

Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

MISS JULIA NEILSON'S Rosalind at the St. James's, has quite surprised her audience; she plays the rôle with spontaneity, sentiment and humour.

Princess Henry of Pless, *née* Cornwallis-West, has sent an appeal to every Englishwoman married to a German in the German Empire. The Princess wishes to collect from her fellow-countrywomen a sum of money to present the Queen with a handsome present on the occasion of the conclusion of the sixtieth year of her reign. Hundreds of Englishwomen have responded to the appeal, and the sum collected is likely to be a large one. More Englishwomen are married to Germans than to members of any other foreign nation.

Largely owing to the efforts of the National Council of Women of Canada, directed towards excluding objectionable literature and pictures from the Dominion, the entry of the *Figaro* and several other French journals into Canada has been prohibited by law.

An excellent suggestion was made by the Visiting Committee of the Bedford Union, that a respectable and suitable Nurse should be appointed to take charge of the young children of the Union. It was pointed out by Mrs. Grafton that the pauper women who usually perform this duty were most unsuitable, and that very bad results had been proved to ensue when the young children were put under the care of Workhouse women.

Lady Katherine Somerset, accompanied by Lady Henry Somerset, visited the Bermondsey University settlement last week, and opened a two-days' Carnival and Sale of Work in aid of the District Nursing Fund in connection with that Institution. The warden, the Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, who presided, stated that the settlement supported two trained Queen's Jubilee District Nurses, who last year paid over 6,000 visits to the sick poor in their own homes. After Lady Katherine had declared the sale open, Lady Henry gave a short address on Nursing work and the "Guild of the Poor Things."

Word comes, through missionary channels, that Li Chung Tong has appointed two Christian Chinese women delegates from China to the International Congress of Women, to meet in London in 1898. This is a remarkable innovation for China; and while it indicates the mental breadth of the Viceroy—which has, doubtless, been increased by travel—it is also a sign that the cause of womanhood is winning.

Unless there is a strong and sympathetic revival on the part of the charitable, it is feared that many of the distressed Irish ladies, who have been for years past assisted from the fund raised on their behalf, will again be reduced to sore stress; and they may even have again to seek parochial relief—a very terrible

fact to face to those who have been cultivated, and who have held dignified positions in the world. It appears that there has been a great falling off in the subscriptions to this well-known fund, which has done such admirable and unique work. It is to be hoped that at this Christmas time, and in the very flourishing present condition of commerce, the charitable will not forget the claims on their generosity of these aged, poor and sick Irish gentlewomen, who have been reduced to such straits entirely through political disturbances and agitations. We wonder that the Committee does not make an appeal for help from the Irish in the United States, who never forget, in the days of their prosperity abroad, the "dear old Ireland" at home. Such an appeal would be at once productive of a large and generous sum.

A piece of journalistic enterprise, which will be valuable to women, has been devised by the proprietors of *Hearth and Home*, who are offering three Scholarships—one each for England, Ireland, and Scotland—to be held by a girl selected from each country, whereby the cost of her education in any branch of education, music, art, or any other field will be defrayed by the proprietors of *Hearth and Home*. We do not know what the conditions are, nor will anyone without buying a copy of the paper—and this is where the journalistic enterprise comes in!

Miss Annie Clive Bayley has written to the *Times* on the subject of silk-weaving as an occupation for women. She says: "If mothers of large families realised that girls from 15 upwards can with ease earn from 15s. to £1, or even more, per week in the artistic occupation of silk weaving, they would assuredly be relieved of much of the anxiety which they now feel as to what to do with their daughters." She states that hand-weaving is not only a quicker, but a cheaper mode of weaving than is power-loom work. All who wish to see what kind of work this is should visit the weaving school in Blenheim Street, New Bond Street, W.

A Book of the Week.**"THE WIZARD."***

THE first chapters of "The Wizard" are told with considerable dramatic effect. The Rev. Thomas Owen, incumbent of a snug parish in the midland counties, invited a missionary from South Africa to preach to his congregation. The preacher found it weary and discouraging work to address the sparse congregation scattered throughout the church, but he had one eager listener in his clergyman host, whose imagination was aroused by the history of the deadly perils encountered by those apostles of the Gospel who had gone, unarmed and unaccompanied, to teach its good tidings to the "Sons of Fire" and the "Council of Wizards" in the midst of that Dark Continent.

Mr. Haggard draws a powerful picture when he describes the broken-down, half-hearted, unimaginative wreck of a missionary, and the enthusiastic Thomas Owen longing for a wider experience of life, and for the glory of combating for his Master and his Church.

* "The Wizard," by Rider Haggard. 1s. (J. W. Arrowsmith, Bristol, 1896.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)