

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

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WITHIN a week from the date when these pages reach the hands of our readers, the verdict of the new Parliament will have been pronounced on the principle of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. The time that remains for action is short, and we earnestly exhort our friends to make what use they can of the few days during which their efforts can have any influence on the division. Those who have petitions in hand should forward them at once for presentation. The last day on which petitions should be posted to be in time for the second reading, is Tuesday, April 6th. Petitions sent on that evening will reach the House of Commons on Wednesday morning, and we trust that all members who are friendly to the principle of the measure will take care to be in their places in time to present them, and to support the second reading of the Bill.

During the few weeks that the House has been in session, petitions with above a quarter of a million of signatures have been presented in favour of the Bill. This is considerably more than the number of petitions at the corresponding period of last year. More petitioners have appeared for Mr. FORSYTH'S Bill than for any other object during the session. Not one petition has been presented against the Bill, a circumstance without parallel in the Parliamentary history of any measure which has obtained even a moderate amount of popular support. The majority of the petitioners appear to be women, and the leaders and most earnest workers are everywhere women.

The arguments in favour of the Bill have been often presented, but as this measure will be voted upon on the present occasion by many who have never before considered the subject, it may not be out of place to give a brief summary of the main points of the argument.

Women are, by the ancient laws and constitution of this realm, eligible for political power, and for offices of public trust and responsibility. There never was a period in the history of this country when a woman might not occupy the throne. Women who were heirs to thrones and lordships, have exercised in their own persons the rights and privileges pertaining to their property and position. So long

as the Government of the country was mainly in the hands of royal personages and privileged classes, the women of royal and noble houses enjoyed a definite and recognised share of political power. But, with the rise of modern democracy, there arose a tendency to deny to women of the people that participation in the political influence of their class which Queens, Princesses, and Peeresses enjoyed in times of old. The measure now before the House of Commons would, as it were, restore the balance which the extension of the franchise to large masses of men alone by the Acts of 1832 and 1867 has disturbed. It would give to the women of these classes a moderate and reasonable share of political power, and would do so by methods based, both in principle and practice, on the ancient lines of the constitution. Women who were householders and ratepayers have from time immemorial had equal and similar electoral rights to those of men, in parochial and other local elections. Modern legislation has restored these rights when they had been infringed, and confirmed to women the right to take part in popular elections of all local government. The process of voting is precisely the same for local and imperial elections. The same machinery is employed, and the same influences are brought to bear on the electors in either case. Women vote regularly, year after year, in these contested elections, without any harm accruing either to themselves or others. Why should they be excluded when the election comes on in which they are much more deeply concerned and have a far stronger interest? We are contending for no new principle, and we seek to introduce no new practice. The principle that women may exercise political power is co-eval with the British Constitution. The practice of women recording their votes at the polling booth is legally and irrevocably established. We ask that this principle and this practice may be harmonised and completed, by enacting that women may exercise political power by the method they already practice as regards local power, namely, that of the polling booth and ballot box.

The present PRIME MINISTER has publicly declared that the anomaly, that the Parliamentary franchise attached to a household or property qualification, when possessed by a

woman, should not be exercised, though in all matters of local government she exercises this right, was, in his belief, injurious to the best interests of the country, and he trusted to see it removed by the wisdom of Parliament. We do indeed hope that Parliament will on this occasion follow the lead of the right honourable gentleman at the head of Her MAJESTY'S Government; and we trust that Mr. DISRAELI may have the satisfaction of seeing completed during his tenure of office a reform which he was, so far as we know, the first member of Parliament to advocate within the walls of the House of Commons.

GURDON, in his antiquities of Parliament, says the ladies of birth and quality sat in council with the Saxon Witas. The Abbess WILDE, says BEDE, presided in an Ecclesiastical Synod. In HENRY III. and EDWARD VI. time, four abbesses were summoned to Parliament, namely, of Shaftesbury, Berking, St. Mary of Winchester, and of Wilton. In the 35th of EDWARD III. were summoned to Parliament, to appear by their proxies—MARY, Countess of Norfolk; ALIENOR, Countess of Ormond; ANNE DESPENSER PHILIPPA, Countess of Marsh; JOHANNA FITZWATER, AGUSTA, Countess of Pembroke; MARY DE ST. PAUL, MARY DE ROOS, MATILDA, Countess of Oxford; CATHERINE, Countess of Athol.

If these noble ladies were permitted to appear by their proxies in Parliament in the troublous times of EDWARD III., when the Legislature concerned itself mainly with wars, domestic and foreign, and but little with the social welfare of the people, how much more should women of the present day be allowed to appear by their proxies in the peaceful days of Queen VICTORIA, when Parliament concerns itself yearly more and more with the home interests and domestic and personal habits of the people. Why should not women be heard through their responsible representatives, when the House of Commons prescribes their hours of labour, regulates the building and arrangements of their homes, provides for the education of their children, and decides whether they shall or shall not be allowed to be educated themselves? If women are out of the sphere of politics, these subjects must be out of the sphere of politics, for they directly concern women. But Parliament considers them within its sphere, for it deals with them, and by so doing it destroys whatever semblance of truth there might once have been in the allegation that women have nothing to do with politics.

