

St. James's Theatre, collaborating in one of these, "A Family Failing." Miss Beatrice Harraden's sister, Ethel, was responsible for the score of the unfortunate comic opera "The Taboo," at the Trafalgar Theatre.

Lady Violet Greville adapted an "Aristocratic Alliance" for Mr. Wyndham, and Lady Colin Campbell supplied the farce "Bud and Blossom" at Terry's. "Michael Field," who gave the Independent Theatre a strong play called "A Question of Memory," is the *nom de guerre* of an aunt and niece. Perhaps the most successful woman dramatist is Mrs. Musgrave, the author of the farce "Our Flat," while Mrs. Pacheco gave us "Tom, Dick, and Harry." Several novels by women have been very successful on the stage, the most notable example being "East Lynne" and "The Real Little Lord Fauntleroy," dramatised by Mrs. Oscar Beringer, who has written several plays on her own account.

The following extracts from *The New Cycle* may throw some light upon the ardent outburst of national feeling which responded in America to President Cleveland's now historic Message to Congress upon the Venezuelan question:—

"Whereas, there is a manifest need of instruction in constitutional government in our public schools, and of a more direct method of cultivating a broader spirit of nationality among the children of the country, based upon the Declaration of Independence and the principle of universal liberty and equal rights to all, inculcated therein; therefore,

Resolved, that the National Council of Women approve the great movement to teach patriotism in the schools of the United States, and of placing the flag over every school house and in every school room in the land; and that a committee on patriotic teaching be added to the list of standing committees.

When the flag salute is given, with full instructions, the children are taught that the United States is a country where there is neither emperor nor king, queen or nobles, peer or prelate, to govern us, but that the people govern themselves; a chart of the Declaration of Independence is placed in the school-room and defined, the objects of the Federal Union under a constitution set forth, the conflicts for free government outlined, and the duties and privileges of American citizenship made so plain and simple that the youngest mind readily grasps the truths by induction.

Children are taught that they are little American citizens, who will some day be grown American citizens, for whose high functions they are to prepare; that little American citizens must be punctual at school; must come with clean hands and clean clothes; that they must be neat in person and dress; that they must be orderly and keep things in their proper places; that they must be attentive, whether in study or work, and do it with all their might; that they must keep their temper, and never fly into a passion, no matter how much provoked.

They are taught that they must be cheerful and never lose their courage; that they must never be afraid to tell the truth; that they must try to do right because it is right, for so it is we learn to respect ourselves and others. Duties to associates are inculcated; to their teachers, schoolmates, parents and friends.

They are taught obedience to teachers because they are older and know so much more than those who are young; politeness to schoolmates and never to take advantage of those who are weaker; never to hurt a dumb animal, but to treat all living creatures kindly.

They are taught that as little American citizens they should be proud of their home, proud of their school, proud of their country. And so, little by little, they learn to govern themselves and thus become fitted to help govern other people and to make laws for their country.

Love of country is especially inculcated, and they are taught to believe that to our free country we owe all our opportunities for education. 'How, then, can we best express this respect and love we bear our country?' is a daily question to which comes the answer, 'By giving to our country, in return for all these benefits and gifts, the best we have, and that is our heads and hearts. Our head is the seat of our mind and intellect; our heart is the fountain of affections and our love. These are our dearest possessions.'

The Balch system makes every school a miniature republic so far as the duties of the little citizens are concerned, and to carry out the system in its entirety there is an annual election, with tickets, ballot-box and a system of election returns. The vote in each school is upon the continuation of patriotic teaching and the flag salute. Every child is free to vote his own opinions, and the result in the schools is almost a unit for the system."

Education in patriotism has recently been suggested by the Progressives as essential to a system of national education, and it has been begun in rather a tentative half-hearted way. But it needs to be developed sturdily, and there is no question that the advent of women into the national life will lead to a much wider teaching to the children of the duties of the citizen to his country. But, at present, women do not take much interest in public affairs, and they cannot therefore be the mothers of patriots.

A Book of the Week.

"A LADY OF QUALITY."*

THIS is a most startling and surprising book. I will venture to say that most people will not like it, and that most readers will be surprised to discover that it is the work of that most popular writer, Mrs. Hodgson Burnett, the authoress of "Little Lord Fauntleroy." Nevertheless, though it is not likely to please the majority of readers, the book has considerable merits, is very original in conception, and is written throughout in excellent style. The title page announces "'The Lady of Quality': Being a most curious hitherto unknown history, as related by Mr. Isaac Bickerstaff, but not presented to the world of fashion through the pages of the *Tatler*, and now for the first time written down by Frances Hodgson Burnett." The lady of quality began her strange career in this life by being

* "A Lady of Quality," by Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett. 6s. (Frederick Warne & Co., 1896.)

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