

axes and attacked them, forcing them to surrender their arms, and then stationed them around the town for safe keeping. After they had taken the fort and the 250 prisoners, they confined the latter in the Governor's establishment. Then followed a great battle with the newly arrived troops. Every man and boy over thirteen years of age was away fighting—no one could be spared to guard the prisoners. They were just breaking out to fire the town when the women in desperation rose again, killed every man of them, and threw them down the cliff. They were fighting for their lives and for the lives of their babes—to save not only themselves but 1,200 refugees who had fled from their villages before the hordes of Turkish soldiers. Once they had offered terms of surrender, and the reply came, 'Surrender at once, and we will spare two in every ten—wait one day, and we will have the life of every man, woman, and child.' . . . The women gathered up the unexploded shells, emptied out the powder, of which they were in great need, and converted the shells into bullets."

The British are continuing their march in the Soudan. Akasheh is being strongly occupied and fortified. It is impossible at present to state what the strength of the garrison will be, as reinforcements are arriving daily. The Akasheh transport and camel column has returned to Sarras. No casualties are reported.

The deaths of notable persons during the week include Lady Burton, the widow of the famous explorer; Mr. George Richmond, R.A., and Archdeacon Denison.

W O M E N .

NOTES FROM THE OCCASIONAL PAPER ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill.

The text of the Bill has been issued, and runs as follows:—

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

(1) This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Act, 1896.

(2) On and after the passing of this Act every woman who is the inhabitant occupier as owner or tenant of any dwelling-house, tenement, or building within the borough or county where such occupation exists, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter in the list of voters for such borough or county in which she is so qualified as aforesaid, and, when registered, to vote for a member or members to serve in Parliament.

Provided always that such woman is not subject to any legal incapacity which would disqualify a male voter.

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In sealed packets and tins only, of Grocers, everywhere.

Parliamentary Notes.

The Session of 1896 has opened with a more cheerful prospect for Women's Suffrage than any Session of the last Parliament. "The Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill" stands for second reading on Wednesday, May 20th, when it occupies the first place on the orders of the day.

It will be moved by Mr. Faithfull Begg and seconded by Mr. George Wyndham. The other names on the back of the Bill are those of Mr. Jebb, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. Maclure, Mr. C. B. McLaren, Sir Albert K. Rollit, Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Rankin, Colonel Cotton-Jodrell, and Mr. Macdonald.

These names are in themselves a guarantee that the Bill of 1896 will follow the precedents of all previous Bills, in avoiding party lines, and will receive support from both sides of the House.

It is with pleasure that the Committee are able to announce that since the opening of the Session Sir Edward Grey has consented to act as leader on the Liberal side of the House, and to co-operate with Mr. Wyndham in promoting the interests of the Bill.

Towards the close of 1895 a joint committee was formed, with a view to united Parliamentary action, by the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage (10, Great College Street, Westminster), the Central National Society (47, Victoria Street), and the Manchester National Society (Queen's Chambers, John Dalton Street, Manchester).*

The Combined Sub-Committee, which met for the first time in January, addressed a letter to the supporters of the extension of the franchise to women, in the House of Commons, asking them to co-operate with Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., and the leader selected on the Liberal side, in promoting their common aim, by taking part in the ballot at the beginning of the Session, to secure a day for the Bill; and by attending a Conference of those Members of Parliament who might be willing to co-operate with the joint committee of the discussion of such events and opportunities as might arise.

Favourable replies were received from a large number of Members, and on the third day of the Session, February 13th, a Conference of Members of Parliament favourable to Women's Suffrage took place in Committee Room No. 12 of the House of Commons. Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., was in the chair, and the following Members of Parliament were present:—Mr. Jebb, Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Lewis Fry, Mr. C. B. McLaren, Sir W. Arroll, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Platt-Higgins, Mr. Drucker, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. J. H. Johnstone, Major Wyndham Quin, Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Alexander Wylie, Mr. Ernest Gray, Mr. Thos. Skewes-Cox, Mr. Yoxhall, Mr. M. Vaughan-Davies, Major Pryce-Jones, Mr. Francis S. Russell, Mr. Guy Pym, and Mr. J. A. Reutoul. The following ladies were also present by invitation, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett,

* The following constitute the combined Sub-Committee:—*Central Committee National Society for Women's Suffrage*: The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Helen Blackburn, Mrs. Fawcett; *Central National Society for Women's Suffrage*: Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. Wynford Phillips; *Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage*: Hon. Mrs. Arthur Lytton, Rev. S. A. Steintal and Secretary; Miss Edith Palliser, Miss Gertrude Stewart, *Secretaries*,

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