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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Edinburgh National

Society for Women's Suffrage,

*MARCH 1892.*



EDINBURGH :

THE DARIEN PRESS, BRISTO PLACE.

1892.



WOMEN'S SERVICE LIBRARY  
29 MARSHAM STREET  
WESTMINSTER

## Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage.

FOUNDED 1867.

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MRS M'LAREN, NEWINGTON HOUSE, *President.*

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THE object of the Society is to obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same conditions as it is, or may be, granted to men. The Society seeks to achieve this object—

1. By acting as a centre for the collection and diffusion of information with regard to the progress of the movement in all parts of the country.
2. By holding Public Meetings in support of the repeal of the Electoral Disabilities of Women.
3. By the distribution of Pamphlets, Leaflets, and other Literature bearing upon the question.

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*I approve of the objects of this Society, and wish to add my name to the List of Members for this year. I enclose a*

*Subscription of £*.....

*Name and* }  
*Address* }  
.....  
.....

To MISS METHVEN,  
*Hon. Sec. and Treas.,*  
25 GREAT KING STREET.

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Subscribers are entitled to receive the Annual Report of the Committee and the Literature of the Society.



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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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MRS M'LAREN, Newington House, *President.*

Miss BURTON, Liberton Bank.

Mrs FORBES, Dryden Bank, Loanhead.

Mrs GARRETT FISHER, 7 Panmure Place

Mrs HODGSON, Canaan Lodge.

Miss HUNTER, 5 Great Stuart Street.

Mrs JARVIS, Elm Cottage, Kirkliston.

Miss S. E. S. MAIR, 5 Chester Street.

Miss MARTIN, Clapham, London.

Miss MATHESON, Coates Crescent.

Mrs MILLER MORISON, 3 Douglas Crescent.

Dr AGNES M'LAREN, Bruntsfield Lodge.

Miss METHVIN, 25 Great King Street.

Mrs NICHOL, Huntly Lodge.

Mrs ORD of Muirhouselaw.

Mrs PATERSON, 17 Dean Terrace.

Mrs ROBERT PRINGLE, 18 Rutland Square.

Miss RAMSAY SMITH, 9 Bruntsfield Crescent.

Miss ELISA C. STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent.

Miss LOUISA STEVENSON, 13 Randolph Crescent.

Mrs LANG TODD, 16 Great Stuart Street.

Mrs WELLSTOOD, 21 Salisbury Road.

Miss WRIGHT, 4 Glengyle Terrace.

MISS A. CRAIG, 6 Carlton Street,  
MISS SIMPSON, Carlyle House, Haddington, } *Treasurers.*

MISS WIGHAM, 5 South Gray Street,  
MISS E. S. KIRKLAND, 13 Raeburn Place, } *Secretaries.*

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This Society consists of all friendly to its objects, and  
who subscribe to its Funds.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

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IT has been our custom at this time of year to gather together our friends to hear a report of our proceedings for the previous twelve months, supplemented by the eloquent words and cogent arguments of some of the most honoured champions of the cause of Women's Suffrage. We hoped to have had the presence at our annual meeting of the late Lady Sandhurst, and also that of another prominent supporter of our Women's Suffrage cause from England; but the sad death of the former, which is a national loss as well as a severe blow to every department of women's work, and serious illness in the family of the latter, have made it impossible to carry out our intention. These reasons, coupled with the prevailing sickness in our city, and the absence from town of our beloved President owing to illness, have caused us to forego our usual meeting. We acquiesce with the less regret in this, because there are other forces promoting in many ways the object for which we have so long united in earnest work,—forces which in a large degree owe their origin to that work.

The question of Women's Suffrage does not appear to have made any progress in Parliament during the year 1891. By a device which the *Pall Mall Gazette* described as "jockeying the women," and which even *The Times* censured, the day which Mr Woodall had secured for the discussion of his Bill was taken away. Mr Haldane had obtained the first place for a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage on 24th April, and Mr Woodall had obtained the first place for his Bill on 13th May. The



