

21 JAN 1869

accept the sincere expression of our gratitude and sympathy,
I am, dear sir, yours very sincerely,
PRISCILLA McLAREN, President.

J. S. MILL, Esq.

AVIGNON, Dec. 12, 1868.

DEAR MADAM: Few things could be more gratifying to me than the letter with which I have been honored by you and your committee, and I beg you to accept and to convey to the committee my warmest acknowledgments.

Of all my recollections connected with the House of Commons, that of my having had the honor of being the first to make the claim of women to the suffrage a parliamentary question is the most gratifying, as I believe it to have been the most important public service that circumstances made it in my power to render. This is now a thing accomplished, and the cause has a sufficient number of supporters among the best men in the House of Commons to carry on as much of the contest as can be conducted there. It remains for the intelligent women of the country to give their moral support to the men who are engaged in urging their claims, and to open the minds of the less intelligent to the fact that political freedom is the only effectual remedy for the evils which most women are conscious that women suffer. Whatever power I may have to promote this cause outside the House of Commons, I shall not fail to exert to the utmost.

Your expression of sympathy with my feelings, and approbation of my conduct on the subject of the Jamaica atrocities, are peculiarly grateful to me, for it has been with especial sorrow that I have seen so many women cold and unmoved at the recitals of sufferings which it might have been supposed would at least have aroused some womanly pity and generous indignation against the perpetrators. It is peculiarly among women, who are not aware that it is their duty to use their intelligence on matters of politics, that the severest condemnation of Mr. Eyre and his instruments should have been found: for if such women had possessed the warmth of heart which all women ought to have, their feelings would have revolted at the tortures inflicted, and they would have considered the reasonings by which these were attempted to be palliated as beyond their province. As it is, the conduct of so many among them has afforded one more evidence that the renunciation of masculine intelligence gives no security for womanly kindness.

I am, dear Madam, very sincerely yours,

J. S. MILL.

Mrs. McLAREN, Newington House, Edinburg.

EQUAL RIGHTS IN OHIO.

The friends of Equal Rights in Cincinnati have, during the past month, organized themselves into a society. The following is their

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

First.—This organization shall be known as the Ohio State Equal Rights Association.

Second.—We hold that all persons—male and female—are endowed in their creation with the right of life and its attendant blessings, viz.: Liberty, the profits of whatever their minds conceive or hands produce, and the free exercise of all their faculties and powers, not infringing upon the same inherent rights of others.

Third.—But, as these natural rights, by the usurpations of tyrants, and the establishment of unjust, cruel and oppressive governments, have been in all ages and all countries, trampled upon, curtailed, or entirely withheld from the many and confined to a favored few; and this being also the case in regard to the mother country, our forefathers, smarting under oppression, and conceiving and daring to maintain their rights, inaugurated a successful Revolution, and established our government, virtually upon the inherent and inalienable rights of humanity; but they, doubtless, started at their own temerity, in making such a sweeping innovation upon all other governments in existence, failed to carry out their own beautifully expressed declarations; and, in direct conflict therewith, established or permitted slavery—the sum of all villainies, and worst form of despotism; and further, they also politically ignored the existence of woman, not allowing her the right of suffrage, or any voice in their government. We, therefore, as American citizens, believing that all just governments are founded upon the consent of the governed, and that all citizens are entitled to all their natural rights, among which we include the right of Suffrage, claim and demand that the ballot should be given to woman; and, not only so, but that all qualifications in regard to suffrage, shall be im-

partial, applying equally to all citizens, of either sex, or of whatever race.

Fourth.—As all experience hath shown that the rich cannot be trusted to make laws for the poor, nor one race to legislate for another, so man is not qualified and cannot be trusted to make laws for woman; and, therefore, in order that all laws shall be impartial and equally beneficial to all, there should be no class legislation, nor one sex be allowed to make laws for the other, but that all should take part in the elections and through officers of their choice have a voice in making the laws by which they are to be governed.

Fifth.—As woman—especially as mother, wife and widow—has suffered great injustice and cruelty, from the laws made by man, therefore, it is of the highest importance that the ballot should be placed immediately in her hands, as the only safeguard against unjust and cruel laws.

