

# **THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW OF SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL QUESTIONS**

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1884

Advisory Editors  
Janet Horowitz Murray  
and Myra Stark

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OF SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL  
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Volume 17

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JANET HOROWITZ MURRAY AND  
MYRA STARK

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# Englishwoman's Review.

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No. CXXIX.—JANUARY 15TH, 1884.

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ART. I.—INFANTS' CUSTODY BILL IN SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA.

THE *South Australian Register* gives us the welcome information that a Bill to enable Local Courts to grant the custody of children to their mother in cases which they shall deem fit, passed its second reading in the Legislative Council on November 14th. The whole debate is interesting as showing the condition of public feeling with respect to the mother's rights in our Colonies. The Hon. R. A. Tarlton, who supported the second reading of the Bill, appears to us perfectly justified when he said that for a long time English law had been one-sided with regard to women, but the Hon. Mr. Baker, with touching faith in masculine justice, was of opinion that if the father left by will the custody of the children to other persons beside his wife, it must certainly be because he knew she had been guilty of improper conduct which he did not desire to make known to the public. Eventually the Bill was passed through Committee. The Bill, as far as it goes, appears to be in the right direction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

November 14.—Infants' Custody Bill.

Second reading.

The COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said it was intended to effect a change in the existing legislation, under which the father had the sole control of his children, even to the deprivation of all access to them by the mother. Not only could he do this during his own lifetime, but he could carry on this monstrous wrong after his death by decreeing their custody to strangers. Such was the state of the law in England up to 1873, when an amending Act was passed, under which the mother, who was most interested in the welfare of her children, was placed in a more natural position. On application to the higher Courts the mother could obtain an order to have access to her children, or obtain their custody if such a course were deemed advisable. The Act of 1873 also gave the Court power to order that she should receive the whole or a proportion of the money willed by the father for the maintenance and education of the infants. Some instances had occurred in this colony which had impressed on the Government the necessity for some reform in the state of the law, and the Attorney-General on looking into the question had taken steps for the introduction of this Bill. Wrong had been done in the past, and great wrong might be done in the future if the law were not altered. The Bill was drawn on the lines of the English legislation on the subject, with the addition of a clause to make it more suitable for the requirements of the Colony.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE would support the second reading of the Bill, although at the same time he could not help expressing his astonishment that it was so inadequate an affair. It had been put in effect that if the Supreme Court thought that the mother was a suitable person to take care of the children she had brought into the world; then they might allow her to do so. It was simply monstrous that we should be legislating now to allow a mother to get the custody of her children—her suitability was proved by the fact that she had given birth to them. The law should be amended to give father and mother equal rights in the matter. He had recently cut out of an English paper the following form of petition, which was being circulated by Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy:—"To the Hon. the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.—The humble petition of the undersigned sheweth that the law which vested the custody and guardianship of children of a married pair in the father solely, to the exclusion of their mother, and further enables him to continue such exclusion, is unjust and ought to be amended. Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure establishing the coequal rights, obligations, and duties of both parents with regard to their children, and your petitioners will ever pray." He would have been very pleased to support a clause giving effect to that petition. It really seemed perfectly monstrous that in this nineteenth century we should only be passing a measure of this nature, under which a mother might apply to the Supreme Court for the custody of her own child. What was the result of the

past nineteen hundred years of legislation? To give the father sole power over the children. Clause 2 provided that the Supreme Court may order that the mother may have access to or custody of an infant under sixteen years of age. His objection to this was that the implication was that the mother had no rights of her own except by order of the Supreme Court—that the law was to be construed against her. Clause 4 was to this effect—"That no agreement contained in any separation deed made between the father of an infant or infants shall be held to be invalid by reason only of its providing that the father of such infant or infants shall give up the custody or control thereof to the mother; Provided always that no such agreement shall be enforced if the Court shall be of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infant or infants to give effect thereto." From this he gathered that if a father consented to surrender the custody of his children to their mother under an agreement he need not carry out his engagement unless he was directed by the Court to do so. When the Council went into Committee he would probably move a Clause to give effect to the petition to which he had referred.

The Hon. R. C. BAKER said that no doubt the Hon. Mr. Spence was a most advanced thinker, and would probably be able to solve this question, which had puzzled sages in ancient times. The first recorded instance of this difficulty having arisen was in the time of Solomon—(Hon. J. B. SPENCE)—"That was between mothers, not fathers and mothers"—and Solomon had great difficulty in settling it—(Hon. Mr. SALOM—"No difficulty at all.")—and indeed he only settled it by a subterfuge. But they had a greater than Solomon in all his glory in the Council, the Hon. Mr. Spence. When fathers and mothers separated how could they have coequal rights? The Bill was a good one, and he would vote for it. The theory that the father should have the custody of the infants was a remnant of the old law of England under which the father was the head of the family. The Hon. Mr. Tarlton thought the mother should be the head of the family, but he did not know what grounds he could have for coming to that conclusion. Nature had established that the father was the head of the family, if there were to be any head at all. While he entirely disagreed with the law as it stood, he would remind hon. members that it was possible to go too far the other way. He would protest against Clause 3, which provided that the Supreme Court may order trustees, &c., to pay maintenance to a mother during a period of custody. It was not in the English Act, nor in the Acts of other Colonies, and it was not necessary. Although a parent left property or money for the maintenance and education of his children after death, and appointed some one else besides the mother to give effect to his wishes, the Supreme Court might, according to this clause, set aside the testator's wishes, and hand this money over to the mother, and this, in the absence of the evidence of the best witness, the one most interested—the father. The Court could not ascertain his reasons for his conduct in entrusting his children to some person other than his wife—he probably did not desire when alive to wash his dirty linen in public, and kept them locked in his own breast—but they could override or ignore his express wishes. So far as the children were concerned it did not matter whether A or B

4 *Infants' Custody Bill in South Australia.* [Englishwoman's Review  
January 15th, 1884.]

had custody of them, beyond this, that if the mother got control of the money under an order of the Court, she might get married again, and be subject to the improper influence of her second husband, or love her second family better than those to whom the money was left by the testator. Take the case of a wife that had been guilty of infidelity. The world knew nothing about it, but the husband did, and left the custody of his children to someone else. After his death, and when she had got possession of the children, her evil instincts again prompted her to do as she had done in his lifetime, and she led an abandoned and wicked life. It could not be said that she was fitted to have the custody of the children. The Court would, however, know nothing of her previous conduct, although her husband did when he left the custody of the children to someone else, and would order her to have the custody of them. This matter had been very carefully considered by various Legislatures, and none of them had passed such a clause as this.

The Hon. J. PEARCE thought the Hon. Mr. Baker had entirely misapprehended the scope of the clause. If the custody of the children were given to the mother, the custody of the trust accounts were not taken away from the trustees, but the clause directed him to pay by order of the Court a portion of the trust-money willed for the maintenance and education of the children to the mother who had custody of them. The duties of the trustees did not cease when the children were handed over to the mother. The Hon. Mr. Baker also said that it was impossible to give coequal rights to the father and mother, but he did not think so. Coequal custody could not be, but coequal rights to apply to the Supreme Court for the custody of the children could be. Certainly, an alteration of the law which gave the father an uncontrolled, unchangeable right to the custody of the children, was required. In Committee he would seek to have the clause confining applications for the custody of children to the Supreme Court extended so as to allow Local Courts of Full Jurisdiction to make such orders, otherwise the Bill would not effect that which it purposed to effect. Its advantages would be restricted to the wealthy, on account of the expense involved in Supreme Court proceedings, while the poor washerwoman would be unable to obtain any relief at all. Stipendiary Magistrates at present could grant protection orders, under which the earnings of married women were protected from the control of their husbands, and as abuses of this power were unknown, he thought they might very well be left to determine the custody of children.

The Hon. R. A. TARLTON said he did not wish to make the wife the head of the household, as had been imputed to him by the Hon. Mr. Baker, but he thought that for a long time English law had been one-sided with regard to women.

The Hon. H. SCOTT thought the law which gave a father the custody of his children was a good one, unless there was some strong reason to the contrary. The father had to fight the battle of life, and to maintain and educate his children. He quite agreed that under certain circumstances the mother should be given the necessary control over her children, and he thought those who were most competent to decide on such questions were the Judges of the Supreme Court.

The Hon. D. MURRAY agreed with the Hon. Mr. Pearce that the decision in this matter should be entrusted to every Local Court of Full Jurisdiction in the Colony. He felt that means should be at once adopted to prevent the rights of the mother being ignored.

The COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) said the Bill did not authorise the Court to take the money from the trustees and hand it to the wife, but if the Court thought the mother was incapable of taking care of the children, then it could authorize the trustees to pay over, from time to time, to the mother what was considered necessary. The Bill did not deprive the children of the money left to them by their father, or of the interest on it. He would oppose the Hon. Mr. Pearce's amendment that Local Courts of Full Jurisdiction should be able to decide in this matter.

The Bill was then read a second time.

In Committee.

The preamble was postponed.

Clause 1 was passed.

Clause 2. Supreme Court may order that the mother may have access to or custody of infant under 16 years.

The Hon. J. PEARCE would vote for this clause if his amendment were included in it. He was sure they ran no risk in placing the power of trying these cases in the hands of Local Courts of Full Jurisdiction. If a case occurred at the Burra, or Jamestown, the Supreme Court could know nothing about the facts excepting what was brought before them by legal men. The necessity of acting through lawyers, the cost of bringing witnesses to Adelaide, and the expenses which attended a Supreme Court Case, would all have to be met.

(Several gentlemen having spoken about the authority of the Local Courts,)

The Hon. T. HOGARTH agreed with the Hon. Mr. Pearce, and would vote for his amendment. Persons who would probably have some knowledge of the facts of the case were at least as competent to decide on it as the Supreme Court. In many instances it would mean simple ruination for a woman to bring such a case before the Supreme Court, and Local Courts were intended for just such cases as these.

The Hon. G. W. COTTON said reference had been made to the unsatisfactory decisions sometimes given by Local Courts, but he thought he would have no difficulty in fixing on half-a-dozen Supreme Court decisions which had failed to give satisfaction to all the parties concerned. The question was one more suited for business capacity than a knowledge of legal technicalities. In France and Germany there were special Courts which decided differences between husbands and wives, and looked after the interests of the children, and he did not see why the Local Courts could not do so in this Colony.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE would also support the amendment. Local Courts had full power to protect the earnings of married women, and although they might not be much, that was one reason why this additional power should be given. The Hon. Mr. Hay had said that it was a very serious matter that children should be entrusted to the custody of their mother, and such a thing should only be allowed by an order of the Supreme Court. Reference had been made to the

6 *Infants' Custody Bill in South Australia.* [Englishwoman's Review  
January 15th, 1884.]

incapacity of some of the Local Court Magistrates, but he was rather inclined to think that one-half of the time of the Supreme Court was taken up with correcting the mistakes of that Court. If a mistake were made by a Local Court Magistrate, then there was immediately a great outcry that he was devoid of legal training. This was a matter that required a little common-sense. While the mother was going to the Superintendent for the custody of her children the father might remove them out of the locality and beyond her knowledge. If the Local Courts had power to make a living person pay maintenance for his children, they should have similar power with regard to the funds of deceased persons.

The Hon. D. MURRAY would support the Clause as it was. As the cases which would come before the Courts would chiefly be connected with the interpretation of wills and divorces, it would be better to require that they should only be brought before the Supreme Court, especially as the costs in that Court were not so great as they were some time ago. Besides this, it would be very inconvenient to have the parties—some of whom might live in Adelaide, and others in Mount Gambier—brought to “the nearest Local Court of Full Jurisdiction.” He would prefer, instead of this, “any Local Court,” but he would rather see the Clause passed as it was.

The Hon. J. PEARCE contended that the benefits proposed to be conferred by this Clause were not legal or technical, but domestic and equitable, and it was to the Local Courts that such questions as those involved should be brought. If the object were to alter the effect of a will he would not advocate it. The only serious objection that he had heard advanced was that by the Hon. Mr. Baker—that the Local Court had no procedure for such cases—but this could be left to the law authorities after the Bill was passed.

