

Frances Power Cobbe's Articles in the *Echo*

Frances Power Cobbe, journalist and activist, wrote for the *Echo* between December 1868 and March 1875. The *Echo* was Britain's first respectable halfpenny paper, and its editor, Arthur Arnold, hired Cobbe to write three leading articles a week—"second leaders" that would appear on the front page after the first, more narrowly political leader—as well as various news items ("notes") for the inner pages. She later estimated that she had written more than 1000 leaders for the *Echo* as well as innumerable notes. The paper's circulation varied between 50,000 and 100,000 copies. No articles in the paper carried the names of their authors.

In her magisterial 2004 biography, Sally Mitchell was able to identify many of Cobbe's articles from internal evidence, references in Cobbe's letters, and a set of scrapbooks (now in the National Library of Wales) into which Cobbe pasted copies of her articles. While she did not compile a comprehensive list of Cobbe's *Echo* contributions, Mitchell did make extensive use of some of the *Echo* leaders that she felt confident had been authored by Cobbe.

A year after leaving the paper, Cobbe published a collection of 52 of her *Echo* articles titled *Re-Echoes*. Although the collection included several of her more polemical pieces on women's rights and cruelty to animals, many of them are gentler, more reflective essays about experiences (visits to the seaside, family gatherings at Christmas) common to her readers. In some instances, she omitted references to contemporary events, controversies, and personalities that had appeared in the original newspaper versions.

The following list of Cobbe's articles in the *Echo* includes, for each, the source of the attribution. "Mitchell" is Sally Mitchell, *Frances Power Cobbe: Victorian Feminist, Journalist, Reformer*, London and Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2004. "*Re-Echoes*" is Frances Power Cobbe, *Re-Echoes*, London: Williams & Norgate, 1876. Unless otherwise noted, all articles appeared on page one of the paper.

The full text of all of these articles can be found in the digitized edition of the *Echo* at the British Newspaper Archive at <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/home/NewspaperTitles> by selecting "Echo" from the list of newspaper titles and then searching by title or, failing that, by date.

- "All A-growin" (9 April 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 67-74]
- "An Amusement of the Sea-shore" (13 August 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 217-222]
- "Artificial Woman-making" (28 August 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 279-286]
- "Blessed Old Age" (3 December 1872) [Mitchell, 214, 392, n. 67]
- "Back to School" (19 January 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 13-19]
- "Bills in the Family Session" (16 January 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 1-6]
- "The Black Veil" (22 November 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 192-196]

"A Brave Lady" (7 April 1870, p. 2) [Mitchell, 390, n. 27]
"A Case for Consideration" (20 May 1869) [Mitchell, 389, n. 9]
"A Case of Hospital Charity" (16 November 1869) [Mitchell, 196]
"Catching Cold" (4 December 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 253-258]
"Chivalry of the Period" (8 July 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 152-157]
"Church and Chapel" (9 November 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 94-99]
"The Confessional in the Church of England" (5 March 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 185-191]
"The Cost of Weddings" (4 September 1869) [Mitchell, 196]
"The Court in London" (13 July 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 210-216]
"The Curse of St Albans" (14 March 1871) [Mitchell, 393, n. 93]
"A Day in the Country" (6 July 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 111-116]
"The Decline of Guy Faux Day" (5 November 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 287-292]
"Dr. Carpenter's Address" (6 September 1872, p. 3) [Mitchell, 396, n. 52]
"The Drawing-room v the Salon" (10 January 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 266-272]
"Drunken Women" (22 October 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 223-229]
"Dying Leaf and Dying Year" (14 December 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 301-309]
"The Educational Election" (23 November 1870) [Mitchell, 391, n. 40]
"Empty Homes" (10 September 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 172-178]
"Even Handed Justice" (19 January 1869) [Mitchell, 389, n. 5]
"Faces and Features" (22 June 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 27-33]
"Family Reunions" (24 December 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 323-328]
"Fat People" (16 September 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 20-26]
"The Fear of Hydrophobia" (27 May 1874) [Mitchell, 393, n. 92]
"Fog, Fog, Fog" (5 November 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 293-297]
"Friends of the Lower Animals" (24 June 1874) [Mitchell, 393, n. 91]
"Fussy Husbands" (27 November 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 273-278]
"Girls and Drawing Rooms" (11 May 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 75-80]
"A Good Riddance" (9 December 1869) [Mitchell, 390, n. 27]
"The Hampstead Inquiry Report" (4 January 1872) [Mitchell, 211]
"House Property in London" (22 December 1874) [Mitchell, 394, n. 100]
"Ignorant and Scientific Cruelty" (23 December 1873) [Mitchell, 393, n. 92]
"Kisses and Caresses" (4 November 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 61-66]
"The Ladies Bills" (7 August 1869) [Mitchell, 389, n. 12]
"Lent in Belgravia" (27 March 1873) [*Re-Echoes*, 48-53]
"London out of Season" (21 August 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 179-184]
"Married Women's Property" (26 March 1870) [Mitchell, 390, n. 27]
"Martyrs and Martyrdom" (15 March 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 34-40]
"The Metropolitan Slaughter Houses" (4 April 1873) [*Re-Echoes*, 100-104]
"Mr. Bouverie's 'Failures'" (9 May 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 129-135]
"Mr. Cross on Cat-Killing" (1 April 1874) [Mitchell, 393, n. 92]
"Mr. Gladstone on Fashions" (29 September 1874) [Mitchell, 394, n. 94]
"Mr. Gladstone and the Pope" (12 November 1873) [Mitchell, 394, n. 94]
"Mr. Gladstone upon Ritualism" (28 September 1874) [Mitchell, 393, n. 94]
"Mrs. Grundy at the Cemetery" (18 September 1869) [Mitchell, 196]