Sixth.—Until the word male shall be stricken from every constitution in the land, and the conditions of suffrage become impartial and universal, in the broadest sense, so as to include both sexes, we must not expect, and cannot have true peace, harmony and prosperity.

Seventh.—Believing, also, that the enforcement of the principles enunciated in this "Declaration of Principles" is of vital importance to the welfare of the Republic, and absolutely necessary for the preservation of our liberties; therefore, in order to secure "Equal Rights," we have organized this Association, not as a distinct political party, but hoping that we shall in a short time become sufficiently powerful to control both the democratic and republican parties and force a recognition by each, pledging ourselves that we will sustain no person for any office not clearly pledged to Woman Suffrage; and reserving the right in case of failure to accomplish our object in this manner, to organize an Equal Rights party, and commence separate political action.

The following committee was appointed to report at the next meeting:

Mrs. E. V. Barnes, Mrs. M. H. Leavitt, Mr. Geo. Kates, Mr. Peter H. Clark, Mrs. Jennifer, Mrs. S. Barnes, Dr. J. Wadsworth.

SOROSIS.

From the New York World of Jan. 5.

REPORT ON HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The following report of the Committee of Hospitals in this and other states, was read by Dr. Anna Dinsmore.

The first regular meeting of the Committee on Hospitals and Asylums was held at the residence of Dr. Anna Dinsmore, 163 West Twenty-first street, on Saturday, December 17, at 4 p.m. The names of Mrs. C. B. Wilbur and Mrs. Horace Greeley were added to the list of members. In order to facilitate the work of investigation and rapid gathering of statistics, each member present volunteered to explore certain localities at once, and report to the Chairman as soon as possible. The results thus far are as follows: In New York city, expectant mothers out of wedlock are admitted gratuitously into but few institutions. The obstetrical ward of Bellevue Hospital is open to them, and upon leaving, if they do not desire to take their babies, the little ones are transferred to Ward's Island to be cared for and wet-nursed by mothers as much disgraced as their own, and perchance far more wicked. At a suitable age the children are taught trades, the girls as well as the boys, and if not claimed by their mothers they are, as soon as capable, sent out to earn their livelihood. A large proportion, however, die in early infancy. Two or three years ago 90 to 95 per cent of the entire number of infants (averaging, I believe, some 300 in the wards, died in their first year, but this excessive mortality has been materially lessened by the employment of some fifty wet-nurses. In the year 1867 the rate of mortality had decreased to 70 per cent. The Commissioners of Charities and Correction are now erecting a public hospital for those motherless babes on Randall's Island. When completed their old quarters on Ward's Island will be vacated.

The hospital and infirmary for women and children, situated on Second avenue near Eighty-sixth street, Dr. Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell in charge, admit married women for accouchement gratuitously if unable to pay, who are known to have been heretofore respectable. No provision is made for the babes.

The Child's Nursery and Hospital, on Fifty-first street, admits unmarried women, if they can comply with the law, viz., \$20 in advance for the confinement fee, and a sum of \$5 per week, prior to and succeeding per-nient effort. If disposed, she can cancel this debt by

wet-nursing three months for the benefit of the institution.

The babes are cared for at a charge of \$10 per month. The Woman's Hospital, on Forty-ninth street and Fourth avenue, has no lying-in-department. The Lying-in-Hospital, No. 89 Marion street, admits only such women as can bring good references and a marriage certificate.

In Philadelphia, Blacky Almshouse offers the principle refuge for unmarried mothers not able to pay for private accommodation. The Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia declines to receive them on any terms.

In Providence, Pittsburg, and Chicago the almshouses are the only shelter provided for indigent, or deserted unfortunates. In Detroit a few ladies have made some effort to found a home for the abandoned babes, but as yet with but limited success.

Massachusetts has taken the initiative in endeavoring to found a desirable home for these poor waifs and with an encouraging degree of success. The enterprise is still young and of limited capacity, but the results thus far have been even more satisfactory than the incorporators had dared to hope.

