

alone she had stumbled back to the ward which had imprisoned her until too late.

I found her in her usual position, sitting up in bed, her eyes gazing fixedly before her. No one was with her. She turned and said to me quietly, "*Il Signore se l'è ripreso*" (the Lord has retaken him), adding in that tone which is full of tears: "If only I could have seen him yesterday! He said he had so longed for me, and then he could have talked to me." Her eyes again looked fixedly before her, the unshed tears rendering them infinitely pathetic. "*Non piango, Signora, non posso, ma lo sento nel cuore*" (I do not cry; I cannot, but I feel it in my heart).

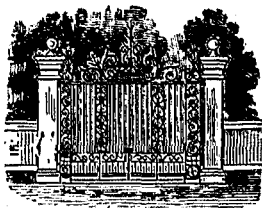
What can one say in such moments? Nothing, except the simplest words of pity. But later, when the ward was ready for the night and lighted by very few lamps, supper being distributed amidst laughs and jokes between the *infermieri* and convalescents, then I went back to her. She was still in the same position—still alone; still without the relief of tears. She seemed unconscious of all that was going on around her; on her bed lay her plate of meat and vegetables, untouched, unnoticed even.

I tried to guess what she was thinking, so as to lift her from that terrible abyss of loneliness, by showing that at least someone understood. But one can only say what one feels as *truth* at such times; and here there was little beyond the belief that since God, who might have prevented the trial, had not done so, there must have been some good reason for it. But we must wait to understand—wait and be patient. But how little there is to say that comforts! Nothing really helps, unless perhaps the sharing and understanding of the pain, and that one cannot always do.

But that woman's courage and devotion to her son touched one into a momentary participation, and before I left her tears had fallen from those patient eyes, as she exclaimed, "*Ah! Signora, dicono che è molto bravo questo servizio, ma è un servizio senza cuore*" (They say the assistance is so clever here, but it is an assistance without heart).

E. VERE.

Outside the Gates.



It is officially announced from Coburg that the wedding of Princess Alexandra of Coburg on the 20th inst. is to be specially brilliant, and the German Emperor and Empress and the Grand Duke and Duchess of Hesse, as well as the Duke and Duchess of York, are to be present,

among a host of other Royal personages.

The Duke and Duchess of York have left England for the ceremonies, which include a splendid State ball on the 18th, and Royal Command nights at the Opera House on the 19th and 20th, with State banquets on all three evenings. The wedding itself is fixed to take place at ten a.m. on the morning of the 20th, and the festivities will be kept up all day by State breakfast, procession and reception, ending by a banquet and the State visit to the opera.

The Duchess of Edinburgh has not adopted the modern custom of allowing girls at least to reach maturity before having the heavy responsibilities of wife and motherhood put upon them. All her daughters have been married practically before leaving the nursery.

The news from South Africa grows more serious. It has been found necessary to send Imperial troops to Buluwayo to protect the whites from the Matabele. The Chartered Company, in whose territory the trouble has arisen, are very glad to welcome the 300 cavalry and 200 mounted infantry which have been sent to their assistance, in addition to the Volunteer and Police forces already organised.

A farmer near Buluwayo, who had to escape from his homestead to seek safety, was determined that the destruction of his home should not be accomplished without some suffering to foe. He found time before his hasty flight to deposit in various places a quantity of dynamite fuses. These exploded while the natives were engaged in looting operations, and over 100 of them were killed.

With the Matabele rising and the Soudan Expedition, England is engaged in two small wars. But she is always prepared for these accidents, and neither the Government nor the people allow such events to interfere with the composure for which our nation is famous. The French can never be taught to understand what they are pleased to call our national stolidity and stupidity!

If the German people desire to maintain their reputation for common sense and philosophical minds, they will have to bring some pressure to bear upon their Emperor and rulers to put a stop to the barbarous and quite out of date custom of duelling. The duel is strictly prohibited by German law, and the duellist is punished. At the same time, any two officers who fall out about a serious matter can secure permission to fight a duel, and having fought it, both the survivors are punished—or the single survivor, if one be killed. The pitiable death of Baron von Schrader is the latest case in point. He and Herr von Kotze fought by permission of the authorities, in defiance of the law. The survivor will now be regarded, at least by the army, as a hero, and the civil powers will send him for a time to so-called imprisonment in a fortress.

WOMEN.

An important and interesting conference of Superintendents and head teachers of training schools of cookery and domestic arts was held on Saturday at the rooms of the National Society, Westminster. Mrs. Creighton presided, and representatives were present from all the training schools in the country, except Manchester. The conference had been convened by Miss Hester Davies, Superintendent of the Women's Technical Department, University College, Cardiff, and Miss Florence Baddeley, their object being to expose the defects in the present system of teaching domestic arts, and to obtain the views of the heads of the training schools as to how those defects can best be remedied, and the teaching made popular among the working classes.

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