

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. V.—No. 56. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

OCTOBER 1, 1874.

PRICE 1d.—By Post 1½d.

WITH the present month the work of the recess begins in earnest. The holidays are over, and members and constituencies are preparing to meet and discuss the political questions for next year. It behoves us to take care that in such discussions our question shall not be left out, and we trust to our friends in all parts of the country to bring it forward on every suitable occasion which may arise.

The work of public meetings is also beginning in earnest, as may be seen by reference to our advertising columns. A vigorous canvass for signatures to the petitions should follow each meeting, and an endeavour be made to add numbers and strength to the society in every town visited by the deputations.

The September number of "Macmillan's Magazine" contains an able reply by Professor CAIRNES to the article against women's suffrage by Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH. It is probable that this article will for some time to come afford material for discussion both to the friends and opponents of the cause. In fact, it occupies for the present a somewhat analogous position in our question to that lately filled by Professor TYNDALL'S address at Belfast with respect to theologians. It affords so many fertile topics for discussion and inquiry that no one need be at a loss for something to say on the subject who can either quote or refute some of the objections of the quondam Oxford professor.

We believe that Mr. SMITH has done the cause good service by the discussion which he has provoked. The sensational pictures he has drawn of the reactionary and revolutionary character of women will, we suspect, produce an incredulous smile on the countenances of unsophisticated Englishmen who live in constant and familiar intercourse with these incendiary creatures—wives and mothers, sisters and daughters. The wild and unwarrantable assumptions, and the loose reasoning with which the article abounds, have a tendency to produce an effect directly contrary to that intended by the writer, whether these extraordinary propositions be left to display themselves by the light of their own incoherence, or be exposed by the keen wit and subtle intellects of the ladies who have assumed the task of dealing with this counter-

blast. But although Mr. SMITH has laid himself open to many a telling retort, we must not forget that a great question like ours can never be settled by victory in a mere personal encounter, and that Mr. SMITH has brought together many objections which, though mutually contradictory, and, in our judgment, wholly inconclusive, are in fact felt or professed by great numbers of persons. We shall therefore offer no apology for bringing forward from time to time answers to these objections by various writers—men and women—of our own country, and also for occasionally allowing our transatlantic sisters the opportunity of expressing their sense of the manner in which Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH has treated the women of his adopted land. We trust that by so doing we shall not be supposed to attach undue importance to the article, but inasmuch as it is perhaps the most notable and conspicuous utterance against us which has appeared since the commencement of the agitation, it does, in fact, afford the most convenient peg on which to hang discussion.

There is, however, one point not touched upon by Mr. SMITH which brings into strong relief the anomaly of refusing to women a voice in the selection of members of Parliament, namely, their unquestioned right, when owners of the advowson of a living in the Church of England, to appoint a clergyman to a parish. In theory, at least, the patron is presumed to exercise judgment in choosing a discreet person for the office; yet no one disputes the competency of a woman to exercise this trust. If, then, men recognise and obey the mandate of a woman when she nominates the spiritual guide to a parish, at her sole and absolute discretion, and when the person so nominated retains his office for life, how shall they refuse to that same woman one voice among the multitude which elects the man to whose care their temporal interests are confided, when this voice, to be effective, must be joined to that of the majority of the electors of a district, and when the nomination is but for a short period, and may be revoked when the term has expired?

The right of women to vote in spiritual matters has been the subject of legislation during the past session.

The Scotch Church Patronage Bill, as originally introduced by the Duke of RICHMOND, proposed to abolish the proprietary rights of patronage by heritors and other persons who possessed the right of presentation, and who might be women, and to substitute the process of election of the minister by the *male* communicants of full age. In accordance with a resolution of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Bill was amended by the omission of the word "male," and thus the right to vote in the election of ministers was secured to women on the same conditions as men. We maintain that this principle if good in spiritual matters is good in temporal matters also; that if the law declares women to be equally capable with men of exercising a sound judgment in the election of a minister, it ought in reason and consistency to declare them capable of judgment in the election of members of Parliament. We hold that it is injurious and absurd to treat women as sane and adult human beings with regard to the election of one set of public officials, and as "perpetual infants" with respect to another set, and that it is high time for the Legislature to make up its mind definitely in which category it will place them.

A FRENCHMAN has just been convicted of beating his wife with a walking stick. His defence was that in so doing "he was within his natural right," but the court did not take that view of the case, and sentenced him to a term of imprisonment. French husbands are however considerably behind their *confrères* on this side the Channel in their conception of marital rights. What is a mere walking stick to a Lancashire clog? If women love "personal government" as much as some would have us believe, we should expect to see them flocking in crowds to the favoured district where the system is so vigorously administered. But it is possible to have too much of a good thing, and Mr. WILLIAM WORTHINGTON, a Liverpool boatman, appears to have carried matters a trifle too far. At an inquest on the body of Mrs. WORTHINGTON, held at Liverpool a few days ago, it appeared in evidence that the neighbours heard screams of a woman continued for a quarter of an hour. A witness opened a window and observed a woman lying in the yard and a man standing over her kicking her. On the kick being given the witness heard "something crack." A policeman was then called in and requested to take the man in charge, but he "refused to interfere between man and wife." He advised the husband and wife to go home to the boat and "settle the dispute." The husband thus encouraged, took his wife

to the boat, promising to "give her as much more before morning." Arrived at home he proceeded at once with the "settlement," as we learn from the evidence of the daughter of the deceased, by first administering a kick which caused her to fall on the floor, and then another which broke her staybone. Next morning he did not accuse her of anything, but simply rose from the floor on which he had lain all night, began kicking her and continued at it for three or four minutes, and then seized a poker and struck her. After using the poker he went out for a few minutes, and then returning considerably asked his wife if she was ill. After such a mark of sympathy it will hardly be believed that the woman was ungrateful enough to reply that she was, and subsequently to die, and thus to subject her husband to the inconvenience of a charge of murder. It is the fashion to regard these outrages as symptoms of an "epidemic of brutality," which is assumed to have recently broken out in certain districts. But unhappily there has been no sudden increase in such cases. The disease is chronic, and the increase is simply in the attention that is paid to the occurrences. Even the "male sense of justice" is being faintly roused to a glimmering perception of the enormity of the crimes daily perpetrated against women, and we are anxiously waiting to see how long it will remain—in the words of Mr. MILL as illustrated by the conduct of the policeman, "quite capable of letting them be committed."