The Hon. R. C. BAKER said the Judges of the Supreme Court were paid to administer the law, and he could not see why this matter should not be left to them, especially as they were best qualified to decide on it.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE supported the amendment. The question did not affect property, but was merely the petition of the mother for the custody of her children.

The COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) hoped hon. members would oppose the amendment. A claim made by the mother, after the father's death, would be interfering with the father's will, and such a case should be carefully examined by persons accustomed to test witnesses and to weigh their evidence.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE pointed out that the will might have been made ten or twenty years before the father's death, and therefore might not represent his real views at the time.

The amendment was put, and declared negatived.

The Hon. J. PEARCE called for a division, which resulted as follows:—

AYES, 8.—Hons. G. W. Cotton, T. Hogarth, A. B. Murray, J. Pickering, J. Rankine, W. Sandover, J. B. Spence, and J. Pearce (teller).

NOES, 8.—Hons. R. C. Baker, W. D. Glyde, A. Hay, D. Murray, M. Salom, H. Scott, R. A. Tarlton, and the Commissioner of Public Works (Teller).

The PRESIDENT: The votes being equal, I give my casting-vote for the Noes.

The Clause was passed as printed.

Clause 3. Court may order trustees, &c., to pay maintenance to the mother during the period of custody.

The Hon. R. C. BAKER moved to add to the Clause the following words:—" Provided always that on proof that any money so paid for the purpose of such maintenance and education has been misapplied it shall be lawful for such Court to rescind, alter, or vary any order made as aforesaid." He thought no objection could be taken to this addition. They were only legislating for those exceptional cases where the father left the custody of his children away from his wife.

The COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) did not think the amendment was necessary, but at any rate it would do no harm, and would make the matter still clearer.

The Hon. A. A. HAY saw no objection to the proviso.

The proviso was added, and the Clause as amended was passed.

Clause 4. Passed.

Clause 5. The case of separation between father and mother.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE thought the last few words of the Clause were unfair, as they put the wife on the defensive, and threw on her the onus of proving that it was for the benefit of the children to remain with her rather than with the husband. He moved to strike out the words "not be for the benefit," and insert instead "be for the injury."

The Hon. W. D. GLYDE differed from the Hon. Mr. Spence, and thought that the party moving the Court would have to prove his or her case.

The COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) did not think that the amendment proposed would affect the Clause; it was really the same thing as the Clause.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE—The Clause promised on agreement between the two that the wife should have the custody of the children, but in spite of this the Court might order that they be returned to the custody of the father.

The Hon. J. PEARCE thought there was a great distinction between "will not be for the benefit of" and "will be injurious to." It cast the onus upon the petitioner (the father) to show that he had good grounds for not doing what he had agreed to do.

The Hon. R. A. TARLTON also thought there was a great difference between the two expressions, and regarded that of the Hon. Mr. Spence as a decided improvement.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE was of opinion that the best way to effect what he desired would be to strike out the whole proviso, "provided always that no such agreement shall be enforced if the Court shall be of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the infant or infants to give effect thereto." He would move that as an amendment.

The amendment was lost.

The Clause was passed as printed.

The preamble and title were passed.

The Council resumed, the Bill was reported, the report was agreed to, and the third reading was fixed for the following day.

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## ART. II.—THE DUNDEE SEPARATION CASE.

ANOTHER instance of the cruelty of the law which vests the entire control of children in the hands of one parent, thus enabling him to use this power to the terror or torture of the other parent, was given in the case of Laing *versus* Laing, at Dundee, on December 12th. In the present case, as the husband offered no defence, the mother was awarded the custody of her child. The case was an action for separation and aliment at the instance of Christina Petrie Shaw, or Laing, St. Mary's Cottages, Baldovan, near Dundee, against her husband, John Moncrieff Laing, boot and shoe maker, King Street, Dundee. The pursuer said she was married to defender in October, 1881. He was at that time superintendent of the shoemaking department in an industrial school, but within a month of their marriage was dismissed from his situation. They went to reside with her mother, an arrangement being made that defender was to contribute at least 15s. weekly towards the household expenses. He did not keep this arrangement, but after the beginning of 1882, contributed nothing. He suggested that her mother's money should be put in the bank along with his own, but she (the complainant) replied that that would not be business, and added that even between the closest of friends business was business. After that he seemed to be disappointed, and a marked change came over his manner towards her. One evening he came home in a fury and abused her, finishing up with the remark that he would hang for her yet, and that he wondered he did not dash her brains out. He continued to use very abusive language towards her. After he became aware that she was pregnant he said he had her in his power now, that "he would grind her as small as the ashes of hell," and that he would treat the child as he treated the boys in the industrial school. A child was born in August, 1882, and subsequent to that time he repeatedly struck her. He offered to go to America if she gave him £100 or £200, but she refused to give him money.

Mrs. Laing, as we said before, has been given the custody of her infant by the Court of Sessions. It is

important to notice, however, how well aware brutal men are of the moral coercion which this unlimited power over the children gives them upon their wives. In the present instance Laing hailed his wife's pregnancy with exultation because he foresaw in it a new means of forcing her to accede to his demands in money matters. It apparently needs the multiplication of instances like these to rouse the public conscience to the cruelties which may be perpetrated under shelter of law.

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### ART. III.—ANNE KNIGHT, A WOMAN'S PIONEER.

It is at all times interesting to trace the early growth of an idea which after the lapse of a generation has been accepted as a national problem ; and the early workers in the cause of women's suffrage have a special claim to be remembered by the readers of this Review. The growth of public opinion on this subject had been so silent and unobserved that when Mr. Mill offered to present a petition for female suffrage, he only stipulated that a hundred women should sign it, yet in the space of two or three weeks fifteen hundred signatures were easily obtained. How had this opinion grown is our present question ? Whose writings or speeches had kept the flame alive ? There had been a few eloquent books and review articles on the subject, but some more active agency had certainly been at work, and one of these earnest friends of public freedom was Anne Knight, the talented and philanthropic member of the Society of Friends.

Among the earliest workers in this movement a few still remember Anne Knight, the earnest Quaker lady of Quiet Home, Chelmsford. She did not speak about the suffrage in public, but she never lost an opportunity of interposing remarks in defence of women's rights, when, at meetings convened to promote other objects, these principles might be directly assailed or ignored. She was ever on the watch, whether in company of mem-

bers of the Society of Friends, or of statesmen and politicians—in France or England—to speak a word or distribute her leaflets in advocacy of a cause which she considered to be important above all others save that of Christianity.

The first letter of hers, which has been furnished us by the kindness of Mrs. Nichol, of Edinburgh, is dated from Paris, 1840. It is very characteristic:—

A. K. to E. P. I hold it to be a robbery of human nature that we (women, who possess the brightest faculty) should be expelled from the council board of poor leaden-headed men, whose darkness we should illumine, and when we are so needed, as in his greatest exigency, when he is making laws, and deciding the fate of others.

The next is to the same lady in 1843, and is also from Paris:—

My idea of human liberty is, that through every scene of man's life he should have woman, a help-meet for him. She should be there especially when he is debating in the human family. My idea of men is such, from all I can gather—take them as they are, every mother's son of them, from the Neva to the Rhone, from Indus to the Pole, those who have been there—that, till they have every mother's daughter at their side, the grand ingredient of human happiness is wanting, and the creation is unbalanced, like a man walking with one leg, as a French lady very shrewdly expressed it. . . . See what the rulers of this world are daring, while their sisters are not, by to *stem* their daring. The American women, they say, have gained their object, and now they have done agitating. What have they gained? Have they gained seats in the Congress, to make new laws for Columbia's outraged ones? I fear not. There is the source of the evil, and there we must go on, with this for our banner-words,—“It is not good for man to be alone.”

In 1848 she also wrote:—

When in London we dined at —, when a conversation ensued most unforeseen. Retiring from the dining room, Elizabeth Hanbury addressed me:—“Now the Negroes are liberated, there is nothing more to do in Paris, is there?” Several heard this, and listened closely. “The Blacks are free, but there is still a slavery of the Whites. The French took liberty for all the men, and abandoned the rights of all their sisters. We feel that the rights of all human beings are equal; that women, being subject to all the burdens of the State in taxation and penalty of laws, have equal claim with men to vote for the legislators themselves, and having seen the frightful consequences of men's actions alone, it was our endeavour to place at his side the help-meet for him.” This brought on a glorious skirmish, in which several lookers-on saw things in a light they had not done before, and E. H. said, “Well, I don't know that I should object to our having the vote,” and depend on it, my dear Elizabeth,

my heart was not a little rejoiced at this reluctant assent to a great political truth ; indeed, the logic of it, simply stated, is irresistible.

The following fragment, written in November, 1849, to Mrs. Joseph Biggs, Leicester, shows how prompt she was to avail herself of every opportunity to enforce the justice of her claim. Some Liberal meetings were taking place

. . . I feel very desirous that these meetings of Walmaley's should resound with *universal* suffrage till his ears tingle. He told me when I called at his house, on the presentation of Richard Cobden, his next door neighbour, that he was entirely of my opinion, that women have a right to vote equally with men, and he goes after that and pins himself to buying the right of voting by a certain quantity of land. Sir Joshua Walmaley was chairman to the Drury Lane meeting for this object, in the eighth month (August) ; being there, I heard Lord Nugent say he was for universal suffrage, and the shouts of applause, which almost sent the walls down, showed how deeply the audience felt its justice ; and from what I can judge, they are quite ready to give the right, equally with themselves, to their sisters. This sentiment I have very much at heart, to be thrown among the people, demanding the field of human right to be thrown open—a demand for the suffrage for every person who pays taxes—*every individual*, and that they should throw away the disgraceful barrier of sex from their politics. If the chairman would take this up and set the tune, it would be noble ! Or if he would give the tune to some of his friends, it would soon resound through their hall to the multitudes without.

In a letter to Lord Brougham, printed about this time, she alludes to a Frenchwoman, Jeanne Deroin, who had offered herself for election. " Let us think it an honour to be at Paris now while the writing is on the wall of that noble woman who, scorning the world's dread laugh, comes forward to offer herself on the altar of her country, with her living heart of woman, to speak peace and concord to the stormy heads of that company called legislators—law makers ! and to lift up to their view her olive-branch. Listen to her meek words of wisdom :—

*To the Electors of the Department of the Seine.*

CITIZENS.—Devotedness to a great principle of the civil and political equality of the two sexes, impels me to present myself for your suffrages. It is in the name of justice that I make this appeal to the sovereign people, against the denial of those great principles which form the basis of our hopes for the future.

A legislative assembly composed entirely of men is as incompetent

to make the laws which regulate a society, composed of both men and women, as an assembly of capitalists to sustain the honour of the country.

If, in the exercise of your rights you call woman to take part in the labours of the Legislative Assembly, you will preserve in all their integrity our Republican dogmas, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, for ALL.—JEANNE DEROIN."

Anne Knight also distributed in French and English, short articles or quotations from American, French, or English authors, in favour of universal equality. We have many of these short sentences in our possession, printed as was the fashion at that time on tiny slips two inches long, on various coloured paper, which were sometimes used as wafers to fasten letters. One of these may serve as an example:—

NEVER will the nations of the earth be well governed, until both sexes' as well as all parties, are fairly represented, and have an influence, a voice' and a hand in the enactment and administration of the Laws. One would think the sad mismanagement of the affairs of our own country should, in all modesty, lead us MEN to doubt our own capacity for the task of governing a nation, or even a State, alone; and to apprehend that we need other qualities in our public councils—qualities that may be found in the female portion of our race. If woman be the complement of man, we may surely venture the intimation, that all our social transactions will be incomplete, or otherwise imperfect, until they have been guided alike by the wisdom of each sex. The wise, virtuous, gentle mothers of a State or nation, might contribute as much to the good order, the peace, the thrift of the body politic, as they severally do to the well-being of their families, which, for the most part, all know, is more than the fathers do.

