Outside the Gates.



THE long-looked-for Report of the Select Committee of the Cape Parliament, which was appointed to inquire into the circumstances of Dr. Jameson's raid, has been issued, and is distinctly interesting reading. The Committee finds that Mr.

Cecil Rhodes was a party to the forwarding of war materials from the De Beer's Company, and that the Cape Town officials of the Chartered Company were cognisant of the plot to despatch an armed force into the Transyaal.

Further, the Committee finds that the inroad was fixed weeks beforehand, and that a letter of invitation was obtained by Dr. Jameson personally four weeks before the ostensible date of signature. The Committee reports also that Mr. Rhodes directed the combination which rendered the Jameson raid possible.

The Committee regrets that Mr. Rhodes was not present to give his account of the proceedings, as it was forced to the conclusion that the part taken by him was not consistent with the duty of the Prime Minister of the Colony. The Committee also finds that the Chartered Company supplied all the funds with the knowledge of the London office, and that Mr. Rhodes subsequently covered the amount with a cheque.

The Nile Expedition is being somewhat hampered in its progress by the excessive heat and by the continued increase of cholera cases, an increase which not only gives rise to a good deal of anxiety, but necessitates the removal of the whole camp from the river bank into the desert. Being on a water-way is the very worst position that could be taken up in "cholera times," as it has always been shown that the disease is very much water-borne, added to which the natural dampness of a river bank tends to develop the germs much more rapidly.

The International Socialist and Trade Union Congress, which is to sit during the whole of next week at St. Martin's Town Hall, promises to be extremely interesting. It is expected that there will be from 200 to 300 British delegates and as many foreigners. France, Germany, Russia, Australia, and the United States will all be represented. In addition to the Congress proper, there is to be one of the largest open-air meetings ever held in Hyde Park, and a strong Socialistic street procession. Very interesting labour and economic questions will come forward for discussion.

A Royal Wedding—and indeed any other kind of wedding—appeals to popular sympathy as nothing else can do and, on Wednesday 22nd, a very large number of Londoners took holiday in order to assist in making the marriage of Prince Charles of Denmark and Princess Maud of Wales a national event. The troops, who lined the route, added to the brilliancy of the scene, and bands of music kept up the spirits of the spectators. The interest of the assembled crowd

was necessarily centred on the bride and bridegroom of the day, but the Princess of Wales appeared to receive an equal share of applause.

WOMEN.

The Queen of the Belgians, being desirous of showing her appreciation of the talent and enterprise which prompted the women of her country to send exhibits to the Chicago Exhibition, has decided to receive at the Palace all those women who were awarded medals at the World's Fair, and she will personally distribute these outward and visible signs of industry rewarded.

In the Daily Chronicle "The Woes of the Governess" are being voiced by one of them. She laments the total lack of public interest taken in governesses as a class. And she goes on to say: "and as, from the nature of our work, we are scattered over every town and village in Great Britain, which effectually prevents any combination amongst us for the redress of these grievances, we have nothing to look to but the generosity and good sense of the public, to which I now appeal."

Here she is wrong. In all professions and trades the individual workers are more or less scattered, but this does not prevent them from combining and banding together to improve their status, redress grievances, and put their position on a solid basis. "The generosity and good sense of the public" is all very well for paupers and destitute persons to rely on, but it is not fitting for a class of professional workers to place their dependence in. Again and again it must be pointed out to women that salvation can come to them only through organisation and combined effort. "Everyone knows where his own shoe pinches." He does not wait for the stranger to call attention to, and supply the remedy for, his pinched feet. He does it himself. And so must the working women, be they Nurses, governesses, shop-girls or factory-workers. They cannot, in reason, expect that it will be done for them.

The governess says: "I have to complain of the miserably inadequate salaries offered by many employers, especially those who have young children. There is no greater mistake than to think "anyone" is capable of teaching small children, and that consequently £20 or £30 per annum is a sufficient remuneration for so doing."

Rather pathetically, she concludes: "Even in the columns of the *Daily Chronicle* itself I have, during the last six months, read paragraphs about laundresses, Nurses, domestic servants, barmaids, elementary teachers, lady journalists—every class of women workers; but of governesses never a word. Help the Nurses by all means, and don't forget the factory-girls—but, oh, won't somebody remember the governesses?"

The governesses are educated women. Will they not begin to help themselves? So soon as they start on the lines of self-help they will receive plenty of outside sympathy and assistance. But it is they and not the public—who must take the initiative.

previous page next page