WE notice with much satisfaction the effort that is being made to organise trades societies among working women. The need for such associations received a remarkable illustration in the recent settlement of the Belfast strike. In consequence of the slackness of trade, and in anticipation of the operation of the new Factories Act, the masters gave notice of a reduction of wages to all classes of workpeople. We are informed by a gentleman engaged in the linen trade that the rate of wages paid to women was so much lower than that of men, that the reduction would press very much more severely on them than on the men. The consequence of the notice was a strike, which lasted many weeks. During this period the men received an allowance from their union, but the women, who had no union, suffered great privation. The women wished to return to their work, but were restrained by the men. At last came the occasion for a settlement. In consequence of a discussion in the Economic Section of the British Association, a meeting was arranged between the council of the Flax Spinners Association and a deputation of the men, the

result of which is thus reported by the *Northern Whig*:—

"There was evidence of a generous spirit on both sides, and an anxiety to settle the dispute without the intervention of third parties. The terms agreed on by the roughers and sorters, and on which they will resume work this morning, are, that the amount of the proposed reduction in their wages is divided; instead of being reduced 2s. per week, they are reduced 1s. The exact reductions agreed to yesterday are as follow:—

"Roughers and sorters—proposed reduction, 2s. per week—to be reduced 1s. per week; women spinners and preparers—proposed reduction, 6d. per week—to be reduced 6d. per week; doffers and machine boys—proposed reduction, 6d. per week—to be reduced 3d. per week.

"The original reduction on which the strike took place is therefore maintained in regard to the women and girls, but abated one-half in regard to the men and boys."

The expression, "both sides," in the above extract, means, we presume, masters and *men*; the women appear to have been left out of consideration—possibly as "third parties," whose intervention was not desired. We should like to be informed whether we are to regard the settlement indicated in the last paragraph as an illustration of the "male sense of justice," or of the "privileges" which we are told women will have to forfeit if they obtain representation in the councils which determine the laws affecting their interests.

WE have received the supplement to the twenty-second Parliamentary Report on public petitions, from which it appears that there were presented during the past session no fewer than 1,404 petitions, with 430,343 signatures, in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill. Of these, 203 petitions were from public meetings or municipal corporations, signed officially or under seal. The petitions last year numbered 919, with 329,206 signatures, showing an increase of 101,137 over the petitioners in 1873. The petitioners for women's suffrage greatly exceed those for any other object. The next highest number were against the Intoxicating Liquors Bill, 298,000. Next follow the petitioners for and against the Monastic and Conventual Institutions Bill, 203,215 and 200,327 respectively. The Church Patronage (Scotland) Bill was supported by 121,074 petitioners. Temperance and ecclesiastical questions always create a strong feeling which manifests itself by petitions, and for no other subject beyond those we have specified above did the signatures reach 100,000. But there were 95,324 petitioners "in favour of restrictions on female labour," a fact of grave and somewhat alarming significance, in face of the declaration of Mr. GLADSTONE in the House of Commons, that "the number of absolutely self-depending women is

"increasing from year to year, especially in the great towns of the country." On all the above subjects, except women's suffrage, the petitions afford a considerable manifestation of opinions on both sides. But the petitions referring to women's suffrage may be said to be all on one side, there being only three petitions, with three signatures, presented against the measure.

THE SECURITY OF MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY.

We are frequently asked for information as to the manner in which women about to marry may secure after marriage the ownership of property they possess before marriage under the Married Women's Property Act of 1870. Sec. 11 of that Act gives to a woman as her separate property any property belonging to her before marriage which her husband shall by writing under his hand have agreed with her shall belong to her after marriage as her separate property. The following form of agreement has been drawn up with especial reference to the above section. The form must be written on an agreement stamp paper, which costs sixpence, and can be obtained from the stamp office in any place. The blanks must be filled up as directed by the words in italics within (), and the agreement must be signed by the intended husband and wife, in the presence of a witness, who must also sign his name and state his address.

AN AGREEMENT made the (*insert date*) day of _____, 187____, BETWEEN (*insert name of intended husband*), of (*insert address and business*), and (*insert name of intended wife*) of (*insert address*).

THE (*insert here whether money, goods, furniture, or whatever the property consists of*) specified in the schedule hereunder written, and hereafter called "the scheduled property," are the property of the said (*insert name of intended wife*), who is about to be married to the said (*insert name of intended husband*).

THE said (*insert name of intended husband*) hereby agrees with the said (*insert name of intended wife*) that the scheduled property shall belong to her, after marriage, as her separate property.

THIS is intended to be and to operate as a writing under the hand of the said (*insert name of intended husband*), within Section 11 of "The Married Women's Property Act, 1870."

WITNESS the hands of the parties hereto:

(*Signature of intended husband.*)
(*Ditto ditto wife.*)

WITNESS (*signature and address of witness*).

SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO.

(*Here set out a full and detailed statement of the property. If money, state the amount; if invested, state the investment; if furniture, etc., state the names of the articles, in order that the property may be identified at any future time.*)

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE *versus* Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH.

A few years ago Mr. Goldwin Smith, who then enjoyed the status of an Oxford professor, gave a lecture at Manchester, when the chair was occupied by Mr. John Stuart Mill. On that occasion Mr. Smith observed that to invite Mr. Mill to take the chair at a lecture delivered by himself was like asking a steam engine to draw the cork of a champagne bottle. But, he added, the steam engine came! It appears now that the champagne bottle having been uncorked, is endeavouring by its effervescence to extinguish the fire of the steam engine, and to retard the progress of a movement which received its first practical impetus through its agency.

In the paper recently contributed to the columns of Macmillan's Magazine, Mr. Smith attributes much more than the initiation of the movement in the House of Commons to Mr. Mill. He appears to be under the impression that the basis of the demand made by women to participate in the advantages of representative government rests on some theory of Mr. Mill respecting the relations between the sexes, and that it would be a sufficient answer to the claim of women for votes in the election of members of Parliament to refute the views of Mr. Mill as to the origin of marriage. Mr. Smith quotes certain passages from the "Subjection of Women," and says, "It is impossible to doubt that Mr. Mill's views in writing such passages were coloured by the incidents of his life. But it is by circulating his book, and propagating his notions, that the petitions in favour of female suffrage have been obtained." But, as a matter of fact, however, most of the women who are taking an active part in the movement had felt and thought out this matter for themselves without reference to Mr. Mill or his "views." Women who felt the love of liberty and the keen thirst for intellectual and political life to be a part of their very being, did not need a philosopher to prove to them that they possessed the capacity for and ought to exercise the rights of citizenship. They had it as a fact of their own consciousness. What they did need was a political leader who would put forth their claim in a practical shape before the Legislature, and this leader they found in Mr. Mill.

Although Mr. Mill did not invent the notion of women's suffrage, as Mr. Smith would have us believe, he first made the idea a practical one by submitting a proposal to enfranchise women to the House of Commons. By the force of his argument, and the intrinsic justice of the claim he preferred, he obtained a following of 75 votes, a minority large enough to place the subject at once in the rank of important and practical Parliamentary questions. Probably no other man then living could have accomplished this, or could have initiated the subject with so large a measure of success; and the work of Mr. Mill must always be regarded as an essential element in the conditions which have resulted in the present aspect of the question.