Two or three years afterwards she assisted in establishing a society in Sheffield, "The Sheffield Women's Political Association," whose special object was the entire political enfranchisement of women.

Thus quietly and unobserved the seed was sown, which has developed into such a goodly tree: the band of workers was small and scattered; public opinion had to be created, but such earnest simple words as those we have quoted, and many more which might be found on careful search among her letters, had considerable effect in forming it. Ten years afterwards, in 1858, the Northern Reform Society, though contemplating "only the extension of the franchise to men," admitted that many of its members were in favour of a "woman's suffrage," and though we have no means of proving it, it is probable that many of these had been influenced by the courageous and ceaseless efforts of that talented and philanthropic pioneer, Anne Knight.

#### ART. IV.—THE TRIBUNAL OF COMMERCE IN PARIS.

THE recent discussion in Paris upon the Bill on the election of the judges of the Tribunal of Commerce has excited much attention. M. George Roche moved as an amendment that women should have votes. As a woman may be a trader he said there was no pretence for excluding her from a vote on the formation of a tribunal before which her interests might be judged. Amidst much applause the Chamber voted that the amendment should be taken into consideration, but the committee unanimously refused its adoption, and M. Roche withdrew it, but only on the ground that resistance would necessitate sending back the Municipal Bill to the Senate and delay its passing.

We have received the following most interesting communication from M. Leon Giraud with reference to this vote.

*“ Paris, December 21st.*

“MADAME EDITOR,—You will perhaps be pleased to have some details about a vote of our Chamber of Deputies which made considerable noise a few weeks ago. It was upon women's suffrage, confined, it is true, to a limited sphere, but nevertheless involving the great principle supported by your paper. We have not often in France the opportunity to signalise such a fact, and we must not let it pass unnoticed. Our deputies have shown a fair disposition, however short-lived, which is full of deep import for the future.

“ You know probably, we have a particular kind of Tribunal for commercial affairs, the judges of which are elected by those who are subject to its decisions. The number of those who share in the election of this Tribunal is smaller or greater according to the more or less democratic regime which governs us at the time (we have tried several). A bill was brought forward to make the qualifications less difficult, principally by reducing the number of years during which one must have been engaged in commerce. Hitherto no woman has ever taken part in a vote of this kind; nevertheless

there are a great number of women engaged in wholesale and retail trade in France, and foreigners often remark that there are few countries in which women take so important a share in this matter as in ours. Whether it be a benefit or an evil nobody complains. The Commercial code contains a clause which explains the conditions on which a married woman may engage in commerce, independently of her husband, and thus has been obliged to regulate a situation which does not only concern widows and unmarried women.

“Why should not women who may be declared bankrupt, or may any day be called on by the Tribunal to fulfil commercial engagements incumbent on them, have a vote in the election of the judges created to guard these interests? Madame Maria Deraismes had sent a petition on the subject, and when the Chamber was going to vote upon the Bill, a deputy, M. Georges Roche, asked the opinion of the committee about this petition and explained its obvious reasonableness, without intending to speak of the principle of political suffrage on this occasion. The reporter, a little embarrassed, declared that the petition had come too late for serious examination, which was not quite correct. In short, they voted on the question that M. Roche's amendment should be taken into consideration, and sent back to the committee, the Chamber unanimously and without any hesitation declaring in the affirmative.

“The result was not in keeping with this excellent beginning, and you will consider French people fickle and inconstant. For two days afterwards on the remark of the reporter (clerk?) that the proposed amendment involved serious consequences which should be carefully weighed, and would delay the passing of an urgently required law, the Chamber annulled its vote, and almost as unanimously as before, decided that the women must wait.

This was probably the real reason which influenced a good number of the deputies, and thus they will be favourable to the demand when repeated at a more suitable time. But there are certainly others who, on consideration, thought they had gone too far in declarin

themselves favourable to so new a right for women. Dazzled by the novelty of the subject, and by the plain straightforwardness of the orator, they had not hesitated at first. Our history is full of these generous demonstrations, sometimes as ephemeral as they are sudden; witness our famous night of the 4th of August, 1789, in which the two privileged classes renounced their rights, which was followed by so much retraction, regret, and difficulty. A similar case has happened to-day.

“The day after the first vote several of the conservative papers were astonished at the fatal precipice to which they had been hurried. They were right, for with French logic, if the vote of women had been admitted on one point, it must have been admitted on others. For if it is just that women who are traders elect the commercial tribunal, why should other women who are amenable to the tribunals of common law, either civil or criminal, remain strangers to their nomination, or at least to the control of the government which nominates them? Hence, there is but one step to voting for the laws which these tribunals enforce.

“Whatever the reasons may be which have determined the majority, it is an undeniable fact that the question has been brought forward in a brilliant and fortunate manner. One of our philosophers says “*On ne fait pas au scepticisme sa part.*” This is very true as concerns France. When you hear that women here vote for anything, you may know that they vote for all; and this late manifestation of feeling enables us to foresee, perhaps in no distant future, some possible radical changes. We are behind-hand now, but by help of active propagandism, and the effect of your example, we may on this account spring forward the faster.

“LEON GIRAUD.”

NOTE.—Under the Empire, master bakers, whether women or men, had the right of voting for the members of the bakers' syndicate.—*Droit des Femmes.*

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## ART. V.—THE NEW VOTERS.

ON the day when these pages are in the hands of our readers the women of Washington Territory will enter into full possession of their electoral right. The House of Representatives passed the Bill by an overwhelming vote last autumn, the Senate ratified it on November 14th. Governor William A. Newell, signed the Bill on November 22nd with a gold pen given him for the purpose by the ladies of Olympia, and the event was celebrated with ringing of bells and firing of cannon. The first election in which the women will vote will be next November.

Washington Territory is the extreme North Western portion of the United States and joins British territory. Oregon, where the question will next be tried, lies immediately to the south of Washington Territory, and is chiefly populated by native-born inhabitants; consequently it is expected that the illiberality shown by the Spanish speaking population in Colorado, and the German immigrants in Nebraska where the *plebiscite* was last taken, will not be repeated.

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 REVIEWS.

*Life of Hannah More*, by ANNE J. BUCKLAND, The Religious Tract Society, London.

TO most of the readers of the present day, Hannah More's name is associated only with her "Sacred Dramas," her strictures on female education, or at most her poem upon "Slavery," and it will be a surprise to many who open this interesting biography to find that she was not only a successful writer of plays which were acted and kept the stage for some time, but that she, in company with her sisters, initiated the formidable undertaking of providing cheap literature for the poor, at a time when books were considered the exclusive property of the rich and well-educated. Her life is

almost divisible in two portions, the first when she was a brilliant member of the cultivated but somewhat heartless, society of the eighteenth century, the friend of Johnson, Garrick, Horace Walpole, Mrs. Montagu, and many others: the second when she had begun her work in recognition of the brotherhood of humanity among the vicious and heathen villages of Cheddar and Mendips. The first impulse was given by Wilberforce, who having been shown by the sisters the beautiful scenery round their house, returned saddened by thought of all the misery and ignorance in which the mining population of those hills were sunk; so utterly lawless that on Sunday, when the men were idling on the cliffs, no honest man or woman could pass that way without danger of assault. He promised Hannah More that if she would be at the trouble, he would find the means. They went as soon as it was practicable to a rich farmer of the district to ask for his help, but he was much shocked, and told them religion was a dangerous thing, "especially to agriculture." The incumbent of the parish lived at Oxford, and the curate at Wells, and the incumbent of the next parish was intoxicated about six times a week. The sisters, Hannah More and Patty, set up their first school at Cheddar with 140 children, and their school was followed by others at Sandford, Barnwell, and many other places.

The next place to be taken in hand was Nailsea. "We here made our appearance for the first time," writes Miss Patty, "among the glasshouse people, and entered nineteen little hovels in a row, containing in all near two hundred people. We had already encountered savages, hard-hearted farmers, little cold country gentry, a supercilious and ignorant corporation; yet this was unlike all other things, not only different, but greatly transcending all we had imagined. We had a gentleman with us, who, being rather personally fearful, left us to pursue our own devices, which we did by entering and haranguing every separate family."

The schools prospered so well that in a few years the whole character of the district was changed. "We can now boast," she said "that we have a righteous coal pit." The number of criminals brought before the county justices diminished year by year. She established friendly benefit societies for the poor women, which proved of great service to them, and had two little

annual festivities for the children and poor women. She further encouraged girls of moral character with presents and other marks of her approbation.

But the hardest work she had to accomplish remains to be told. It is difficult now to realize the state of things with which these noble women had to contend, when there was little or no literature of a wholesome kind or intelligible in its language to be put into the hands of their scholars. Hannah More has the honour of being the first writer who addressed herself directly to the poor, endeavouring to make literature a means of lightening and helping their toilsome and often brutal lives. Hannah More and her sister Sally set to work to write lively stories, ballads and songs, treating of the common life of the poor and setting before them good ideals. They had also to get their writings printed in a cheap form so as to sell them at a price hitherto unheard of in the annals of publishing. She commenced at Bath, in 1791, the Cheap Repository Tracts, which were so successful that during the first year two millions were sold. Hannah More's plan was to produce every month three tracts, consisting of stories and ballads written in popular languages, which should be sold to the hawkers at a lower rate than their usual books and songs, so that for the sake of the better profit, they had every inducement to sell them by preference. Her sister and one or two friends occasionally assisted, but the chief burden of writing them devolved upon Hannah More herself, and for this she set aside all other literary labours. In this benevolent work she has had many followers, but her name must always be held in reverence as that of the pioneer over untrodden ground.

The *Contemporary Review* for January contains two suggestive articles under the title of the "Ministry of Women," containing very opposite views. One of these is the paper read some months ago in the Chapter House of Wells Cathedral at the first meeting of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Lay Helpers by the Dean of Wells. The second is by Professor Godet on "Women's Share in the Ministry of the Word." We need hardly say that our sympathies accord with the first article, but both are well worth reading.

The Dean of Wells, after recording the manifold services that women in all times, but especially in the present day, have rendered to the Church and the influence they are able to exert, says:—

To neglect that influence is, I venture to think, from one point, an economical blunder, as a waste of material and of force, and from another, so little less than the sin of wrapping up the talent which God has given in the napkin of a conventional routine instead of occupying with it, till the Judge shall come, in the market of the souls of men. Are we to recognise the stage and the concert room as a fit sphere for the display of a woman's gifts of genius and culture, and then serenely exclude her from the mission-room and the platform because that would be at variance with the natural modesty of her sex?

After discussing St. Paul's prohibition of women from teaching, he continues:—

And even if the prohibition were as absolute as you imagine, what proof have you that it was intended to be binding for all time, and not rather to take its place among the things that might be varied from time to time by the wisdom of the Church, according to the diversity of countries, times, and men's manners. I can well imagine that a man of St. Paul's cautious and temperate wisdom would have been slow to sanction what would have clashed with the prepossessions of his converts. But in the history of his own people there were precedents of another character. It was characteristic of Hebrew nations, as it was afterwards of that Teutonic race which gave a fresh life to a decayed and corrupted Christendom, that they recognised God's gifts as bestowed on women for the guidance of His people. The long succession of prophetesses—Miriam, Deborah, the wife of Isaiah, Huldah, Anna—which had been the glory of Israel, was that to have no counterpart in the new Israel of the Church of Christ? Even, as it was, I find in the Councils of the early Church, a full recognition of the teaching functions of women in relation to their own sex, and even of men elsewhere than in the public assemblies of the Church. As new elements of life began to develop themselves, I note the influence of Hilda in our own English Church, presiding over a monastery, not of women only, but of men, training them in the knowledge of Scripture, publicly and privately, and in the pastoral office, so that Bishops went to receive their candidates for orders from what was practically a Theological College under a Lady Principal. In the fourteenth century we have in St. Catherine of Siena one who directed the policy of Popes, harangued them in the presence of their Cardinals, and was consulted by divines on abstruse questions of theology; who was admitted to the third order of the Dominicans, or preaching friars, laboured for the salvation of souls, and guided in the way of righteousness those whom she had converted. It lies in the nature of the case that those women who suffered in the Reformation struggles—Joan Boucher, Ann Askew, and others—had made themselves conspicuous by the influence which they exercised over the minds of disciples as well as by private

heretical opinions of their own. The influence of the Abbesses and Nuns of Portroyal, and of the Regents or teachers who were sent by Nicholas Pavillon, Bishop of Alet, to instruct those of their own sex, and who were welcomed by little children, and blessed by the roughest peasants with tears in their eyes, is another example of the organised employment of what we are content to waste. I do not, of course, in offering this suggestion, claim a full license for the utterance of every thought suggested by earnestness, or genius, or wisdom. God is not the author of confusion, but of order, as in all the Churches of the Saints. What I ask is, that the barriers of conventional usage which keeps them from any exercise of their gifts should be removed, and that deaconesses and Bible women should be placed on the same footing as deacons once were, and as lay readers are. Training, examination, the consent of the Incumbent, the Bishop's license, all these I should contend for in the case of women as of men.

