

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 153. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

OCTOBER 2, 1882.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents :

Leading Articles :—Mr. Hugh Mason, M.P.; Meetings during the Month; Scottish National Demonstration of Women at Glasgow; Scotch Women and the Municipal Franchise; The Legal Status of Women; Extract from the Diary of Caroline Fox; Tardy Justice to an Assaulted Wife; The Married Women's Property Act of 1856.
Public Meetings :—Pontefract.
Lectures :—Harrogate; Isle of Wight—Newport, Ventnor, Ryde; Clerkenwell, Aberdeen.
The Social Science Congress.

The Property of Married Women :—Meeting at Nottingham.
Abbesses summoned to Parliament. [Acts.
Parliamentary History of the Married Women's Property Review.
The Queen at Parkhurst.
The Crown Princess of Germany.
Women of the Sagas. Women Telegraph Clerks.
Women as Registrars of Births and Deaths.
Women and Athletic Exercises.
Ladies' Swimming Match.

Woman and the Enterprising Burglar.
Education of Women in India.
Forfeiture of Widow's Dower.
Protection to a Wife's Earnings.
Correspondence :—To the Members of the Society for Promotion of Women's Suffrage.
Obituary :—Sir David Wedderburn; Mr. T. Falconer.
The New Scotch Municipal Register.
Female Physicians Abroad.
Treasurers' Reports :—Manchester, Central Committee, Bristol and West of England.

It is always safe
to use
**Reckitt's
Blue.**

ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum.

CONTENTS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1882.

1. The Married Women's Property Act, by E. C. Wolstenholme-Elmy.
2. The United States Act against Polygamy.
3. Society for the Encouragement of Home Study.
4. International League of Women.

Reviews :—History of Women's Suffrage, Vol. II. Social Science Association.

Record of Events :—Married Women's Property Act—Text of the Act—Circular of the Married Women's Property Committee—London University—Pass List of Intermediate Examinations in Arts, Science, Medicine—Honours List in Arts and Preliminary M.B.—Newnham College—Lady Margaret Hall—Cambridge and Oxford Local Examinations—Intermediate Education, Ireland—College Hall of Residence, London—Women in the Civil Service—Workshop Inspection by Women—Justice to Women—Women on Temperance—Conference of Librarians—National Eisteddfod.

Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

A LADY, a good reader aloud, desires an Engagement as Daily Non-resident READING COMPANION to an invalid or elderly Lady or Gentleman, or occasional evening engagements accepted. Locality immaterial.—For particulars and references, address H. B., at 64, Berners Street, London.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!—Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures during the recess for petitions, to be presented in support of Mr. Mason's Resolution, which is expected to come on for discussion in Parliament at an early date next session. Petitions from women householders or others who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote are particularly valuable. Special forms of petition to be signed by such women, as well as general petitions, ready for signature, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 64, Berners-street, London, W., or 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester; Miss BLACKBURN, 20, Park-street, Bristol; or Miss KIRKLAND, 13, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

NINETEENTH CENTURY BUILDING SOCIETY,
ADELAIDE PLACE, LONDON BRIDGE,
E.C.

SHARES £10.

Payable in one sum or by periodical payments.

Liability of Shareholders strictly limited.

Sanitary Condition of Property Reported upon without Extra Charge.

DIRECTORS :

HENRY WALDEMAR LAWRENCE, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C.
MARK H. JUDGE, 8, Park Place Villas, W.
F. H. A. HARDCASTLE, 10, Brunswick Sq., W.C.
ELIZA ORME, 27, Southampton Buildings, W.C.
GEORGE PALMER, M.P., 68, Grosvenor St., W.
MARY E. RICHARDSON, Bedford Park, W.
HENRY RUTT, 66, Finchley Road, N.W.

Interest on Shares, five per cent per annum, paid half-yearly.

Deposits received at four per cent.

Shares or Deposits may be withdrawn by giving short notice.

Prompt and Liberal Advances on all kinds of Freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Property.

Prospectus free of

FREDERICK LONG,
Manager and Secretary.

**TOWLE'S
CHLORODYNE**

Pleasant and effective remedy for Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption, and Diarrhoea, 13d. and 2/9, of Chemists; also in 6d. and 1s. boxes.

Towle's Chlorodyne Lozenges. Towle's Chlorodyne Jujubea.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

**SCOTTISH NATIONAL
DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN
IN FAVOUR OF
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.**
GLASGOW, 1882.

A CONFERENCE will be held in the Christian Institute, Bothwell-street, Glasgow, on Tuesday afternoon, October 3rd. The Chair will be taken at half-past three o'clock, by
EX-BAILIE BURT.

The subject of discussion at the Conference will be the proposed SCOTTISH NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN to be held in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on November 3rd (over which Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN will preside), in support of the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Ratepayers, and how its success can be best promoted.

All persons interested who are willing to take part in promoting the Demonstration are invited to attend.

President : Mrs. DUNCAN M'LAREN.
Secretaries : ELIZA WIGHAM, ANNA M. N. YOUNG,
ELIZA KIRKLAND.
Organising Agent : Mrs. M'CORMICK.
Treasurer : Mrs. D. GREIG.

Office, 237, WEST REGENT-STREET, GLASGOW.

A HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN engaged in Social and Political Work, Edited by HELEN BLACKBURN. Price One Shilling. Published by J. W. ARROWSMITH, 11, Quay-street, Bristol.

"It will be found a desirable acquisition by all who take a part in public matters affecting women, or who desire to know the principal topics which have or deserve attention. The legal elements of the book have been very carefully brought together and are fairly complete."—*Queen*, March 5, 1881.

"The amount of information compressed into a very small space is not more remarkable than the skill with which it is arranged and digested."—*Social Notes*, May 6, 1881.

"... Gives a brief account of the laws, enabling and disabling, which affect the condition of women. It is a useful summary."—*Spectator*, Jan. 14, 1882.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to Miss BECKER, 64, Berners-street, London, W.; or to the Office, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Miss Maria Atkinson.	Thos. Dale, Esq.	Mrs. Pankhurst.	Arthur G. Symonds, Esq.
Miss Becker.	Mrs. Gell.	Mrs. Pearson.	J. P. Thomasson, Esq., M.P.
Thos. Chorlton, Fsq.	Miss Hibbert.	Mrs. Roby.	Mrs. J. P. Thomasson.
Mrs. Joseph Cross.	Mrs. Lucas.	Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd.	Mrs. Barton Wright.
Miss Carbutt.	Dr. Pankhurst.	Rev. S. Alfred Steintal.	

Secretary: Miss Becker. Assistant Secretary: Miss S. M. Backhouse.
 Organising Agent: Mrs. M'Cormick. Treasurer: Rev. S. Alfred Steintal.

Office: 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.
 Bankers: The Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, King Street Branch, Manchester.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. If desired, petitions ready for signature will be forwarded on application to the office of this *Journal*; but it is better that friends should prepare their own petitions according to the following directions.

Write out the form given below on any kind of paper that may be at hand. A sheet of foolscap or even note paper opened out will do.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned

SHEWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

It is, however, highly desirable that women householders should sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of

SHEWETH,

That your petitioners possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary suffrage.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and signatures must be on the same piece of paper. If more room is required more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions prepared during the recess should be carefully preserved until the opening of Parliament, or they may be forwarded to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded at the proper time,

THE CALENDAR.

		OCTOBER, 1882.	
		MOON.	SUN.
		Rises.	Sets.
4th	Last Quar., 2h 17m morn.	6 7	5 30
12th	New Moon, 6h 1m morn.	6 21	5 12
19th	First Quar., 11h 55m aft.	6 33	4 57
26th	Full Moon, 2h 34m aft.	6 45	4 43
1	S	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity. Women admitted to the Pharmaceutical Examination, Ireland, 1875, and to Royal Free Hospital, London, as Students, 1877.	
2	M	Cambridge Michaelmas Term begins. Alexandra College, Dublin, Michaelmas Term begins.	
3	T		
4	W		
5	Th		
6	F	Mrs. Bodichon's Paper, "Reasons for the Franchise," read at Social Science Congress, Manchester, 1866. Miss Becker's Paper on the Progress of the Movement, read at Social Science Congress, Manchester, 1879.	
7	S		
8	S	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity. S. Bridgett of Sweden, 1373.	
9	M		
10	T		
11	W	Physical Science College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, first Exhibition to a Lady.	
12	Th	London School of Medicine for Women opened 1874. First Meeting of Social Science Association, Birmingham, 1857.	
13	F	The Countess of Huntington died 1746. Somerville Hall, Oxford, opened 1879.	
14	S		
15	S	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity.	
16	M	Marie Antoinette guillotined 1793. Hitchin Temporary College for Women opened 1879.	
17	T	S. Etheldreda.	
18	W	Newnham Hall, Cambridge, opened 1875. Mrs. Jellicoe died 1880.	
19	Th		
20	F		
21	S		
22	S	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity. Salvatore Morelli died 1830, the leader of Emancipation of Women in Italy.	
23	M	First Women's Rights Convention held in Worcester, Massachusetts, 1850.	
24	T		
25	W		
26	Th	Working Women's College, Queen's Square, opened 1874. Olympia Morata died at Heidelberg 1555.	
27	F	National Education Union established 1871. Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), author of "Land o' the Leal," &c., died 1845, aged 79.	
28			
29		Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity.	
30	M	Adelaide Proctor born 1825.	
31	T		

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIII.—No. 153. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

OCTOBER 2, 1882.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
 BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

OUR readers will have observed with deep concern and anxiety the reports which have appeared in the public prints respecting the serious illness of our Parliamentary leader, Mr. HUGH MASON. Happily, the crisis of the malady appears to be over, and there is now every reason to hope that before the period of the opening of Parliament next year the honourable gentleman may be fully restored to health and strength.

MEETINGS and lectures have been given during the past month in various districts. A public meeting was held at Pontefract, under the presidency of the Mayor, which was addressed by Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD and Miss LOUISA CARBUTT. The latter lady also presided at a lecture given by Miss BECKER at the Spa Rooms, Harrogate, which was very largely attended. Miss LILLIE STACPOOLE arranged and took part in the proceedings of a series of lectures delivered by Miss BECKER in the Isle of Wight, at Newport, Ventnor, and Ryde, which were attended by crowded and influential audiences.

Meetings will be arranged in the West of England during the coming month; but the energies of the most part of the workers will be concentrated on the preparations for the Scottish National Demonstration of Women, to be held in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on November the third.

THIS year the Scotch women will for the first time exercise the municipal franchise, and many meetings are being held in various burghs for the purpose of arousing the newly-created electors to a sense of the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote. Ladies connected with the temperance movement have been especially active in this work, besides which Miss CRAIGEN has been holding meetings on the more general aspect of the question in Aberdeen and other districts.

The work will be continued in Glasgow during October by means of the series of preliminary meetings in pre-

paration for the Scottish National Demonstration of Women in St. Andrew's Hall.

It has been determined to celebrate the occasion of the first exercise of the municipal suffrage by women in Scotland by holding in Glasgow a Scottish National Demonstration of Women, for the double purpose of arousing the newly-created electors to a sense of the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote, and of making an effective and deeper manifestation of their demand for the Parliamentary suffrage. The municipal elections for Glasgow take place on November the seventh, and the great meeting of women is to be held just before the elections, on November the third.