The greater portion of Mr. Smith's article is devoted to subjects unconnected with women's suffrage, such as the candidature of Mrs. Woodhull for the Presidency of the United States, the relation of husband and wife, the co-education of men and women students in Universities, mingled with such matters as speculations as to what would become of a "female Bedouin" if she were suddenly invested with women's rights, speculations which might be relevant if the Englishmen of the present day were male Bedouins. But he does go to the root of the matter when he affirms that the question whether women's suffrage "is good for the whole community, is probably identical practically speaking, with the question whether it is good for us to have free institutions or not." We admit that this is the ques-

tion, but we answer it differently from Mr. Smith. The difference appears to arise from a difference as to what constitutes the "whole community." We include the feminine half of the nation in the term "whole community," and we say that if it is conceded that free institutions are good for the whole community, the question of women's suffrage is thereby settled. Free institutions imply representative government, and if half of the community are denied the right to a voice in the government, the whole community cannot be said to be in the possession of free institutions.

Mr. Smith appears to be deeply impressed with the fear that women, if allowed to share in the government, would use political power in order to pass laws injurious to men. In virtue of one of these convenient "ifs," on which so much of his argument hangs, he says:—"If any law were made exclusively in the interests of women, and in contradiction to the male sense of justice . . . the men would refuse execution, law would be set at defiance, and government would be overturned." On this a lady wittily remarks that the poor man appears to be labouring under the same anticipatory sensitiveness as the traditional weaver who, having one day by accident thrown his shuttle with unwonted impetus, went mad on the shortest notice, after flinging up his hands, and exclaiming, "Great heaven, if I had had a son, and if he had been standing there, I should have killed him on the spot!"

We can only suggest in reply to an argument depending so largely of "if" and "would," that it is by no means certain, nay, we may affirm it to be in no degree probable, that women would desire to pass laws injurious to men; but if they did, seeing that men would still be in full possession of the suffrage, no such laws could be passed against their consent, and that in the theoretically almost, and practically absolutely impossible contingency of the women electors outnumbering the men, and all voting together for a law voted against by all the men, the latter would still have the resource deprecated by Mr. Smith, and could rebel, as men have done ere this, when their liberties have been invaded or oppressive laws enacted by legally constituted authority, without thereby destroying free institutions.

But if Mr. Smith seriously believes that the interests of women are so opposed to those of men that women must not be trusted with a share in the government, lest they should pass laws injurious to men, we ask where is the security that when men have a monopoly of political power they shall not pass laws injurious to women? More fortunately for our argument than for the subjects of such laws, we are here not driven to appeal to hypothetical possibility. There are such laws on the statute book—laws denounced alike by the highest of masculine intellects and the finest of womanly instincts. And the whole tenor of the law regulating the property rights of women has been pronounced by high legal authority as more worthy of a barbarian than of a civilised state.

In the memorable speech in 1871, in which Mr. Gladstone withdrew the opposition he had formerly maintained to the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, the then Prime Minister said "There are various important particulars under which women obtain much less than justice under social arrangements." "I am by no means sure that these inequalities may have not a direct connection with a state of the law in which the balance is generally cast too much against women and too much in favour of men." "So far as I am able to form an opinion of the general tone and colour of our law in these matters where the peculiar relations of men and women are concerned, that law does less than justice to women." "I confess I am one of those who think we struck a serious blow at the law of marriage when we passed the Divorce Act, but I have never yet been able to satisfy my mind as to the reasons

why in framing and passing that Act we chose to introduce a new and gross inequality *against women and in favour of men.*" "The English law does women much less than justice, and great mischief, misery, and scandal result from that state of things in many of the occurrences and events of life." No one who has observed what is passing around him will venture to affirm that these expressions of Mr. Gladstone are overdrawn; and if they fairly represent the law and its operation on the welfare of women, it is clear that the "male sense of justice" has not hitherto proved adequate to secure just laws for "the whole community."

We are puzzled to understand what Mr. Smith means by the expression "the male sense of justice." To us the term is as unmeaning as "the male sense of arithmetic." The same rules of arithmetic apply whether we are counting apples or oranges, and the same principles of justice apply whether we are dealing with men or women. It is of as much consequence to a woman as to a man, that her personal rights should be respected, her property secured by law, and that she should be free to develop to the fullest extent, and turn to the best account in her power, the faculties with which she is endowed. The justice of this claim is not in any degree affected by a comparison of the respective intellectual capacities of men and women, and would be untouched even if it were conclusively proved that the feminine is inferior to the masculine mind. We do not know whether Mr. Smith acknowledges the existence of a "female sense of justice," whether he believes that a woman is capable of a "sense of justice" at all, whether, if she is so capable, the sense of justice of which she is capable is the same in kind as that felt by a man, or whether he believes that there is such a radical distinction between the sexes as to cause that which seems just to all persons of the same sex, to seem unjust to all persons of the other. We deny that there is any such distinction; we believe that women as well as men know when they are being justly treated, and that it is as difficult for men as it is for women to be quite sure that they are dealing justly by others without the intervention of some impartial authority, or without allowing due representation to both sides of the case. We believe that the state of the law which Mr. Gladstone truly describes as being one in which the balance is generally cast too much against women, and too much in favour of men, has arisen simply and solely from the difficulty, or rather impossibility, of making just laws for two parties by a legislature in which one only is represented; and the remedy we propose is to give both sexes representation in determining the laws regulating their relations, and the general interests of the community.

LYDIA E. BECKER.

(To be continued.)

A BRITISH FUGITIVE SLAVE CASE.

"This yer young-un business makes lots of trouble in the trade," said Haley, dolefully. "If we could get a breed of gals that didn't care, now, for their young uns," said Marks, "I think 'twould be about the greatest modern improvement I knows on."

We have a vivid remembrance of our first meeting with the above quotation, and of the eager interest with which we followed the fortunes of Eliza Harris and her child in their flight from the slave catchers—the passage of the river on the breaking ice—the hopes and fears of the reunited family in the Quaker village—the fight for liberty among the rocks—and the song of praise on the Canadian shore, where no "Fugitive Slave Law" was in force. We were young then, and happy in our ignorance of law; and, as we closed the pages of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," we gave thanks to God that, in our country, at

least, no creature of the State could intervene between mother and child. We have grown wiser since those days; we have read Blackstone and the law reports; and now know that the rights of a mother in this free England of ours are, in some cases at least, exactly on a par with those of a slave mother before the slaveholders' rebellion. For, by 12 Chas. II. c. 24, it is enacted "that any father, under age or of full age, may by deed or will dispose of the custody of his child, either born or unborn, to any person except a popish recusant, either in possession or reversion, till such child attains the age of one and twenty years." Later enactments have abrogated the special disabilities of popish recusants and altered the age to 16; and Talfourd's Act and the Custody of Infants Act of 1873 gave a discretionary power to the Court of Chancery to allow such women as are rich enough to maintain a Chancery suit to have the custody of, or access to, their children. Except in these particulars the statute of Chas. II. is still in force; "a mother, *as such* (that is, unless constituted their guardian by delegation or testament), is entitled to no power" over the children to whom she has given birth. Accordingly, every English mother who is not rich enough to avail herself of the costly and uncertain remedy which the Court of Chancery has a discretionary power to give, is to this day liable to be deprived of the custody of her children by the caprice of a living or the testament of a dead father, and is as helpless under the infliction as Cassy was with her child in the grasp of a slavetrader.