Professor Godet, on the other hand, is strongly in opposition to "the growing disposition to allow women, whether young or old, to speak in public in religious assemblies composed of persons of both sexes." Of course he takes his authority from St. Paul and argues his case with much elaboration and ingenuity, although he "would not go so far as to affirm that the preaching of truly pious women like Elizabeth Fry, Mrs. Taft, Miss Marsh, and many others whose example is quoted, cannot have done any good." "I am not, he says, for a moment denying that women have frequently possessed the highest intellectual faculties combined with a calm and masculine judgment. But the existence of such exceptions is no reason for modifying the position assigned by the Creator to the entire sex. The good which may be done by a single emancipated woman is far from balancing the harm which must inevitably follow the emancipation of women generally.

Professor Godet assumes the same absolute certainty respecting the intentions of the Creator in forming women as is claimed by some of our members of Parliament, but it seems to us that he goes beyond his brief when he irreverently assumes scriptural authority for his own fancies as by the following perversion of Genesis:—

There is a story as old as the world, yet always new, I seem to hear the dialogue going on to-day:—

"Yea, hath God said, ye shall not aspire to the Ministry of the world?"

And the woman answers:—

"We have many means of serving Him who has redeemed us, in our homes first of all, in the bosom of the family He has entrusted to us, and those around us, amongst the ignorant, the sick, the sorrowful, the sinful. The mission field is open to us far and near; but of the preaching of the word, the gospel hath said that it is reserved for men."

"It is not surely reserved for men. Those men, the pastors who teach you these things, teach you so out of jealousy, lest your eyes should be opened, and ye should be as men. The Gospel says nothing of the kind. You women would in a few hours do more and better work than all these theologians have done in many years. In the name of the souls that perish put your hand to the work! Open your mouth and preach!"

And the woman saw the work that was offered her, and the fruit of her lips appeared to her pleasant to the eyes, and good for food, and a thing to be desired for saving souls, and she took of it and did eat.

But it became poison to her and them that tasted with her.

This is not argument, it is irreverence.

*Women's Property Laws under the Saxons.* In a pamphlet by Mr Austin J. King, read at the Annual Provincial Meeting of the Incorporated Law Society, Bath, October 17th, 1883, on the tendency of the Legislation of the XIXth Century to revert to that of the IXth.

We find:—

We have just passed an Act for the emancipation of married women, and we did so with some misgivings, but no terrible consequences have as yet resulted from giving to our wives the rights which a thousand years ago were recognised as their due.

The following is, with the omission of some of the parcels, the text of a Saxon lady's marriage settlement.

"There appears in this writing the agreement which Wulfric and the Archbishop made when he obtained the Archbishop's sister as his wife. It is that he promised her the land at Ealretun and at Rebbedforda for her life. . . . And he gave her the land at Eanulfintan to give and to grant to those that were dearest to her, and he promised her fifty mances of gold, and thirty men and thirty horses."

This settlement was made about the year 1,000. It would be open to very little criticism if tendered subsequently to the Married Women's Property Act, 1882. The lady gets a life interest in some land, a life interest with power of appointment over other land, and some personal estate. Before that Act the settlement would be at all events very imperfect through the omission of the words "separate use." This settlement demonstrates clearly that in Saxon times, married women could hold real and personal estate apart from their husbands, and that they were not excluded from the general capacity to make wills.

It will have been noted that a trustee is mentioned, and that the agreement is stated to have been with him. This is rather a survival of the idea, common to the Roman and most early systems, that a

woman belonged to her relatives, than based on that later fiction of our law stated by Bracton, *vir et uxor sunt quasi unica persona quia cara una et sanguis unus*.

There are numerous other proofs of the separate legal existence of married women. We find in Domesday many women entered as holding land, who are described as wives; and, in still earlier records, we have mention of married women devising land by will, of land being granted to husband and wife, and of wives joining with their husbands in sales of land.

The conquest, by making military service the one desideratum, caused a marked deterioration in the legal position of women, and in fact, as we have seen, merged the status of the wife in that of the husband . . . . A married woman is now to occupy the same position as her Saxon ancestress, except in the important particular that on her death, intestate, her personal estate, whether held for "separate use," or not, passes to the husband as administrator. In marriage settlements we provide against this incident of coverture, but the law did for the ancestress what lawyers have to do for the descendant. The laws of King Ethelbert, promulgated at the commencement of the seventh century, expressly dealt with this. "If she bear no child, let her paternal kindred have the *feh* and the *morgen gift*. The *feh*, the fader feum of the Longo bardic law, was the marriage portion of the bride. The *morgen gift* was the property promised to the wife before marriage, but actually made over to her after its consummation.

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## RECORD OF EVENTS.

### LONDON UNIVERSITY.

THE half-yearly meeting of Convocation of the University was held on January 8th, in Burlington Gardens. Dr. Storrar in the chair. For the first time, a lady member of Convocation attended, the requisite interval having elapsed since women first obtained their degrees in the university.

### CAMBRIDGE.

At the recent examination, in Part I, which consists of classical subjects, the following six ladies passed:— at Girton, Misses Coulter, Crook, Jebb, Macklin, Ridding, and Whitley; at Newnham, Miss Knatchbull-Hugesson

and Miss Mason. In the second class, Misses Barlow' Benham, and Browning passed at Girton, and Miss M. Robinson at Newnham.

In Part 2, which consists of Paley, Euclid, arithmetic, and algebra, the following seven passed first class at Girton: Misses Bower, Coulter, Crook, Ensor, Macklin, Ridding, and Whitley. Miss Dymond passed at Newnham. In the second class, Miss Anderson, Misses Blackmur and Redman passed at Girton, and Miss Mason at Newnham.

In additional subjects there passed first class, at Girton, Misses Coulter, Crook, Ensor, and Payne. At Newnham, Miss Dymond; second class, at Girton, Misses Anderson, Brown, Lauder, Macklin, Ridding, Wallas and Whitley. Miss Anderson passed at Newnham.

#### OXFORD.

We have received the Annual Report of the Association for Promoting the Education of Women in Oxford, of which Mrs. Johnson, 22, Norham Gardens, and Arthur Sedgwick, Esq., 77, Woodstock Road, Oxford, are secretaries. The subject of University Examinations is still in abeyance. The report says that during last year a sub-committee was appointed, who conferred with the delegates of Local Examinations on the question of admitting women to the University Examinations. After this conference, the question was raised in council by the delegates, but the council declined to take any steps in the matter. The Committee of the Association accordingly determined to promote a petition to the Hebdomadal Council. A petition was drawn up requesting the Hebdomadal Council to submit to the University some scheme by which women might be admitted to some, at least, of the Men's Honour Examinations. The petition, which was presented last June, was signed by 3 Heads of Houses, 13 Professors, and 106 M.A.'s; the Council are now considering it, and it is hoped that a scheme which will meet the views of the petitioners may soon be prepared.

The number of students residing in the halls, or in the town itself, were, October, 1882, in hall, 31, and town,



36; Lent, 1883, in hall, 32, and town, 33; May, 1883, in hall, 34, and town, 26; showing a decrease of those in town, and a slight increase in the residents in hall. 27 students passed the examination 1883. The standard of the first examination corresponds with that of respensions; the standard of the second, both pass and honours, is the same as that required in the corresponding Men's Examinations of the University; and in English and modern languages an analogous standard is aimed at. The honours were as follows, during 1883:—

*Modern History.*—FIRST CLASS.—Miss Sutton, Lady Margaret.

” THIRD CLASS.—Miss Gwyther, Somerville.

*Ancient History.*—SECOND CLASS.—Miss Argyles, Lady Margaret.

*English.*—FIRST CLASS.—Miss Sheldon.

*French and German.*—SECOND CLASS.—Miss Benson, Lady Margaret; Miss G. Ward, Somerville.

” THIRD CLASS.—Miss Anstruther, Lady Margaret.

*Science.*—SECOND CLASS.—Miss Watson, Somerville.

*Mathematics.*—THIRD CLASS.—Miss Nicholson, Somerville.

Miss Seward obtained First Class London Intermediate B. Sc. Exam. Pass Division.

#### OXFORD UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR WOMEN.

The sixth annual report of the Oxford University Examination for Women for the year 1883 has been issued by the Delegacy of Local Examinations. It states that the examination for the year 1883 began on the 4th of June, and was held at 11 centres. The number of those who presented themselves and of those who passed was:—At the first examination, 25 examined, 10 passed; at the second examination (pass) 14 examined, 11 passed; at the second examination (honours) 11 examined, 10 passed. Thus, 50 were examined, of whom 31 passed. On surveying the whole work done in this examination, the Examiners consider that the special subjects were done the best. In physical science, on the whole, the candidates' papers must be considered of second-class value.

#### HOLLOWAY COLLEGE.

The death of Mr. Thomas Holloway has again brought before public attention the magnificent building which

is now rising on Mount Lee, near Egham, for the education of women. Many wealthy men and women have been generous at their death, leaving splendid bequests for educational and sanitary purposes, but Mr. Holloway adopted the far nobler plan of handing over his magnificent gift to the English nation during his lifetime. The first of these was the Convalescent Hospital or Sanatorium for Mental Disease; the second, a college for the Higher Education of Women.

For this scheme Mr. Holloway gave a quarter of a million, and promised £100,000 additional for endowments. The first brick of the building was laid in September, 1879, near Virginia Water, but on an elevated situation, which commands a superb view of the surrounding country. The constitution of the college, which is to be embodied in a trust deed or charter, set forth, we are told, that it was founded by desire and counsel of the founder's wife. The trustees are to be a corporate body with perpetual succession. The governing body is to consist of twenty-one persons to be appointed partly by the University of London, and partly by the Corporation of London, and a certain portion of it shall always be women. Religious convictions are not in any way to affect the qualification for a governor. It is the founder's desire that power by Act of Parliament, Royal Charter, or otherwise, should be eventually sought to enable the college to confer degrees after due examination, but that till such power is obtained the students shall qualify themselves to pass the examinations of the London University or other existing universities. The curriculum is to be of the widest, and proficiency in classics is not to entitle students to superior rewards over other branches of knowledge. Twenty founder's scholarships of the value of £40 each, tenable for not more than two years in the college will be established. The Principal of the college will be a lady, and duly qualified lady physicians are to be resident in the college. No student is to be admitted under the age of 17, or who has not passed a satisfactory examination.

Mr. Holloway, the *Daily News* says "has provided the students with a picture gallery composed of the best

specimens of famous modern masters that could be obtained. Some three years ago there were rumours in the picture market that dealers and connoisseurs were at times outbidden by a mysterious American, of whom nobody knew anything. The mysterious American proved to be Mr. Holloway, who was then actively at work forming his gallery of paintings. Among his purchases were pictures made historic by their fame in the art-world, such as Landseer's pathetic "Man proposes, God disposes," the arctic scene painted in memory of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition; Mr. Millais' "Two Princes in the Tower," and "The Princess Elizabeth," as well as fine specimens of Creswick, Clarkson, Stanfield, Copley Fielding, Muller, and Old Crome. Mr. Holloway, whose system in disposing of, as in accumulating, his great wealth seems to have been to do nothing by halves, has given all these and many other pictures to the College that the taste of the students may be formed in the intervals of more severe discipline. Made known far and wide while alive by his business energy, Mr. Holloway, by his splendid gifts to his country, will ensure the remembrance of him now that he has departed from among us.

#### MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.—THE NEW SCHEME.

The following are the principal provisions of the scheme prepared by the Charity Commissioners, which has now been approved by the Committee of Council on Education. The scheme, unless objection be taken to it by some one of the corporate bodies concerned, will become law in less than three months from the present time.

The main feature of the scheme is the assignment to the existing High School for Girls, at present managed by a Committee under a trust deed, of an endowment from the funds of the Hulme Trust, and its management in future under conditions agreed upon by the Committee with the Hulme Governors and Estates Managers. The endowment is to consist of a capital sum of £15,000 and a yearly sum of £1,000. Of the capital sum, it is provided that £5,000 shall be applied to the extinction of a rent charge of £225, for which the property of the school is at present liable, and that the remaining £10,000 shall be applied to the repayment of the principal of a mortgage debt. Out of the annual sum of £1,000 a year, £400 a year is to be

invested in Consols and allowed to accumulate until it has reached an amount sufficient to discharge the remainder of the existing liabilities of the school. A sum of £250 a year is to be set aside permanently as a fund for repairs, improvements, and furniture. The balance is to be applied as it becomes available, to the foundation of scholarships and exhibitions, of the value in the first instance of £400 a year, and, after the debts have been paid, of £640 a year.

The management of the school, which is declared to be "for day scholars only," is to be in the hands of a governing body of 24 persons, of whom 12 are to be representative and 12 co-optative Governors, and it is provided that of the whole number of 24, "one-third, if practicable, shall, and not more than one-half, may be women." Of the 12 representative Governors, four are to be appointed by the Hulme Governors, and one each by the Hebdomadal Council of the University of Oxford, the Council of the Senate of the University of Cambridge, the Senate of the University of London, the Council of the Victoria University, the Council of the Owens College, the Governors of the Manchester Grammar School, the School Board of Manchester, and the School Board of Salford. The first co-optative Governors, all of whom are members of the existing Committee of Management, are named in the scheme as follows :—“ Augusta Agnes Anson, the wife of the Venerable Archdeacon ; George Henry Greville Anson, of the Rectory, Birch, in the county of Lancaster ; Abigail Behrens, the wife of Edward Behrens, of the Oaks, Fallowfield, near Manchester, merchant ; Harriet Ann Darbshire, the wife of Robert Dukinfield Darbshire, of Manchester, solicitor ; Edward Donner, of Manchester, merchant ; Sophia Susannah Gaddum, the wife of George Henry Gaddum, of Adria House, Withington, in the county of Lancaster, merchant ; Margaret Emily Gaskell, of 84, Plymouth Grove, Manchester, spinster ; William Hughes, of Manchester, yarn agent ; Matilda Marion Roby, the wife of Henry John Roby, of Woodhill, Pendleton, near Manchester, cotton spinner ; Rachel Scott, the wife of Charles Prestwich Scott, of The Firs, Fallowfield aforesaid, newspaper editor ; Leonard Tatham, of Manchester, solicitor ; the Rev. Richard Tonge, honorary canon of the Cathedral Church of Manchester ; the Rev. Charles Wright Woodhouse, Canon Residentiary of the said Cathedral Church.”

It is expressly provided that “religious opinions, or attendance or non-attendance at any particular form of religious worship shall not in any way affect the qualification of any person for being a governor under this scheme.”

The head mistress is to receive a fixed yearly stipend of £150. She is also to receive “a capitation payment calculated on such a scale uniform or graduated, as may be fixed from time to time by the Governors at the rate of not less than 10s. nor more than £2 a year for each girl in the school.” Taking the number of girls in the school at 550, which is about what may be expected, this would give a minimum salary of £425 a year and a maximum of £1,250. The scheme provides that the present head mistress shall, if willing, “take and hold the office of head mistress of the school under this scheme.”

The school and all its advantages are to be open to "all girls of good character and sufficient health who are residing with their parents, guardians, or near relations, within degrees to be fixed by the Governors." No girl not so residing is to be admitted except by special permission of the Governors. The minimum age of admission is fixed at seven years, and no girl is to remain in the school after the end of the term in which she has reached her nineteenth year unless by special permission of the Governors, upon the recommendation of the head mistress. Provision, however, is made for the establishment, if the Governors think fit, of "a preparatory department for girls between the ages of six and ten and for boys between the ages of six and nine years."

Coupled with this is an important provision which at first sight may appear hardly intelligible, by which the Governors are empowered to "also establish in the school, in suitable buildings to be approved by the Charity Commissioners, a Second Preparatory Department for girls between the ages of six and fourteen years, and for boys between the ages of six and nine years." The reference, however, to buildings makes it plain that what is here described as a preparatory department of the school is really a subsidiary or branch school, which, however, must remain subject to the authority of the head mistress of the High School.

The fees payable by scholars attending the school are "to be fixed from time to time by the governors at the rate of not less than six guineas nor more than eighteen guineas a year for any girl." All girls entering the school are to be subjected to an entrance examination, "graduated according to the age of the girl," but in all cases involving some knowledge of "reading, writing from dictation, sums in the first four simple rules of arithmetic, with the multiplication table, and outlines of the geography of England."

#### ASSOCIATION OF IRISH SCHOOLMISTRESSES AND OTHER LADIES INTERESTED IN EDUCATION.

THE second general meeting for the session 1883-84 took place on the 27th of December, at Alexandra College, Dublin. There was a good attendance. After tea the President (Mrs. Jellett) took the chair at eight o'clock. Miss Jellico, Mountmellick School; Miss C. Webb, Kindergarten, Kennilworth Square, Rathgar; Miss King, Rochelle Seminary, were elected members. Miss M-Killip, Ladies' Collegiate School, corresponding member for Londonderry, read an interesting and exhaustive paper on "The Physical Training of Girls," dealing with the question how far girls' schools can assist by dress reform and the promotion of active play and gymnastics, in producing that perfect health without which no woman is adequately educated, and without which excessive mental exertion must be a danger-

ous experiment. A discussion on the best forms of exercise and the most healthful kind of clothing followed, in which Mrs. Byers, Ladies' Collegiate School, Belfast, correspondent for the Ulster Association; Miss Nelson, Carrickfergus; Miss La Touche, Alexandra College; Miss Mulvany, Alexandra School; Miss Lowell, Monkstown Ladies' School; Miss Reilly, French School, Bray; Miss Curtis, Mercer's School; Mrs. Ewing, and Mrs. Haslam took part.

Miss Barton, Ardnagrena School, also read a valuable paper, forwarded by the Principal of the London Training College for Teachers, Bishopsgate Street, on "The founding, aims, and organization of the institution."

On Friday, the 28th instant, the Schoolmasters' Association courteously entertained the members of the Schoolmistresses' Association at their annual meeting at the Gresham Hotel.

#### IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

This excellent Association, which is designed to carry on the work which the Queen's Institute in Molesworth Street, Dublin, began many years ago, by supplying technical training and a chance of remunerative employment for women, has commenced its useful labours. The temporary office is at 29, Kildare Street, Dublin. The Hon. Secretaries are Miss McDonnell and Miss Digges La Touche. The present Committee consists of Professor W. F. Barrett, Mrs. Maurice Brooks, Very Rev. Dean of the Chapel Royal, Mrs. Dwyer Gray, Mrs. R. G. C. Hamilton, Mrs. J. Hogg, Mrs. Lawson, Miss L'Estrange, Miss Digges La Touche, Mrs. Charles Martin, Hon. Mrs. Maunsel, Rev. Dr. Molloy, Miss O'Shaughnessy, Mr. Thomas Pim, Mr. D. Sherlock, Mrs. Walpole.

A register has been opened in 29, Kildare Street for the names of those who can give employment to women, and also for all persons who wish to be trained in the following branches. The classes already open or quickly to be commenced, are: 1st—Scrivenery, including law writing, engrossing deeds, copying manuscripts and addressing circulars, &c. Teacher, Miss Gough. The fee for this is 4s. a month, for two lessons a week of two

hours each. 2nd—Book-keeping, which also requires training. The fee for this is 4s. a month, for two lessons a week of two hours each. 3rd—Plan Tracing, Diagram Making and Ornamental Lettering requires a short training. The fee is 4s. a month, for two hours on two days in the week. This class will open shortly. 4th—Wood Carving. Teacher, Miss Irwin, of School of Art Wood Carving, Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington. Date for this class not yet fixed. 5th—Cutting-out. This class is to enable ladies to be their own dress-makers. 6th—Cookery. This class will be for ladies who may wish for instruction for their own use, as employment could not be found in this branch. Date for this class not yet fixed.

#### LIBERAL ELECTIONS OF WOMEN.

The *Western Daily Press* reports that, on January 3, a meeting of the burgesses of Westbury Ward, Bristol, was held for the purpose of electing the executive committee. After the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary had been chosen, the following members of the executive were elected: Miss Priestman, and Messrs. W. R. Barker, Fairweather, Jenkins, Jacques, G. Tyler, and T. Thomas. Miss Priestman is thus the first lady on the executive of the Bristol "Five Hundred." The organisation is as follows:—

1. A small Management Committee.
2. An Executive, consisting of about 120 members, being the aggregate executives of the different wards.
3. The general body of members.

This election therefore places Miss Priestman on the Executive, the most important section of the organisation.

THE LEEDS LIBERAL SIX HUNDRED.—In the election of the Liberal "Six Hundred" at Leeds, on December 19th, Mrs. Scatcherd was chosen among the representatives of the Kirkstall division of the Headingley Ward, and Miss Louisa Carbutt in West Ward. This recognition of Mrs. Scatcherd's untiring exertions in the Liberal cause, marks the increasing sense that women ought to be fellow-sharers in electoral privileges.

## SUFFRAGE.

### HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE.

A meeting was held at Cambridge Road, on December 17th, for the purpose of forming a branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage in these towns. The committee consists of Mr. and Mrs. Eiloart, Mr. and Mrs. Gant, Mr. Elliott, Miss Dunk, and Miss Fricker Hall, with power to add to their number. Miss Fricker Hall, of Bonham House, Pevensy Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, was appointed hon. sec., from whom any information or papers can be obtained.

