

and quinquennial Parliaments. A quinquennial Parliament, which should last its full term, would be scarcely less disadvantageous than a septennial Parliament which dissolved a year before its necessary dissolution. The triennial Parliament offers, on the whole, the fewest disadvantages; and, there is little doubt, would result in stimulation of interest in politics, and in more rapid political progress than we now experience.

It is notable that during the sixty years that have elapsed since the Reform Bill of 1832, there have been just twenty Parliaments, their average duration having been three years.

Among projected ELECTORAL REFORMS, perhaps the widest in its scope is that of MANHOOD SUFFRAGE. This amounts to the simplification of the complicated system of franchises* which exists at present, to the abolition of all property qualifications, to the abolition of plural voting, and to the abolition of Parliamentary seats for representatives of the Universities. Of less extensive range than Manhood Suffrage is the "ONE MAN ONE VOTE" franchise. This involves no alteration in the system of franchises, save the prevention of plural voting. An EQUAL PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE FOR MEN AND WOMEN is the logical sequence to the extension of the municipal franchise to women. The attitude of Mr. Gladstone upon the women's suffrage question is liable to misinterpretation. Enthusiasts for the enfranchisement of women are not likely to remain under the stigma of a charge of supineness. When the demand for women suffrage is sufficiently demonstratively made, it is quite certain that the demand will be met.

Associated with this class of proposed electoral reforms is the urgently needed AMENDMENT OF THE REGISTRATION LAWS. The twelve months' residential qualification results in the disfranchisement of a large number of persons, the nature of whose employment is such as to involve comparatively frequent changes of residence. The diminution of the period of residence to three months, and even also

* There are seven different forms of franchise.