Probably the cases in which the legal rights of a father are exercised in opposition to the natural rights of a mother out of caprice or wanton cruelty—such cases as are typified in "That Boy of Northcote's"—are very rare. Yet even were they rarer than they are the law which renders them possible would be equally atrocious. Indeed it may be said of the husbands who hold their power in reserve and are too conscientious or too much ashamed to use it, as it was said of the considerate and humane slave-holders, that they are morally responsible for all the brutality and outrage wrought by those wretches; because if it were not for their sanctions and influence the whole system could not keep foothold for an hour. And few as are the cases in which caprice or wanton cruelty invoke the sanction of this abominable law, the cases in which it is invoked by religious bigotry and ecclesiastical partisanship are by no means rare. At the time we write, a Mrs. Cullinane is under an "attachment" from the Irish Court of Chancery for contempt of court, in that she, being a Protestant, did and does still disobey the order of the court to give up the custody of her infant child to the testamentary guardian appointed by her deceased husband, in order to the said child being educated as a Roman Catholic. The father had during his lifetime given at least a tacit sanction to the instruction of the child by its mother in her own religious tenets; but after his death, which occurred at a distance from home, a will was produced—alleged to have been made under priestly direction—containing the abovementioned provisions. The will was disputed on various grounds; but these being found to be legally invalid the judge had no alternative but to decree as just stated; and it is at his discretion, according to Blackstone, to keep Mrs. Cullinane in prison until she submits. Probably if Mrs. Cullinane has the means to commence another suit, it may be found within the same judge's power to grant her the relief legalised by the late Act anent the custody of infants; but however this may be, the existing statute law *compels* him, *volens volens*, to be a party to a monstrous outrage on the law of nature; and at best only *permits* him, in the event of a formal appeal from the victim, to do her imperfect justice if it seems good to him so to do.

"But surely," says Common-sense, "a woman about to marry a person of a different religious persuasion, should secure her-

self against such a contingency by a prenuptial agreement." Alas, gentle reader, little understandest thou the high mysteries of coverture as unfolded by Blackstone. Hear the oracle: "A man cannot grant anything to his wife, or enter into covenant with her, for the grant would be to suppose her separate existence, and to covenant with her would be only to covenant with himself; and therefore it is also generally true that all compacts made between husband and wife, when single, are voided by the intermarriage." Poor Mrs. Cullinane fondly thought that she had secured the natural rights of maternity by obtaining a prenuptial promise from her suitor that her daughters should be educated in her own faith; and it is probable that a woman who had sufficient shrewdness to exact such a promise, would have had also sufficient determination to refuse her hand if the promise had been withheld. She has now found to her cost that the most solemn promises made by a suitor—unless in a few property cases specially provided for—are of exactly the same legal value as were the promises made by Aunt Hagar's master: "Couldn't dey leave me one? Mas'r always said I should have one, he did," she repeated over and over. "Come, take her off, can't some of ye," said Haly drily, "don't do no good for her to go on in that ar' way."

We hope in making these remarks we have not been guilty of contempt of court. If we have so offended we offer beforehand the fullest apology. For the Irish Court of Chancery and for the worthy judge we have no contempt, but profound sympathy. They are the victims, equally with Mrs. Cullinane, of a law which defies not merely maternal instincts, but the God by whom these instincts were implanted. Our sisters should know their actual status in the view of our boasted British constitution. The common law regards a legitimate child as the offspring of its father alone; he is its progenitor, and the mother is a mere necessary adjunct in the business of paternity.

Were cases like that of Mrs. Cullinane of every-day occurrence, probably the conscience of an exclusively male constituency would awake to the conviction that "something must be done," and the result would be a bungling compromise between old law and older morality, like the Married Women's Property Act. No such compromise will be acceptable to those who believe that human laws, like those of God, should know no distinction of sex in the personal rights of human beings. Nothing will satisfy the demands of justice that falls short of the recognition of a joint guardianship by both parents over their common offspring; with the preferential right of each parent, in case of incurable difference of opinion, to the custody and disposal of children of the same sex; and absolute right of guardianship to the survivor, subject to the continued validity of a prenuptial agreement. We fear it is hopeless to look for such reforms in the shape of voluntary concessions from the privileged sex. Such concessions are only made when the feelings of those in power are deeply stirred. The mothers of England cannot appeal to those feelings on the side of apprehension, and it would scarcely be in the power even of Mrs. Stowe to invest a Chancery suit with such romantic interest as would move the feelings of the present constituencies on the side of generosity. Our sole hope is in the Women's Disabilities Bill; and Mrs. Cullinane will not have suffered in vain if her sad story should lead the mothers of Britain and Ireland to demand it with unanimous voice.

T. G. CRIPPEN.

Women's rights are not entirely ignored in Italy. Virginia Scarpellini is directress of the meteorological station at the capitol (Rome), founded by her aunt Caterina, who died last year, and the stations at Lugo and Montecchio are also directed by ladies.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

WHITBY.

On September 7th, Miss Becker delivered a lecture in St. Hilda's Hall, Whitby, in favour of the political enfranchisement of women. The reserved seats were well filled with ladies and gentlemen, but in other parts of the hall the attendance was scanty. The Rev. John Owen presided, and introduced the lecturer. There were also on the platform Mrs. Owen, Mrs. and Miss Buckton, and Mr. John Reid. Miss Becker stated her case in a lucid and temperate manner, showing the disabilities under which women labour, and how these flowed from all political power being monopolised by men. She quoted many modern instances to prove how hardly the present man-made laws bear upon women in regard to the custody and care of their children, the management of their property, and the arbitrary interference with their hours of labour and their liberty to earn as much as they like for their self-support. She insisted on the justice and good policy of extending the suffrage to women, and placing them on an equality with men in the eye of the law as to political rights and functions, control over their children, and the power of managing and disposing of their own property. She pointed out that the question was clear of party politics, and then proceeded to answer various objections which have been advanced against women's suffrage. Some of her remarks were very pointed and forcible, and put the subject in new and striking lights. She resumed her seat amid applause. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by a gentleman who rose from the body of the hall, a hearty vote of thanks was passed unanimously to Miss Becker for her talented advocacy of woman's rights and interests. A similar compliment was paid to the rev. chairman, and the proceedings terminated.—*Whitby Times*.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETING AT BELFAST.

