

## Ladies' Department.

**WOMAN'S CAUSE IN BRITAIN.**—The progress of the agitation for extension of the Parliamentary suffrage to women, is very encouraging. Influential journals and prominent statesmen are, in many cases, acknowledging that there are no logical reasons for debarring ladies from this *right*, and that as far as any sentimental considerations exist in reference to their exercise of it, they are best qualified and entitled to decide for themselves. We subjoin a few extracts that show the tenor of public opinion on this point.

There are no reasonable grounds for the present state of the law relating to the unenfranchised women-householders. How is the recording of a vote, say, once in five years, to affect a woman's household duties? Will a drive in a cab from her house to the polling station, and the making of a mark opposite the name of her favorite candidate, so upset her intellectual equilibrium and excite her finely threaded nervous system, that from that time to the election, five years hence, she would spoil all the puddings and serve the meat half cooked—have her house tosy-turvy—and leave her children to go in rags and tatters for the want of a darn or a patch, till she becomes a reproach rather than a credit to the circle in which she moves? We might think so, if some arguments were given credence to. But no; the arguments against it are—shall we say it?—Conservative in their character. Though taken up by Liberals most strongly this is not a party question at all, and 'twere a pity if party spirit should enter into the matter to its detriment. Both Conservative and Liberal members of Parliament have given their warm and decided opinion that the Women's Suffrage Bill is one which in common justice ought to be passed into law.—*Grantham Post*.

The adoption in recent years of the method of Comparative Zoology is supposed to have done great things for modern science in the department of Natural History. Let us hope that the approaching debate by forcing on the Legislature some analogous process of comparison between the different claimants to an extending suffrage will effect a parallel advance in Politics. Hitherto the removal of the disabilities of women has been argued in Parliament as an abstract problem, not by comparing the female sex with other claimants to the same privileges, but treating it as if its appearance upon the stage bore no relation to any previous entry, and must be judged as if there were only two classes politically speaking in existence; namely, Man invested with all rights and powers, and Woman asking, for the first time in history, to be allowed to share them. Now it will be hard if our advocates do not compel the most obtuse of our opponents to remember that it is not by any means *all* men who now possess or have ever possessed political rights, even in our free country, but that one section of the male community after another has been admitted into the pale of the constitution; and that the point has now been reached when comparison must be instituted between the last class of male claimants and the female claimants who, side by side, ask admittance. When it comes to comparing the class of women who possess the present property qualification (from the millionaire heiress to her laundress) with the agricultural labourer, whose demand for a vote will certainly be conceded, we need be under no particular apprehension either on the scores of intelligence or of moral fitness. The Tea-drinking and the Beer-drinking constituencies may be safely left to vie in their selection of trustworthy senators for the British nation.—*Women's Suffrage Journal*.

In the course of the debate on the Durham Sunday Closing Bill, the HOME SECRETARY (Sir W. Harcourt) said: The hon. member for Bridgeport had cast contumely upon the petitions which had been presented to the House, and asserted that many of those who signed them were women. If there was one class more than another more entitled to express an opinion on this subject, it was the women—(hear, hear)—and if they were in favour of the measure, he knew of no stronger argument that could be brought forward.—*Ex*.

**TOO LATE.**—The learned Dr. Dionysius Lardner, in 1837, proved conclusively in an English Quarterly Review, that a steamer *could not* cross the Atlantic. But just as the article appeared the Sirius steamed into New York harbor.

Those opponents are born a generation too late. They are behind the age. While the scientists are measuring craniums, girls are proving their intellectual equality in two hundred American Colleges established on the principle of co-education. They are

taking first-class honors in England, in Oxford, Cambridge and London Universities. Oberlin settled that question for America for five years ago. The example has been followed by Cornell, and Boston, and John Hopkins and Wesleyan and Bates, and the Institute of Technology, and the State Universities of Maine, Vermont, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, California, etc. Colleges exclusively for young men are already the exceptions. A majority of the teachers of our schools are women.

So, while some are still proclaiming the subordination of women as divinely ordained, laws and constitutions are being changed in the direction of equality. When the work is complete it will be claimed as a new application of the principles of Christianity. In Great Britain unmarried women and widows already vote on all municipal questions upon the same terms as men. In the Isle of Man they vote also for members of Parliament. In Wyoming all women have been voting for the past twelve years on all questions upon which men vote. Yet the home is not disrupted. Society is improved. Marriages still made. Children are born and reared. Governors, judges, editors, clergymen, lawyers, physicians, republicans, and democrats testify to the beneficial results. In twelve States women now vote on school questions. Soon they will vote on all questions everywhere. The arguments of our opponents, like Dr. Lardner's, came too late.—*Sel*.

Many of our good men earnestly desire now that the women be given the ballot, so that they may assist in the destruction of the rum traffic. Of all the curses that afflict this fair land, intemperance is the worst. It's a shame for a man to sell it, drink it, or vote for it. God help us to destroy it, root and branch, and while we work, don't let us forget to pray with earnestness that God will give us victory.—*Home Protection Monthly*.

When woman gets the ballot, away with intemperance and monopolies. Woman is called the weaker vessel, but when questions which affect the human family come up, she becomes the stronger, and will every time vote to break up the powers that are trampling upon their rights. You can trust a woman to protect her own interest and that of her children, but poor, weak man has to be led around by the apron strings of old mother Party. Poor man, he is too weak to break the chains that are binding him. Our word for it, woman will do it when she gets the right to vote.—*Ex*.

What woman has done in the family, the true unit of our political structure, may well stand as the exponent of what she will accomplish in the larger function of the State. As a question of abstract right or relative right, there is no room for discussion about it.—*Ex*.

We must continually insist that to take up the book, woman does not necessarily lay down the broom, and to carry onward a triumph, by our own precepts and examples, we have the glorious motto; "Womanliness first; afterwards what you will."—*Francis E. Willard*.

The Bank of France employs 160 female clerks, who receive 60 cents a day to begin with, and after a year or two an annual salary of \$360. They sit in rooms apart from the men, are superintended by officials of their own sex, and their work is of the best quality.—*Tribune*.

In the Cambridge mathematical tripos this year a Girton girl is placed in the list between the 20th and 21st wranglers. Three ladies are senior optimes and one is junior optimes.

John Greenleaf Whittier, the poet, and one of the trustees of Brown University, hopes the time is not far distant when the doors of that institution will be opened to women.

Tennessee has now one lady superintendent of schools.

**HOME GOVERNMENT.**—Of errors in education, one of the worst is inconsistency. As in a community, crimes multiply when there is no certain administration of justice; so in a family, an increase of transgressions results from a hesitating or irregular infliction of punishment. A weak mother, who perpetually threatens and rarely performs—who makes rules in haste and repents of them at leisure—who treats the same offence now with severity and now with leniency, as the passing humour dictates, is laying up miseries for herself and her children. She is making herself contemptible in their eyes; she is setting them an example of uncontrolled feelings; she is encouraging them to transgress by the prospect of probable impunity; she is entailing endless squabbles and accompanying damage to her own temper and the tempers of her little ones.