

W O M E N .

The Empress of China, who has just died, was a clever woman, who rose from a slave to be the first woman in the Empire. She was wonderfully talented.

The following statement has been forwarded by the Society for Promoting the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians to the President of the Local Government Board:—*Re Education Bill.* Clause 2, subsection 5. 4, The Sanctuary, Westminster, June 9th, 1896. Sir,—We are very grateful to you for allowing us to make a statement in writing on the points that we desire to have considered by you. They are:—(1) That in a Bill dealing solely with education, it is not desirable to introduce proposals which affect not only pauper children, but also the good administration of the Poor Law as a whole. (2) That this legislation has been brought forward with undue haste. It is avowedly based on the report of the Poor Law Schools' Committee, and has been framed before there has been time for the report and the evidence to be considered with the care and attention they need. (3) Great doubt has already been cast on the trustworthiness of the report, and Guardians ought to have an opportunity of stating some of their objections. (4) Should the proposed clause be carried there is no provision for safeguarding the interests of the children, who might be handed over to irresponsible philanthropists without any of the checks at present provided by the Local Government Board. (5) That the care and maintenance of the children being put in the hands of persons not directly responsible to the ratepayers is sure to lead to extravagant and wasteful expenditure. (6) That as the Bill is at present drawn, there is no provision made to enable women to become members of the education authority. (7) Women Guardians hope that the control of Poor Law children will not pass away from the Local Government Board, so venture to suggest the possibility of forming a department under the Board dealing entirely and solely with matters concerning children, whether in Workhouses or in schools, whether boarded out or in certified Training Homes, as well as those to be dealt with in other ways. (8) That women Guardians are perfectly in accord with the suggestion authorising the Education Department to undertake the control of education in Poor Law schools, as distinct from the management and administration of the aforesaid establishments. We beg to remain, Sir, yours most respectfully, Georgina Bramston, Guardian, St. George's, Hanover Square; Jane L. Henniker, Guardian, Fulham; Elizabeth Lidgett, Guardian, St. Pancras; Margaret Tillard, Guardian, Paddington; Ellen M. M'Kee, Guardian, St. Marylebone."

At the annual meeting of the Society for Promoting the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians, it was stated that there are now 890 women Guardians serving throughout England and Wales. In four counties only, viz., Cambridge, Hunts, Rutland and Radnor, the Boards are composed of men only.

There was a majority of 29 in the House of Lords on Monday in favour of the second reading of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill. This is only the second time the Bill has got so far in the

Lords, and on the previous occasion with a majority of only seven. We wonder when is a Bill to be introduced in favour of marriage with a Deceased Husband's Brother?

At the annual meeting of the United British Women's Emigration Association some very interesting points were brought out of the good work being accomplished in the industrial and social interests of women. During the year 433 persons had been sent out and started on careers of usefulness with fair prospects of success. The organisation directs its attention more especially to sending out young women who are ready to work as domestic servants or as Nurses. There is not much opening for domestic servants in South Africa, as work of this kind is generally performed there by the natives, and it is not advisable to mix European and native servants. But there is a large field in South Africa for those women who have a knowledge of typewriting, shorthand, or telegraphy. One very interesting fact brought out, shows that a large proportion of the money advanced in the first instance to the emigrants is afterwards returned by them to the Association. Bishop Barry said the Society was supplying a real need, for we had at home a superabundance of female population which was not experienced at all in the Colonies.

The National Liberal Federation has drawn up a form of petition against the now defunct Education Bill. No mention is made in this petition of the absence of women representatives—and this is one of the most objectionable features of the many points in this Bill to which exception can be taken. The time has gone by for retrograde measures to succeed, and any measure which excludes women from a voice in the education of children must clearly belong to the Middle Ages.

It is a matter of great moment to factory workers that Miss May Abraham, Her Majesty's Superintendent Inspector of Factories, has decided that her marriage with Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., shall in no way interfere with her work. It was feared that her marriage meant her resignation; but this loss to factory "hands" is not to take place. Miss Abraham's work is of too great value to be laid aside. Mr. Tennant's loss of some of his wife's companionship will be a great gain to hundreds of working women.

A lawyer says, in speaking of the everlasting "man and woman" question: "Conveyancers are coming to notice the curious fact that, while men are every day leaving large fortunes to women, ever since the Married Women's Property Act of 1882, women's wills are constantly leaving their man-earned property to the eternal female." It must surely often happen that women leave money to sons and husbands. The taunt of "man-earned property" is unfair, considering how few channels there are whereby a woman can earn a sufficient income to necessitate her making a will. But the possession and public-spirited use of wealth is the only means by which women can gain equality before the law.

It is proposed to erect a memorial to the late Christina Rossetti in Christ Church, Woburn Square, where she attended for nearly twenty years.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)