Many friends of the women's suffrage cause being in Belfast during the meeting of the British Association, the local committee wished to have an opportunity of meeting them, and exchanging notes as to the progress of the movement. By the kindness of Robert M'Geagh, Esq., and Mrs. M'Geagh, Queen's Elms, a party of between fifty and sixty met at their house on Wednesday afternoon, 26th August. After a few words of introduction from Miss Tod, Miss Becker made a brief statement as to the present position of the question, and its future prospects. Miss Beedy followed, and said that having had varied experience in bringing the claim of women-householders to the franchise before audiences in different parts of the kingdom, she thought that scarcely anywhere was its justice so quickly admitted as in Ireland. Rev. W. Johnston (ex-Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian General Assembly), in a very cordial speech, wished all success to the movement. Miss Stevenson, Edinburgh, mentioned the progress of the cause in Scotland; and Mrs. Lucas, London, pointed out that much other moral and social legislation depends for settlement upon the attainment of this object. T. A. Dickson, Esq., M.P., expressed his conviction that the cause was rapidly gaining ground among Irish members of Parliament. Rev. Dr. Glasgow, Belfast Presbyterian College; Professor Megaw, Magee College, Londonderry; and T. H. Haslam, Esq., Dublin, expressed their sympathy with the movement. Dr. Smyth, M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to the ladies who had addressed them, and to Mr. and Mrs. M'Geagh for their hospitality, made an interesting and thoughtful speech, and stated one or two difficulties which had presented themselves to his mind. The

WOMEN'S TRADE UNIONS.

On September 12th, a large meeting of folders, sewers, machinists, and others engaged in the bookbinding trade, was held in the Board School-room, Harp-alley, Farringdon-street, London, for the purpose of considering a proposal for establishing a trade and protection society for the female workers in the trade. The meeting had been called under the auspices of a committee of ladies and gentlemen well known for their interest in all industrial movements, and by the officers of the Bookbinders' Trade Society, several of whom were present. About 300 women were assembled, all of whom appeared to evince great interest in the proceedings, and marked every point made by the speakers with hearty applause. The chair was occupied by Mr. Hodgson Pratt, of the council of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, and he was supported by several members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said the Bookbinders' Society approved of the movement, and he hoped this would act as an encouragement to the women in the trade, who were about 5,000 in number, and whose power and resources, if united, would enable them to obtain a better remuneration for their labour, shorter hours of work, and to make a provision for themselves in sickness or when out of employment. Some years since several hundred women, employed by a firm who contracted for the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society, struck against a reduction in their wages, and aided by the men's society were partially successful. In 1871-72, there was great distress in the bookbinding trade, through the delay in passing through Parliament the revised Prayer-book, and while the men's society paid £2,500 in relieving their unemployed members, the women in the trade, having no society to help them, suffered much distress. The committee promoting this movement had no desire to dictate or force a union upon them, but if after consideration they were of opinion that it would be desirable to form a society, the committee would render them assistance and advice. (Hear.) He saw no reason why women should not obtain the same advantages from union as had been obtained by the men, in increased wages, reduced hours of labour, with a fund to provide for sickness or want of employment. (Hear.)

Miss H. DOWNING then moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting is of opinion that it is desirable to form a trade society of women employed in the bookbinding trade, and that such a union should be at once established." She hoped the women in the bookbinding trade would embrace the opportunity now afforded them, and show an example to their sisters in other trades. She felt the importance of the wages question, but was delighted to find that the sick and provident department of the proposed union had not been neglected. She had seen numbers of young women and girls in the trade, who had to keep themselves upon these scanty wages, compelled, as the result of incessant toil and long hours, to apply to hospitals and dispensaries for relief, while what they really wanted was not medicine, but rest and more nourishing food, and which they were unable to obtain out of their low wages. (Hear.)

Several women workers having spoken, the resolution was carried unanimously.—Mrs. PATERSON moved the following resolution:—"That a committee be now appointed, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of enrolling members, receiving subscriptions, and framing a code of rules, and that such draft rules be submitted to a general meeting of members for adoption."—The resolution was supported by Miss WALLINGTON, and carried. Nearly the whole of those present then enrolled themselves as members, and the proceedings concluded with votes of thanks to Mrs. Paterson and to the chairman.

motion was seconded by J. R. Niell, Esq. Miss Becker, in replying, took occasion to show that the difficulties mentioned arose from misapprehension as to the nature of the claim made. Representatives of three Irish and several English and Scotch Committees were present at this very pleasant and useful meeting.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT ON EDUCATION FOR WOMEN.

On September 19th, Mr. Jacob Bright distributed the prizes to the successful students of the Rochdale Science and Art Classes. In the course of his address he noticed the circumstances that last year there were only seven girls out of 150 students, and that only one took a prize. This year the number was larger, four or five young ladies having taken prizes. The Bishop of Manchester had last year congratulated the single girl who then came before him that she had the courage to take the part she was taking. He (Mr. Bright) could not help feeling that whenever it was an act of courage for a girl to seek intellectual development, and to come to claim the prize which was due for her successful labour, there must be some difficulties in the way of female education. No doubt, to some extent there was everywhere throughout the world, and even in the most enlightened countries, a feeling somewhat hostile to the higher development of the intellectual faculties of one-half of the human family. Unfortunately women had been up to this time held rather too much as the toys or the drudges of society, according to the position in which they may have been placed. Some had been made to work too hard; others were kept in a state of wretched and melancholy idleness. All this would gradually change, but still it took a long time. High schools, or schools for superior training, were established for girls with great difficulty. The universities were closed against them. He knew no more humiliating fact connected with the social life of our day than this—that women of intellect were now at Paris and Geneva in search of a good education which the institutions of their own country refused to give them. The great majority of the colleges of Great Britain and Ireland receive every year grants from Government out of the taxation, to which women contribute as well as men, and yet those institutions shut their doors against them. It might be true that the great geniuses amongst us had been men and not women; but he had never found anyone who had given attention to the subject who believed that women were less capable than men of partaking of the ordinary instruction given in schools and colleges; and for the sake of encouraging any ladies there who might have doubts as to the intellectual capabilities of their sex, he would read a paragraph which he saw in a well-known journal the other day, and for the accuracy of which he thought he could vouch. There was a women's college at Cambridge (Girton College), where the same examinations were given as those presented to young men at the university. Two of the lady students of Girton College, said the paragraph, were examined in the papers set in the previous examination held at this (Cambridge) university, and both attained a standard which would have entitled them to have passed in the first class. One of those ladies wrote as follows in reply to a friend who had congratulated her on her success: "I am afraid I have no right to accept such flattering expressions as you kindly use, since the examination I have passed is beneath contempt. The predominant feeling roused by it is astonishment. How it is possible for men to fail in it after having spent all their school life in work on the subject is an inscrutable wonder."

THE LADIES AND THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT BELFAST.

On Monday, August 24th, three papers were read by Mrs. Grey, Miss Becker, and Miss Beedy, respectively, in the Section of Economic Science and Statistics. The subjects of the papers do not come within the immediate province of this journal, and the exigences of our space precludes us from giving satisfactory abstracts of them. We are indebted to the *Daily News* for the following general description of the proceedings.