THE logical Scottish mind has already been aroused to the anomaly introduced into their hitherto uniform arrangements for local and imperial government, by the admission of women householders to the one vote while they are excluded from the other. The Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs has already petitioned Parliament for the extension of the women's suffrage to Parliamentary elections, and the petition thus adopted in their collective capacity has been followed by special petitions from many other municipal councils in Scotland. If Scotch municipal bodies have shown themselves thus alive to the just claims of women while elected by their suffrages of men only, how much more may not their energies be quickened by the infusion into their constituencies of so large a proportion of women electors as will have the right to vote in November next?

We believe that if the women burgesses of Scotland use their votes and influence at the next election so as to make themselves felt as a real power in the constituencies, they will be able to influence every Municipal Council in Scotland to adopt a petition for the Parliamentary franchise for women, and such a responsible representative demand for the measure would be certain to meet with

the most serious consideration at the hands of the gentlemen who represent those burghs in the House of Commons.

WE give in another column some statistics respecting the comparative number of men and women burgesses in several Scotch burghs, extracted from the *Edinburgh Daily Review*. The comparatively large number of women on the roll surprises us, as it will probably surprise many of our readers. The number would have been larger had not many women been disqualified by non-payment of their rates. The *Daily Review* omits, however, to inform us how many men were disqualified from the same cause; one of the elements of comparison is therefore wanting. It is, however, not impossible that a greater proportionate number of women than men might be disqualified through non-payment of rates; for in the first place, as women have never yet had the vote, they might reasonably be expected to be at first less mindful than men of the necessity for payment of rates before a certain day in order to secure the electoral right; and in the next place, it may be assumed that a large number of women are really much poorer than the poorest of men, and therefore a larger proportionate number of women than men might be really unable to pay their rates at the prescribed time.

The low remuneration for women's labour is one of the most crying evils connected with their condition. It is, we believe, one of the effects which indirectly flows from their political insignificance. The law has hitherto tended against the acquisition of property by women. Up to the present time it has directly discouraged industry and thrift among women by depriving them on marriage of the fruits of their previous earnings, and of the right to own property as wives. The amendment of the law in this respect, and the increased importance women will derive from the recognition of their political rights, will tend to cause a larger accumulation of property in the hands of women, and to better their condition in every respect, both collectively and individually.

THE *Manchester Guardian*, in commenting on Miss HELEN BLACKBURN'S able paper on the legal status of women at the Social Science Congress, throws some doubt on her position that women were ever relatively allowed a higher status under the feudal system than under the more Democratic conditions of modern times. "But," says our

contemporary, "there is a great deal to be said for her view of the legal as well as the social status of women if the earlier or Saxon feudalry is intended. It was the Norman lawyers who introduced the theory of a *feme covert*, and so brought about the subjection of women in the eye of the law. From the principle that a married woman had no separate existence, and so could hold no property, there naturally flowed the very low views of her position and person in all other respects which have for centuries prevailed. Now that the *feme covert* is about to become one of those rusty old legal phrases and fictions that are only of antiquarian interest, who can doubt but that with this change there will come a corresponding rise in the status of married women?"

We at least do not doubt this, and we believe that the improvement will extend to the status of all women, married or otherwise. We cordially agree with our contemporary that, by doing away with the disability which has hitherto classed married women with infants and idiots in legal treatises, the new Act must tend towards that greater freedom of women in civic matters which modern reformers desire and demand.

IN the journal of the late CAROLINE FOX there is an entry which has a curious sound in these days. Writing in June, 1838, she describes a visit to WHEATSTONE, who was then engaged in superintending the laying down of the first electric telegraph in the world, which was that between London and Bristol. She says, "WHEATSTONE has been giving lectures, and is, in fact, in the middle of a course. No ladies are admitted, unluckily; the Bishop of London forbade it, seeing how they congregated to LYELL'S, which prohibition so offended that gentleman that he resigned his professorship."

It is difficult to conceive the state of mind of a Bishop who could think it his duty to forbid women to attend lectures on the electric telegraph. What would he have thought if he could have foreseen the day when not only should women be themselves acquainted with the principles of the telegraph, but be so largely employed in its actual working as—thanks to the public spirit of the post office authorities—they are at the present day?

IN our issue of August last we noticed the case of Mrs. CUNDILL, of South Shore, whose husband was convicted on July 17th of a violent assault upon her. The Bench merely inflicted a fine of twenty shillings and costs, and

bound the man over to keep the peace in £10. On this, Mrs. CUNDILL, with tears in her eyes, begged for some further protection, for she said the fine would afford her no adequate security; but her plea was disregarded.

The forebodings thus expressed have been realised, for we learn from the Blackpool papers that on a certain day in September, before THOMAS HOYLE, Esq., and J. WHITTAKER, Esq., THOMAS CUNDILL (South Shore) was again charged with unlawfully assaulting his wife, MARY ANN CUNDILL, on Saturday last. Evidence was given to the effect that CUNDILL knocked his wife down twice, and otherwise ill-used her. Defendant has been before the magistrates twice previously this year on a similar charge—July 17th and August 18th—and on each occasion has been fined for the offence. The complainant has, however, protested that this did not afford her the protection she desired. The Bench now committed CUNDILL to prison for six months, and also ordered a judicial separation, the defendant to pay 15s. a week for the maintenance of his wife.

It is satisfactory to learn that tardy justice has at length interposed to give effectual protection to the helpless wife; but it is painful to reflect on the terror and misery she must have endured when she was again delivered into the hands of her tormentor after her first application for protection had been rejected, and on the needless suffering passed through in enduring the next violent assault, which at last induced the Bench to grant the decree of liberation.

Incidents such as this, which are sadly too frequent, prove the need for an amendment of the Wives' Protection Act, which should make the decree of judicial separation issue as a matter of right on petition of a wife whose husband has been convicted of an aggravated assault upon her, and who declares that she feels her future safety to be in peril if she remains with her husband.

THE sketch which we gave in our last issue of the movement which began fifteen years ago, and which culminated in the passing of the Married Women's Property Act of 1882, was of the nature of the second volume of a history which had its beginning eleven years before.

The first serious attempt made to amend the law relating to the property of married women seems to have been made in the year 1855 or 1856, through the efforts of MARY HOWITT, Mrs. JAMESON, and Miss BARBARA LEIGH SMITH, now Mrs. BODICHON, sister of the intrepid traveller who has just returned from braving the perils of an arctic

winter on the inhospitable shores of Franz Josef Land. Mr. LEIGH SMITH has not yet succeeded in finding the way to the North Pole, but his able and public-spirited sister, who helped to start the movement for a position which seemed equally unattainable, has the joy and pride of seeing the full consummation of the enterprise and its final success.

A committee of ladies was formed in London, of which Mrs. HOWITT was secretary. A petition signed by 3,000 women, headed by Mrs. JAMESON and Mrs. HOWITT, was presented to the House of Lords on March 14th, 1856, by Lord BROUGHAM, who said he hoped his noble friend, Lord LYNDBURST, would after Easter redeem the pledge he had given last session on the subject. Sir ERSKINE PERRY presented a similar petition to the House of Commons, and seventy other petitions were presented during the session.

A meeting connected with the Law Amendment Society was held on March 19th, at which Lord STANLEY, Sir ERSKINE PERRY, and Sir LAWRENCE PEEL were present, to consider the question and adopt a plan of operations.

In consequence of these efforts, Sir ERSKINE PERRY introduced a resolution in the House of Commons on the lines of the measure desired. The resolution was seconded by the present Earl of DERBY, then Lord STANLEY, but was withdrawn on an assurance from the then Attorney-General, Sir A. E. COCKBURN, that the Government were prepared to deal with the subject.

Next session, this promise not having been redeemed, Sir ERSKINE PERRY obtained leave to bring in a Bill for the protection of the property of married women, which was ordered to be brought in by Sir ERSKINE PERRY and Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, now Lord HOUGHTON. But during the interval a change had come over the spirit of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL and others. The Government declined to support the proposal. The Bill was dropped, and ultimately the measure actually attained that session resolved itself into a clause in the Divorce Act which provided for the issue of protection orders by a magistrate on the application of any wife deserted by her husband.

We give in another column a very brief abstract, greatly abridged from *Hansard*, of the debates which took place on the proposals of Sir ERSKINE PERRY. The original records in *Hansard* are full of interest for all who desire to study the history of the movement. They reflect the state of opinion in the minds of some of the most illustrious men of the time on the subject, and they serve as a measure of the vast strides that have been made in public estimation of the personal rights of women.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

PONTEFRACT.

A most successful meeting, in favour of the extension of the franchise to women ratepayers, was held in the Town Hall, Pontefract, on Tuesday, September 26th. The chair was occupied by the Mayor (J. Rhodes, Esq.), and the hall was densely crowded by a most respectable and a thoroughly representative audience. The meeting was addressed by Miss Carbutt and Mrs. Oliver Scatcherd, who put forward the arguments in favour of enfranchising women ratepayers in a most forcible manner, and answered the objections usually advanced by the opponents of the measure in a most telling and argumentative style. The usual resolutions—as to the injury and injustice of the present anomalous system of voting, and in favour of transmitting copies of the resolutions to the borough members, the Right Hon. H. C. E. Childers and Mr. Sydney Woolf—were unanimously carried, there not being a single dissident to any one of them. Amongst the local gentlemen who took part in the proceedings there were, in addition to the Mayor, Alderman J. A. Phillips, Alderman J. L. Taylor, Councillor Maud, Councillor Blackburn, Councillor Grandidge, Rev. J. Moffett, and Mr. McGowan, of the *Pontefract Telegraph*.

LECTURES.

HARROGATE.

On the afternoon of September 8th, Miss Becker addressed a large meeting at the Spa Concert Room, Harrogate, upon the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote.

Miss CARBUTT (member of the Leeds Board of Guardians) occupied the chair, and, in introducing Miss Becker, touched upon the claims of women to the Parliamentary suffrage. One in every seven householders, she said, throughout the country was a woman to whom the privilege of the franchise was denied. Was this, she asked, right? Already in towns a woman householder had three votes: a vote for members of school board, guardians, and municipal votes; and holding those privileges she thought that giving a Parliamentary vote would not render her unwomanly. It was to ask their help in urging the claims of woman to the privilege of Parliamentary franchise, that she had left her home that afternoon.

Miss BECKER, in the course of a long address, said the claim which they were desirous of pressing on behalf of the women of this country, was to obtain Parliamentary franchise upon the same conditions and privileges as were granted to men. This, she thought, was nothing more than was right or reasonable. Already women had votes at municipal elections, and they were pressing earnestly upon the attention of Parliament the strength of their claim. Although it was in 1869 that women of England were granted the municipal franchise, it was not until last year that the same right was conferred upon the women of Scotland. Miss Becker at this point read a letter from Lord Denman, expressing sympathy with the movement, in which he pointed out the injustice of a widow with property not being able to give a Parliamentary vote. Many men, Miss Becker said, felt that it would indeed be a hardship upon their wives were they to be denied the advantages of the Parliamentary franchise in the event of the husband's death. She believed, however, that Parliament was ready to do justice in this matter as soon as they were convinced that what their society asked was just and right.