OF the women who are engaged in the movement for

enfranchisement, some have been mainly actuated by the innate consciousness of human rights revolting against their enforced degradation below the political level of masculine illiterates and felons to that of horses and dogs. They feel that so great and unnatural a wrong, besides being intolerable in itself, is the parent of incalculable evil, and they attribute most of the social mischiefs and miseries against which philanthropists and legislators seem alike to contend in vain, to this flagrant violation of their rights as human beings of one-half of the people. They ask for the franchise, or rather for the legal capacity to exercise the franchise, not merely or mainly for the sake of the material power it confers, but as a symbol which shall set the seal of the national will on the principle that the wishes or opinions of women ought to be taken into account in estimating the mind of the nation.

Other women have been led to join the ranks by finding that their work with regard to more particular measures bearing on the welfare of the community is obstructed by the deprivation of political power, and by the want of the consideration and influence which that power always secures for those who possess it. Others, again, have been convinced by the failure of the efforts which able and devoted men have made, from time to time, to amend the gross evils of the laws affecting the property and personal rights of women; and they have come to believe that no substantial amelioration of these hardships can be expected until the Parliamentary franchise is extended to a sufficient number of women electors to impress members with a sense of responsibility in regard to them. Again, there are many who feel that in the present condition of society, when there is a large and increasing proportion of women who are necessarily thrown on their own resources for the means of subsistence, it is a matter of pressing practical need, as well as of theoretical justice, that fresh avenues of employment and occupations should be thrown open to them, and that not only should women be allowed to undertake any industrial or professional pursuit for which they are personally qualified, but that they should be afforded the means of education to fit them for an independent and honourable career. But here again, whether it is a question of removing some legal bar to the entrance of such a profession as that of medicine, or of obtaining the recognition of the right to university education and degrees, the same fatal obstacle blocks the way. The want of the Parliamentary franchise renders it hopeless

to attempt to pass any measure for the relief of women from disabilities of any other description.

MR. COWPER-TEMPLE'S Bill to remove doubts as to the powers of the Universities of Scotland to admit women as students and to grant degrees to women stood for second reading on March 3rd. The numbers were—for the Bill, 151; against, 194; majority against, 43. Many members who voted against the second reading stated that they were in favour of the principle of allowing university education and degrees to women, but they objected to the provisions of the particular Bill under discussion. We have on a former occasion stated our views as to the unsatisfactory nature of Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE'S Bill, inasmuch as it contained no provisions for securing to women the desired advantages; and our belief that it would be utterly delusive, and would be practically a dead letter. Mr. MAITLAND, who moved the rejection of the Bill, stated that he yielded to no man in the desire that women should enjoy the advantages of higher education, but he pointed out that if this Bill passed the ladies would enjoy no "fixity of tenure." The University Courts might admit them one week and exclude them the next, or at any rate deny admission to new candidates. We may therefore assume that while the 153 votes and tellers of the minority were all in favour of admitting women to the privileges and social status of university education and degrees, the majority were not all opposed to this principle, and that the real strength of the promoters of the general question of university education for women was greater than that which appears in the division list.

Nevertheless, we hold that the friends of higher education would have best served that cause by voting for the Bill in spite of its defects, and endeavouring to enlarge its scope in committee. We would apply to this case the reasoning employed by the *Saturday Review* to the Ancient Monuments Bill introduced by Sir JOHN LUBBOCK. The writer says: "We will not complain of its being applied only to some few classes of antiquities, because the great point is to get any antiquities at all preserved. That half which is more than the whole will be won if we can get a national acknowledgment of the doctrine that the monumental history of the country, the objects which remain for the instruction of the thinking men of our own and of all other lands, should no longer be daily destroyed by the caprice of the self-willed, the stupidity of the ignorant,

and the selfishness of those who can listen to nothing but the one dull cry of 'property.'"

We may paraphrase this language in regard to measures dealing with something more precious even than records of the life of by-gone ages—the rights of the intellect, conscience, and liberties of living women. We too say that the half which is more than the whole will be won when we can obtain a national recognition of the principle that women have a share in the intellectual and political life of the nation, and any Bill which recognises this principle, however defective or objectionable it may be in its details, should be supported by all who have this principle at heart.

The minority of 153, including tellers, who supported Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE'S Bill, consisted of 123 Liberals and 30 Conservatives. It contained 109 members who are also in favour of women's suffrage, 22 who are adverse, and 22 who have not declared their sentiments on the suffrage question. The majority of 196 against the Bill contained 49 supporters of women's suffrage, of whom 42 were Conservatives and 7 Liberals; 87 opponents of the franchise for women, of whom 76 were Conservatives and 7 Liberals, and 60 members who are either new or who are neutral on the suffrage question, of whom 50 are Conservatives and 10 Liberals.

In an able article in the *Scotsman*, a paper which has honourably distinguished itself by its advocacy of the claim of the lady students of Edinburgh, the writer asks "Can anybody believe that if women had been in possession of political votes, all that was said and done last Wednesday would have happened just as it did." Nay, can anybody capable of conceiving anything happening under other circumstances, otherwise than it has happened under the actual circumstances, doubt for a moment that the balance would have been thrown the other way?