Through Professor Freeman Sprout Cook, of the N. E. F. Medical College, I learned the following particulars, concerning it: The institution is known as the Massachusetts Infant Asylum. It was incorporated May 15, 1867, by the Legislature of Massachusetts, "for the purpose of assisting and providing for deserted and destitute infant children." It does not wish to be considered a foundling hospital, and differs from them in the fact that it does not receive all infants who may be presented, but reserves the right of entrance to such children as may in their judgment have a stronger or more rightful claim upon their charity. It differs also in the fact of limiting the children under one roof, not designing to aggregate more than thirty together, at one time. They divide the children whom they design to serve into three classes: 1. "Foundlings whose parents are unknown;" 2. "Infants deserted by their known parents, or left orphans;" 3. "Infant children, whose mothers are unable to support them entirely, but who can assist either in caring or providing for them." They design engaging healthy wet-nurses for the babes to such extent as they can, but do not expect to provide each babe with a separate one. They propose as fast as possible to send the children out to nurse, and get them into families either by adoption or paying their board, as is the custom in France and Scotland and to some extent, in England and Ireland. This home is located in Dorchester, quite near Boston, and is supported by subscription and donations. An annual subscription of \$3 entitles a person to membership with a right of voting in its meetings. A subscription of \$50 constitutes a life member, of whom several have been obtained. Another class of subscribers paying less than \$3 per year, are called *helpers*. The first babe was brought to the home on the 18th April, 1867, since which time fourteen have been admitted between the ages of five weeks and sixteen months. Out of this number six were brought by the mothers and given to the asylum. (Of the remaining eight, one is the child of a wet nurse, the others having servants. When brought to the establishment most of the children gave large evidence of neglect, some were suffering from want of nourishment, and all suffering more or less from various maladies. Only one infant has been discharged, and of the thirteen remaining at the house, eleven are nursing from the bottle, four taking milk alone, and three taking wheat or barley groats mixed with it. All are thriving. The house contains four nurseries and a day nursery. Each bed is arranged for four children and a nurse. Trinity Church furnished the day nursery, King Chapel furnished one, the Arlington street Church, Bedford street Church, and the Catholics of Boston each one. Dr. Putnam's society in Roxbury, furnished the upstairs room; Dr. Thompson's society at Jamaica Plain, the kitchen; the dining room and nurses' room by King's Chapel, and the laundry by contributions in Cambridge; other parts of the house by contributions from different societies and individuals. They have received some \$10,000, and have between \$4,000 and \$5,000 on hand. Some twenty ladies and three or four gentlemen are enrolled as directors. The admitting committee contains the names of three persons—two ladies and one gentleman. There are two attending and three consulting physicians, two of whom are ladies. The President is Dr. Samuel Cabot of Boston, a gentleman ranking high in the profession of medicine and worthy of a large place in the confidence of the public.

We should be very thankful to see this one little step in the right direction, and pray earnestly for its success, yet we can but realize the while, and keenly, its inadequacy to meet the requirements of the cause it espouses.

21 JAN 1889

The Revolution.