Mrs. OLIVER SCATCHERD, in proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Becker, said she had been so long in sympathy with Miss Becker's work that she was pleased to devote her leisure time in assisting her. She had lately enjoyed the pleasure of a tour through various European countries, during which she had seen much of foreign home life. She found the women of those countries amazed at the freedom enjoyed by English ladies, and they asked with interest what they were struggling for when they already had so many privileges. She (Mrs. Scatcherd) admitted the women of England enjoyed more freedom and advantage than those of any other country, but although they had certain privileges she did not see why they should not strive for more that were justly due to them. With Miss Becker she believed they had only to convince Parliament of the justice of their claim and it would be granted. It was for the poor women for whom she was most concerned. When the well-to-do were married the parents looked to see that the settle-

ment was securely tied upon the daughter, but it was the poor girl, who had saved a few pounds, who needed the protection which the Married Women's Property Act would give. It was the poor girl on whose labour the present law enforced restrictions, which she desired to see removed. She did not wish the women to usurp the work of the men. They did their share of the work in the world, and had a right to representation. But she did contend that women did their share of work and were entitled to the same privileges. (Applause.) She had pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Becker.

Mr. ODLING (a member of the London School Board) seconded, and it was carried with acclamation.

Miss BECKER responded, and the meeting closed.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

NEWPORT.

On September 19th, Miss Becker delivered an address in the Queen's Rooms, Newport, Isle of Wight. Mr. H. J. Orchard, J.P., ex-Mayor, occupied the chair. The lecture was well received, and the proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

VENTNOR.

A large and influential audience assembled on September 21st, to hear an address from Miss Becker, in the Assembly Rooms, Ventnor. The chair was occupied by Colonel L. D. H. Currie, Chairman of the Ventnor Commissioners. The Chairman remarked that, often as he had occupied the position of chairman in Ventnor, on no occasion had he felt the same anxiety as at present. He thought that property ought always to be represented; in fact, if he owned a large property in Ventnor, and died, his widow succeeding to the property without having a vote, that property would be unrepresented. He went on to state that some twenty-eight years ago he had the misfortune to be badly wounded, and was transferred from the shores of the Crimea to a bank of the Bosphorus, where he was in hospital at Scutari, suffering torments, and not far from the gates of death. Government with their officials did all they could, but still everything was disorder and confusion. But presently a woman appeared on the scene, and chaos was turned into order; what Government officials failed or would not do, Florence Nightingale accomplished. He (the chairman) thought there was not a sick or dying soldier that not only would have voted her the suffrage, but have well-nigh died to give it to her. The Chairman went on to refer to a woman living in the neighbouring parish who not only by her writings had been the cause of charming youth, but had been most successful in promoting education and morality (Miss Elizabeth Sewell). He then went on to express his gratitude to a woman in Ventnor who had sowed good seed in his own boys' mind, and which had brought back credit to their instructress in their present school. He appealed to the audience whether they would withhold the suffrage from such women, who in all probability would give an intelligent vote in advance of most of the men at present on the register. He thought that, although reversing the usual idea, giving suffrage to women would do much to promote the education of women, for he could not understand why women who could afford to pay for it (he was not talking of the proverbial farm labourer's daughter who was learning the piano instead of learning to milk the cows) should not receive the same intellectual education as the sterner sex enjoyed. He then introduced Miss Becker to the audience as having been four times returned to the School Board for Manchester.—The lecture was received with tokens of interest and approbation throughout, and a vote of thanks was accorded unanimously. On the motion of Miss Lillie Stacpoole, a similar compliment was paid to the chairman, and the meeting terminated.

RYDE.

On September 22nd, Miss Becker lectured in the Concert Room, Town Hall, Ryde. Alderman Harrington, J.P., occupied the chair. The hall was densely crowded, many being unable to obtain admission. The lecturer was most favourably received, and the proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

CLERKENWELL.

On the 3rd of September a meeting was held at the Patriotic Club, Clerkenwell Green, London. Miss Craigen gave an address on the suffrage for women. At the close of the address a resolution

in favour of adult suffrage was proposed, seconded, and supported by three gentlemen members of the club; it was then passed by acclamation. The vice-president of the club made an effective address from the chair, expressing a hope that women would come forward to help men in maintaining the liberty of the country. The usual votes of thanks closed the meeting.

ABERDEEN.

At the first meeting for the season of the British Women's Temperance Association at Aberdeen, Mrs. Masson, the president, occupied the chair, and gave an able address. She read a letter of sympathy from Miss Wigham, of Edinburgh, after which Miss Craigen, of London, addressed the meeting on the duty of women, as mothers, to promote the temperance movement, dwelling also on the connection of the work with an improved morality in men as well as women. She also recommended the women to use the municipal vote in the coming election to promote the interests of sobriety. Mrs. Dunn moved a vote of thanks to the speaker for her eloquent address.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The twenty-fifth annual congress of the Social Science Association was opened at Nottingham, on September 21st, under the presidency of Mr. G. W. Hastings, M.P. In the course of his address the President referred to the

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT.

He spoke of this as illustrating a growing tendency to return to the ancient and more natural condition of our jurisprudence. He said:—"It is an historical error to assume that English law always handed over to a husband the property of his wife in absolute possession. On the contrary, the ancient law was, on the whole, fair enough to wives. In the old days, as I have already observed, the only property worth considering was land. Now a landed heiress in Norman days (and landed heiresses were rather prevalent commodities at the time when fathers and brothers were wont to be knocked on the head promiscuously) by no means lost her property upon marriage. Her husband had the management of it during their joint lives, which was but fair, as he did military service on her behalf; if he survived her, with issue of the marriage, he had a tenancy for life; he could lease, but he could not alienate without her consent, and on his death her property went to her heirs. On the other hand, if the greatest baron in the country married, like King Cophetua, a beggar maid, she had her dower, one-third for her life of all the lands which he had held in fee simple. The injustice and anomaly arose with the growth of personal property. In more settled and civilised times, landed property came to be but a small portion of the wealth of the country; the law was not modified, as it might well have been, to meet a new state of things, and all the money and goods belonging to a married woman passed without reservation or protection into the hands of her husband. The Courts of Equity no doubt stepped in to aid, but to aid those only who could pay for settlements, trustees, lawsuits, and solicitors. An artificial system was devised to protect a class deprived of their natural rights; the rights, I mean, of holding in their own hands, and disposing as they thought fit of that which belonged to them. To rich women this only means that their pecuniary interests are to be subjected to much complication and expense. But to poor women it has always meant that their savings and their earnings, all their scanty means in the present, and all their hard-earned provision for the future, were to be confiscated without appeal. When this question was first mooted by the Law Amendment Society in 1856, a well-known manufacturer sent me a list of women who had worked in his factory, as he said, 'all honest, respectable, hard-working girls,' who had been ruined pecuniarily by marriage. In every case the husband had taken possession of the wife's savings, dissipated them in profligacy, and then had lived in idleness on the woman's earnings. That is only a single specimen, I can assure you, of the communications of this nature made to me at the time. The first effort for an alteration of the law originated with Miss Leigh Smith, now Mrs. Bodichon, who published a pamphlet on the subject, and approached the Law Amendment Society for aid. The ridicule and opposition at that time raised against the proposal that a married woman should retain her own property in her own hands might

have deterred many from embarking in the cause. But Miss Leigh Smith possessed the spirit of her intrepid brother, the Arctic navigator, and she launched an enterprise which, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, has proved entirely successful. In 1857 a Bill prepared by a Committee of the Law Amendment Society was introduced into the House of Commons by Sir Brskine Perry, and if you will refer to that measure you will learn that its provisions were substantially identical with the Act just passed. The time, however, was not then ripe for legislation, though a clause, in consequence of our movement, was introduced into the Divorce Act securing to a wife separated from or deserted by her husband her own earnings. This small mercy was thought at the time a wonderful advance. In 1867 a memorial was presented to the Council of this Association, at its Belfast meeting, by Miss Wolstenholme, now Mrs. Elmy, praying us to obtain some amendment in the law. The memorial was sent by the Council to a committee, and the result was the Bill introduced in 1868, at our request, by Mr. Shaw Lefevre. This Bill was considered by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, which took evidence at some length. On Mr. Lefevre's accepting office it passed into the hands of Mr. Russell Gurney, who in 1870 succeeded in passing it through the Lower House. The measure, it should be mentioned was nearly identical with that introduced in 1856. It went to the House of Lords, where it was passed, but in so mangled a state that it was hardly recognisable by its best friends. It does not lie in my mouth to complain of the Act of 1870, though I bitterly regretted its emasculation, for it was to Mr. Russell Gurney and myself that it was finally referred to say whether the Commons should be moved to reject the Lords' amendments, a decision on which it was well known that the fate of the measure rested. We came to the conclusion, after anxious consideration, that the Bill had much good left in it, and ought to pass, the question of further amendment being left open. The sequel, I venture to think, has justified that decision. A return obtained some time since from the Bank of England by our society showed conclusively that the Act was not a little availed of by married women to protect their property in the public funds. The larger question was kept alive in Parliament by Mr. Hinde Palmer and other friends, and Lord Chancellor Selborne decided a few months since that it was time to settle it finally. We who have watched this movement from its cradle, who wheeled its perambulator, so to speak, twenty-six years ago, who heard with complete composure all the laughter that was once raised against it, have had the satisfaction of seeing it introduced from the Woolsack, passed through both Houses, certainly not without obstruction, but with no opposition that was worth counting, and placed on the Statute Book of this Session, one landmark to future generations of the rise of justice and true statesmanship in the reign of Queen Victoria."

THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN ENGLAND.

In the department of International and Municipal Law, on Saturday, September 23rd, the PRESIDENT (Mr. H. Fox Bristowe) in the chair.

Miss HELEN BLACKBURN read a paper on "The legal status of women at the present time." She said that the object of the paper was to show that the position of women was relatively higher in England under the feudal form of society than under the more democratic conditions of modern times, as might be seen by a comparison of the thirteenth century with the nineteenth. In the earlier period the extreme solicitude of a feudal regime to maintain continuity of inheritance was more favourable to the equal position of women than a popular electorate which, impatient of merely hereditary rights, preferred heredity—the exercise of individual powers to inheritance—the enjoyment of ancestral rights. This was illustrated by reference to numerous instances in which women in the earlier period held posts of public responsibility; while in local customs and in legislation on social subjects the ruling order showed a similar impartiality as between men and women; also the guilds, which were spread widely amongst the people for mutual help, placed the "brethren and sistren" on an almost universally uniform footing. But in modern days, with a broadened franchise, and corresponding increase of activity in legislation, there was not the same impartiality as when a comparatively small number of the propertied class legislated for all the rest. This was illustrated by the course of much recent legislation, and on several points—social, industrial, and educational—women were shown to have

fallen, relatively speaking, in the nineteenth century below their standing of 500 years ago. Nevertheless, the greater facilities for organisation of the present day had enabled women to unite and contend against these growing inequalities—and here the aid of the Social Science Association, from the beginning of its career, was gratefully to be recognised, especially in regard to the property of married women. Nothing short of equality at the polling booth could, however, render the recognition of the principle complete—that when a woman was in the position of a man she should have the same rights and duties, privileges and responsibilities, as a man. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT remarked that there was one topic to which Miss Blackburn had not alluded. The question was whether it was not a great and crying evil that ladies were not guardians of the poor. The administration of the poor law should be to some extent in the hands of ladies. He did not know anything that more required the supervision of a certain number of ladies. Not only would they see to the training of the girls, but would have a personal interest in them, and would know something about them afterwards.