THE weavers of Dewsbury have just given a signal proof of the ability of working women to combine for their own protection, and to conduct their own affairs. The *Times* of March 19th states that "after a sitting of more than seven hours' duration, the two executive committees, one representing the Woollen Manufacturers' Association and the other the weavers on strike, arrived at a settlement of the dispute. Eight thousand weavers and an equal number of other operatives will return to their employment. Each side has made a concession, but the gain of the whole will be with the weavers, for not only are the prices of all classes of goods equalized, but they are slightly advanced too. A mass meeting of 5,000 weavers

"was held at Spinkwell, Dewsbury, and ratified the com- promise. The strike had lasted five weeks, and during "the whole time not a single case of disorder or theft has "been reported, nor has any inflammatory language been "used by the hands on strike. The weavers' executive "committee is composed solely of women, and they have "conducted the whole of the negotiations with the em- ployers."

They have thus justified the confidence of the President of the Weavers' Committee, Mrs. Wood, who, in addressing a mass meeting in the beginning of the movement said "they "did not want it to be said that when women fought the "battle they found any work for the magistrates. She "wanted them to conduct themselves so as to be well "thought of in the eyes of the public."

AMONG the candidates nominated to serve on the Salford Board of Guardians are five women, who are described on the nomination papers as follows:—Mrs. Norman, cord- wainer, Chapel Street; Miss Staniforth, draper, Bank Parade; Mrs. Speakman, "lady," Hulme Street; Mrs. Mary Smith, innkeeper, Angel Hotel, Chapel Street; and Mrs. Crighton, "lady," the Crescent. Should these ladies be elected, a question may arise as to their legal capacity to serve. A few years ago, the Baroness Burdett Coutts was nominated as guardian in a metropolitan parish, and received a majority of votes, but the returning officer, not believing women to be eligible for the office, returned the man next below her on the poll.

#### REPLIES OF MEMBERS TO MEMORIALS.

MR. W. ARCHDALL, M.P.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. Archdall, M.P. for Fermanagh, to the chairman of a large and influential meeting held at Enniskillen, Feb. 12th, 1875.

"Dear Mr. Maclachy,—I shall be most happy to present the petition. I agree with every word of it.—Yours sincerely,  
"WM. ARCHDALL."

MR. A. STAVELEY HILL, Q.C., M.P.

St. Stephen's Club, January 18th, 1875.

My dear Sir,—I am obliged by your letter forwarding to me the memorial in accordance with a resolution at a public meeting of January 12th. I beg that you will be good enough to assure the memorialists that I shall continue to give my support to that extension of the franchise to women, to which I hold that they are constitutionally entitled.—Yours very faithfully,  
ALEX. STAVELEY HILL.

To Saml. S. Mander, Esq.

MR. W. L. CHRISTIE, M.P.

Feb. 4th, 1874.

Dear Mr. High Constable,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd, and of a memorial of inhabitants of Lewes asking me to support the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women. In answer I have to say that the measure shall receive my best consideration, and if I may assume that the meeting held on the 1st shewed that the feeling

of the majority of the ladies in Lewes having the necessary household and property qualification is in favour of the Bill in question, I shall have no hesitation in giving it my support. Believe me, yours very truly,  
W. L. CHRISTIE.

To the High Constable of Lewes.

THE HON. CECIL WELD FORESTER, M.P.

Carlton Club, Feb. 13th, 1875.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial forwarded by you—you do not say how many signatures it represented. I shall give the matter my serious consideration, and must say that I think it is but fair that women who pay rates should have a vote. I cannot say I am quite prepared to give it to the married women.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
CECIL W. FORESTER.

MR. J. H. PULESTON, M.P.

February 17th.

Dear Sir,—I have received the petition in favour of the Bill removing the disabilities of women, and the memorial to myself on the same subject.—The Bill referred to has my cordial approval, and I have before my constituents, and elsewhere, always expressed my own conviction that such a measure ought to be carried. I was pleased to read the report of the influential meeting over which you presided, and I shall be obliged if you will communicate to the memorialists my acknowledgement of their petition, and my readiness to do all in my power to further the passing of the Bill.—I am, faithfully yours,  
(Signed) J. H. PULESTON.

A. Nesman, Esq., Mayor of Devonport.

MR. J. R. YORKE, M.P.

House of Commons, March 3rd, 1875.

My dear Sir,—I have received the memorial you sent me with much pleasure. I have always been of opinion that the enfranchisement of female householders was not only required by justice, but would be a measure decidedly advantageous to the Conservative cause—in fact, I voted for it on the first occasion when it was brought before the House by Mr. Stewart Mill in 1867. I hope it will not be long before the measure is carried.—Yours very faithfully,  
J. R. YORKE.

E. Tew-Smith, Esq.

MR. THOMSON HANKEY, M.P.

London, 16th March, 1875.

My dear Sir,—I shall be quite ready to support the Women's Electoral Bill on the 7th April.—Yours faithfully,  
B. Taylor, Esq. THOMSON HANKEY.

MR. H. B. SHERIDAN, M.P.