The Economic Section is always the most popular of the series, for there papers are accepted which either do not belong to the strict realm of science or are so close upon the borderline that the veteran members of the Association, who shake their heads mournfully over the increasing popularity of the society and deem its popular elements derogatory to their high and severe standard, regard them as more properly belonging to that other society which meets later in the year at Glasgow. Certain it is that in the Economic Section the subjects discussed are more miscellaneous and more taking to the public mind than those brought before other sections. Here alone during the past few days could earnest local politicians introduce their favourite topic of Ulster tenant-right, and here to-day the ladies have had their first chance of a hearing. When Lord O'Hagan, the president, adjourned the section at its last sitting, he fixed the time of meeting for half-past eleven, instead of the customary hour of eleven. This morning there was such a rush for the Methodist College, where the section is located, that the committee sitting in secret conclave, observing the hall full to the doorway, decided to proceed with the reading of the papers at once, trusting to Lord O'Hagan's acquiescence in their views for justification of their reversal of the ordinary rule governing public meetings. There was every prospect of a grand field day; the titles of the papers and the reputation of their authors were sufficient to arouse unusual interest. In Belfast, where educational provisions are known to be numerous and of the highest quality, and where the education of women is elevated into a prominent position, nothing could have been more attractive than the questions discussed, and the authors were no others than Miss Lydia Becker and Miss Beedy, prominent advocates of the women's suffrage movement, and Mrs. Grey, whose name is known in connection with educational movements in London. Hundreds of gentlemen arriving at half-past eleven, some of them fully primed for discussion, found, to their great disappointment, access impossible, for the hall had been crammed for more than half an hour, with an audience of whom certainly seven-eighths were ladies.

The first paper was by Mrs. Grey, on the science of education, and her preliminary task before an Association which is nothing if not scientific, was to decide whether there can be said to be a science of education. To this question she was compelled to give, if not a negative, at least a qualified answer, the only data upon which she could base a positive statement being the appointment by the College of Preceptors of a professor of the science of education. It was a point earnestly made and cordially received when Mrs. Grey, with some warmth, asked why it was that an Association where every known science had an illustrious representative, education had none but a woman, and therefore, presumably, a weak one. The paper concluded with an eloquent peroration, in which the author insisted that the science for which she pleaded and which was contemptuously ignored, was the most important of all. Miss Becker, whose reception indicated how much the curiosity of the audience was centred in her, was, as she invariably is, practical, although there was a marked contrast between Mrs. Grey's rhetorical address and Miss Becker's description of the practical difficulties in enforcing the Elementary Education Act. Even

though it occupied but a few minutes of time, it was loudly applauded. Miss Becker, in fact, from her labours on the Manchester School Board, was able to speak with authority; and nothing is truer than that such authority everywhere commands respect. Lord O'Hagan had by this time arrived, and as the next paper would open up a distinct subject, it was resolved to take the discussion on the two essays which had been read. There were not now, as on the Ulster tenant-right question the other day, a dozen eager disputants leaping at a bound to their feet. On the contrary, there was an awkward pause, and a decided shout of "next paper." But one of the secretaries, merely, as he said, to set the ball in motion, praised the papers, and agreed with their contents. Miss Tod, a Belfast lady, and a lecturer on women's suffrage and education, delivered an excellent speech, arguing that we shall never properly educate women's fingers until we have educated their minds. The salt of debate, however, is opposition, and of salt we had but an insignificant grain or two. If the truth must be told, the discussion bored the audience, who rather puzzled some of the speakers by stamping their feet to express impatience, and not, as the speaker at first hoped, to signify delight. Irishmen are proverbially gallant, and there was not one found to oppose the claims of the ladies for a higher system of education. A hint was given at length that the meeting had had enough of gentlemen debaters, and calls were made for a lady to interpose. Laughter was the only response to this suggestion, and Manockjee Cursetjee, the Indian judge, was the ladies' substitute. The subject was, however, quite exhausted, and it was eventually with a visible sense of relief that the audience welcomed at the reading-desk Miss Beedy, an American Master of Arts, who read a clever paper advocating reform in the work of the medical profession. Before the meeting broke up, Miss Becker threw out a hint which was well received, viz., the establishment at the next meeting of the Association of a School Board Section for the exclusive discussion of educational questions. Mrs. Grey's speech, in summing up the debate, was pronounced by Lord O'Hagan the best he had heard.

THE RELIGION OF INFANTS.

On September 16, in the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench, Mrs. Cullinane, against whom an attachment was issued for contempt, put in an appearance. The contempt consisted in her not obeying a writ of Habeas Corpus, directing her to deliver up one of her children over whom their father by a testamentary document had, it was alleged, appointed his mother, brother, and sisters guardians, ignoring the mother, who wished that the children should be brought up in the Protestant faith. The father, who had been a medical officer in the Madras army, wished them to be brought up Roman Catholics. The mother now entered into bail to the amount of £400, to appear on the first day of next term and answer the charge of contempt.

WOMEN AND THE ARCHBISHOP'S BILL.

It strikes me as surprising that one provision of the Archbishop's Bill has not been noticed, namely, that the only aggrieved parishioner which it takes cognizance of must be a male. A woman may own every acre in the parish; she may have built and endowed the church out of her own pocket; she may delight in the services, and never pass a day without worshipping God in the church—this Bill ignores her existence; while her coachman, discharged for drunkenness, who never goes to church, if owner of some wretched tenement in the parish, has the power of halting up his parish clergyman before the Bishop. It is a monstrous hardship.—*Letter in the Guardian.*

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.—IN FAVOUR.

