?

Yes, we are all children of God, free and equal in Him, and it is high time, eighteen centuries and a half since those words were spoken, and while new religious truths are dawning on the horizon, that they should be practically understood and applied to life and to society.

You believe in one God—the Father. Consequently in one law for his human family. Wheresoever God's baptism, the stamp of humanity, is upon a created being, we find the human characteristics of free will (the source of responsibility) of educability and capacity of indefinite progress. These faculties denote the same general duties and rights, and furnish a leading principle to govern legislation.

No question such as yours ought ever to be solved without asking, How far does the proposed solution minister to the moral education of society? The sense of self-dignity, the deep conviction that each of us has a task to fulfil on earth, for our own improvement and for that of our fellow-creatures, is the first step in all education. We are bound to start by teaching all whom we seek to educate the words you quoted: You are a human being. Nothing that concerns mankind is alien to you. If you crush in man his innate sense of self-respect, you decree the helot. If you sanction moral inequality to any extent, you either create rebellion, with all its evils, or indifference, hypocrisy, and corruption. If you punish the accomplice, leaving the sinner untouched, you destroy, by arousing the sense of injustice, every beneficial result of punishment. If you assume the right to legislate for any one class, without allowing that class voice or share in the work, you destroy the sacredness of law, and awaken hatred or contempt in the heart of the excluded class. In these simple obvious principles lies the justice of your claims.

In the moral principles I have stated you will conquer. Your cause is a religious one. Do not narrow it down to what is called a right or an interest. Let duty be your ground, both in protecting your unhappy sisters and in urging your political claims. You are children of God as we are. You have the same task to perform on earth—the progressive discovery and progressive fulfilment of His law. You cannot renounce that task without sinning against the God who appointed it, and gave to you as to us, faculties and powers for its accomplishment.

You cannot fulfil your task without liberty, which is the source of responsibility. You cannot fulfil it without equality, which is liberty for each and all.

Your claim to the suffrage is identical with that of the working men. Like them you seek to bring a new element of progress to the common work; you feel that you too have something to say, not merely indirectly, but legally and officially, with regard to the great problems which stir and torture the soul of mankind.

There lies your real ground for being heard, there your strength. Keep to that ground, resolutely; and do not allow any expediency, unconscious selfishness, or fragmentary view of the struggle, to allure you from it. There is a holy crusade going on throughout the world for justice, freedom, and truth, against lies and tyranny. You too are a battalion in that crusade; feel this and act accordingly. Sympathise with all who suffer, and you will meet sympathy; help, and you will be helped. The sole foundation of right is duty fulfilled, and if the emancipation of the working man is at hand, it is because he has shown himself, during the last half century, ready for self-sacrifice in the noble causes requiring the devotedness of the true and brave.—I am, dear friend,

JOSEPH MAZZINI.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Annual Meeting of this society will be held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday, November 23rd, at three o'clock p.m. Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P.; Mrs. Josephine E. Butler, W. R. Callender, jun., Esq., J.P.; R. M. Pankhurst, Esq., LL.D.; Peter Rylands, Esq., M.P.; Rev. S. A. Steinthal, James Stuart, Esq., M.A., and other ladies and gentlemen are expected to take part in the proceedings. The attendance of members and friends is invited. Further particulars in future announcements.

LECTURE ON THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF
WOMEN BY MISS CRAIGEN.