20th March, 1875.

Dear Sir,—Your petition was presented, and I shall be happy to support the second reading of the Bill (which stands for the 7th April) with my vote.—Yours faithfully,  
Mr. J. McIlwrath. H. B. SHERIDAN.

SIR C. FORSTER, BART., M.P.

Lysways, Rugeley, 25th March, 1875.

Dear Sir,—I have made all my arrangements for returning to my place in the House, on the 5th, when Parliament re-assembles, and I shall certainly support Mr. Forsyth's Bill for the Removal of the Electoral Disabilities of Women, which, like you, I regard as a measure of progress, and one which cannot logically be resisted.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,  
Mr. Thos. Blinkhorne. CHARLES FORSTER.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, March 3rd, 1875.

The sitting was occupied for the most part by a discussion of the Universities (Scotland, Degrees to Women) Bill. The second reading was moved by Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE, who explained that its object is to give the Scotch Universities power to admit female students to degrees, and to remove the stamp of illegality which the decisions of the Law Courts had cast upon the former proceedings of the University of Edinburgh in this respect. Mr. Cowper-Temple dealt at some length with the objections to the measure, and maintained that the opposition proceeded from an interested dread of competition.

Mr. MAITLAND, who took the chief part in the opposition to the Bill, argued that its details showed an ignorance of the Scotch Universities. He objected to the permissive character of the Bill, to the power it would confer on the Lord Rector for the time being, and also to the expense which it would entail on the Universities. Sir W. Anstruther, Mr. B. Hope, and Mr. Stewart also spoke against the Bill. Mr. E. Noel opposed it as likely to check the prosperity of the Universities, and Mr. Orr Ewing, though he supported the principle, criticised the details of the measure. Dr. Cameron, Mr. Forsyth, and Mr. McLagan supported the Bill.

Dr. PLAYFAIR opposed the Bill on its details, which he showed provided no machinery for carrying out the graduation of what he called "she-doctors." Neither did it raise the broad question of "higher female education;" it merely remitted it to the University Courts to do what they pleased, but the Scotch Universities did not desire the Bill, nor had they the means of working it.

Mr. STANSFELD narrated the history of the controversy in which the Edinburgh University had been engaged with the female students, and advocated the Bill as a means of enabling the Scotch Universities to do justice to these ladies.

Mr. ROEBUCK expressed a strong conviction that the opposition to the Bill was a Trades' Union opposition, and sprang from a coward fear of competition on the part of the medical profession. The Bill would do no harm to any living being, and was demanded in justice to women.

The LORD ADVOCATE emphatically contradicted Mr. Roebuck's description of the objection to the Bill, pointing out that it took its origin with the Medical Faculty of the Edinburgh University. He had been originally favourable to the admission of female students, but he had been reluctantly converted by a conviction that the practical difficulties were insuperable.

On a division the second reading was negatived by 194 to 151.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BRISTOL.

ANNUAL MEETING.

On March 4th, the annual meeting of the Bristol and West of England Society was held in the Lesser Colston hall. The Mayor of Bristol (Mr. C. J. Thomas) presided over a large attendance, the hall and gallery being crowded. Among those on the platform were Lady Anna Gore Langton, Miss Sturge (Birmingham), Miss Lilius Ashworth, the Rev. Dr. Percival, the Rev. T. C. Price, Rev. Mr. Lascelles (Bath), Rev. E. Harris, Rev. T. W. Dunn, Miss Ashworth, Miss Tribe, Mrs. Wollaston, Miss Priestman, Miss Scott (London), Miss Price, Miss Le Geyt, Mrs. Atherton (Yorkshire), Mrs. Tanner, Miss Grenfell, Mrs. C. Thomas, Miss Sturge, Miss Jenner (Cardiff), Dr. Macgowan,

Messrs. A. Greenwell, H. Thomas, Tribe, W. Clark, Dr. E. W. Dunbar, Pierce, M. Whitwill, Bartlett, Yeats, Parris, Thornton, Minchin, B. Gawler, &c.

The MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, said that as Mayor of Bristol he was the property of the city of Bristol, and therefore, whether he might go too far or too short of any worthy object that the citizens desired to attain, he felt it to be his duty to come forward, and if he was asked to preside at a meeting of the citizens of Bristol, to do so. (Hear, hear).

The Secretary, Miss LUKE, before reading the report, read a letter from Mr. Forsyth, and the following letter from Mr. Wait, M.P. :—

"House of Commons, Feb 22nd, 1875.

"Dear Madam,—Through a combination of circumstances, I have only received this afternoon your letter of the 17th inst. I am sorry I cannot undertake to be present at your meeting on the 4th March. I am obliged to send the same invariable reply when invited during the Parliamentary session. It is my full intention to support Mr. Forsyth's Bill, which I trust to see pass the second reading by a substantial majority.—Yours faithfully,  
W. K. WAIT.

"Mrs. Luke."

The SECRETARY read the report, which referred to the general aspect of the question, and the special work of the Bristol and West of England Branch of the Society. The committee deplored the great loss they had sustained by the death of their president, Viscountess Amberley.