Miss C. A. BIGGS pointed out that the Divine law of sex appeared to have arisen only in this century. She expressed her satisfaction that owing to the measures taken in certain districts ladies had been appointed guardians. Two years ago a society was formed in London for the purpose of spreading a knowledge of the peculiar work for which ladies were fitted as poor law guardians. Some opposition had been experienced before ladies were elected guardians, but in every instance after election they had been received with courtesy and very great kindness; they had been instructed in poor law duties, and had encountered no hindrance in seeking to further the work for which they were specially fitted. (Applause.) She hoped the time would come, and speedily, when half the members of boards of guardians would be ladies, as so very much of the work was suitable for them.

Mr. DENNY URLIN said it was interesting to recollect that the institution of St. Catherine's Hospital was always governed by the Queen of England for the time being. He thought that there should be no undue restrictions as regarded women. He was of opinion that they should both have votes and be eligible for a great number of offices. He bore testimony to the very valuable way in which the present Postmaster-General had endeavoured to meet the fair claims of women. Not only did he deem that employment in post offices was fitted for them, but also that they were fitted for employment as post mistresses. (Applause.) It might not unreasonably be suggested that, in civil cases at least, a female plaintiff or defendant should have the right of claiming that her own sex should constitute half the jury. For his own part they must, he thought, be compelled to admit the tendency of modern legislation, to confer upon women the rights to which they were fairly entitled.

Dr. BEDDOE said that in Bristol they had succeeded in carrying the election of three lady guardians. They were very eligible ladies; they had been well received after election, and there was a general consensus of opinion on the part even of those who had previously opposed, that they were taking a share in the work to be discharged exceedingly well.

Mrs. SHEARER (London) illustrated most effectively the disabilities of women under the law as at present. She pointed out that although formerly, before her marriage, a member of a board of guardians, after her marriage—notwithstanding that her qualification was not altered in the matter of liability to rating—her nomination had been refused by the returning officer, the clerk to the guardians, because her own name had not been placed upon the rate book. She maintained that a woman practically responsible for rates had an absolute right to be upon the rate book. (Applause.) In this case a woman nominated for a board of guardians, had, with proper qualification of course, a title, if the suffrages of the rate-payers were in her favour, to a seat at such board of guardians. (Applause.)

Mr. RUSSELL (Dublin), as to representation on boards of guardians, pointed out that in Ireland this was not practicable generally so far as ladies were concerned owing to the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church. Among the Good Templars he believed that the equality of the sexes was one of the rocks in the way of the movement, and had been an obstacle to the membership of large numbers of the best temperance people in the country. The persons referred to objected to the mixing of the sexes in the weekly meetings

held, and he was bound to say that in his opinion they seemed to have made out a tolerably strong case.

Mr. H. NEWMAN MOZLEY having followed with some observations upon points dealt with in the paper read,

The PRESIDENT also discussed various questions raised. As to a peeress in her own right, our system of peerage was unknown to any other country. There were in fact, as he illustrated, many peerages which might almost at any moment be invested in ladies. But historically, rightly or wrongly, no part was ever taken by peeresses in their own right or by abbesses in the great Parliament of the nation. It was another matter whether ladies thought that they were entitled to participate in those deliberations. Yet ladies should urge their right strongly to have more of influence in the education of their children. It must be described as one of the most iniquitous pieces of legislation that the question of the right of guardianship of children should rest as at present only with the father. A man, whether for want of proper affection for his wife, or under other circumstances, might nominate a total stranger to be the guardian of his children as against the wife who survived him. He thought the law might be so altered that if a man before his death appointed guardians for his children the wife should be associated in such guardianship.

Miss BLACKBURN replied upon the discussion, after which the section rose for the day.

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN. MEETING AT NOTTINGHAM.

A numerously attended public meeting was held on September 22, under the auspices of the Nottingham Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society, in the Lecture Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Nottingham, to celebrate the passing of the Married Women's Property Act. Mrs. COWEN presided, and supporting her on the platform were Mr. Warren, Miss Blackburn and Mrs. Beddoe (Bristol), Mrs. Scatcherd (Leeds), Rev. S. A. Steintal (Manchester), Mrs. Shearer and Miss C. A. Biggs (London), Mr. J. H. Levy, Miss Whittle (Liverpool), Dr. Waddilove, D.C.L., Rev. Jas. O. Bevan, Mr. Cowen, Mr. Woodall, M.P., Ald. Cropper (Nottingham). Amongst the audience were Don Arturo De Marcoartu, Tito Pagliardino, Mr. Moseley, of London, Mr. Wren, of London, Rev. C. Wellbeloved, of Mansfield, and Messrs. Dowson, Stanger and Wright.

Mrs. COWEN said the Married Women's Property Act, the passing of which they had met to rejoice over, was one of the most important ever passed in England or Ireland concerning women, as it put a woman in possession of her property, removing from her the stigma of infancy so long borne by her under the law of England. The time which had been selected for the meeting, during the holiday of the Social Science Congress, seemed to be particularly appropriate, inasmuch as it was through the association that public opinion had been educated to the passing of the measure. Mrs. Cowen next read the following letter from Mr. G. W. Hastings, M.P., President of the Social Science Congress:—

“University College, Nottingham, Sept. 22nd, 1882.

“My dear Madam,—I have been very anxious to attend the meeting to be held this evening to celebrate the passing of the Married Women's Property Act, but I am sorry to say that I find it impossible to do so. I have never known any more complete success than has been the legislation of the past session. Usually there is some partial failure or drawback in a great measure. In this case there is none, and all who have taken part in the movement may truly congratulate themselves upon it. I cannot help saying that, while I believe much has been done to help our object by the society with which I have the happiness to be connected, I am convinced that the real lever by which the work has been effected has been the energy, persevering and zealous, of the ladies who have been in it: among whom I especially have been brought into contact with Mrs. Elmy, and have often admired her tact, judgment, and ability. Allow me then to congratulate you and others most heartily on our success.—Believe me, yours sincerely,
“G. W. HASTINGS.”

Mrs. Cowen added that letters had also been received from the Mayor (Ald. Goldschmidt), Ald. Gripper, Mr. Goodall, Rev. R. A. Armstrong, Mrs. McLaren, and Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy (Secretary of the Married Women's Property Committee), who, in the course of her letter, wrote as follows:—

“We do well to rejoice in the successful passing of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882—this great act of justice to half a nation, and to take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to those who, long ago, thought the thoughts and did the deeds which have made this act of emancipation possible. To us who have had the honour of being more or less publicly identified with this cause when winning its last triumphs, it is joy and reward enough to witness this glad fruition of our hopes, and to watch the translation of our early dreams into the facts of life. Neither are you likely to-night to forget us, who yet live and speak with you. But I would ask you to remember that the great and peaceful resolution to which this memorable Act has set its seal, has not been and could not be the work of any one individual or set of individuals, or of this country and this present age alone. The way was prepared by the brave aspirations, fruitful thoughts, patient efforts, and noble lives of multitudes of the obscure, the silent, and the dead. These sowed the seed, watering it often with their tears, of which we to-day reap the bounteous, golden first-fruits. Do not believe, you who mourn, as it may seem, in vain, over the wrong and injustice which you see around, that that sorrow is wasted. Every noble pain is but the birth-pang of a glorious hope—and the subtle activities of nature know no wasted force. No thought, no hope, no effort is lost, and what you earnestly will of good to your fellows you thereby make possible. To come to later days and more precisely defined efforts: In the spring of this year there passed away one, ripe in years and honours, who, had he been still amongst us, would have rejoiced with us to-day. Six and twenty years ago the first Married Women's Property Bill was introduced in the House of Commons by Thomas Erskine Perry, and down to the last weeks of his life Sir Erskine Perry continued to give to this cause, wherever possible, his active support. To you I need not recall the illustrious name of John Stuart Mill—a name only to be pronounced with ever-increasing reverence by those who work for justice to women and to humanity. When, in 1868, the effort to reform the law as to married women's property was removed, the name of Mr. Mill stood on the back of the Married Women's Property Bill introduced by Mr. Shaw Lefevre, and his help and advice were never wanting, till he, too, entered the silent land. To Russell Gurney is due the honour of having achieved the first great public success of the movement, when, in 1870, the House of Commons accepted, by a large majority, a measure embodying, with scarcely any limitation, ‘the just principle, that a woman's right to her own property ought not to be forfeited by her marriage.’ To the hour of his death Mr. Russell Gurney remained an active, helpful friend of this cause. The surviving workers will well remember that Katharine Lady Amberley was an active member of the Married Women's Property Committee to the time when, in the fulfilment of the tenderest maternal duties, she gave up her brave young life. All these, and many more—for as I look over the lists, now lying before me, of the first committees formed to support this effort, I find that more than half of their original members have already joined ‘the ranks of the departed’—toiled that we might reap. Do you wonder, then, that I ask you this night to recall with me in tender reverence and silent gratitude the thrice blessed memory of our sacred dead—‘They rest from their labours and their works do follow them.’ Had they not lived and worked, there had been no occasion of rejoicing for us this day. May I ask you now to turn to the future, and inquire how best to turn to practical account the advantages already gained. ‘Rest, and be thankful’ is no motto for us to-day, or, if rest, only such rest as is consistent with Nature's law of infinite progression. You will remember that though one great act of justice has been done, other injustices remain to be set right. The infamous law, which gives the children of a married mother solely to her husband, must be abolished, and a law which recognises the equal rights, duties, and obligations of both parents must take its place. Equality before the law in the matter of divorce must be secured. There are other minor matters which may almost be trusted to settle themselves, when once these great essential principles of natural right are fully recognised, but occasions for dealing with which will arise from time to time for which it is needful to be prepared. I may mention amongst these the injustice done to women, and more particularly to wives, by the existing law as to intestacy, and the various points, gravely affecting women, raised by the Criminal Code Bill, which may not improbably be re-introduced, either in whole or in part, during the session of next year. I speak confidently of what I know when I say that opinion is rapidly ripening

towards the just settlement of these various questions. All wise men know that an injustice to one sex is an injustice to both. All just men resent the burden of an unjust prerogative. But it is in your power materially to expedite this progress of opinion by studying these questions for yourselves, and placing the facts with regard to them under the consideration of others. Let me beg you to prove your gratitude to those who bravely did their part in the past, by bravely doing your part now. To Nottingham women I need not speak of the necessity of the Parliamentary franchise as the safeguard of all that has been acquired, or may be acquired. That ‘goes without saying’ to those who assent to our other claims, and, moreover, you have amongst you eloquent and gifted advocates of women's suffrage, who will not fail to put the case worthily before you.”