On Monday evening, September 26, 1870, a lecture was delivered in the Temperance Hall, Leeds Road, Bradford, by Miss Jessie Craigen, on "The Rights and Wrongs of Women." The chair was taken by Mr. Draper, and there was a numerous audience, principally composed of women. Miss Craigen, in the outset of her address, spoke in favour of women, possessing the necessary qualification, being allowed to exercise the franchise, and against class legislation, because she thought we should have better legislation and more equal justice now the people of each class were allowed to speak in their own defence, and one class would lose the power to oppress and overbear the other. If working men—now they had obtained the franchise—opposed the enfranchisement of independent women they would just be cutting their own throats, for the arguments used in favour of the enfranchisement of the working classes were equally powerful in the case of independent women. She complained that men did not do justice to women in legislating for them, and she would challenge anyone to produce a statute in which women had not been overlooked. As instance of injustice she pointed to the rejection of the Married Women's Property Bill, as passed through the Commons, and to the law which gave the husband power to take children away from their mother. She also said that in cases of seduction there was no shadow of redress for a woman, but the actions had to be brought by the unfortunate girl's father for the loss of her services to himself. In instances where the girl was in the service of another person even an action could not be maintained on that footing, because the father was unable to prove any loss of service. Cases of breach of promise of marriage were brought under the civil contract law, but with regard to cases of this particular class, she would wish this law to be swept away, because the infliction of a mere monetary penalty had a degrading effect on the tone of society. Another cause of complaint was that the women were under educated—they were shouldered off from the charitable schools of the country unless special provision had been made by the person giving the endowment, and they were kept out of the higher education of the country. Labouring under these and other disabilities, women were unable to fight the battle of life, they were deprived of the means of earning their own living. We need not be afraid of women doing men's work because they could not,—Providence had drawn the line—but they would try their capacity in various directions and settle down in that for which they could best fit themselves. In conclusion, the fair lecturer forcibly argued that a well-educated woman would be far more likely to make a good wife than one brought up in ignorance, and she failed to see the force of the assertion that education in other things involved neglect in domestic affairs. The lecture was given with much power and eloquence, and some of the passages were warmly applauded.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

BAZAAR AND EXHIBITION IN AID OF THE FUNDS
OF THE MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

It is proposed to hold a Bazaar and Exhibition for the above purpose at Manchester in October, 1871. The expenses of the agitation for the Women's Disabilities Bill during the coming session will be necessarily great, and whether it pass into law or not, a large expenditure of funds by the Society will be requisite. To meet this demand the Executive Committee have decided on holding a Bazaar, and earnestly request the aid of their friends in all parts of the country and all parts of the world to render the undertaking successful. The following ladies and gentlemen have already promised to become patrons:—Sir Thomas Bazley, Bart., M.P.; Lady Bazley; Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P.; Mrs. Jacob Bright; Alfred Illingworth, Esq., M.P.; The Hon. Mrs. Thomas Liddell; E. Miall, Esq., M.P.; Peter Rylands, Esq., M.P.; Mrs. Rylands, and others whose names will appear in future announcements.

We hope to publish in a future number of this Journal a list of ladies in different towns willing to receive contributions. Those ladies desirous of so doing are requested to communicate with the Editor of this Journal.

It is proposed that the contributions shall consist of two sections. 1. Articles for sale, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of this Society. 2. Articles on loan, for exhibition merely.

Contributions of the following nature will be gratefully received:—Articles of plain and fancy work of all descriptions, for sale. Photographs, paintings, engravings, and other works of art, on loan or for sale. Curiosities, antiquities, and articles of *vertu*, on loan or for sale. Ornaments and articles of jewellery, for sale. Banners and decorations of all sorts, on loan. Ornamental plants, on loan. Perishable articles, such as fruit, flowers, and refreshments, for sale. Volunteer services in musical performances, and other entertainments. Laces, needlework, fans, and other products of women's artistic and industrial skill, on loan for exhibition, &c., &c., &c. Persons willing to contribute these, or similar things, are requested to notify such willingness to the Secretary, and articles not of a perishable nature may be at once forwarded to Miss Becker, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 1870.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

Mrs. Gwynne	£1 0 0
Mrs. Arundel Rogers	0 10 0
Miss Corney	0 5 0
Rev. J. A. Jacob	0 2 6
Mrs. Hindle	0 2 6
Mrs. Layton	1 0 0
The Lady Lytton	0 10 0
Mrs. Howell	0 2 6
Mrs. Dixon	0 10 0
Miss Leaf	0 10 0
Miss A. Wilson	0 5 0
Collected by Miss Ramsay	0 15 0
Mrs. Ashby	1 0 0
Professor F. W. Newman	0 10 0

£7 2 6

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

Communications for the Editor and orders for the Journal may be addressed to 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester. Price post free for one year, one copy, One Shilling and Sixpence; two copies, Two Shillings and Sixpence.

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