| | |
|---|-------|
| ¶ June 18. Inhabitants of MILE END and STRATFORD (Mr. Ritchie) ... | 130 |
| ¶ — — BRIGHTON (General Shute) ... | 1,598 |
| ¶ — — MAIDSTONE (Sir Sydney Waterlow) ... | 433 |
| § — 19. POOLE, in public meeting assembled; M. Kemp-Wald, J.P., chairman (Mr. Ashley) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — BOLLINGTON and other places in the county of Chester (Mr. Cunliffe Brooks) ... | 62 |
| ¶ — — MARYLEBONE (Sir Thomas Chambers) ... | 1,525 |
| ¶ — — W. SIMS and others (Mr. Coope) ... | 630 |
| ¶ — — W. THORBURN and others (Mr. Cowan) ... | 108 |
| ¶ — — G. M. THOMAS, Rose Cottage, Gilmerton (Earl of Dalkeith) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — ELIZABETH REDPATH, Gilmerton Bank House, Liberton (Earl of Dalkeith) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of ROSLIN, in the county of Mid Lothian (Earl of Dalkeith) ... | 20 |
| ¶ — — GILMERTON (Earl of Dalkeith) ... | 147 |
| ¶ — — CROYDON (Mr. Errington) ... | 50 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Errington) ... | 50 |
| ¶ — — A. E. ALLISON and others (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 181 |
| ¶ — — Members of the Saint Mary Lodge of Good Templars, CHELTENHAM (Mr. Agg-Gardner) ... | 54 |
| § — — Inhabitants of CHIPPENHAM, in public meeting assembled; W. E. Darby, chairman (Mr. Goldney) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — CHIPPENHAM (Mr. Goldney) ... | 119 |
| ¶ — — CHELSEA (Mr. William Gordon) ... | 127 |
| ¶ — — WANDSWORTH (Mr. Grantham) ... | 1,436 |
| ¶ — — DUBLIN (Sir Arthur Guinness) ... | 515 |
| ¶ — — — (Sir Arthur Guinness) ... | 120 |
| ¶ — — — (Sir Arthur Guinness) ... | 221 |
| ¶ — — ELIZA REED and others (Lord George Hamilton) ... | 346 |
| ¶ — — KATE LADELL and others (Lord Geo. Hamilton) ... | 23 |
| ¶ — — ELIZABETH MASON, Clontarf, Dublin (Mr. Ion Trant Hamilton) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — MARY KEELY, Blackrock, Dublin (Mr. Ion Trant Hamilton) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of DUBLIN (Mr. I. Trant Hamilton) ... | 205 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Ion Trant Hamilton) ... | 120 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Ion Trant Hamilton) ... | 141 |
| ¶ — — NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (Mr. Hamond) ... | 2,352 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Hamond) ... | 2,928 |
| ¶ — — CLAPTON and HACKNEY (Mr. John Holmes) ... | 31 |
| ¶ — — COMBE DOWN and other places (Mr. Hayter) ... | 375 |
| ¶ — — BATH (Mr. Hayter) ... | 322 |
| ¶ — — FINSBURY (Mr. Lusk) ... | 330 |
| ¶ — — BO'NESS, in the county of Linlithgow (Mr. M'Lagan) ... | 146 |
| ¶ — — GULDFORD (Mr. Onslow) ... | 800 |
| ¶ — — TORQUAY (Sir Lawrence Palk) ... | 100 |
| ¶ — — LINLITHGOW (Mr. Ramsay) ... | 233 |
| ¶ — — Members of the Brother's Keeper Lodge of Good Templars, ALNWICK (Mr. Ridley) ... | 29 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of KETTERING (Mr. Sackville) ... | 16 |
| ¶ — — THRAPSTON and vicinity (Mr. Sackville) ... | 120 |
| ¶ — — LEEDS (Mr. Tennant) ... | 117 |
| ¶ — — HOLLOWAY (Mr. Torrens) ... | 119 |
| ¶ — — ISLINGTON (Mr. Torrens) ... | 33 |
| ¶ — — Women of FINSBURY (Mr. Torrens) ... | 164 |
| ¶ — 22. Inhabitants of INCH, in the county of Wigtown (Mr. Agnew) ... | 216 |
| ¶ — — BILLINGSHURST (Colonel Barttelot) ... | 18 |
| ¶ — — PLYMOUTH (Mr. Bates) ... | 504 |
| ¶ — — MONTROSE (Mr. Baxter) ... | 246 |
| ¶ — — BLACKHEATH (Mr. Boord) ... | 73 |
| ¶ — — GREENWICH (Mr. Boord) ... | 318 |
| ¶ — — STIRLING (Mr. Campbell-Bannerman) ... | 78 |
| ¶ — — LEEDS (Mr. Carter) ... | 1,007 |
| ¶ — — BARNSTAPLE (Mr. Thomas Cave) ... | 319 |
| ¶ — — LINCOLN (Colonel Chaplin) ... | 106 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| June 22. Members of the William of Waynfleet Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, WAYNFLEET, in the county of Lincoln (Mr. Chaplin) ... | 25 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of LONDON (Mr. Cotton) ... | 614 |
| ¶ — — Women of SCOTLAND (Mr. James Cowan) ... | 5,483 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (Mr. Joseph Cowen) ... | 2,345 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Joseph Cowen) ... | 2,337 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Joseph Cowen) ... | 819 |
| § — — Members of the NORTH LONDON Secular Club; George Lyon, chairman (Mr. Fawcett) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of STOKE NEWINGTON (Mr. Fawcett) ... | 50 |
| ¶ — — Members of the Minerva Club, HACKNEY; Thos. Emms, chairman (Mr. Fawcett) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — Women of DALSTON and HACKNEY (Mr. Fawcett) ... | 52 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of the TOWER HAMLETS (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 1,346 |
| ¶ — — Women of MANCHESTER (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 398 |
| ¶ — — SALFORD (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 340 |
| ¶ — — ROSTREVOR, in the county of Down, Ireland (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 11 |
| ¶ — — PENDLETON (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 388 |
| ¶ — — Men of PENDLETON (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 212 |
| ¶ — — ELIZABETH TRAVERS and others (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 252 |
| ¶ — — Working Women of MANCHESTER (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 301 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of ABBEY WOOD, in the county of Kent (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 18 |
| ¶ — — BANGOR (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 52 |
| ¶ — — SALFORD (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 262 |
| ¶ — — MANCHESTER (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 280 |
| ¶ — — BRADFORD (Mr. Forsyth) ... | 602 |
| ¶ — — DUBLIN (Mr. Ion Trant Hamilton) ... | 713 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Ion Trant Hamilton) ... | 314 |
| § — — BRIDGEWATER, in public meeting assembled; J. R. Smith, mayor, chairman (Captain Hood) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE (Mr. James) ... | 2,401 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. James) ... | 2,062 |
| ¶ — — Members of the Conservative Ladies' Association, BRISTOL (Sir George Jenkinson) ... | 232 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of LAMBETH (Sir James Lawrence) ... | 118 |
| ¶ — — Women Ratepayers of LAMBETH (Sir James Lawrence) ... | 212 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of WILMSLOW (Mr. Legh) ... | 15 |
| ¶ — — ISABELLA — 9, Little Place, Edinburgh (Mr. M'Laren) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — ROBINA SCOTT, 6, Montague Street, Edinburgh (Mr. M'Laren) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — MARGARET ELLIOT, 72, Clive Street, Edinburgh (Mr. M'Laren) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — MARY THOMSON, 44, South Club Street, Edinburgh (Mr. M'Laren) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — ALICE NICHOLSON, 38, Manilla Street, Edinburgh (Mr. M'Laren) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of EDDERTON, in the county of Ross (Mr. Matheson) ... | 28 |
| ¶ — — PLUMSTEAD, in the county of Kent (Sir Charles Mills) ... | 207 |
| ¶ — — DARTFORD, in the county of Kent, (Sir Charles Mills) ... | 132 |
| ¶ — — GLOUCESTER (Mr. Monk) ... | 559 |
| ¶ — — TOWER HAMLETS (Mr. Ritchie) ... | 939 |
| ¶ — — — (Mr. Ritchie) ... | 839 |
| ¶ — — LEEDS (Mr. Tennant) ... | 718 |
| ¶ — — KIRKSTALL (Mr. Tennant) ... | 325 |
| ¶ — — HUNSLET (Mr. Wheelhouse) ... | 249 |
| ¶ — — LEEDS (Mr. Wheelhouse) ... | 724 |
| § — — Members of the Women's Suffrage Club, DUNDEE; Margaret Gilfillan, president (Mr. Yeaman) ... | 1 |
| ¶ — — Inhabitants of DUNDEE (Mr. Yeaman) ... | 473 |
| ¶ — 23. — BROUGHTY FERRY, in the county of Forfar (Mr. James Barclay) ... | 55 |
| ¶ — — DUBLIN (Mr. Maurice Brooks) ... | 60 |
| ¶ — — LOWER BROUGHTY (Mr. Cawley) ... | 75 |
| ¶ — — CHARLOTTE E. BABB and others (Sir T. Chambers) ... | 6 |

Table of petitions for women's suffrage, dated June 23 and June 18. Includes entries for Norwich, Birmingham, London, and various other locations with names of petitioners and counts.