Mr. A. GREENWELL read the financial statement. The year commenced with a balance of £14. 2s. 7d. in hand; the subscriptions and donations amounted to £486. 11s., the total receipts being £557. 0s. 9d. The year ended with a balance of £3. 17s. 3d. in hand.

Lady ANNA GORE LANGTON said: I consider the report which has been just read is an encouraging one, and that women have only to persevere, and go on working, trusting that at last the feeling of justice in Englishmen will prevail, and they will give the suffrage to women householders, and no longer class them with minors, criminals, and lunatics. It always appears strange to me that people do not more readily acknowledge the injustice of refusing the suffrage to women householders. This privilege is given to men consequent on their paying certain rates and taxes; but women who pay the same are refused the privilege. The same arguments brought forward against women's suffrage have also been urged against other changes, such as the emancipation of the slaves, the extension of the franchise, and the education of the poorer classes. I have heard it said that slaves did not want their freedom, that they would not use it, or know what to do with it. Now I hear that women do not want the suffrage, but that has been answered in Bristol by twelve hundred women householders having signed the petition in favour of it. I quite allow that women can never be admirals of the fleet, or generals of the army, but our country is protected by an army paid out of the taxes imposed on the people; women pay these taxes, and therefore help to support the army as much as many men. If women cannot sit as jurors for the trial of criminals, they pay their share of the rates for the maintenance of the police and the various machinery for enforcing the laws of the country. A clever Frenchwoman, Madame de Stael, being told by the Emperor Napoleon that women had no right to interfere in politics, readily answered, "But, sir, if women are to have their heads cut off, it is natural to ask the reason why." Now women householders, finding they pay the same rates and taxes as men, naturally ask why they are not admitted to the same privileges. To have a share, however small, in the government of his country, is one of the noblest ambitions of man; it improves

by elevating him ; forces him to consider the welfare of others ; enlarges his intellect ; and if men find themselves benefitted and improved by having the franchise, would not women find themselves equally benefitted if they also had the power of voting ? It has been urged that politics would interfere with home duties, but what are called the claims of society, amusements and shopping, are much more likely to do that. A great many social questions are annually brought before Parliament, such as all matters relating to health, education and guardianship of children, marriage laws, employment, and remuneration of labour. These questions affect both sexes, and women ought to be allowed to express their opinions through their representatives in Parliament. In these days prejudices are slowly disappearing before the brighter light of knowledge and liberality ; but principles must always remain the same. It will always be a principle that Christian women should be meek, humble, modest, and charitable ; but it is a prejudice to suppose that giving them the franchise will make them less so. Intellect has been given to them which enables them to form opinions—whether equal or not to men we need not consider ; such as it is they are answerable for making the best use of it for themselves and others. I agree that women's duties begin at home—they begin there, but there they do not end. Whenever there is poverty or sorrow, need or suffering, there it is the duty of women to follow and try to alleviate or remedy the evil. It is because I believe that if women had the political vote they would be raised morally and socially, and have more power to help and benefit their fellow creatures, that I am here to-night to try and advocate the cause of women's suffrage.

The Rev. Dr. PERCIVAL seconded the resolution, which was put and carried with only one or two dissentients, other resolutions were moved and supported by Miss STURGE, Miss L. ASHWORTH, Mrs. THOMAS and the Rev. E. HARRIS, and after a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Dr. MACGOWAN, the meeting separated.

SWINDON.

On Monday, March 8th, a meeting was held in the hall of the Mechanics Institute, New Swindon. The hall was crowded by a numerous and most enthusiastic audience. Major Power presided ; and the local speakers were Captain Wykeham Martin, the Rev. J. Lambert, Mr. W. Foote, Mr. F. R. Young, and Mr. J. E. G. Bradford. Miss Lillias Ashworth, and Miss Beedy, M.A., attended as the deputation of the West of England Society. The usual resolutions were carried unanimously, and petitions to the Houses of Lords and Commons, with memorials to the borough and county members, were adopted.

HAMMERSMITH.

A meeting was held on March 15th, in the New Town Hall, Hammersmith. Mr. H. D. Pochin occupied the chair, and the meeting was addressed by the Rev. W. Hammond, Mr. Thomas Reid, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mr. Graham, Mr. Husband, and Miss C. A. Biggs. Resolutions in support of the Bill were carried unanimously, and the meeting concluded with the usual vote of thanks.

BLACKHEATH.

On March 16th, a public meeting was held in the Alexandra Hall, Blackheath. Mr. Price Williams, of East Dean, Blackheath, was in the chair, and on the platform were Mrs. Cairnes, Mrs. Price Williams, Mrs. Main, and other ladies. Resolutions were supported by Miss Orme, Miss Richardson, Mr. Leonard Courtney, Mr. Simcox, Mr. John Macdonell, and Mr. Robert Main, and, after some opposition, were carried. Mr. Robert Main, of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, consented to undertake the office of honorary secretary to the new committee.

[Notices of a few meetings which have taken place during the past month are unavoidably postponed.]

PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. PUBLIC PETITIONS—THIRD REPORT. 17—19 February, 1875.

