

interest on behalf of those candidates who will uphold the present policy of reform.

Sir William Harcourt has received a resolution expressing the gratification felt by the representatives of the National British Women's Temperance Association at the strong attitude the Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken with regard to temperance reform. The following is a copy of the resolution recently passed in Committee: "That the Sub-Committee of the B.W.T.A. rejoices at the strong attitude which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken up with regard to temperance reform. It hereby records its deep sense of gratitude to him for his unflinching championship of the principle of the Direct Veto, and for having given notice of the introduction of a Bill incorporating the principle early in the present Session of Parliament, and earnestly hopes that Her Majesty's Government will press on the measure through all its stages in the House of Commons."

At last, with the issue of the third volume, the "Memoirs of the Verney family during the Civil War and Commonwealth" are brought to a close, and with them we have a charming series of seventeenth century portraits and miniatures. The history of the production of these volumes is interesting. The late Lady Parthenope Verney, sister of Miss Florence Nightingale, beguiled many an hour of ill-health in reading through, sorting and preparing for the press, the hundreds of letters discovered in a forgotten corner of Claydon House. But she passed quietly away before the completion of her self-imposed task. However, she has found a worthy successor in the present Lady Margaret Verney, who has brought to the work a rare combination of qualities — reverence, literary ability, and the faculty of choice and exclusion.

Here is a touch of colour which brings the good old Sir Ralph Verney personally before us. Nancy, his god-daughter writes:—"i hop i shal out rech you in ebri, grek and laten," to which he replies "Good sweet hart bee not soe covitous; beleeve me a Bible (with ye common Prayer) and a good plaine catechisme in your Mother Tongue, is well worth all the rest and much more sutable to your sex. In French you cannot be too cunning, for that language affords many admirable books fit for you as Romances, Plays, Poetry, Stories of illustrious Woemen, receipts for preserving, makinge creames, and all sorts of cookeryes."

Dear Sir Ralph, in spite of his opinions as to what is "sutable to your sex" is as much honoured and loved now through these memoirs, as ever he was in his lifetime.

A quaint letter in broad Scotch from S. R. Crockett, the novelist, was read last week in Glasgow at the Re-union of natives of Kirkcudbright. "He had travelled far and travelled much," he said, "but he had never seen anything better, finer and sonsier than Gallowa' men bena a Gallowa' woman. A greetin' to ilka braw lad that minds his auld mither, the mither o' us a'; and foul fa' the ill-faured loon that forgets her."

Mrs. Fawcett, at the recent Annual Meeting of the Bristol Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society, made several interesting and valuable remarks. What was the use, she said, of a representative

system if it failed to represent; and if half the community is excluded from Parliamentary representation? They did not ask for women's suffrage because they believed there was no difference between men and women. There was a vital difference; and what they desired was to see that difference expressed and represented. There was not universal manhood suffrage, and they did not advocate universal womanhood suffrage; but simply that the woman householder or ratepayer should not be debarred by reason of her sex from taking part in the duties and privileges of such citizens. In the course of her remarks Mrs. Fawcett congratulated those present upon the fact that at the recent election in Bristol of Boards of Guardians, seven ladies were returned.

## Science Notes.

### DOGS' EARS.

EVERY humane person, even if possessed of a natural antipathy for dogs, must feel very glad at the steps which have recently been taken towards abolishing the barbarous custom of cropping dogs' ears. It is, indeed, a puzzle to discover why it has existed so long among a nation with a reputation for humanity towards the lower animals and a Society for their protection. We do not know whether the anti-vivisectionists have ever, as a body or individually, done anything to interfere with the practice. If not, why not? It seems about as cruel as any other vivisection experiment we ever heard of, and, moreover, there is absolutely no reason for it. It is true, that at the trial of the dog croppers the other day, some witnesses attempted to defend the custom, but their defence neither commends itself to common-sense, nor did it commend itself to the dog-owners and veterinary surgeons who appeared on the opposite side. It was said that bull-terriers were a quarrelsome race, and that if their ears were not rendered comparatively inconspicuous they would run great risk of being torn in fighting. It is hardly conceivable that this excuse was put forward in the interests of the owners who would object to the sight of mutilated ears, for in that case it shows no consideration for the dog's feelings, and, moreover, secures ears mutilated from the beginning instead of letting them run the risk of mutilation. Cropped ears are very unsatisfactory objects to anyone with an appreciation of animal form, even though the animal may have been tortured for over an hour while the ears were trimmed and made symmetrical.

Surely no one supposes that the dog is saved pain by the use of the shears. To operate on the dog with such an end in view would be comparable to performing a long and painful operation (without the use of an anæsthetic) on a soldier if he could thereby be protected from the risk of a wound in battle. We have the experience of soldiers to prove that injuries received during intense excitement are unheeded; where the brain is sufficiently preoccupied pain does not exist. If the dog could speak would he not also bear witness to this fact?

The Kennel Club has now decided not to admit to their shows mutilated animals born after a certain

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)