The very limited check upon the growing crime of infanticide which this small movement would be capable of exercising, must awaken earnest convictions in the heart of every true woman that there is a field of labor opening up to her from which she cannot recede without outraging both conscience and womanhood. When we think of the despair that must sink deep into the soul of an erring woman in her dark hour of trial, as the stern hand fast forces itself with chilling intensity upon her spirit, that the babe she has passed through such overwhelming agony to evolve will be to her but the passport of exclusion from every hearth and home, from every friend, from every social privilege, from every honorable position, we can no longer wonder that the promptings of maternity are sometimes driven back to their source—that the brain reels—that the mother ceases for a time to be human, because of our inhumanity, and that a little life is so often immolated on its shrine. Where lies the deepest blame? We hear it urged that if asylums were erected for the promiscuous admittance of all infants presented, the birth of illegitimate children would be largely increased, that the only effectual check upon its almost overwhelming advance lies in wholesome dread of the penalty—ostracism and lasting disgrace. This may in part be true, but not for the reasons advanced. Women as a class are not so utterly lost to principle and womanly instincts as this assertion implies. More children might for a time be born, but fewer souls would be stained with the crime of abortion, now become one of the most prominent demoralizing features in American life. The poor unfortunate candidate for motherhood nearly always grasp eagerly for this supposed immunity from guilt—in her ignorance thanking God that deliverance from tangible proof of her misfortune or sin came without bloodshed, and that she is free to recommence life without the dreaded millstone about her neck. We believe that the organization of well conducted institutions for the reception of babes born alive would materially lessen the crime of infanticide, by rendering it possible for young mothers out of wedlock to resume their place in society, and to command reputable employment when needed—and all unmarried mothers are not included in the class needing to labor I need not remind you. The most advantageous manner of conducting such institutions is a matter for serious consideration and much deliberate thought, but with a knowledge of the causes that have modified their usefulness in other countries—prominent among which is the too close aggregation of the little beings and a vicious system of wet-nursing—we can scarcely fail to avoid many if not most of their errors. Women in the lowest scale of human life, thoroughly unprincipled and much diseased, not unfrequently act in the capacity of temporary mothers, and thus contaminate every mental, moral, and physical development of the child. In our next report I shall hope to present you a reliable account of the different foundling hospitals in Europe, and the principles upon which they are conducted, together with such plan or plans as the committee as a whole may desire to bring forward with the view of rendering our work thoroughly practical.

I cannot close without saying a single word more on the crime of abortion, now so frightfully prevalent, and to ask you each and severally to stretch out a helping, saving hand in this direction, that its suppression may to some extent at least be accomplished. It is only through ignorance that it has become such a wide-spread evil. But few women, even among the educated and intelligent, realize that the embryo child is imbued with the life element prior to the moment when its physical movements become conscious to her. No greater error exists; if lifeless, it could no more become developed into the hungry, breathing child, than could the lifeless seed of a plant or flower spring up and ultimately bud and blossom. The living principle is there from the first moment of fecundation, and should be fostered and nourished and brought into the world in every instance that conception takes place—at no period can it be interfered with, from the first to the last moment of *utero* life, without tampering with a life that God alone can give.

THE WORLD says: Massachusetts is ashamed, it not shocked, at the spread of infanticide in that state, and Dr. Storer and others have done good service in rousing the moral sense of the State to a common crime, which is fast continuing the sole increase in population to the foreign-born and foreign-descended citizens of Massachusetts. Philadelphia is alarmed at the increase of infanticide in that city—the statistics of the year 1868, showing 94 cases of child-murder against 66 in 1867. Of these, the case of alleged infanticide by Hester Vaughan is the only one which attracted public attention, though

the exhibition by the coroner now prompts the Philadelphia papers to urge some legislative action which will tend to lessen the slaughter of children by their mothers.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 19th, 1868.

THE address to Mr. Gladstone on his rejection by the constituency of south-east Lancashire, which I mentioned last week, was signed by above four thousand women of the country and presented a few days ago.

Mr. J. S. Mill's absence in the new Parliament will be a great loss to our cause in the legislature, but we have his constant counsel and aid in our agitation. In an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, on the English elections, a letter from Mr. Mill has been published in which he ascribes his defeat to three circumstances. 1. The greater skill of his opponents, which was only to be expected, since the operations of a business man in his own interests are likely to be better arranged than those of a committee of amateurs. 2. The large amount of money at the disposal of the Conservatives, while the Liberals were compelled to maintain the most rigid economy. 3. The hostility of the vestrymen and other local notabilities who were displeased by his attempt to reform the municipal government of the metropolis. Mr. Mill adds that he has little cause to lament his defeat, seeing the success of the Liberal party generally. Moreover, it is more to his taste to exercise his influence as a writer than as a member of Parliament.