I. Parliament.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL—In Favour.

Brought forward, Petitions 110—Signatures 42,538

Table listing petitions for the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, including petition numbers, dates, names of petitioners, and signature counts.

Table listing petitions on the left side of the page, including petition numbers, dates, names of petitioners, and signature counts.

Total number of Petitions 160—Signatures 62,042

FOURTH REPORT. 22—23 February, 1875.

Brought forward, Petitions 160—Signatures 62,042

Table listing petitions on the right side of the page, including petition numbers, dates, names of petitioners, and signature counts.

Table listing petitions on the right side of the page, including petition numbers, dates, names of petitioners, and signature counts.

Total number of Petitions 212—Signatures 80,474

FIFTH REPORT. 24—26 February, 1875.

Brought forward, Petitions 212—Signatures 80,474

Table listing petitions on the right side of the page, including petition numbers, dates, names of petitioners, and signature counts.

Table of petitions for the sixth report, 1-2 March 1875. Includes entries for inhabitants of Stockton on Tees, Kelso, Mansfield, S.F. Aldrich, Lisburn, Wrexford, etc.

SIXTH REPORT. 1-2 March, 1875.

Table of petitions for the sixth report, 3-5 March 1875. Includes entries for inhabitants of Stuartfield, Blair Logie, Camuskenneth, Friockheim, Bervie, Coldstream, Edinburgh, Eyemouth, Fraserburgh, Bristol, Redland, Hoxton, Bethnal Green, Lambeth, Lochgillhead, Innellan, Woodside, Dunse, Leith, Bathgate, Bo'ness, Edinburgh, Bristol, Portishead, Members of the Queen of the West Lodge, Invergordon, Rotherfield, Oldham, Saurey and Hawkshead, Camberwell, Leeds, Wolverhampton, Balahulish, Stonehaven, Leeds, Trinity, Slateford, Granton, etc.

Table of petitions for the sixth report, 1-2 March 1875. Includes entries for inhabitants of Rothsay, J. Edinburgh, Perth, Aberfeldy, Stanley, Altrincham, Holloway, Kinloss, Rochdale, Members of the Star of Freedom Lodge, Culgate Liberal Association, Sudden Liberal Association, Inhabitants of Devonport, Linlithgow, Westminster, Stranraer, Greenlaw, Aytton, etc.

SEVENTH REPORT. 3-5 March, 1875.

Table of petitions for the seventh report, 8-9 March 1875. Includes entries for inhabitants of Whittington and Chesterfield, Codnor, Women of Saint George's Ward, Saint Michael's Ward, Kingussie, Beanley, Marylebone, Salford, Edinburgh, Sir R. Knivet, Inhabitants of Croydun, Blackrock, Dublin, Kerry, Kilkenny, Midhurst, Urray, Alness, Kingston on Thames, Northampton, Tower Hamlets, Oldham, Leeds, Waterford, Saint Luke's Ward, Saint George's Ward, Hulme, Saint Michael's Ward, etc.

Table of petitions for the eighth report, 8-9 March 1875. Includes entries for inhabitants of Cheetham Ward, Women of Saint George's Ward, Shankhouse, Barmston, Saint George's Ward, Leeds, Women of Salford, Inhabitants of Inverary, Bath, Langside, Wick, Bury, Heywood, Falkirk, Pencaitland, Leeds, Malden, Women of Saint George's Ward, Inhabitants of Shoreditch and Hackney, Bridgnorth, Paddington, Heywood, Members of the Hamer Liberal Association, Butterworth Liberal Association, Inhabitants of Bath, Bristol and Clifton, Bloomsbury, Clerkenwell, Peterhead, Mayo and other places, Carlow, etc.

EIGHTH REPORT. 8-9 March, 1875.

Table of petitions for the eighth report, 8-9 March 1875. Includes entries for inhabitants of Broadway, Worcester, Dunfermline, Bath, Women of St. George's Ward, Inhabitants of Leeds, Women of Salford, Edward Hill, Women of Edinburgh and other parts of Scotland, Inhabitants of Bolton, etc.

Table of petitions for the eighth report, 8-9 March 1875. Includes entries for inhabitants of Neath, Wanstead, Enfield, Marylebone, Kensington, Members of the Christopher North Lodge, Sneddon Ark Lodge, Inhabitants of Haverfordwest, Trinity, Blackburn, Catrine, Members of the Town Council of Wigtown, Inhabitants of Finsbury, Finsbury, Provost, Magistrates and Council of Hawick, Members of the Teviotdale and Scottish Border Beacon Lodges, Inhabitants of Enniskillen, Leominster, Woolwich, Newton Saint Loe, Weston Super Mare, Dublin, Women of Saint Michael's Ward, Inhabitants of Leeds, Salford, Edinburgh, New Castleton, Roxburgh, Members of the Primitive Star Lodge, Inhabitants of Stamford, Bath, Bolton, London, Brixth, Bristol, Members of the Mercantile Debating Society, Wick, etc.

Table of petitions for March 9th, 1875, including entries for Fryerning, Essex, Rogart, Helmsdale, Blackrock, Dunshaughlin, Rathgaran, Westport, Clare, Kilkenny, Longford, Sligo, Westmeath, Dungarvan, Dublin, Leeds, and Crosshill.