EDINBURGH.—The annual meeting of the Edinburgh National Society was held on December 19th, at No. 5, St. Andrew Square. Mrs. McLaren presided, and there was a large attendance. Mrs. McLaren said:

Though the arguments against them were long ago exhausted, the subject of woman's suffrage was constantly being agitated, and ever with fresh interest, all which showed what vantage ground they had gained. They had a fresh stimulus in the visit of Miss Hopkins last week, who came to tell them of the degradation of their women. It seemed to her (Mrs. McLaren) as if she had been sent to rouse them to their duty to look into those evils, and to point to those unjust laws which press on woman, and are the source of her degradation. He whom they all owned as their Lord and Master, and who intended that women should be equal with men on the earth, was not insensible to the cries of these crushed ones. If man was placed as the head of woman in the social relation, he had evidently not been faithful to the trust, for they found women had been crushed in every nation. Miss Maitland had recently defined the true position of women to be that of fellow-workers with men, for both are one in Christ Jesus. That might seem only a spiritual application, but sound politics were founded on the morality of the New Testament, which sanctioned no injustice to any members of the human family. Miss Hopkins was surprised and pleased to find so many associations in Edinburgh for friendless girls; but the committee found their work accumulating, and it would always be so till they could raise the position of womanhood. She would ask them, so long as a woman, even yet a bride, could be obliged to leave her husband because of his cruelty and flee to her own friends for protection, and when her child was born, which ought to have cemented the happiness of her married life, that husband could appeal to the Scottish law to force that child from its mother's arms to be given to him, even when its health peculiarly required a mother's care, and the judge could give it to that father, and also decree such a refinement of cruelty as to make that poor distracted mother pay the costs of



the lawsuit which resulted in robbing her of her child; was such a law calculated to raise wifehood, or motherhood, or womanhood in the estimation of either the men or women of our country? What lesson can such a law teach the rising youth of our land? And that was no isolated case, for that judgment was given on the plea that in all similar cases the finding had been the same. But the sensation which this case gave rise to, showed that the conscience of the country was being roused on the question of the wrongs from which women suffered, and it was the agitation on this question of women's suffrage which was rousing it. If women had not been inured to such unjust laws, they would have risen with one voice in Edinburgh, and have protested against that iniquitous sentence. But most women only recognise the duty of some act of benevolence towards girls and women who may have been driven to despair or wrongdoing through the injuries which our laws have inflicted upon them. My friends, until you band yourselves together to insist upon having a voice, through the Parliamentary vote, in the laws by which you are governed, you must submit to injustice and the degradation of womanhood. In seeking for political justice, women have been aided by most of the best men of the country. There is a noble and a just manhood who have stood by their side, who could see all the great issues of the question. These, she trusted, would not desert them at this critical moment, when they were on the eve of a new Reform Bill. She thought whoever had believed in the justice of their cause, and had helped them in their up-hill fight, whether by voting for them in the House of Commons or standing on their platform, outside that House, and deserted them now on any pretext whatever, just when success seemed near, might be likened to soldiers who had been fighting for a small state against a larger kingdom, and when the valiant little state had all but established its freedom received a consideration from the larger power to quit the ranks and so wreck the hopes of the well-earned victory. But so much has it been the habit to set aside justice to women when any advantage had to be gained for men, without really intending any harm, that she read with regret the other day, in a speech from a member of Parliament to his constituents in Fifeshire, that he advised Mr. Gladstone to overlook the claims of women to the franchise, lest in doing them justice he might endanger the extension of the franchise to men! Could political selfishness go much further? Many of those men whom he could be so anxious to enfranchise had never raised a voice in favour of their own enfranchisement, and scarcely knew what a vote meant; whilst the voices of women had been raised louder and louder for eighteen years, until at last they have been responded to by all the great Liberal associations that have been held throughout England, and in Edinburgh the Liberal association gave an enthusiastic vote in their favour, whilst the Scottish convention of Royal Burghs, which represents all Scotland, had supported the cause of women's suffrage to a man. She earnestly thanked all these true and faithful men for their support.

In moving the adoption of the report, which remarked on the success of the society during the past year, Professor LINDSAY of Glasgow, said that the cause of the immorality among women was to

a great extent owing to the poor wages which they earned. He then quoted a few of the rates at which women were paid. For instance, a woman by making paper bags could earn from 5s. to 9s. per week; 8s. a week could be earned by making button-holes, which were paid at the rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for seven. But the worst case of all was where a woman, after 17 hours a day, making shirts at twopence each, could only earn 6s. a week, and out of that had to provide thread for the work. By regulations women had been driven out of workshops, where, to some extent, they might be looked after, and the "sweating" system was being introduced here, there, and everywhere in connection with women's work. Miss Jane COBDEN, daughter of Richard Cobden, seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Mrs. Oliver SCATCHERD moved that they adopt the resolution of the memorial of 110 Liberal members of the House of Commons. Dr. CARMENT seconded the adoption of the resolution, which was also carried. On the motion of Miss Louisa STEVENSON, seconded by Miss MAITLAND, a petition in terms of the above resolution was ordered to be forwarded to the House of Commons. A vote of thanks to Mrs. McLaren for presiding brought the proceedings to a close.

MAJOR-GENERAL ALEXANDER, M.P., addressing his constituents in the New Town Hall, Ayr, January 8th, said, while on the subject of the extension of the franchise:—"I now come to a very important point, and one which is certain to be raised during the discussion of any Reform Bill which may be introduced. I refer to female suffrage. The Government will not, I understand, include in their proposals any provision for the enfranchisement of women, on the ground that they might thereby endanger the passing of their bill. There is, I am bound to say, abundant cause for their apprehensions. The resolution in favour of removing the electoral disabilities of women was lost last session by the small majority of sixteen votes, and I should therefore not be surprised if an amendment in the same direction, which I understand will be moved in committee, were on a division to be carried against the Government. Gentlemen, I have hitherto remained neutral on this question, not that I thought that the denial of the franchise to women possessing the qualifications which entitle men to become electors could be defended on any grounds either of justice or expediency, but because it seemed to me that the change whenever it came should form part of a large as well as comprehensive measure, and because I am opposed to fragmentary or bit-by-bit reform, I therefore intend, when

the House goes into committee on the bill to amend the representation of the people, to give a hearty support to any proposal, from whatever quarter it may emanate, having for its object the extension of the franchise to women."

A PRIVATE subscription Ball will be given on Friday, January 18th, 1884, in aid of the funds of the Women's Suffrage Society; Gates' band. Vouchers can be obtained from the lady patronesses, and tickets, price 10s. 6d., in exchange for the vouchers, from the ball secretary, Miss Ray Hope, 6, Addison Road, W. It is requested that the money be forwarded with the vouchers, together with the names to be inscribed on the tickets. Dancing to begin at 9.30. Lady patronesses:—Mrs. Arthur Arnold, 45, Kensington Park Gardens; Mme. Bodichon, Sealands Gate, Robertsbridge, Sussex; Mrs. Cameron, 14, Park Circus, Glasgow; Miss Jane Cobden, 10, Oxford and Cambridge Mansions, W.; Miss Isabel Cooper, Girton College, Cambridge; Miss Courtenay, 34, Brompton Square; Mrs. Henry Fawcett, 51, South Lambeth Road; Viscountess Harberton, 119, Cromwell Road; Mrs. Charles Holland, 7, Hyde Park Square; Mrs. John Hollond, 57, Lancaster Gate; Miss Ray Hope, 6, Addison Road, W.; Mrs. Alfred Hunt, Tor Villa, Campden Hill, W.; Mrs. Henry Lawrence, Alenhoe, Ridgway, Wimbledon; Mrs. Charles McLaren, Barn Elms, Barnes; Mrs. William Morris, Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, Hammersmith; Mrs. Frank Morrison, 8, Cromwell Houses; Miss Muller, 58, Cadogan Place; Miss Osborn, 10A, Cunningham Place; Lady Power, 55, Harrington Gardens, S.W.; Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, 3, Paper Buildings, Temple; Mrs. Southwood Smith, Blarehurst, Holmwood, Dorking; Mrs. J. P. Thomasson, Woodside, Bolton; Miss Williams, 4, Vicarage Gate, Kensington. Stewards:—L. Courtenay, Esq., M.P.; Reginald Farrar, Esq.; Henry Head, Esq.; C. E. Hope, Esq.; C. Hopwood, Esq., M.P.; F. Hopwood, Esq.; C. McLaren, Esq., M.P.; W. Page Phillips, Esq.; J. M. Power, Esq.; T. H. Puleston, Esq., M.P.; D. Westmacott, Esq.; W. Woodall, Esq., M.P.

#### WOMEN AND PEACE.

A meeting was held on December 12th, under the auspices of the Moral Reform Union (Hon. Sec. Mrs. Browne, 58, Porchester Terrace), when Mrs. Southey, Sec. of the Women's Peace Arbitration Society, read an eloquent address. The chair was filled by Mrs. Warner, an American lady, Mrs. Lucas not being able to be present. Mrs. Southey dealt chiefly on the brutalising effect that war has on human beings, and on the resources of wealth and ability that might be so much more profitably used.

Miss Helen Taylor moved the first resolution, and Dr. Frances Hoggan in seconding it read the first peace petition ever presented by women, being a protest against the civil war in the time of Charles I., from the midwives of that time, as it interrupted their business and lessened their earnings.

MR. J. N. RICHARDSON, M.P., while travelling recently in France, observed a remarkable address to the Government being widely circulated in the newspapers of that country. He forwarded a copy to his friend Mr. Henry Richard, M.P.; and the Peace Society, to whom Mr. Richard acts as secretary, have had it printed for circulation in this country as a significant indication of the growing interest in the question of international arbitration on the Continent. The document is addressed to the President of France and members of the Council of Ministers, and is signed by the president and the two vice-presidents of the Society for the Amelioration of the Position of Women. It is as follows :—

*To the President and Members of the Council of Ministers.*

GENTLEMEN,—Permit us to express to you the sentiment of profound sorrow by which we are animated in view of the warlike attitude of our Government.

We regard with terror, the prospect of a war in the far East—a war which might not improbably be the presage of a general and terrible conflagration quite out of proportion to the advantages which you think may accrue to our country. Engines of destruction, which modern science (perverted from its proper and benevolent mission) renders daily more and more murderous, now threaten absolutely to decimate the nations.

“ War is not a foreordained and inevitable thing ; it is caused by the will of men ; it is an abuse of power, a flagrant violation of the rights of humanity ; and as a means of settling disputes between civilised nations, it is utterly unworthy and totally worthless.

“ It surely is the part of France—once the generous and intelligent leader of human progress—to find, in International Arbitration, an honourable and pacific means of staying the effusion of blood. This course, gentlemen, lies in your hands ; it can be adopted by you.

“ The women of France, who have no political voice—whom the law thus deprives of a sacred right—the women of France demand that their strong aspirations in favour of Peace, and in favour of the masses being allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labour peaceably—be heard by the Government. They demand the insertion of the principle of International Arbitration in our Treaties of Commerce, so that henceforth all differences between our Government and those of other nations may be pacifically and amicably arranged.

"The public conscience is awakening; experience has demonstrated that war settles nothing; that one war only begets another, whether it be that the conqueror in any conflict desires more fully to complete his conquest, or that the vanquished strives to retrieve his disaster; and it is upon the people, the masses, that the weight of this state of things presses continually.

"Permit us, therefore, gentlemen, to hope that in view of these considerations, you will recognise International Arbitration to be the duty of all civilised Governments, unless they desire to perish amid the upheaval of exasperated peoples. And if, for other nations, International Arbitration is a necessity, it is for France a binding duty; and permit us to add, gentlemen, her very best and truest policy.

"Trusting that you will accept the assurance of our profound devotion to our country,

"We have the honour of subscribing ourselves,

"MARIA DERAISME, *President*,

"LOUISE DAVID, } *Vice-Presidents*,

"V. GRIES TRAUT, }

"*Of the Society for the Amelioration  
of the position of Women.*"

PARIS, November, 1883.

#### HOME FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

We hear that the very excellent Establishment for Gentlewomen during temporary illness, at 90, Harley Street, is by no means in a prosperous condition. Founded in 1850 when no such invalid home existed in London, the promoters were fortunate enough at the outset to secure the services of Florence Nightingale as lady superintendent, who brought her skill and talent for nursing to bear upon the Institution. As one of the earliest interests of Florence Nightingale it has, we think, a claim on public support, and we hope our appeal will meet with a warm response. The house in Harley Street is spacious, and the rooms most unusually lofty and airy. Every modern appliance exists for the invalids, and the best medical and surgical advice may be had from those medical and surgical gentlemen attached to the home; the charges vary with the case and means of the patient, but the kindest consideration is shown to all. The weekly payments of the invalids do not by any means cover the expenses, therefore subscriptions from outside are required, and we hope by reminding our readers of this most valuable Institution, it may not be allowed to languish or to curtail its truly useful work.

### THE NASSAU SENIOR TRAINING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG SERVANTS.

A very useful training school was opened on November 15th, in connection with the Association for Befriending Young Servants, at 122, Cornwall Road, Notting Hill. The girls it proposes to help are those about to leave the Board and National Schools, and other neglected girls under 16. It is found that the chief source of trouble with girls entering service is their ignorance of housework, for the mistress rarely has time to teach. This school proposes to receive six young girls who will be trained for two or three months in all kinds of simple household work, washing and cooking. It is under the management of a committee of ladies. Each girl living in the district or belonging to the Association pays 4s. a week, other cases 5s. It is obvious that this cannot meet the expenses, so that subscriptions will be needed to help this useful scheme.