Mr. J. C. WARREN proposed the first resolution, “That this meeting desires heartily to congratulate the Married Women's Property Committee on the happy termination of their fifteen years' labour on behalf of the married women of this country, and to express the deep thankfulness it feels for the good deed thus done to all women.” He expressed his own great satisfaction at the success which had attended their efforts, and pleasure at that numerous and influential meeting being held under the auspices of the Nottingham Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society to celebrate the event.

Mrs. SCATCHERD, in seconding, said it was with mingled feelings of surprise and gratitude that she rose for that purpose. She was surprised, but none the less pleased, at their great success. She was sure that future generations of married women would rise up and call the committee and others, who had been instrumental in bringing about that change in the law, blessed. After citing numerous instances of the great evils resulting from the legal disabilities of women, she reminded them, “Who would be free himself, must strike the blow.” They would best thank the committee by trying to carry out the principles they had so much at heart. She was surprised that in Nottingham they had not brought forward candidates and succeeded in returning at least two or three ladies as members of the Board of Guardians. As a worker in another cause, she wished to mention the names of Mrs. Jacob Bright and Mrs. Elmy. She believed that had it not been for their efforts they might have had no occasion to rejoice that night.

Miss BLACKBURN, of Bristol, said they had all reason to rejoice not as women only, but as a nation. It was a matter of national rejoicing that the British statute book was no longer behind the code of all other civilised countries on so important a subject. Had England, like Italy and some other countries, recently remodelled its code, it was impossible to believe laws so behind the best thought of the day would have been deliberately framed. But changes are hard to effect. Though it was fifteen years since the Married Women's Property Committee, aided by the Social Science Association, had begun their labours, it was astonishing to her that this chapter of law should have been so completely rewritten. They must not rest, they must not feel that everything had been done. They must go on, and not feel satisfied till they had the franchise, the power to prevent the law drifting back into an unsatisfactory state. She thought every one must be glad at their success, excepting the few bad men who hoped to take the property of their wives. She had great pleasure in supporting the resolution.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Rev. S. A. STEINTAL, of Manchester, said one object of the meeting was to draw together all the members of committees assembled at the Social Science Congress, and it was as a member of the Manchester Committee that he had been invited. The promoters had great difficulties to contend with before they could attain the position they held that night. In point of fact it was very difficult to say who suffered most from an act of injustice. He felt it was a question on which men should express their gratitude. He had great pleasure in voting for the first resolution, and he had now equal pleasure in proposing the second:—“That this meeting desires to record its heartfelt thanks to Lord Cairns, Mr. Hinde Palmer, and Mr. Osborne Morgan, for the undaunted perseverance with which they have carried the Women's Property Bill of 1882 to a successful issue, and to all those members of both Houses of Parliament who have spoken or voted for the measure.” They say

the dawn of a brighter day in the work which had just been accomplished.

Miss C. A. BRIGGS, of London, seconded the resolution. She was glad to be present to assure the women of Nottingham that they in London fully recognised the rights, privileges, and responsibilities conferred upon them by the Act. She reminded them that the original pioneers of the movement were but two, and they were ladies. She thought they owed thanks to Mr. Hastings, M.P., President of the Social Science Congress, for his early efforts both in and out of Parliament. She thought their thanks were also due to all who had assisted in carrying what had aptly been called the Magna Charta of Englishwomen. She thought that there was now a better chance of obtaining the suffrage.

Mr. J. H. LEVY, of London, supported. He pointed out that prior to the passing of this Act a woman living with a man unmarried was in a better position than if she were married. The unmarried woman retained all rights over her own property, and might obtain an affiliation order compelling the man to contribute towards the maintenance of the children.

Mrs. SHEARER, of London, also supported. They were not going to rest and be thankful, but would never be contented until they had also obtained the suffrage. Lord Eldon had said there was not a single woman that could not be kissed, coaxed, or kicked out of her property; and, therefore, she hoped that there would still be marriage settlements. Until women became more thoughtful and more careful there might be difficulties, but it would be a vast boon to those women who kept shops and otherwise earned their own living.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. WOODALL, M.P., proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Cowen. He expressed his great pleasure at being present, and satisfaction that the labours of the last session had not been altogether barren, and that a measure had been received with gratitude by those whom it was intended to benefit. He was disposed to consider the Married Women's Property Act as one of a group of measures which they as legislators had great pleasure in supporting with a vote in the House of Commons, who had so earnestly supported it elsewhere. He had no fear for the manner in which women would exercise the franchise, and thought that the way in which they had exercised the powers already given them showed that the tendency would be to purify and improve the tone of those institutions which they were allowed to have a voice in.

Alderman CROPPER, in seconding the vote to their "excellent townswoman," said he should not say much, first because he was physically unwell, and secondly because he always fought shy of addressing an audience where women had been speaking. He fully recognised that the most eloquent supporters of the cause of women was the women themselves. He all the more rejoiced at the passing of this Act, believing that it practically demonstrated that the Houses of Parliament had at last risen to a sense of just legislation. If that view of the matter was at all correct the giving of the Parliamentary franchise to women was a mere matter of time, and of but short time too. (Applause.)

The resolution having been carried with acclamation, and the compliment suitably acknowledged, the meeting terminated.

ABBESSES SUMMONED TO PARLIAMENT.

In the *Saturday Review* some little time ago there was an article, entitled "The Mediaeval Abbess," in which the writer states that the abbesses of Shaftesbury, Barking, Wilton, and St. Mary's, Winton, were not only "theoretically entitled, by their territorial importance, to a seat in the Legislature," but that they were actually required to personally attend the King's Parliament, instancing the occasion of making an Act for conferring knighthood on the first Prince of Wales. It would be interesting to know if the Parliamentary writs supply further instances of such summonses. In these days of agitation for increased privileges for women it seems important to be able to point back to a time when the principle was admitted of conceding to certain of the female sex a seat in the Legislature. To regain so eminent a prerogative would appear to include the lesser demands, and to show historical precedents for female representation in Parliament surely should lend a weighty argument to the cause of women.—*Notes and Queries.*

PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY OF THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACTS.

In the House of Commons, on the 10th of June, 1856, Sir Erskine Perry rose pursuant to notice to call the attention of the House to the present state of the law with regard to the rights of married women. He said the subject was one which had excited considerable interest out of doors, and during the session no less than seventy petitions had been presented complaining of the law. Some of these petitions bore the signatures of the most thoughtful portion of society. The most marked one of the whole, perhaps, was the one he presented before Easter, which was signed by 3,000 women, amongst whom were ladies who had made the present epoch remarkable in the annals of literature. It was only by accident that these ladies entrusted him with the charge of presenting their views to the House. At the annual meeting of the Law Amendment Society he spoke a few words on the subject of the rights of married women, and those observations coming to the notice of the memorialists, they determined to entrust their petition to his hands. Neither was it on any sudden impulse, or without due meditation, that he ventured to bring this question forward, for in the judicial situation which he had the honour to hold the question had often forced itself on his mind. Having, then, had every opportunity for considering the question, and having most carefully looked into it, he could unhesitatingly pronounce his solemn conviction that the law of England, as it applied to married women, was not only discreditable to the age, but that it demanded immediate alteration. Sir Erskine Perry then proceeded to expound the subject in the manner already familiar to those who have followed the course of more recent Parliamentary debates on the question.

Lord Stanley (the present Earl of Derby) seconded the motion, which was in the following terms:—"That the rules of common law, which give all the personal property of a woman on marriage, and all subsequently acquired property and earnings, to the husband, are unjust in principle and injurious in operation."

The Attorney-General (Sir A. E. Cockburn) said he cordially concurred in the resolution. He thought, however, it would be much better to proceed by introducing a Bill than by calling on the House to pass an abstract resolution. He had communicated with the Lord Chancellor (Lord Cranworth) on the subject, and that noble lord fully concurred with him in thinking that the time had come when the common law and equity ought on this point to be reconciled. The best attention of the legal authorities connected with the Government would during the recess be given to the subject, and he hoped that in the next session of Parliament they would be able to introduce a more comprehensive and satisfactory measure on the subject. He hoped, therefore, his hon. and learned friend would be satisfied with this assurance, and not press his resolution.

Mr. Malins hoped the House would maintain the law as it stood.

Mr. Muntz said some alteration of the law was imperatively called for.

The Solicitor-General (Sir R. Bethell) said he should not desire to see that general assimilation which seemed to be suggested in the imperfectly worded resolution. But the subject deserved the most careful consideration, and when the Bill, which at present engaged the attention of the other branch of the Legislature on the subject of marriage and divorce, came down to that House it might not be impossible to insert a provision securing to married women, who were deserted by their husbands, the right of enjoying in safety the fruits of their own industry.

Mr. Whiteside said he thought there was a loud call for an amendment of the law.

Mr. J. G. Phillimore thought some amendment was required in the case of divorce, but he trusted that the legislature would maintain unbroken the ideal of interest between husband and wife. Nothing could be more frightful than to teach wives that their interests were on one side and those of their husbands on the other.

Mr. W. J. Fox said a hard case had occurred a few days ago in which a woman possessing a property of £500 a year had been married, and the entire property had gone to her husband's heirs at law, leaving her penniless. The late Mrs. Siddons had by the exercise of her great talents accumulated a large fortune, but she had been obliged to beg her husband not to leave her penniless by disposing of that fortune to her prejudice by his will.

Mr. T. Chambers thought that whatever might be the number and pressure of the grievances complained of, they would bear no

comparison to the mischiefs that would follow from the assertion of the main principle involved in the resolution before the House.

Sir Erskine Perry said he would have been delighted with the speech of the Attorney-General had it not been followed by the speech of the Solicitor-General. He was afraid, looking at that speech, that it might be years before a satisfactory marriage law would be carried out; but still he had such confidence in the Attorney-General that he would withdraw his resolution, and look forward to a speedy rectification of the evils which he had too feebly, perhaps, pointed out.

The resolution was then withdrawn. On the 14th of May, 1857, Sir Erskine Perry, after expressing his disappointment that a measure on the subject had not been proposed by the Government, made a powerful and elaborate speech, and ended by moving for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to the property of married women.

Mr. Drummond said the hon. gentleman had asked him since entering the House to second the resolution, and he had great pleasure in doing so.

The Attorney-General (Sir A. E. Cockburn) said he would not oppose the motion. He thought, however, that the hon. gentleman had taken upon himself a very onerous and difficult task, and that if his Bill contained no other provisions than those to which he had referred in his speech, he must not anticipate that it would be received with general favour. The operation of his Bill seemed to be confined to the creation of a *communio bonorum* to the placing of the women of England in a "strong-minded and independent position" which so few chose for themselves, and which position was described as consisting of rendering them accountable for everything they might say or do. Now he (the Attorney-General) did not think that was a position which the best and most amiable of the women in England desired to occupy. He would endeavour to point out how far he was disposed to go. How absurd did it appear that, while the profits only of a landed estate of £500 a year went to the husband, yet if the wife were possessed of £20,000 in consols the entire and uncontrolled possession of that money was transferred to the husband. He would allow the dividends to go to the husband, as was now the case under the existing law, subject to the condition of maintaining, protecting, and guarding his wife; and if that duty were not duly discharged, he should propose that the life interest of the husband in it should revert to the wife in case she had been deserted or brutally treated. He would give his consent to the proposition that the exclusive earnings of a wife during coverture should become her separate property.