Parliamentary Committee were willing to take the debate and division on whichever day seemed best, and as a promise was obtained from the Leader of the House, Mr W. H. Smith, that the Government would not take the 13th of May for their business, it was decided to withdraw the resolution and adhere to the Bill. Before that day arrived, however, a scheme was devised, apparently by arrangement between the Government and the Leaders of the Opposition, by which the latter should appear to compel the former to appropriate 13th May for the discussion of the Irish Land Purchase Bill, and thus the Government, while keeping their promise in the letter, broke it in spirit. The division which took place on the motion for the appropriation of the day for Government business must not be regarded as one on the merits of Women's Suffrage. There was much curious cross voting. Many of the minority, who voted in favour of the Government fulfilling its pledge, were opponents of the Bill, while a large number of the majority who voted for taking away the day were professed supporters of the Bill. But there can be no doubt of the real meaning of the vote. It was that the House of Commons desired to shelve the question, and that many members who dared not vote against the Bill itself, were only too glad to prevent the Bill coming on, so that they need not vote at all. As to their conduct in this matter, we entirely agree with our steadfast friend, Mr Walter M'Laren, when he said, "It is not according to my notions of political morality when a man is pledged to vote in favour of a bill, that he should be willing to keep his pledge to the letter, but breaks it in the spirit when he votes against the bill coming on." We trust that this matter will receive the attention of all Women's Political Associations, and that they will question their members as to their vote on this occasion. Should the vote have been given on the wrong side, they are entitled to ask for a full explanation, and a pledge that in future, support shall be loyally given to the Bill.

We rejoice to see that Women's Political Associations are realising more and more the importance of the Franchise,

and that by resolutions and action of meetings and in other ways, their views are being pressed on the country. We cannot too strongly declare our opinion that any organisation of women, which takes part in electioneering and political work generally, and yet which does not desire and ask for the enfranchisement of women, is in an anomalous position, and is neglecting one of its highest duties. But we trace the present political activity of women to the spirit which has been awakened in them by the agitation for their enfranchisement that has been carried on for the last twenty-four years.

In the bye-elections that have taken place our friends have not failed to question the Scottish candidates, and in various instances we have found supporters who we trust will be true to us in Parliament. In municipal elections we have also brought forward our question, and we have urged the women municipal voters everywhere to exercise the franchise, and to give their votes to right-minded men of sound consistent principles. It is important also to have supporters of Women's Suffrage on our Town Councils, because, year by year, these bodies are expected to petition Parliament in support of the Bill. The Edinburgh Town Council has done this almost without fail for twenty years, and only refrained from doing so last year because Mr Woodall's Bill was not printed at the time. The spirited Town Councils of Dundee and Kilmarnock, however, petitioned for the principle independently of the Bill, and the Convention of Royal Burghs did so also by a large majority.

During the present Session three Women's Suffrage Bills have been introduced, by Sir Albert Rollit, Mr Walter M'Laren, and Mr Haldane. The two first, it is understood, will be practically identical, and will propose to give the Parliamentary Franchise to those women who are now entitled to vote in local elections. These Bills have the first places on 27th April and 18th May, and we trust that all our friends will write to their members urging them to be in their places on these days, and that they will also petition Parliament in support of the Bills. Mr



Haldane's Bill, as is well known, goes much further, and proposes to open every office of every kind to women. There seems no chance of this Bill coming on for discussion.

We should also notice that the Irish Local Government Bill proposes to confer the County Council Franchise on women ratepayers; and an Irish Municipal Franchise Bill has already been read a second time, which confers all local franchises on women.

Collateral tokens of progress are numerous. But while we rejoice in them, we do not think it needful to record them in this brief report. We desire to remind our friends of our earnest hope that they will continue to support our claim, the success of which cannot be long delayed, for though there are always adverse influences at work to hinder, we know that truth and justice must prevail.

As is our wont at this period, we look over the ranks of our faithful friends and supporters, and as from year to year these pass away, we have to record a sense of our loss. This year we miss the names of many who have helped us. Two of the oldest and much-esteemed Members of our own Committee have been taken from us—Mrs Hope, late of Fenton Barns, and Mrs Macqueen of Braxfield. In our own city we have parted with the venerated Mr Hugh Rose, who, with our honoured friend Mr Duncan M'Laren, took our side in the earliest days of our conflict, and both of whom continued faithful to the end in every movement for the elevation of women, leaving us with grateful memories and warm appreciation of their long and faithful service.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**  
OF  
**The Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage,**

*From 31st December 1890 to 31st December 1891.*

<b>INCOME.</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE.</b>
To Balance from last year - - - - -	By Postages, Carriage of Parcels, and other incidental Payments of Secretary and Treasurer - - - - -
„ Subscriptions and Donations for past year - - - - -	„ Travelling and other Expenses of Speaker at Annual and other Meetings - - - - -
„ Bank Interest - - - - -	„ Periodicals and Reviews - - - - -
	„ Printing and Stationery - - - - -
	„ Expense of Secretary - - - - -
	„ Balance in Bank and Treasurer's hands
<b>£141 0 0½</b>	<b>£11 5 0</b>
	<b>£141 12 5½</b>

HADDINGTON, 9th February 1892.—I have examined the above Accounts with the Books and Vouchers, and find the same correct. There is a balance at credit of the Society of Sixty-three pounds thirteen shillings and eightpence halfpenny sterling.

WM. THOS. FERME, Auditor.



## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Balgarnie, Mrs ...	£0 2 6	M'Kinnel, Mrs, Dumfries	£1 0 0
Bayne, Mrs ...	0 10 0	M'Laren, Mrs ...	10 0 0
Birrell, Miss, Cupar ...	0 10 0	M'Laren, Dr Agnes ...	5 0 0
Blackie, Mrs Stuart ...	1 1 0	M'Laren, Duncan, Esq.,	2 0 0
Black, Rev. C. M. ...	0 10 0	M'Laren, Miss B. ...	0 5 0
Blair, Mrs, Girvan ...	0 2 6	Mair, Miss S. E. S. ...	1 0 0
Brown, Miss J. ...	0 1 0	Martin, Mrs Carlaw (Donation)	0 3 0
Bruce, James, Esq. ...	0 10 0	Martin, Miss ...	0 5 0
Brunston, Mrs, Berwick-on-		Matheson, Miss ...	2 2 0
Tweed ...	0 4 0	Maughan, Miss ...	0 2 6
Caldwell, Samuel, Esq. ...	1 0 0	Methvin, Mrs ...	0 10 0
Chalmers, Miss ...	0 3 6	Millar, Mrs John ...	2 0 0
Clapperton, Miss ...	0 2 6	Mitchell, Mrs ...	0 2 0
Craig, Miss A. ...	5 0 0	Morison, Mrs Miller ...	1 1 0
Do. (Donation)	1 0 0	Nairn, Mrs ...	1 0 0
Dick, Miss Knox ...	0 5 0	Nelson, Thomas, & Sons	1 0 0
Drummond, Mrs ...	0 10 0	Nichol, Mrs ...	3 3 0
Duncan, Miss ...	0 5 0	Nutt, Mrs Whaley ...	0 10 0
Dunn, Mrs, Aberdeen ...	0 2 6	Petty, Mrs ...	0 2 0
Duthie, Mrs, do. ...	0 2 6	Ponton, Misses ...	0 2 0
Edington, Miss ...	0 10 0	Pringle, Mrs Robert ...	0 10 0
Fisher, Mrs Garrett ...	0 2 0	Pringle, Mrs James ...	0 5 0
Forbes, Mrs Lindsay ...	0 10 0	Raeburn, Mrs ...	0 2 6
Foster, Miss Dora ...	0 1 6	Ritchie, Mrs ...	0 5 0
Gillies, John, Esq., Chirn-		Ritchie, Mrs ...	0 2 6
side (two years) ...	0 15 0	Robertson, Miss ...	0 2 6
Gillies, Mrs, Chirnside ...	0 10 0	Robson, William, Esq. ...	1 1 0
Graham, Mrs ...	0 5 0	Rose, Hugh, Esq., ...	2 0 0
Greenock, Miss A. ...	0 5 0	Rose, Mrs ...	0 10 0
Goodfellow, Miss... ...	0 2 6	Rose, Mrs Kinnaird ...	0 2 6
Hargraves, Mrs ...	0 4 0	Simpson, Mrs, Portobello	0 3 0
Harvey, Misses ...	0 5 0	Simpson, Miss, Dunfermline	0 5 0
Hodgson, Mrs ...	1 1 0	Simpson, F. J., Esq. ...	0 2 6
Houldsworth, Miss, Polton	1 0 0	Smith, Miss Ramsay, ...	1 0 0
Hope, Mrs James, Dunbar	0 5 0	Somerville, Mrs, Dalkeith	0 5 0
Jarvis, Mrs, Kirkliston (two		Somerville, Ex-Councillor	0 2 6
years) ...	0 10 0	Stevenson, Miss Elisa C.	5 0 0
Jolly, Mrs ...	2 2 0	Do. do., Donation	10 0 0
Kemp, Mrs ...	0 2 0	Stevenson, Miss Louisa ...	4 0 0
Lauder, Miss Dick ...	1 0 0	Stevenson, Miss Flora ...	1 0 0
Lees, Miss, Aberlady ...	0 2 6	Stewart, Miss, Ashcraig ...	0 10 0
Lewis, Mrs David ...	0 2 0	Tait, Mrs W. M. ...	0 2 6
Lockie, Miss ...	0 2 6	Walcot, Bailie ...	0 10 0
Low, Miss ...	0 5 0	Walls, Miss ...	0 5 0
Maddowall, Miss, Bridge-		Wellstood, Mrs Stephen	0 5 0
of-Allan ...	0 2 6	Wellstood, Mrs James ...	0 2 6
Macfie, R. A., Esq. ...	1 0 0	White, Miss ...	0 5 0
Macqueen, Mrs ...	5 0 0	Williams, Mrs ...	0 5 0
		Wigham, Miss ...	0 10 0
		Wright, Miss ...	0 4 0
		Wyld, Miss ...	0 5 0