MARYLEBONE SOCIAL CLUB.—The Rev. Llewelyn Davies presided on January 7th at the opening entertainment of a club for young men and women at the Workmen's Hall, Bell Street, Edgware Road. He said that the promoters (who are ladies and gentlemen of good position and active sympathies) were impressed by the fact that most clubs were for the sexes separately. There were not many opportunities of bringing young men and young women together socially. This was one respect in which the working classes were at a disadvantage compared with the classes above them. It was not intended to exclude married persons from the club, but it was expected that it would naturally be more acceptable to unmarried young men and women. There were people who thought such an establishment would be dangerous. A great change had, however, taken place in that respect in the last twenty years. It was indispensable that those admitted should be of respectable character. The original members were those invited by the promoters, and the responsibility would rest on them and other members not to propose, second, or admit anyone without due care. The subscription would be 6d. monthly, and the rooms would be open from eight to half-past ten. The club rooms include comfortable sitting-rooms, fairly well furnished, and tastefully decorated with panel paintings, flowers, and pictures, and well lighted. The aim of the committee is to encourage young persons whose respectability can be vouched for, but who have little chance of home comfort, to make this club an evening home. Games will be allowed, but of course no gambling. Musical evenings and suitable entertainment will be encouraged. Tea, coffee, and light refreshments will be supplied at moderate rates, and the establishment will be under the care of a paid superintendent, and will have the

advantage of the association of members of the committee and their friends. The committee includes the names of the Rev. Llewelyn Davies, the president; the Rev. W. Barker, rector of Marylebone; the Hon. and Rev. Canon Leigh, Miss Kate Thornbury (the honorary secretary), Mrs. Westlake, Miss Anna Swanwick, Miss Toynbee, Mrs. Holman Hunt, and the Rev. R. H. Haweis, and others. There are fifty original members, and about one hundred and fifty more can be placed on the list of members. Although the club will, it is hoped, be eventually self-supporting, there has necessarily been considerable expense involved in starting it. The project is entirely unsectarian.

The London School Board before separating for the holidays was engaged in discussing the new scale for the payment of teachers. These begin at £150 for men, and £120 for women in temporary schools. In permanent schools the minimum is, men £200, women £150; and the maximum is, men £450, women £335. Thus in each case the men teachers have one fourth more pay than the women teachers, and the work is the same.

FREE LIBRARY, WESTMINSTER.—The Westminster Free Library in Great Smith Street, has recently opened a Ladies' Reading Room well supplied with newspapers. Another improvement also is that the Library which used to be open for only a few hours each day is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

At the Branch Library, 3, Trevor Square, Knightsbridge, the librarian is a lady, Miss Elizabeth Smith.

#### COLLEGE FOR WORKING WOMEN.

The new hall, which has been built in connection with this college, at 7, Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square, was opened on December 8th, at a meeting over which Professor H. Morley presided, and at which Lady Wolseley gave away the certificates and prizes to successful students. The Chairman gave some account of the work of the college, remarking that as well as means of intellectual culture it afforded opportunities for friendly social intercourse, and that it was not only by attendance at classes, but by human fellowship that minds were developed. It appeared from the chairman's statement that the following were the occupations of the students who attended from October, 1882, to July, 1883:—Artificial flower and toy makers and feather

cleaners, 9; bookkeepers, clerks, and law copyists, 32; brushmakers and chair-caners (blind women) 15; bookbinders and compositors, 4; domestic servants, 26; embroiderers, lace milliners, &c., 9; fancy trades and stationers, 9; gilders, china painters, artists, &c., 9; hospital nurses, superintendents, and housekeepers, 21; machinists, 16; milliners, needlewomen, dress and mantle makers, and tailoresses, 107; shopwomen, 52; teachers and pupil-teachers, 37; upholsterers and bed-makers, 16; no occupation stated, 72; total, 434. The college teachers were unpaid. There were, in addition to the educational classes, ambulance and cookery classes, a free lending library, a penny bank, and a holiday fund (promoted by Lady Strangford); the hospital tickets were received for those who were sick. In the building of the new hall, aid had been given by the Clothworkers', Goldsmiths', Fishmongers', Leather Sellers', and Merchant Taylors' Companies. The hall cost £800, of which £600 has been already contributed.

#### WAGES OF WOMEN

The *Daily News* gave, just before Christmas, some details upon the miserable wages which the poorer class of women in London get, which gave additional confirmation to the details of "How the Poor Live."

A meeting of about 200 women of the poorest of the poor assembled in College Chapel on Tuesday night, and for nearly two hours, in the most orderly and interesting manner, conferred on some of the troubles of the London poor. The Rev. R. Spears, the minister of the chapel, presided. He said that they had held four meetings, and all the speakers had been, so far, men who had stated their views on the state of the poor. He thought the women of East London probably knew as well as the men where the shoe pinches, and would be glad to have their views. He was persuaded there was just now all abroad a spirit of real Christian charity, and a willingness among the well-to-do classes to relieve the wretchedness that so unhappily existed among so many families. He referred to the words of the Lord Mayor at a recent meeting, that more sympathy must be shown among all classes, for after all we were all the



children of our heavenly Father. Several women spoke during the conference, and we learned that a strong desire exists that the cottage houses of two and three rooms be not swept away but improved. On this matter a show of hands was taken, and the whole meeting was in favour of the cottage house system, as against the large block system. Several of the women stated they paid for one poor room as much as 3s. or 3s. 6d. per week, and such rooms were often in a sad state of repair. Those who made their living by sewing said that a child's suit of clothes was made for 8d., and by working sixteen hours they made 1s. 4d. per day. They made men's trousers for 6d., and could make 1s. per day. They recollected when double this was made by themselves and other needlewomen. The match-box makers said they once had 5d. for 144 boxes, now the price was 2½d. per gross; and one woman said she had only 2¼d.; another said she had made 144 boxes for 2d. They could make at this price in sixteen hours 1s. Charwomen are paid better. But mothers of little children who go out pay 6d. per day, that an infant child may be left with a neighbour. Some get 1s., some 1s. 6d., some 2s. among liberal families per day. The so-called sweating system by middlemen is to them a great hardship, and they feel that they cannot unite to resist it, they are so needy and so unorganised. The chairman counselled them, and other gentlemen pressed them, to do something better for their children. They said they were doing so. One poor woman said two of her boys had already won scholarships.

Another tea-meeting of women and girls living in the rookeries of the Mint was held the same day, Mrs. Meredith, of Nine Elms Mission, having distributed the tickets. After tea, Mrs. Meredith put a series of questions to them. Only six women appeared to be engaged in regular work at sewing or in any manufactory. The mission agents are able to give them employment in making coal sacks at a half-penny each, but as they said few women can make more than six sacks in a day, it is difficult to see how they can avoid starvation in this way.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

WOMEN AND THE DRINK QUESTION.—A "Temperance Demonstration," under the auspices of the St. Pancras Total Abstinence Association, took place lately in the St. Pancras Vestry Hall, which, in spite of very bad weather, was completely filled. Dr. B. W. Richardson (President of the Association) occupied the chair. The Chairman said the temperance cause would never win its way until the women of this kingdom and of the civilized world embarked in the enterprise. Women were more conservative than men, and hence were generally more determined than men in favour of a moderate use of what they had been taught almost from the cradle was good for people's health; but if the scale of woman's influence turned to the other side, if women saw that it would be better in every way for the morals and health of the people if what they had prized were not used, then there would be that progress which they all hoped would be made before the close of the present century. The weakness and failures of many women as respected temperance demanded the thought and intelligence and affectionate consideration of persons of their own sex, a woman lost in the abyss of intemperance being worse even than a man lost in it. Addresses were delivered by Miss Waddy, who dwelt especially on the temptations offered by public-houses; Mrs. Dawson Burns, who described from personal observation the home degradation arising from drink among the poor; Mrs. Lucas, who strongly urged the sacred duty of women in relation to their example and influence; and Mrs. Isherwood, who advised all present who had not done so to take the pledge that night.

A WRITER in the *Times* under the head of "Inebriate Women," proposes to forbid any woman from following the trade of a publican or holding a license. This is one of those impracticable legislative theories, which appear to their propounders so attractive and innocent because they deal only with women. It is not likely that the proposal will meet with any attention, but the old assumption that one half of the human race has the right of dictating to the other half what it must do, is very hard to die out.

WOMEN'S PLACE IN NATURE.—The above was the title of an able lecture delivered by Mr. Arthur Nicols, of the Sunday Lecture Society, on December 2nd. Mr. Nicols dealt with the physical, intellectual, moral and social conditions of women, and made special reference to the need of the perfect legal equality of men and women. The lecturer's views were good and clear, but we must confess to a little impatience at the adoption of so general a topic for one lecture. Woman's place in nature is as vast a theme as man's place in nature, and requires just as wide a treatment.

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN.—Dr. Alice Vickery lectured at South Place Institute, Finsbury, E.C., on December 23rd, on the laws relating to this subject.

WOMEN AS POOR LAW GUARDIANS.—A drawing room meeting was held through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Prout Newcombe, at Northcote, East Croydon, for the sake of hearing Mrs. Ormiston Chant give an address on the needfulness of having ladies as members of the Board of Guardians. Many ladies afterwards became members of the society.

CHIVALRY.—In a lecture on the above subject to the Central Presbyterian Young Men's Association at Belfast, on December 17th, the Rev. R. J. Lynd said, the spirit of chivalry had survived the downfall of that institution, and he could not help thinking that there was as much real chivalry displayed in modern times as ever, and that there exists at the present moment an ever widening field for its exercise. Having vindicated the claims of women to an extension of her privileges, to the right of the franchise, Mr. Lynd said that the Christian religion meant the entire equality of men and women as to rights and responsibilities.

THE PRACTICE OF BANKING, by John Hutchinson.—The *Athenæum* says that Mr. J. Hutchison notices in this volume the effect of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882. He expresses the belief, in which we are glad to join, that the change in the law has simplified many matters in respect of the transactions of married women with their bankers, which have been long-standing subjects of difficulty and anxiety.

EMIGRATION.—On December 15th, a meeting in connection with the Emigration Society was held in Bournemouth, and the Hon. Mrs. Joyce, secretary of the Winchester Branch of the society, after dwelling on some of the general advantages of emigration, gave some figures showing the miserable pittance which women, in particular, earn for certain kinds of work in London and other large cities and towns in this country, and argued that the drudgery and hopelessness of life which this entailed drove many to crime and degradation, and was therefore a means of expense to the ratepayer and the taxpayer. From an economical point of view emigration was therefore to be desired.

MR. JUSTICE PEARSON ON CRIMES OF ASSAULT.—The *Staffordshire Advertiser* of November 10th, recorded a horrible list of felonious assaults against women and little girls. On giving sentence the Judge said,

On the previous day the Court had been turned into a chamber of horrors, and the Court and jury had had to listen to a series of crimes, the details of which were one more abominable than the other. He should be exceedingly sorry to think that this county of Stafford was an exception to all other counties in the country, and that the people of this county were void of natural instincts and of all the instincts which prevailed amongst men who had mothers, sisters and wives, who were fathers and had daughters. But he hardly knew what to think when he looked at the calendar before him; when he had to sit and hear the details of the violation of children of five years, eight years and eleven years of age, of young women hardly grown to womanhood, who had been treated as if they had been mere objects created for the lust of man without any regard whatever to the fact that they were equal beings with men, immortal beings, and the equal of man in all except their inferiority of strength, which ought to make them the objects of protection with the stronger sex. He used no exaggeration when he said he looked upon this class of offence as coming next to murder and nearly as bad as murder.

In two cases the prisoners were sentenced to twenty years penal servitude, and in two others to fifteen years; the others, we regret to say, had only eighteen, twelve, or six calendar months.