Sir John Pakington hoped that the hon. and learned member for Plymouth (Sir Erskine Perry) in drawing his Bill would very much follow the course recommended by the Attorney-General.

Mr. Beresford Hope thought the matter was not so clear as the hon. member for Droitwich (Sir J. Pakington) assumed it to be. The terms in which the motion was made and the speech of the Attorney-General was the best answer to the rather extravagant demands of the large and manly body of "strong-minded women" whose advocate the hon. member for Plymouth had constituted himself, but who, he fancied, would hardly be satisfied with what was now proposed for their benefit. Hitherto there had been free trade in the relations between husband and wife, and to revert to a system of protection required rather delicate handling. No doubt the law of husband and wife was in an anomalous state, but the Attorney-General had acted wisely in removing the subject from those questions of women's rights, which were sometimes advocated by young ladies in pamphlets, and further developed by Margaret Fuller, afterwards Marchioness Ossoli, and in the pages of *Aurora Leigh*. Let them amend the law, but, at the same time, let them steadfastly resist the breaking down of that distinguished characteristic of Englishmen—the love of home, the purity of husband and wife, and the union of the family.

Mr. Monckton Milnes (now Lord Houghton) said the House ought to address itself to an amendment of the law in a serious and not in a jesting spirit. Though the provisions of the Bill were wise and just, its subject would, from its novelty and the general interest it excited, bear a great amount of discussion, and he thought his hon. friend deserved the thanks of Parliament for having broken the ground.

Mr. Malins said a few words, after which leave was given, and the Bill ordered to be brought in by Sir Erskine Perry and Mr. Monckton Milnes.

During the same session a Bill was introduced by Mr. Malins to enable a married woman to dispose of her reversionary interest in personal estate. This Bill was strenuously opposed by Sir Erskine Perry, who said it was a Bill that would enable husbands to pocket the last shred of property which the law allowed to married women. His opposition, however, was unavailing, and the Bill passed and became law that session.

On July 15, 1857, Sir Erskine Perry moved the second reading of his own Bill.

Sir John Buller moved the rejection of the measure. Mr. Monckton Milnes made an earnest and eloquent speech in favour of the Bill, and quoted many cases of gross hardship under the existing law. He said that Lord Brougham had placed a reform of the law on this subject on a level with the abolition of the slave trade, and other great measures of that kind.

Mr. Massey spoke against the Bill. Mr. Hadfield thought it should go before a Select Committee.

Mr. Spooner trusted the Bill would be withdrawn altogether. Mr. Bagwell said he found the Bill did not extend to Ireland; he thought if such a measure passed it should extend to all three kingdoms.

Sir Erskine Perry said he had no objection to adopt the suggestion of a Select Committee. In answering some objections he said that in the city of London a married woman, living with her husband but carrying on a separate trade, was there entitled by law to all the profits of that trade, and might be made bankrupt. That law had existed from time immemorial, and had worked well.

Mr. Miles hoped the Bill would go to a Select Committee. Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald protested against the principle of the Bill. Mr. Roebuck hailed the endeavour to amend the disgraceful state of the law with the greatest satisfaction, and he hoped the House would assent to the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. De Vere opposed the Bill. Sir J. Buller said if Sir Erskine Perry merely proposed to read the Bill a second time and then abandon it for the session he would withdraw his amendment.

Sir Erskine Perry said he had not the slightest expectation of passing the Bill this Session, but if the Divorce Bill were thrown out he hoped the House would devote a morning sitting to his Bill.

Sir J. Buller said he must press his amendment. The House divided, when it appeared that the Ayes were 120, the Noes 65; majority for the Bill, 55.

The Bill was sent down to Committee the succeeding Wednesday, but no further progress was made, and the Bill was dropped.

(To be continued.)

REVIEW.

Dumbleton Common. By the Hon. EMILY EDEN. New Edition London: Ward, Lock, & Co.

This is a pleasantly written story, after the manner of Miss Mitford or Miss Austen, describing the fortunes of the inhabitants, gentle and simple, of a country town. It was written about a quarter of a century ago, and the chief interest for us in the re-issue of the work is that it serves as a note of the progress made in public opinion on women's questions during the interval since the book was written. One of the characters is a Miss Sapientia Wolff, who is described as having visited New York, and having "come back thoroughly imbued with grand and stirring notions" about the "rights of women," the "employment of females," and "sanitary reform." "She was moreover by no means averse to reading one of her little 'Papers' aloud (if very much pressed to do so), and it was very confidently reported among her particular friends, that should Sapientia be required upon an emergency to address an overflowing assembly of ladies and gentlemen at a public meeting, or, say even a "social science congress," that that lady would find herself at no loss whatever, but would acquit herself with remarkable ease and fluency." This lady is represented by the authoress in a foolish and ridiculous light, and it is not supposed that the reader will have any sympathy or belief in her opinions. She is introduced as making a call on a Mr. Spencer Hamilton, private secretary to Sir Robert Verney, the newly-elected member for Dumbleton. Mr. Hamilton has recently married a young and wealthy heiress, for whom he has no strong

affection, but who fondly worships him. The lady who is supposed to tell the story writes—

The day after the election I was sitting with Sydney, when Miss Wolff was announced, much to our amazement, for Sapientia was not accustomed to waste her valuable time in paying morning visits.

"How do you do, Sydney?" she said in her most important voice. "I hope I see you well, Miss Martha Lambert. Pray, is Mr. Hamilton at home?"

"Yes; he is in the library, I believe," said Sydney; "do you want him?"

"I wish to speak with him in private," replied Miss Wolff; "my business is of a strictly confidential nature."

"I will send and tell him you are here. I don't know if he is engaged at this moment," said Sydney, ringing the bell. Alas! poor child! the time was past in which she could have broken in upon her husband's engagements without ceremony.

"Just tell Mr. Hamilton," said Sydney to Fullinger, when he answered the bell, "that Miss Wolff is here, and desires to speak to him on some private business of importance."

"Thank you, my dear girl, I shall be really obliged to you if you can obtain for me a little conversation with Mr. Hamilton. I have long wished for this opportunity."

Presently in came Spencer himself, looking rather astonished. "You wish to speak to me, Madam, I understand?"

"I do sir,—and, alone if you please."

"I never receive ladies alone," replied Spencer, gravely, with a glance of amusement at Sydney. "My character, Miss Wolff, is at stake, you will be pleased to remember. Allow my wife to remain in the room. Her aunt is also a very discreet person, and I will answer for the secrecy of both ladies."

Sydney smiled and looked pleased.

Miss Wolff bridled and simpered, and was perhaps rather flattered at the notion of being considered so dangerous a visitor, for she hesitated a few moments, fidgeted with her large, black leather bag, and ultimately consented to unfold her business in our presence.

"She had met with great difficulties and severe disappointments," she said, "in never having been permitted to see the member for Dumbleton. She really did not know how it had happened, but she had been most unfortunate in never finding Sir Robert at home and disengaged. She had at length written to him and had been referred to his private secretary."

Spencer bowed. "My object," continued Miss Wolff, "is, I dare say, not unknown to you. I have here a pamphlet, which I have lately published, entitled, as you will see, 'The Non-existence of Married Women.'"

Miss Wolff here opened her bag, and produced several copies of the work in question, one of which she handed to each of us, with great solemnity.

"In casting your eye over this little publication, you will at once perceive that the object which I have at heart," said Miss Wolff, resuming her seat, "is nothing less than the improvement of the condition of married women. Allow me to point out to you the principal heads upon which I intend to dwell more particularly. You will see, by referring to page 4, 'A wife cannot legally claim her own earnings.' If I were a married woman, the money I gain by my pen could be taken from me by the law, and placed in the hands of my husband."

Here Miss Wolff looked up with horror depicted in her countenance, to watch the effect of her words. I was afraid Spencer would have choked with the effort he made to suppress his laughter at Sapientia's cruel distress.

"Again," she continued, turning over the leaves of her pamphlet, "see page 6. 'A wife cannot make a will.' There is injustice for you! Miss Lambert, here, can make her will. I can make my will. Mrs. Spencer Hamilton cannot make her will! Why is this? Because she is a married woman!"

"Again—page 7,—'A wife has no legal claim to her clothes and ornaments.' Those rings and bracelets which my young friend Sydney wears are not her own. Your husband, my dear, could claim them every one, if he chose!"

"Then may I call your attention to page 9,—'A married woman cannot prosecute for libel.' What do you say to this, Mr. Hamilton? Am I to be libelled by everybody who has some petty spite against me, and am I not to protect myself?"

"You are, I believe, at perfect liberty to prosecute, Miss Wolff," replied Spencer, trying hard to keep his countenance.

"Ah! I forgot—I beg your pardon—I am—but I take the cause of my poor sisters in bondage so much to heart, that I sometimes almost forget my own identity."

"Let us pass to another clause—page 11,—'A married woman cannot sign a lease!' Shocking! Why is not Mrs. Duckett as well able to sign a lease as I am myself, I should be glad to know? But these are all trifles compared to what I am now coming to. You will see, at page 14, that 'A wife may not leave her husband's house.' Not only can he compel her to return to his roof, but he has a right to enter the house of any friend with whom she may take refuge, and call in the aid of the police to carry her away by force. Now what do you say to this, Mrs. Spencer Hamilton?"

Poor Sydney shuddered and turned pale, and only asked piteously, "Is it true?"

"True? Yes—of course it is true. Do you suppose I should venture to publish statements which are not true? But I am not surprised to hear you ask the question, my dear girl—not the least surprised. But listen to one more clause, if you please. Page 16,—

'The children of a married woman are, after a certain age, placed by law at the sole disposal of her husband.' That means, that a mother may be deprived of her children at the will of their wicked and tyrannical father!! I make no further comment on this clause. Now, Mr. Hamilton, I will leave you to think over all I have said, and I beg you will carefully take into consideration the immense importance of bringing a bill before parliament, in order to remedy this lamentable state of things, without further loss of time. I have here, Sir, a petition signed by many hundreds of our British matrons, all praying for redress for their wrongs, and entreating to be delivered from their present state of slavery. You will, I trust, represent to Sir Robert Verney the urgency of the appeal, and do all in your power to induce him to espouse our cause—(that is, I mean)—the cause of the wives and mothers of England."

Mr. Hamilton promised to give the pamphlet and petition to Sir Robert, but could not take upon himself to give any decided opinion upon the matter; and with many civil speeches, at last handed Miss Wolff to the door, filled with the most sanguine hopes for the success of her mission.

"Oh, Spencer!" gasped Sydney, as soon as she was gone, "do tell me, is it all really true?"

"Yes, child, of course it is, and a very right and proper law it is. What would become of society?—what would become of the world at large, if there were not such laws as these, to keep things all fair and straight, I should like to know?"

"Oh! I don't care about society or the world at large, but it's dreadful, it's very dreadful to think of such things—it frightens me!"

"Why, what on earth can it matter to you, you little foolish thing? I am not going to pawn all your jewels, am I?" said Spencer, laughing.

"I don't know, but I had no idea Miss Wolff was right; I thought she was only a silly old woman, who talked nonsense."