Total number of Petitions 446—Signatures 154,251

NINTH REPORT. 10—12 March, 1875.

Table of petitions for March 10th and 11th, 1875, including entries for Edinburgh, Newhaven, Musselborough, Dalry, Bow and Bromley, Leeds, Kirkcolum, Brighton, Leeds, Buckingham, Lochabers, Macduff, Keith, Dufftown, Portsoy, Metropolis, Eccles, Thornhill, Maidstone, Thurso, Halkirk, Johnstone, Blackrock, Geashill, Westminster, Leeds, Birkenhead, Red Hill, Appleyby, Waterford, and C. Harvey.

Table of petitions for March 12th, 1875, including entries for Glasgow, Harrow, Belfast, Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Belfast, Edinburgh, Dundee, Saint Andrew's, Waterford, Marylebone, Aston Rowant, Charlbury, Craigmylea, Members of the Stanley Lodge of Good Templars, Paisley, Members of the Magna Charta Lodge, Members of the Independent Order of Good Templars, Bristol, Members of the Women Weavers' Association, Dewsbury, Portobello, Gloucester, Bristol, Eliza Boucher and others, Members of Brightling, Wath, Wath in public meeting, Mary Anne Sidebottom, Leeds, and Wheelhouse.

Total number of Petitions 507—Signatures 173,343

TENTH REPORT. 15—16 March, 1875.

Table of petitions for March 15th and 16th, 1875, including entries for Forfar, Derby, Members of the Stanningley Reform Club, Leeds, Clifton, Belfast, Margaret T. Campbell, Edinburgh, James Cowan, Margaret Hunter, Members of the Wallneak Lodge, Members of the Independent Order of Good Templars, Paisley, Branch of Hope Lodge, Members of the Wallneak Lodge, and Hinchley.

Table of petitions for March 15th, 1875, including entries for Winchcombe, Boston, Members of the Stanley Lodge of Good Templars, Paisley, Members of the Magna Charta Lodge, Members of the Independent Order of Good Templars, Bristol, Members of the Women Weavers' Association, Dewsbury, Portobello, Gloucester, Bristol, Eliza Boucher and others, Members of Brightling, Wath, Wath in public meeting, Mary Anne Sidebottom, Leeds, and Wheelhouse.

Total number of Petitions 582—Signatures 193,498

The petitions marked thus \* are substantially similar to that from Southwark [APP. 3]. The petitions marked thus † are similar to that from Northampton [APP. 4]. The petitions marked thus § are similar to that from Inverness [APP. 5]. The petitions marked thus ¶ have the addresses of some or all of the petitioners affixed. The petitions marked thus § are signed officially.

SUMMARY OF PETITIONS PRESENTED UP TO MARCH 19th, 1875.

Summary table showing Women's Disabilities Bill—In favour 78 ... 696 ... 239,154

[We are compelled to postpone the detailed list of petitions in the Eleventh Report, from which we extract the above summary. Many thousands of additional signatures have been presented since the date of the last report.]

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY. CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED SINCE FEBRUARY 20th, 1875.

Table of contributions received since February 20th, 1875, listing names like Lady Anna Gore Langton, Miss Courtauld, Miss Florence Hill, Mrs. Arthur Tanner, etc.

ALICE GRENFELL, 5, Albert Villas, Clifton, Office: 53, Park Street, Bristol. Treasurer.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Central Office: 1, Victoria Chambers, South Parade, Leeds.

Table of subscriptions received since January, 1875, listing names like Mrs. Scatcherd, Mrs. E. Smithson, Mrs. Joseph Edmondson, etc.

Springfield Mount, Leeds, CELIA WALKER, Treasurer.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED DURING MARCH, 1875.

	£	s.	d.
A Lancashire Merchant...	100	0	0
An old Radical...	50	0	0
L. M. R. ...	50	0	0
Mrs. J. P. Thomasson (special donation) ...	10	6	0
Mrs. S. Winkworth...	5	0	0
Miss J. Boucherett ...	5	0	0
A Friend in Fife ...	5	0	0
Mrs. S. W. Browne...	4	0	0
Mrs. Ogden ...	2	2	0
Miss R. Hervey ...	2	0	0
Mrs. R. V. Yates ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Lucas... ..	1	1	0
Mr. James Edmondson ...	1	1	0
Mrs. M'Culloch ...	1	1	0
Mrs. M'Kinell ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Robert Winder ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Carslake ...	1	0	0
Miss Annie Browne... ..	1	0	0
Mr. Arthur Steains... ..	1	0	0
A Friend per Mrs. J. P. Thomasson ...	1	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Holland ...	1	0	0
Mr. S. Courtauld ...	1	0	0
Mrs. G. H. Smith ...	1	0	0
Mrs. J. Ashworth ...	1	0	0
Mr. J. D. Milne ...	1	0	0
Miss Emily Hall ...	0	10	6
Mrs. Brankston... ..	0	10	6
Mr. Edward Medley ...	0	10	0
Mrs. Joy ...	0	10	6
Mrs. Progdgers (Journal) ...	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Wilson ...	0	10	0
Mrs. Coppock ...	0	10	0
Mrs. Livens ...	0	5	0
Miss Smarey ...	0	5	0
Miss Ellen Drewry ...	0	5	0
Mrs. W. H. Drewry ...	0	5	0
Mr. W. F. Bramley... ..	0	5	0
Mrs. Oldham ...	0	5	0
Mrs. M. Kerrow (Southport)... ..	0	2	0
Miss S. Hill ...	0	2	0
Mrs. Clark... ..	0	2	0

DERBY (continued).