WORKSHOP MEETINGS FOR GIRLS.—A meeting of somewhat novel kind was lately held at the warehouse of Messrs. Simpson and Renshaw, in Paternoster Square. The heads of that firm of bookbinders having recognised the importance of adopting some means to counteract the temptations to which their young em-

ployés are naturally exposed, have co-operated with the Young Men's Christian Association in Aldersgate Street for that purpose. The meeting was the first of a series to be held in the workshops of the principal bookbinders. It was in a spacious room at the top of the building, where about 200 girls had tea by invitation of their employers. After tea Mr. Hodder (Hodder and Stoughton) took the chair, and a pleasant evening was spent in listening to the speeches of members of the Young Men's Christian Association. Messrs. Simpson and Renshaw have further shown their interest in the welfare of the girls employed at the warehouse by fitting up kitchens, so that the girls' meals may be cooked and eaten upon the premises.

The *Daily Telegraph* of Nov. 11th, gives the following case of hardship:—

HUSBAND, WIFE, AND MOTHER-IN-LAW.—At the Portsmouth County Court, recently, the judge decided that a man might compel his wife to live with her mother-in-law, though at a distance from himself. The case arose out of a difference that existed between Mr. Vincent, the chief engineer of her Majesty's ship *Bacchante*, and his wife. The parties lived at Portsmouth, and on disagreement arising Mr. Vincent sent his wife to his mother at Grantham, but after twenty months she left and earned her own living. She was no longer able to do so, and claimed support from her husband as the alternative of a home with him, but the judge decided against her.

## FOREIGN NOTES AND NEWS.

### FRANCE.

SOPHIE MENTER, the celebrated pianist has been elected honorary member of the Philharmonic Society of London in place of Wagner, "the first time," the *Citoyenne* says, "this honour has been accorded to a woman."

PARIS.—ANOTHER WOMAN DOCTOR.—Mdlle. Victorine de Chiree has just received her diploma. She is the daughter of a late eminent lawyer of that name. Mdlle. de Chiree is the tenth French lady who has obtained this distinction.

TWO new colleges for girls have been established at Cambrai and Armentieres, and the Government has decided to create a *provisional* lyceum at Bordeaux.

#### ITALY.

SIGNORA ADELE NEGRIN of Vicenza, daughter of a well known architect has for some months been occupied as modeller in the majolica factory at Faenza, belonging to Signor Farini. She gives great satisfaction. She is said to be the first Italian lady engaged in this department of the majolica industry.

THE Committee of the Committees for the extension of the Administrative Suffrage to all citizens, met a few days ago at Naples, and voted in favour of extending it to women. The committee of Treviso has done the same.

THE Society for Mutual Help and Instruction of Genoese Workwomen, presided over by Signora Eleonora Burelli, has just opened a school for its own associates, and also women and girls who are members of similar Societies. A good ordinary education will be given, and also lessons in embroidery, and other female work.—*La Donna*.

A NEW OPERA.—Signora Teresa Guidi Lionetti, has written an opera, *La Rosa di Perona*, which has been represented at Naples with great success. It is to be reproduced at Nice this season.

#### SWEDEN.

MISS ELLEN FRIES has contributed to our knowledge of the diplomatic relations of Sweden and the Netherlands, during the reign of Charles X., an academical thesis, which is particularly notable from the circumstance of its having for the first time in this country, procured an authoress the degree of Doctor Philosophie.—*Athenæum*.

IN the *Westminster Gazette*, Miss Muller thus describes some of the work done in Sweden by women. "A Swedish lady has devoted much time and energy to the reformation of the marriage laws, which appear to be almost as oppressive to married women as our own. It was through her influence that a Bill was brought before their Parliament during the last session with this view. It was, however rejected by a large majority. This lady is also interested in bringing home to women the importance of duly and carefully exercising the municipal vote. No doubt in the course of time a women ratepayers' association will be formed for this purpose. . . .

"A visit to the chief bank in Stockholm was very novel; it was officered by women, as are all the banks there except one. The lady to whom I spoke a few words, had been twenty years in the bank, and had gradually risen to her present very responsible, well-paid position. The highest places are open to them. The reasons generally assigned for the employment of women in banks were that they were satisfied with a somewhat smaller salary, and that experience proved them to be more conscientious than men in the discharge of their

duties. It is found that lady clerks do not 'disappear' with large sums of money, after the fashion of some bank clerks of the male gender. In England there is, of course, a prejudice against employing women in responsible situations, but when experience shows them to be more fit for the responsibility, it is a prejudice which costs rather dear, as those interested in several English banks have probably learnt lately."

#### RUSSIA.

A hospital for Mussulman women, presided over exclusively by Russian female doctors, has been established by General Tcherniaeff at Tashkend. This is the first time that Russian women have been admitted to separate and independent medical practice.—*Women's Journal*.

A petition, signed by many proprietors and farmers of the province of Tver, was lately presented, asking that the medical classes for women might be reopened. A large proportion of the signatures are peasants, who urge the great and indisputable services that women doctors have rendered in country districts. Similar petitions have been sent from many other provinces.

KIEV.—The higher education classes for women have now been open five years in Kiev. During this time 815 women have attended the classes, the greater part belonged to the province, but some came from the Caucasus, Siberia, Bulgaria, and even from Austria.

#### UNITED STATES.

KENTUCKY.—In Louisville there is a school of pharmacy for women, where they are thoroughly educated as practical apothecaries. A physician gives testimony to their delicacy of manipulation, and accuracy and neatness in a multitude of details.

NEBRASKA.—A new paper, the *Woman's Tribune*, was commenced last August in Beatrice, Nebraska. The editor is Mrs. Clara B. Colby, who rendered such important services in the Nebraska suffrage campaign last year. Her ability and energy give a sure guarantee of the success of this paper, and the ultimate triumph of her cause in Nebraska.

VERMONT.—Vermont has two women acting as mail carriers.

WASHINGTON.—The first coloured student to receive her diploma as a law student has just graduated from the law school of the Howard University in Washington.

IOWA.—Miss Abbie O. Caulfield has been nominated as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Iowa.

LOUISIANA.—A lady, Miss Annie M. Gulick stood highest in the civil service examination at New Orleans, and was appointed record clerk in the money order division of the post office.

CONGRESS has already appointed a Woman's Suffrage Committee in the Senate, consisting of Messrs. Lapham, Anthony, Blair, Palmer, Fair, Jones of Florida, and Brown.

#### CANADA.

The City Council of Toronto has decided by a majority of three-fourths to petition the Legislature in favour of granting municipal and Parliamentary franchise to women.

The citizens of Ottawa have petitioned the Government in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

A school of medicine for women was opened on the 2nd ult, in Kingston, Canada, when Dr. Lowell addressed the students. Three scholarships have been founded, and the prospects of the school as a separate institution are good. A guarantee fund of 7,000 dollars has been raised.

GREAT difficulty is, it is said, being experienced just now in Nova Scotia, in the securing of female labour, though the wages of girls expert in knitting range from £1 to £1 5s. per week, and proportionately in other trades employing such labour. Reports from Halifax declare it to be almost impossible to obtain a capable servant girl.

#### INDIA.

#### A WOMAN'S HOSPITAL AT BOMBAY.

Our Bombay Correspondent, describing the proceedings following the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, particularises the laying of the foundation-stone of the Cama Hospital. This hospital is to be so called after the public-spirited Parsee gentleman (Mr. Pestonjee Hornansjee Cama), who has presented the city with Rs. 1,20,000 (equivalent to about £10,000) to defray the cost of the building. The institution is intended for the treatment of women and children, and Mr. Cama's gift is the outcome of the project for introducing trained medical women into India. The new hospital will be a worthy addition to the many fine public buildings which adorn the Bombay esplanade. The style of the design is mediæval Gothic, and the institution will be of sufficient size to accommodate forty-two patients, besides affording room for attendants, &c. There was a large and brilliant gathering, including numerous Parsee ladies in their bright silk and satin *sarees*, and wearing glittering jewels. In an address to the Duke, inviting his Royal Highness to lay the stone, which was read by his nephew, Mr. K. R. Cama, the donor explained the object of his gift as follows:—"The women of India, it is well known, have long been sufferers in consequence of the general repugnance on their part to be placed under the medical treatment of male practitioners for the cure of diseases peculiar to their sex. Happily, however, women have been of late admitted into the ranks of the medical profession in Europe, and about nine months ago a movement was set on foot in this city to bring out well-qualified ladies from England for medical practice among women and children. When Mr. Cama heard of this movement, he wrote to its originators offering the sum of Rs. 1,00,000, afterwards increased to Rs. 1,20,000, in aid of a hospital building exclusively devoted for the benefit of sick women and children of all sections of the people. The offer having been communicated to Government, was accepted.

. . . It is hoped that under the auspices of Government the chief medical college of the Presidency will soon open its doors for the admission and instruction of female pupils up to the highest standard, and thus give effect to the liberal-minded resolution recently passed by the Bombay University, expressive of its willingness to grant diplomas for the practice of medicine and surgery to duly-qualified women in the same way as such degrees have hitherto been granted



to male candidates. In the event of Government being pleased to grant the additional boon now hoped for, it is Mr. Cama's intention to offer an endowment of Rs. 25,000 for the purpose of founding stipendiary scholarships and prizes for the advancement of female students, native or European, attending the college." Mr. Cama concluded by calling the Duke's attention to an inscription in ancient Persian emblazoned on a screen, which he translated:—"May Ahur-mazd (God) be your friend, may your progeny be numerous and may you live long."

The DUKE replied—Mr. Cama, I have acceded with the greatest possible pleasure to your request, conveyed and recommended to me by the Governor, that I would lay the foundation-stone of the hospital for the treatment of women and children which will owe its existence to your benevolence and public spirit. I have only one expression of regret to make, which is that, by an unforeseen accident, I have been unable to lay the stone with Masonic honours, which I would otherwise so gladly have done. The introduction of female medical practitioners into India is calculated to afford a needful relief to classes which have hitherto been almost entirely deprived of medical and surgical aid. I am glad to know that the Governments of the Indian Presidencies are encouraging and assisting this movement, and that the Government of Bombay have promised to place both this hospital and a dispensary in connection with it under the sole charge of female practitioners as soon as qualified ladies shall be available for the purpose. It affords me much gratification that my first public act in India should be performed on behalf of so excellent an object, one which Her Majesty the Empress will most highly approve of, and which is in accordance with the sympathies of the Royal Family. I wish the hospital of which I have now to lay the foundation-stone an enduring and extending career of usefulness.

On the reopening of the Madras Medical College in October, upwards of fifty new students were enrolled for the current session in the Senior Department, and among these were three lady students.

THE Agra Medical School has been opened to women. A small class of native women who hold scholarships is now in session. Under certain conditions private students may have access to all the lectures, and after a three years course may be graduated.

#### SWITZERLAND.

THE first public meeting of the Swiss Temperance Society has just taken place at Berne. The society has been expressly formed to check the rapid spread of drunkenness in Switzerland. It is composed of 2,884 members, 997 being women. Plans were submitted and approved for active operations on the part of the society.

*The Editor would be greatly obliged if any friend or correspondent who does not bind past numbers, could spare a copy of August, 1883, as the edition is exhausted, and applications for it are still received.*

## “The Salvation Army in Switzerland,”

By Mrs. JOSEPHINE E. BUTLER.

*Price, 4s. 6d.*

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MRS. BUTLER raises a warning voice against the tyranny of police rule . . . . The action of the Swiss branch of the Evangelical Alliance, and that of the French “Inner Mission” towards the Salvation Army are exposed, as also the letter of Mdme. de Gasbarin. There seems something strangely ridiculous in the measures so gravely taken by these Swiss authorities, as if the safety of the State had been imperilled by the appearance of two English girls preaching repentance. Without expressing any opinion about the work of the Salvation Army we recommend to our readers Mrs. Butler’s book. As a work on Switzerland it is valuable, but still more as one on religious effort, religious liberty, and some dangers to which Christian civilization is exposed in these days.—*Leeds Mercury.*

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"S' il y a une question au monde dans laquelle il soit nécessaire de voir clair et de ne pas se payer de mots, c'est celle-ci ; c'est une question de vie ou de mort." ('L'Ouvrière,' By Jules Simon. Page ix.)

"A certain man hath said, 'Withstand the beginning ; after remedies come too late,' " (Thomas à Kempis, Lib. i. cap. 13.)

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