Miss Carpenter has arrived in Bombay, and a committee of native gentlemen has been appointed to assist her in promoting the education of women. This co-operation of the better class of natives is a very hopeful feature in her enterprise. A relative of Miss Carpenter's, who went to see her off, when she was leaving England, was struck with the number of parties assembled at the railway station for the same object. Some of her first greetings on landing at Bombay were from native gentlemen, and now they are actively assisting her in her work on behalf of their wives and daughters. She has decided on remaining in that city, and the government has gladly accepted an offer she has made of her services in connection with the new Normal Schools for women. The native press has also welcomed her very warmly. She was to explain her views at a large public meeting to be held in Bombay on the afternoon of the day on which the mail left.

You will be pleased to learn that twelve of our new ministers of state, with the Lord Chancellor at the head of them, are favorable to the property rights of married women. Committees in support of Mr. Shaw Lefevre's bill are being formed in the principal towns, and they will set to work next month in readiness for the meeting of Parliament, which is to take place on the 11th of February.

Our new cabinet minister, the Right Honorable John Bright, who is President of the Board of Trade, is such a favorite on your side of the water, that I think you will be interested in the following bits of Windsor gossip, on "the very best authority," respecting him and his "Chief":

The Queen's private reception of her new Prime Minister was so gracious, so kind, even so affectionate was the word used, as to overwhelm him with feelings of the warmest gratitude. Nothing could have more lightened his recent toils, or cheered him more thoroughly in the

happily few difficulties he has had to contend with in forming the administration. We understand that on Mr. Gladstone mentioning to her Majesty that he intended, with her permission, to offer a seat in the cabinet to the member for Birmingham, the Queen said it would afford her the greatest satisfaction if Mr. Bright should consent to serve the crown—that she had read his speeches with great pleasure, and that she was under the greatest obligation to him for the many kind words he had spoken of her, especially for a speech he made about two years ago, in a great meeting in St. James's Hall, when Mr. Ayrton cast some reproach upon her for living so long in retirement and neglecting what he termed her duties to society. Mr. Bright had then warmly vindicated her, and said that "the Queen, who had the humane tenderness to nurture in her breast a noble sorrow, was not the woman to be wanting in regard or affection for her people." When Mr. Bright went to Windsor to take the oaths of office, the Queen showed her delicate consideration for him in a very marked way. She sent Mr. Helps, the Clerk to the Privy Council, to assure him that if it was more agreeable to his feelings to omit the ceremony of kneeling or kissing hands, he was quite at liberty to do so. Mr. Bright availed himself of this permission, and was kindly and cordially received by the Queen who took occasion, in the most marked manner, to express her gratification at meeting him. It was afterwards intimated to Mr. Bright that the Princess Royal of Prussia, who is now on a visit with her mother, had expressed a desire that he should be presented to her. This was done, and the Princess heartily assured Mr. Bright that she greatly desired to be acquainted with him—that she herself and all the members of the royal family were greatly indebted to him for the way in which he had spoken of their mother. She herself, she said, had read all his speeches, and was very much pleased to see him. Mr. Bright replied in very graceful terms, and said if her Royal Highness would permit him, he would tell her what the late Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister, when last in London, said of her to him—"that wherever the Crown Princess went she shed sunshine over all her path." Mr. Bright was much gratified with the cordial reception and the genial greetings he received at Windsor.

The Princess Royal, as they still call her, is, to use a homely phrase, her father's own daughter in her sympathies with liberality and human progress in the highest sense of the term. She is interested in the Woman Question, and has advanced views upon it as well as on social, educational and theological subjects. I may mention, in connection with this last subject, the telegram forwarded lately from Windsor during the centenary celebration of the birth of Schliermacher, which occurred during the present visit of the Crown Princess and her husband to the Queen. In all the capitals and Universities of Germany this birthday, November 21st, has been celebrated by speeches, liturgies and the performance of sacred music. The solemnities originated with the moderate Liberal party. At the Berlin meeting many of the most renowned followers of Schliermacher assembled from all parts of Germany to address a numerous and select audience on the merits of their spiritual predecessor. The following is the telegram sent to the Burgomaster and Town Council of Berlin on the 21st ult.:

"Away from home we desire to give the Burgomaster and Town Council a proof of our sympathy in the cele-