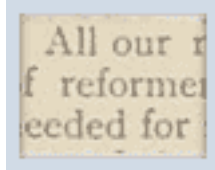


SOURCE 1

Extract from a speech made by the Liberal MP and political thinker John Stuart Mill on women's suffrage, 1867
(PRO ref: PRO 30/69/1834)



SOURCE 1A

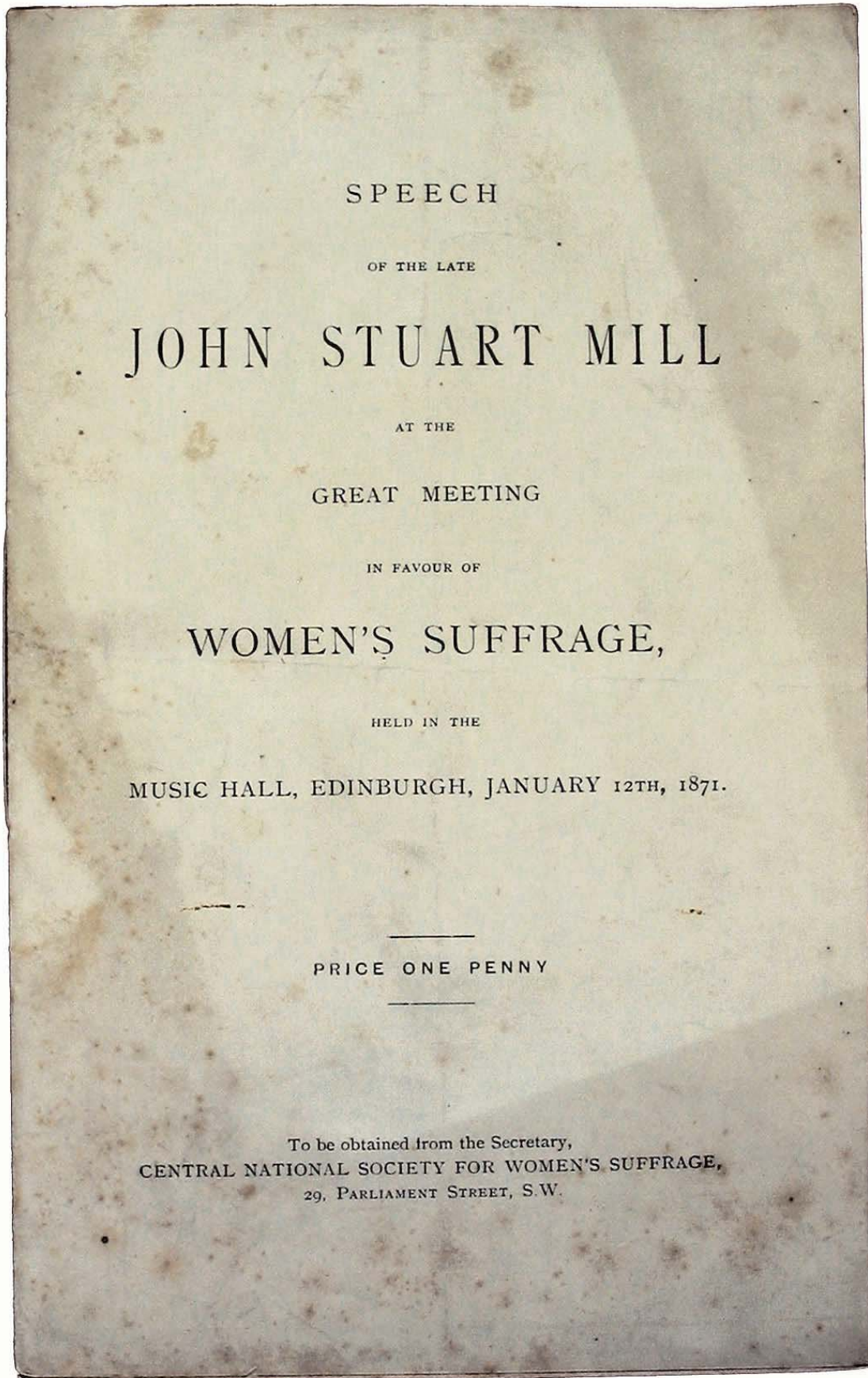
SOURCE 1B

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

Study this source carefully and consider what it tells you about why people thought women should get the vote. You should consider:

ASK YOURSELF:

- What does this phrase mean: 'The laws treat them as they could not long be treated if they had the suffrage'?
- According to Mill, do police and magistrates treat women well?
- What would you say is Mill's main argument for women's suffrage?



SPEECH
OF THE LATE
JOHN STUART MILL
AT THE
GREAT MEETING
IN FAVOUR OF
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,
HELD IN THE
MUSIC HALL, EDINBURGH, JANUARY 12TH, 1871.

PRICE ONE PENNY

To be obtained from the Secretary,
CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,
29, PARLIAMENT STREET, S.W.

SOURCE 1B

All our recent constitutional reforms, and the whole creed of reformers, are grounded on the fact that the suffrage is needed for self-protection.

The treatment of women is certainly no exception to the rule. They have neither equal laws nor an equal administration of them. The laws treat them as they could not long be treated if they had the suffrage; and even if the laws were equal, the administration of the laws is not. Police magistrates and criminal judges cannot be exceptionally bad men; they are not chosen for their bad qualities; they must be thought, by those who appoint them, to represent fairly, or better than fairly, the moral feelings of average men. Yet, what do we see? For an atrocious assault by a man upon a woman, especially if she has the misfortune to be his wife, he is either let off with an admonition, or he is solemnly told that he has committed a grave offence, for which he must be severely punished, and then he gets as many weeks or months of imprisonment as a man who has taken five pounds' worth of property gets years.