

duce them into the contest of our Parliamentary system, to bring them under the necessity of canvassing themselves or being canvassed by others. I think they would lose much of that, or some of that which is the best that they now possess, and that they would gain no good of any kind from being mingled or mixed with Parliamentary contests and the polling-booth. I should vote for this measure if I were voting solely in the interests of the men. I shall vote against it I believe with perfect honesty, believing in doing so that I am serving the interests of women themselves. I recollect that an hon. member who voted for this Bill last year, in conversation with me next day said that, though he did so, he had very great doubts upon the matter, because he believed that the best women were against it. Well, Sir, I find also, wherever I go, that all the best women seem to be against this Bill. If the House believes that it cannot deal justly for our mothers, our sisters, our wives and our daughters, the House may abdicate and pass this Bill, but I believe that Parliament cannot be otherwise—unless it be in ignorance—cannot be otherwise than just to the women of this country, with whom we are so intimately allied. Believing that, and having these doubts—doubts which are stronger even than I have been able to express, and doubts which have come upon me stronger and stronger the more I have considered this question, I am obliged, differing from some of those whom I care for and whom I love, to give my vote in opposition to this measure.

The following correspondence, which appeared in the *London Times* January 7th, 1889, may be regarded as a sort of sequel to the foregoing speech:—

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES."

SIR,—It is not, I think, generally known that Mr. John Bright is opposed to the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. As it appears improbable that the venerable statesman