"And you are a silly young woman, who talks great nonsense, so that's the difference between you. But I must go back to my work. Good-bye, Miss Lambert; you'll excuse me I know."

Sydney only sighed, and looked very sad.

One of the great wrongs complained of by Miss Wolff has just been completely redressed; and we have every reason to hope that the modern representative of that energetic lady would find a much more appreciative reception than she encountered, were they now to endeavour to obtain an amendment of the law on the rest of the particulars in which it still fails to do full justice to wives.

THE QUEEN AT PARKHURST.

On the interesting occasion of presenting new colours to the 66th Regiment at Parkhurst last month, her Majesty addressed a few words to the officers who received the colours from her hands; and those who were present rejoiced to hear the perfect intonation and clear accents of the Queen, which were always the admiration of those who heard her upon any public occasion. Everyone noticed the intense interest with which the Duchess of Connaught watched the whole proceedings, especially when the Queen made allusion to her dear son now on foreign service in Egypt.—*World.*

THE CROWN PRINCESS OF GERMANY.

A Berlin correspondent of an English newspaper writes:—It is not every friend of monarchy who approves those traditions which, as in the House of Hohenzollern, exclude the heir apparent and his consort from participation in nearly all the important affairs of the nation, and render it extremely difficult for them to develop and to manifest such special gifts as they possess for acquiring the affections of their future subjects. The failing health of the Empress and the Emperor's great age are, however, at present giving an opportunity to the Crown Prince and Princess for showing in how high a degree they are endowed with all those qualities and masters in all those arts that ensure popularity to princes. In welcoming the Crown Prince of Austria and his young spouse, on their first visit to the German court, Prince Frederick William and our Princess Royal are discharging a duty for which they are eminently fitted, and which the cordial relations subsisting between the imperial families of Austria and Germany render a genuine pleasure for all concerned. Breslau, the capital of that Silesia which Frederick the Great with rare daring wrested from Crown Prince Rudolf's celebrated ancestor Maria Theresa, enjoys the honour of being selected as the place of meeting, and the choice itself indicates how well bygone have been forgotten, or are even perhaps gladly remembered as the circuitous means by which history brought about a lasting alliance between the two empires.

During the days preceding the Imperial visit, the Crown Princess of Germany has been receiving deputations, and visiting several hospitals, and schools, Catholic and Jewish, as well as Protestant, and charitable establishments, giving proofs everywhere of a thorough and uncommon knowledge of the art of nursing, the necessity of ventilation, and all those branches of hygienic culture in which England excels the rest of the world. In the "Volksküche" of a ladies' association she tasted the cheap and good soup made for the poor, received a report from medical men on the excellent results obtained by sending pale and sickly town children into rural retreats, or, as Germans designate them, holiday colonies, and complimented the citizens of Breslau on the liberality with which their charities had been endowed, or were kept up.

On another occasion she attired herself in the "attila" of her regiment, the Black Hussars, and defiled with her men in front of the Emperor, first in slow, and then in quick time. On Thursday last, when the Crown Prince, with Count Moltke and the latter's designated successor, Count Waldersee, at his side, was witnessing the manoeuvres from the supposed enemy's camp, Princess Victoria led her regiment, at a full canter, to an attack upon his position, eliciting from her husband the remark that "this was the first time in his life that she had figured among his adversaries."

WOMEN OF THE SAGAS.

The sagas tell of the same freedom of the wife in her own sphere, and association with her husband's life and pursuits, which is the ideal of wedded life now in this country. She was not like the Greek wife, doomed to a narrow life in her own side of the house apart from the interests of the men; still less was she like the plaything of the Eastern harem; and old age did not deprive her of her influence, while it added to her dignity. Her words were often then held sacred, her influence grew paramount, as one to whom the gods had imparted a more than human wisdom. The wise women of the North were old: they did not need to enhance their power by the young beauty of Pallas Athene. A glance at the respective mythologies will show us the contrast between the stories of Frigga, pure and strong, the ideal of the married woman, Iduna, the tender goddess of youth and spring, and Freyja, the honourable Northern type of Aphrodite, and the legends that have gathered round the names of the divinities honoured by Greece and Rome.—By FELL and FIJORD, *Scenes in Iceland.*

WOMEN TELEGRAPH CLERKS.

The competition among young women to obtain appointments in the Post Office Telegraph Department is increasing. At a recent examination there were no less than eight hundred candidates for thirty appointments.

WOMEN AS REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

An application was recently made to the Local Government Board by the guardians of the Wycombe Union to sanction the appointment of Mrs. Russell, of Great Marlow, to the office of registrar of births and deaths, vacant through the death of her husband. The guardians had been memorialised by the ratepayers of the district to make the appointment, and were themselves unanimously in favour of it. The Registrar-General, having made inquiries, has sanctioned the appointment for twelve months.

WOMEN AND ATHLETIC EXERCISES.

The following letter recently appeared in *The Times*:—

Sir,—Reading in *The Times* of Mr. P. E. Evans's attempt to swim five miles, for the honour of my sex, I beg to inform you that two young ladies (sisters) swam about three miles—from Shanklin to Sandown—in one hour, three weeks back. The tide was in their favour, but a strong wind was against them, or they could have done it with ease in less time. They were not the least fatigued, and took a four miles walk after. I consider swimming as necessary for girls as boys in these days of canoeing and boating, and wish I could say anything to induce parents to have them taught early this most useful and healthy accomplishment.—Yours faithfully,
THE MOTHER OF FIVE SWIMMERS.

LADIES' SWIMMING MATCH.

A swimming match between ladies took place on September 27th at Southsea, for prizes given by Count Metaxa. There were ten entries, and nine competitors started. Miss Lettie Green, who only became a swimmer this season, won, in 1min. 49sec., by a yard and a half from Mrs. Watkins; Miss M'Farlane, "penalised" 5sec., was third; and Miss Nellie Thompson, "penalised" 20sec., fourth. The sea was roughish.

WOMAN AND THE ENTERPRISING BURGLAR.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* observes that a new and apparently formidable obstacle has risen in the path of the enterprising burglar, who has now found an opponent in the ordinarily disregarded female occupiers of houses entered in the way of business during the small hours. Last week, a lady residing near Leicester very effectually disposed of a burglariously inclined stranger by beating him about the head with a poker, and in a case heard yesterday at Blackpool the same domestic implement seems to have had a remarkably terrorising effect in the hands of another courageous member of the gentler sex. Mrs. Handley, of St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, was awakened by hearing some person on the stairs, and upon her husband opening the door he found a man, since identified as John Kelly, a private in the 3rd Lancashire Militia, who straightway apologised for his intrusion and said he had mistaken the house. Mr. Handley, forsaking the post of danger, went for the police, but his wife, taking the poker, mounted guard over Kelly until a constable took charge of him. Some property was found to have been taken into the yard, ready for removal, and as the prisoner seems to have forced a window in order to get into the "wrong house," he was committed to the assizes, where no doubt he can best explain his singular mistake.

EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN INDIA.

A learned Mahratia young lady has been giving evidence before the Education Commission which has just concluded its public session at Poona. This lady stated to the Commissioners that 99 out of every 100 of the educated men of India are opposed to female education. She stated also that hundreds of thousands of her fellow-countrywomen are dying for want of lady doctors. "I consider it my duty," she states in her evidence, "to maintain this cause, and to advocate the proper position of women in this land." Ramnahai Sanskrita, the lady in question, who is not more than twenty-four years of age, has devoted herself to the cause of female education.

FORFEITURE OF WIDOW'S DOWER. THE SHERIFFS' COURT.

(Before Mr. Grantham, Q.C., M.P., Chief Commissioner, and a Jury.)

AN ESCHEAT TO THE CROWN.—Mr. Grantham, with Mr. Danckwerts, barrister, and Mr. W. Brown, Treasury Solicitor, attended as Commissioners under an inquisition issued on behalf of Her Majesty, to ascertain whether George Daniel Mackay, late of Brighton, described as a gentleman, had any heirs, having died intestate, and the amount of real property he possessed. He had a widow, who was examined in Court, as also was the widow of his uncle, from whom he inherited the property. The freehold property was in Curtain Road, Shoreditch, and of the clear annual value of £315. The case was an illustration, as explained by the learned Chief Commissioner, of the hardship on widows where dower was barred, a clause for which was until the last ten years always put into conveyances; but real-property lawyers had seen it worked injury, and it was now omitted, unless expressly requested. In this case the widow of the uncle, who had died intestate, and through whom George Daniel Mackay possessed the property, had her dower barred; while the widow of George Daniel Mackay would enjoy one-third of the property. It appeared that the Treasury had advertised in the newspapers for heirs-at-law, and numerous communications had been received, but no one had established a claim. The deceased intestate, who had resided at Croydon, died last year at Brighton, and was married in 1879. The widow of his uncle, who left the property, proved that he had left no will, and her dower was barred. Further evidence was given showing the pedigree of the deceased, and that no heir-at-law could be found. The inquisition, which was of some length, was read over, reciting the property, and explained in Court.—The jury found that it had become an escheat to Her Majesty, and the Chief Commissioner told the foreman that he was entitled to a parchment copy of the inquisition, which he would retain in his charge. It was accordingly handed to him.

PROTECTION TO A WIFE'S EARNINGS.

At the Westminster Police Court, recently, Mr. W. Doveton Smyth, solicitor, applied to Mr. d'Eyncourt, under the 20 and 21 Vict., chap. 85, sec. 21, for an order to protect the earnings and property of Mrs. Lucy Luke, milliner, of High Road, Knightsbridge.—A sworn information by Mrs. Luke was presented in support of the application. She deposed that her husband left her in April last, but in answer to the magistrate she admitted that they had left by mutual understanding, and that, in fact, she was very glad that he had left her. She had no wish whatever to live with him.—Mr. d'Eyncourt said that this could not be called desertion, and he did not see how he could make an order.—Mr. Smyth stated that the husband in no way supported his wife, and it was a very cruel case, as he had previously sold her jewellery and clothes. The applicant, a very industrious woman, had since acquired other property, and kept herself respectable, but she feared that her husband would again sell up her home and property. He contended that the object of the statute was to protect an industrious woman.—Mr. d'Eyncourt remarked that her earnings and property would be amply protected by the statute just passed.—Mr. Smyth said that this would not come into force until January.—Mr. d'Eyncourt considered that the existing Married Women's Property Act sufficiently protected in a case of this description, and, while he must refuse to grant a protection order, Mrs. Luke could apply to the Court again if her husband attempted to molest her or to dispose of any property she had herself acquired.

EDUCATION IN VICTORIA.—In the Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the colony of Victoria presented to the Marquis of Normanby last year, it is stated that the annual Exhibition examination open to State school pupils was held in December last, at which 49 candidates competed, and eleven Exhibitions were awarded. It is a noticeable fact that, for the first time since the introduction of State School Exhibitions, a girl was one of the successful candidates. She has since taken up her studies at the Corporate High Schools, Sandhurst.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have demonstrated that qualified females are entitled, by the law of the land, to become electors; and placed on the register. I write to demand of you why do you not plead your case, and call upon the Legislature to hear the case of appeal by counsel at the bar? Your advocates do great injustice, systematically to ignore the law in this respect.