"The Modern Revolt" (3 December 1870) [Mitchell, 204]
"A Modern Trial for Heresy" (11 November 1870, p. 2) [Mitchell, 391, n. 46]
"Money in Women's Hands" (5 February 1870) [Mitchell, 198]
"The Mordaunt Divorce Case" (10 December 1874) [*Re-Echoes*, 105-110]
"More About Justices' Justice" (16 October 1871) [Mitchell, 259]
"Nobody But Ladies and Gentlemen" (11 July 1872) [Mitchell, 392, n.66]
"The Noise of London" (24 April 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 88-93]
"The Nursery Book-shelves" (11 August 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 259-265]
"Old Friends and New" (24 December 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 7-12]
"Old Toys and Young Sorrows" (30 April 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 54-60]
"On the Sands" (7 September 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 165-171]
"Our Neighbours" (1 June 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 204-209]
"Pantomime and Christmas Pieces" (23 December 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 298-300]
"The Philosophy of Holiday-making" (19 May 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 158-164]
"The Pleasures of Old Age" (15 August 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 247-252]
"Poor Law Inspectors and Their Failures" (6 January 1872) [Mitchell, 211]
"The Praise of Vice" (24 January 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 136-139]
"Prevention of Cruelty to Animals" (13 June 1872, p. 3) [Mitchell, 392, n. 66]
"The Right to Beat a Wife" (17 January 1870) [Mitchell, 197]
"The Rights of Married People" (23 February 1869) [Mitchell, 389, n. 5]
"Sleeplessness" (14 December 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 117-121]
"Sunday Best" (12 March 1869) [*Re-Echoes*, 81-87]
"Superstitious Pilgrimages" (10 October 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 140-145]
"Sweeping under the Mats" (27 January 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 310-316]
"The Table-Twisting Faith" (19 August 1869) [Mitchell, 196]
"The Temptation of Mr. Gladstone" (27 April 1871) [Mitchell, 391, n. 54]
"Tired to Death" (16 November 1869) [Mitchell, 196]
"Those who never Dine" (6 December 1870) [*Re-Echoes*, 317-322]
"Thy Brother Shall Rise Again" (12 December 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 230-235]
"Two in One" (31 August 1871) [*Re-Echoes*, 241-246]
"The Vestment Fever" (28 December 1872) [*Re-Echoes*, 236-240]
"The Vivisection Trial at Norwich" (12 December 1874) [Mitchell, 394, n. 102]
"Which Is the Brute?" (3 March 1873) [Mitchell, 391, n. 92]
"Whipping Boys and Whipping Girls" (9 November 1869) [Mitchell, 196-197]
"The Wickedest Man" (11 December 1873) [*Re-Echoes*, 146-151]
"The Witton Catastrophe" (13 December 1870) [Mitchell, 204]
"Woman Suffrage" (28 March 1871) [Mitchel, 391, n. 53]
"Women's Peace Congress" (9 July 1872, p. 6) [Mitchell, 392, n. 63]
"Women's Suffrage" (2 May 1872) [Mitchell, 391, n. 62]
"A Word with Our Surgeons" (9 August 1871) [Mitchell, 393, n. 92]