

Outside the Gates.



MR. M'KINLEY—who has generally been known as "Napoleon" on account of his fine head and statesmanlike appearance—has been formally nominated as the Republican candidate for the Presidency of the United States. He is a man who believes in "America for the Americans," and says he shall take measures "to win back domestic trade and employ idle working people in remunerative employment." The McKinley protective tariff has never been popular in England, and there is a general feeling that his popularity in the States is an evidence of anti-English feeling on the part of the Americans. But this is the argument of people who look only on the surface. The real reason of the strong backing McKinley is receiving is due to the terrible industrial and financial condition of the States. And the people are looking to McKinley as a deliverer from commercial depression, and their present condition of almost national bankruptcy. They have tried many expedients, which have not wrought the change they need, and now they wish to experiment with rigorous Protection.

The last of the "Reform" prisoners at Johannesburg have been released. From the insanitary condition of the gaol it is almost a wonder that some of the more delicate ones have lived to tell the tale of the hardships they endured.

A good deal of indignation has been expressed in Buluwayo against the Chartered Company for their ready acceptance of Mr. Rhodes' resignation. Meetings are being held to protest against it by those who have personal experience of the great work which Mr. Rhodes has accomplished in South Africa. It is to be regretted that the Chartered Company had no alternative under existing circumstances.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Cape Colony are looking to their defences, and are going to expend large sums in erecting defensive works at Port Elizabeth and East London, which at present have no fortifications of any kind.

In Matabele, the difficulties brought about by incompetent officialism are shown by the fact that the Mashona and Matabele, who have been from time immemorial enemies of the "war to the knife" type, have forgotten tribal and traditional hatreds, and are joining together in a desperate attempt to oust the white man from their midst. The Mashona have suffered bitterly from long years of cruelty and wrong at the hands of the Matabele, but apparently they prefer the fierceness of their adversaries, rather than the more civilised methods of subjugation employed by the white races.

It would seem as if the Government will have as much opposition to encounter in the Agricultural Rating Bill, as they have experienced with their ill-fated scheme for education.

WOMEN.

The Central National Society for Women's Suffrage held its Annual Meeting at the Westminster Town Hall on the 26th inst., the Chair being taken by Mr. Charles B. McLaren, M.P. Eloquent speeches were made by Mrs. Scatcherd, of Leeds, Miss Frances Willard, Mrs. Fenwick Miller and Miss Florence Balgarnie. It was recognised by all these able women that much had been done during the last quarter of a century in educating just-minded men and women on the question of the enfranchisement of women, but that the manner in which the day set aside by Parliament to take the vote on this vital question had been filched from us by the leaders of all parties, showed that the old policy of conciliation must be discarded, and a policy of active aggression against every parliamentary candidate who avowed himself opposed to justice to women, must be inaugurated and well organized. We are entirely in sympathy with this conclusion, and hope that a Society will speedily be formed of women prepared to work on these lines, and thus utilise the only means by which the average party politician can be influenced.

We heartily congratulate our colleagues, the Society of Women Journalists, on the most brilliant and delightful Birthday Party held at Stafford House. The guests were received by Mrs. Craigie (John Oliver Hobbs), the President, ably supported by the charming and courteous Hon. Secretary Mrs. Jack Johnson, and we found ourselves entranced with admiration at the magnificence of the historic house, the loveliness of its mistress, the Duchess of Sutherland, and her *coterie* of beautiful sisters and friends; and to meet so many "stars," literary, dramatic, and artistic, all in their most entertaining humour, was indeed a "feast of reason and a flow of soul."

A Grand Theatrical Bazaar in aid of the Actors' Orphanage was held in Queen's Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and was opened by Sir Edward and Lady Lawson. All the "stars" of the theatrical world had stalls, and the scene was most brilliant—such frocks and such hats—all the birds and all the flowers seemed to have been "plucked" to add to their magnificence. There was a thriving trade in professional autographs and signed photographs, to say nothing of "vermouth cocktails," and a wealth of lovely cut flowers. It is to be hoped that a substantial sum was obtained for this most deserving charity.

It really seems as if it should not be necessary, since so much has been said and written on the subject of the wholesale destruction of beautiful birds for millinery purposes, to again protest against the brutality disclosed by the decoration of this summer's hats and bonnets. It must be "the evil wrought by want of thought" rather than deliberate cruelty on the part of gentle looking women, that leads them to decorate themselves with plumes and aigrettes which are torn from the mother bird during the breeding season.

The Women's Co-operative Guild held a very successful Congress at Burnley last week. This Guild, which is made up of earnest working women, is increasing immensely in numbers and in activity. Upwards of 9,000 women belong to the Guild. Their

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