I call, to all, your attention to the change of the aspect presented by recent occurrences. By statute, revising barristers are bound to grant a case of appeal. Mr. Justice Denman, a judge of Appeal, is committed in the House of Commons to the opinion. Nay, more, you have the right of appeal to the Superior Court, already so liberal to the electors. Do yourself and your cause JUSTICE!

Get your distinguished women placed on the lists. Appeal and go to the Common Pleas. There is no difficulty. If omitted from the lists, let them claim to be registered—appear and plead their case before the Revising Barrister. Carry the case to the Superior Court of Appeal. If you are too poor to fee counsel; Mr. Benjamin (?), (levy a rate, and it shall be answered)—to plead the law at bar—none are so entitled as the one-half (and five per cent) of the population, clamouring to be electors. The Act, 1867, section 3, is decisive of the question (see the debate in the House of Commons).

The city of London instructed me to advocate the case in the registration courts. I did succeed in getting an appeal. Now every female on the lists has a privilege of appeal to the important courts superior to the Common Pleas, which proved so liberal in the construction of the statutory enfranchisement. Speak! Strike! Redress! SIDNEY SMITH.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENT.

Z.—The letter shall appear with the best advice we are able to obtain. Please send name and address. No card was enclosed.

Obituary.

SIR DAVID WEDDERBURN, till recently M.P. for the Haddington District of Burghs, died on September 18th at Inveresk Lodge, Musselburgh, the residence of his brother-in-law, General Hope. He had been in ill-health for a considerable time. Born at Bombay in 1835, the deceased was the eldest surviving son of Sir John, the second baronet, whom he succeeded in 1862. Sir David was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1858. He was called to the Scottish Bar in 1861, but never practised. He travelled a great deal, visiting India, Australia, China, Japan, and the United States. He represented South Ayrshire in Parliament in the Liberal interest from December, 1868, to February, 1874, and the Haddington District of Burghs from 1879 till his retirement in August last, on account of the state of his health. He was an earnest supporter of the enfranchisement of women. He voted for the measure in 1872 and 1879, and spoke at a meeting in Willis' Rooms in June, 1879.

MR. T. FALCONER.—This gentleman, whose death was noticed two or three weeks ago, was lately a County Court Judge in South Wales, but had held responsible posts in the Colonial administration. He was born in 1805, and was called to the Bar in 1830. In 1850 was selected by the Earl of Elgin, Governor-General of Canada, to determine the boundaries between that province and the province of New Brunswick, and in July, 1851, was appointed Colonial Secretary of Western Australia. On his return to England, he was made County Court Judge for Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, which office he held during twenty years. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and of the Geological Society, and one of the two surviving members of the London Committee of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and was the author of several legal and antiquarian treatises.

The foregoing notice is from the Illustrated London News, which contained a portrait. Mr. Falconer had been for many years a member of the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage.

THE NEW SCOTCH MUNICIPAL REGISTER.

The new Act passed last year, and which came into operation on the 1st of January, giving female ratepayers the power of exercising the franchise in municipal elections, will be taken advantage of for the first time at the coming November elections. The returns prepared by the assessors are made up separately. The following table shows the comparative results of the male and female voters from the return of a large number of burghs in Scotland, as well as the population from last census returns, and the number of inhabited houses in each burgh. It is much to be regretted that the female householders have displayed so little interest in having their names placed upon the roll by paying their rates. For instance, in the burgh of Paisley, with a population of 55,643 and 11,563 houses, the male municipal voters number 5345, while only 1115 women have had their names placed on the roll, double that number having been disqualified for non-payment of poor rates. If the whole of the female voters had been registered, the burgh would have been in a position of honour in having a greater proportion of women as voters than any other in Scotland. At Airdrie and Hamilton a similar result has taken place, in both cases the numbers disqualified being double the number put on the roll. At Perth nearly one-third of the female voters have been struck off for the same reason. An analysis of the numbers of the males and females shows that in Glasgow there is one female to five male voters, in Edinburgh one to four, and in many of the other manufacturing towns a similar proportion is the result, and, at the same time, a greater number of voters than there is inhabited houses. The proportion in Leith and Galashiels is, however, high, and gives thirteen male voters to two female voters. Owing to the incompleteness of the assessors' returns, little information is given respecting the numbers disqualified beyond those furnished in this return:—

Table with 5 columns: Inhabited Houses, Population, Males, Females, Females Disqualified for non-payment of rates. Lists burghs like Galashiels, Rutherglen, Forfar, Peebles, Jedburgh, Lauder, Kinghorn, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Aberdeen, Dunfermline, Glasgow, Hawick, Greenock, Airdrie, Burntisland, Dumfries, Falkirk, Perth, Brechin, Montrose, Stirling, Portobello, Paisley, Irvine, Hamilton, Inverary, Kirkintilloch, Lochmaben, Kilmarnock, Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, New Galloway, Whithorn, Wigtown, Stranraer.

*The population of Peebles and Kirkintilloch given is for 1871, and the number of male voters for the last five mentioned burghs is for last year.—Edinburgh Daily Review.

ROOMS TO LET, suitable for Single Ladies, above the Somerville Club for Women, 21, Mortimer-street, W.—For terms and particulars apply to Mr. F. BYRNE, 48, Brewer-street, Golden Square, W.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, SEPTEMBER, 1882.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Lists donors like 'Mitrailleuse', Mr. P. Goldschmidt, Mrs. Alfred Illingworth, Rev. A. Dewes, D.D., Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Messrs. Jesse Broad & Co., Dr. Borchardt, Mr. Tozer, Mrs. Gwynne, 'R. L.', Mr. A. Haworth, Mr. T. Richardson, Mrs. Charles Bowman, Mr. H. G. Hart, Mr. Joseph Atkinson, Mr. Wm. Pain, Mrs. Pearson, Mr. C. H. Wyatt, Mr. Whill, Norwich, Miss Shore, Miss Kate Mitchell, Mrs. Charles Gillett, Mr. A. Sinclair, Miss Earle, Miss Mackenzie, Miss R. Whitelegge, Miss Lucas (Harrowgate), Mr. A. Baker, Mrs. Woodhead, Miss Woodhead, Mr. H. Woodhead, Miss M. Slatwell, Miss Joyce, Miss M. E. Chestham, Miss Finch, Miss Susan Shaw, Mr. Ade, Mr. Leadbetter, Mr. C. Butterwith, Mr. John Thompson, Mr. Barwise, Mr. Thos. Heap, Mr. Jacob Tanner, Mr. John Robinson, Mr. T. Simpson, Mr. J. Monkhouse, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. T. Sharp, Mr. Wm. Heaton, Mr. J. Winder, Mr. De Roma, Mr. James Kendal, Mr. C. H. Graham, Mrs. M'Dougall, Mr. Wm. Seatree, Dr. Nicholson, Mrs. Milner, Mr. W. Bell, Miss Scott, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Tannahill, Mrs. Atkinson, Miss Orliphant, Mr. Thos. Lester, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Ald. J. A. Phillips, Mr. Ald. J. L. Taylor, Rev. J. Moffett, Mr. Councillor Mand., Mr. Councillor G. Grandidge.

£134 13 0

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, TREASURER, 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from AUG. 28 to SEPT. 28.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Lists donors like Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Miss Ruth, J. Ashton Cross, Esq., W. M. Rossetti, Esq., Miss E. Warrington, Mrs. Slack, Mrs. Wood (sub. for four years), Mrs. Bolton, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Streetfield (Norwood), Mrs. M. A. Lee, Nathaniel Waterall, Esq., Mrs. Robson, H. Harris, Esq.

£10 12 6

Laura M'Laren, Treasurer, 64, Berners-street, W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS and DONATIONS from AUG. 27 to SEPT. 26.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Lists donors like Miss Courtland, Mrs. Holroyd (Frome), Mr. W. H. Colby, Mr. F. Gilmore Barnett, Miss J. Venning, Miss Pake, Miss Lane (Clifton), Mr. Jennings, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Andrews (Cardiff), Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Ori-Marshal, General Berthon, Mrs. Evans (Cardiff).

£4 17 0

Alice Grenfell, Treasurer, 1, Cecil Road, Clifton.

FEMALE PHYSICIANS ABROAD.

There are at the present moment nearly 400 female physicians in active practice in twenty-six of the United States, the majority of them being settled in New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. These figures show a very rapid increase in the number of women practising medicine in the United States. A few years ago a lady doctor was more or less a rara avis; now there is scarcely a village in any one of the Eastern States which cannot boast of at least one such practitioner. In Russia 12 female doctors are now officially engaged in teaching medicine to women. Thirty are in the service of the Zemstvos, and 40 others serve the hospitals. Twenty-five female doctors who took part in the military operations of 1877 have been decorated, by order of the Emperor, with the Order of St. Stanislas of the Third Class. The number of female students is steadily increasing.—London Medical Record.

CASH'S EMBROIDERED NAMES, FOR MARKING LINEN.

Any Name can be had in any Type for 6s. 6d. a gross.

SOLD BY DRAPERS AND HOSIERS EVERYWHERE.

<p>SOFT THROATS CURED.</p>	<p>DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE. Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.</p> <p>FENNINGS' FEVER CURER.</p> <p>BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose. TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses. DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses. SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses. DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses.</p> <p>Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists. Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps.</p>	<p>EASY TEETHING.</p>	<p>DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE.</p> <p>FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.</p> <p>ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.</p> <p>FENNINGS' Children's Powders.</p> <p>For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.</p> <p><i>Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.</i></p> <p>Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.</p> <p>Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c. Ask your Chemist for a free copy.</p>	<p>SAFE TEETHING.</p>	<p>COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS.</p> <p>FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS.</p> <p>The Best Remedy to Cure all Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.</p> <p>Sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., with directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.</p> <p>The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free,) contain three times the quantity of small boxes.</p> <p>Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.</p>	<p>BRONCHITIS CURED.</p>
-----------------------------------	---	------------------------------	--	------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

These excellent FAMILY MEDICINES are invaluable in the treatment of all ailments incidental to every HOUSEHOLD. The PILLS PURIFY, REGULATE and STRENGTHEN the whole System, while the OINTMENT is unequalled for the removal of all muscular and outward complaints. Possessed of these REMEDIES, every Mother has at once the means of curing most complaints to which herself or Family is liable.

N.B.—Advice can be obtained, free of charge, at 533, Oxford Street, London, daily between the hours of 11 and 4, or by letter.

ESTABLISHED 1835.



By the use of which, during the last Forty Years many Thousands of Cures have been effected; numbers of which cases had been pronounced INCURABLE!

The numerous well-authenticated Testimonials in disorders of the HEAD, CHEST, BOWELS, LIVER, and KIDNEYS; also in RHEUMATISM, ULCERS, SORES, and all SKIN DISEASES, are sufficient to prove the great value of this most useful Family Medicine, it being A DIRECT PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD and other fluids of the human body.

Many persons have found them of great service both in preventing and relieving SEA SICKNESS; and in warm climates they are very beneficial in all Bilious Complaints.

Sold in boxes, price 7½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., by G. WHELPTON & SON, 3, Crane Court, Fleet-street, London, and by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors at home and abroad. Sent free by post in the United Kingdom for 8, 14, or 33 stamps.