Mr. George Holme (Mayor) ...	1	1	0
Miss Peick ...	0	5	0
Mr. F. Earp ...	0	5	0
Mr. John Lamb ...	0	5	0
Rev. W. Crosbie ...	0	3	0
Mr. Joseph Constantine... ..	0	2	6
Miss Dewe ...	0	2	6
Miss Shelton ...	0	2	6
Donation towards meeting ...	0	2	6

DUDLEY.

Mr. John Finch ...	1	1	0
Mr. George Thompson ...	1	1	0
Mr. John Bent ...	1	1	0
Mr. C. L. Lester ...	1	1	0
Mr. Owen Wright ...	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Lester ...	0	10	6
Mr. David Howat ...	0	10	6
Mr. George Blunt ...	0	10	6
Mr. D. Tanfield ...	0	5	0
Mr. J. H. Morgan ...	0	5	0
Mr. A. J. Baird ...	0	5	0
Mr. Joseph Ridgway ...	0	5	0
Mr. W. Howard Baker ...	0	5	0
Mr. Thomas Davies... ..	0	5	0
Mr. William Bodin, jun... ..	0	5	0
Mr. James Whyte ...	0	2	6
Mrs. Thompson... ..	0	2	6
Mr. J. M'Ilwraith ...	0	2	6
Mr. William Orchard ...	0	2	6
G. B. ...	0	2	6
Mr. H. J. Percy ...	0	2	6
Mr. Thomas Turner... ..	0	2	6
Mr. Lloyd ...	0	1	6
Mr. Ball ...	0	1	6

WOLVERHAMPTON (continued).

Mr. John Jones ...	0	10	0
Rev. E. Franks... ..	0	4	0
Mr. John Elliot ...	0	2	6

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS (continued).

LICHFIELD (continued).

	£	s.	d.
Mr. J. E. Penfold ...	0	5	0
Mr. Joseph Haulgate ...	0	2	6

IRONBRIDGE, ETC.

Mr. James Page ...	0	5	0
Mr. H. P. Duvall ...	0	5	0
Rev. S. Evans ...	0	2	6
Mr. Reuben Wilcox ...	0	2	6
Mr. David W. ...	0	2	6
Rev. Evan Jenkyns ...	0	2	6
Rev. Thos. Jones ...	0	2	6
Mr. William Evans ...	0	2	0

LIVERPOOL.

Mrs. Lister... ..	1	1	0
Miss Yates ...	1	0	0
Mr. Thos. Avison ...	1	0	0
Dr. Harris ...	1	0	0
Mr. A. Leighton ...	0	10	0
Mr. Thos. Goffey ...	0	10	0
Mr. Wm. Simpson ...	0	10	0
Dr. Moore ...	0	10	0
Mr. James Smith ...	0	10	0
Rev. J. Turnbull ...	0	10	0
Miss Chapman ...	0	5	0
Dr. Whittle ...	0	5	0
A Friend ...	0	5	0
Miss Morison ...	0	2	6
Mrs. Golding ...	0	2	6

£277 10 6

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL.

Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, and may be sent either direct to him at 107, Upper Brook-street; or to the Secretary, Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Contributions to the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 294, Regent Street, London, W., from February 20th to March 20th, 1875.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Benjamin Whitworth ...	10	0	0
Mrs. Cazalet ...	5	0	0
Mr. Courtauld ...	5	0	0
Mrs. W. B. Hodgson ...	5	0	0
Mr. George Sims ...	5	0	0
A Friend, by Mrs. Sims... ..	3	3	0
Mrs. Lewes ...	2	2	0
The Misses Shore ...	2	2	0
The Dowager Lady Wharnccliffe ...	2	0	0
Mr. Joseph Biggs ...	1	1	0
Miss A. Biggs ...	1	1	0
Miss C. Biggs ...	1	1	0
Miss Cobbe... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. Ohlsen ...	1	1	0
Miss Sparling ...	1	1	0
Mr. Symon... ..	1	1	0
Mrs. Davis ...	1	0	0
Lady Drysdale ...	1	0	0
The Dowager Countess of Buchan ...	1	0	0
Mr. John Hamilton... ..	1	0	0
Miss F. and R. Hill... ..	1	0	0
Miss Pellew ...	1	0	0
Mr. E. B. Ricketts ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Roberts ...	0	10	6
Mrs. Steele... ..	0	10	6
Miss Rouen ...	0	10	0
Miss Edith H. Taylor ...	0	10	0
Mr. John Robson ...	0	5	0
Mr. Stannard ...	0	2	6

£56 2 6

ALFRED W. BENNETT, Treasurer.