Table of petitions for women's suffrage, dated June 24 and June 26. Includes entries for Libberton, Heleensburg, Hackney, Chelsea, Bury Saint Edmunds, Exeter, Plymouth, Lambeth, and various other locations.

Table of petitions for women's suffrage, dated June 29, July 1, and July 27. Includes entries for Booterstown, Blackrock, Hackney, London, Lambeth, Dublin, and various other locations.

Table of petitions for women's suffrage, dated July 27 and August 3. Includes entries for Crook, Edinburgh, and Andover.

Total number of Petitions 1,404—Signatures 430,343. The petitions marked ¶ have the addresses of some or all of the petitioners affixed. The petitions marked § are signed officially.

SUMMARY OF PETITIONS PRESENTED UP TO AUGUST 7th, 1874. Table with columns for No. of Petitions signed Officially, Total No. of Petitions, and Total No. of Signatures.

Obituary.

Mr. CHARLES GILPIN, M.P.—The announcement of the death of this much-esteemed gentleman will be received with more regret than surprise, after the notices of his protracted illness which have for some time past appeared in the papers.

WOMEN IN THE POST OFFICE.—The Times, in reviewing the twentieth annual report of the General Post Office, says: "Our readers are already aware that many female clerks are employed in the telegraph work; Lord John Manners, however, informs us in addition that last year, in pursuance of the arrangement entered into a few years ago for the adoption of female employment in the office, a new class of young women was last year formed to act as clerks in the Returned Letter Department, and that the Controller reports most favourably of the result."

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, SEPTEMBER, 1874.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| Mr. W. Birch, jun. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mr. Thos. Chorlton | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mr. William Lee | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. P. A. Hanrott... .. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Sir Thos. Bazley, Bart., M.P. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Garton | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Gwynne | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. T. B. Waters | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Dr. Muirhead | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Travers Wood... .. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Skerry | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Chas. Bowman | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. J. F. Roberts | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. H. G. Hart | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rev. Dr. M'Kerrow | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Whitehead | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. T. B. Waters | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Stephen Marshall | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Frank E. Marshall | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Alfred M. Box... .. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Addison (Preston) | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Daniell | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Corney | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Dixon | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Donkin | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss S. A. Pung | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Arthur Steains (Journal) | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Walton | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Walton | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Thos. Falconer (Journal) | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Kilmister | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Brown (Wigan) | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. F. L. Flint (Journal) | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss H. Lupton | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Whitelegge | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. Charles Wilson... .. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss E. Jones | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Miss Birrell (Journal) | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hargreaves (Burnley) | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Dunkin (Southampton)... .. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Crook (Southport) | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. Hearne (Journal) | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. M'Kerrow (Southport)... .. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Miss Anna Jesper | 0 | 2 | 0 |

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, Treasurer. £33 14 0

Cheques and Post Office Orders payable to the Treasurer, Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, 107, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are reluctantly compelled to postpone the appearance of several letters already in type.

"A Lover of Justice" sends us an elaborate refutation of the speech of the honourable member for Weissnichtwo, given in our last issue. The communication does great honour to his good feeling and good faith, and we thank him for it. We hope he will not think too hardly of us if he should search the pages of "Dod" in vain for the constituency in question. He will meet with better success if he will study the speeches and writings of distinguished opponents in and out of Parliament for the utterances on which the honourable member founded his undelivered speech.

SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US.—*Hearth and Home* gives the following amusing statement:—In England, in a discussion on the value of education, a person with a very inappropriate name of "Toogood," said: "We must not allow women to be so educated that they shall not be useful as domestic servants." Another speaker, with the very appropriate name of "Woodhead," thought "a night-school was quite sufficient for the education of labourers' daughters." And all this in the nineteenth century, but, let it be remembered, in England.—*From the Woman's Journal, Boston, U.S.*

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE APRIL 1st, 1874.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Mr. Arthur Albright donation | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Winkworth (Bolton) | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Markham (Chesterfield) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Frederick Ryland | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. William Middlemore | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Alfred Osler | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Tyndal | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. D. Pidgeon (Banbury) donation | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. George Baker | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| A Friend, per Mrs. Wm. Taylor... .. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mr. Alfred Southall | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Arthur Albright | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Bailey... .. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Talbot | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. Wm. Rogers | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. C. E. Mathews | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Mrs. Rogers | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Mrs. Frederick Ryland | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. William Kenrick | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. R. C. Barrow | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Goodrick | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. F. Impey | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. J. Cash (Coventry)... .. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. George Lewis (London) | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Crosskey | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. G. B. Johnson | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Evers | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. Arnold Thompson | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. C. D. Sturge | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Kimpton | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. G. B. Kenway... .. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Joanna Hill | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| A Friend, per Miss Swain | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. George Dawson | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Dixon... .. | 0 | 2 | 6 |

ELIZA ASHFORD, Treasurer, £33 10 0

Office: 4, Broad Street Corner. 3, Speedwell Road, Edgbaston.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE JULY 20th, 1874.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| Mrs. Thomas, Thomas | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss M. Price | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Mr. Mark Whitwell | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Mr. C. W. A. Tait, B.A. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Shipley | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Peck | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mr. Alfred Price | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| The Rev. David Thomas | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| The Misses Marriot... .. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Lady Bowring | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| The Rev. W. James... .. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| The Rev. B. Hartnell | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. H. G. Dakyns | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mr. A. Hutchinson | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Phillips | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Atkinson | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Fitzherbert | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Ward | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Sessions | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Stone | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| The Rev. T. G. Rooke | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| The Rev. R. B. Poole | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Pigou | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mr. John Keal | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. Pierce | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| The Rev. E. and Mrs. Bayliffe | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. and Mrs. F. Dyer | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hawkins | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. Samuel Hatton... .. | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Mr. Gawler... .. | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Mrs. May | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss Kate Thomas | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Curmook | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Langdon | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Bond | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Deprez | 0 | 1 | 0 |

£9 12 0

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