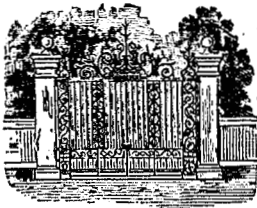


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



ON Monday last Lord Templetown moved in the House of Lords the second reading of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill. The Bill provided that any woman duly qualified, either as an occupying owner or tenant of a dwelling-house, or as an owner of a forty-shilling freehold, should be entitled to vote at Parliamentary elections. Lord Templetown commented on the injustice of not according to women, who were large taxpayers and owners of property, any representation of their own interests. Lord Templetown is further reported to have said: "It had been said that if women had the vote it would be impossible to refuse them seats in the Legislature. There was, however, a distinct and legally-recognised difference between the right to vote and the right to sit in a deliberative assembly." For our own part we consider it only just that women should sit in Parliament as well as men, and we know of no valid argument which can be advanced against this reform, while the same argument employed by Lord Templetown for the extension of the franchise to women holds good. "At present the State was deprived of the vote of those who specially represented the opinion of women on questions upon which women were experts, questions such as education, hospitals, the management of schools, the employment of women, the Poor Law, the housing of the poor, asylums, prisons, sanitation of the houses of the poor and workshops, the safe-guarding of children, and what was known as the social question, and others." Women claim to express an opinion concerning these social matters, and they cannot concede that it would be either possible or just, once they are enfranchised, to prevent them taking part in all legislation which is necessary for the government of the State.

The Duke of Devonshire moved an amendment to the Bill, and advised that it should not be discussed on the wise constitutional principle that legislation affecting the representation in the House of Commons should not be initiated in the House of Lords, its function being "to review and to weigh calmly and deliberately" legislation brought before them.

The Earl of Kimberley, as leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, endorsed this view, saying that the last thing they ought to agree to was that a Bill enlarging the franchise should originate in the House of Lords. Both the Duke of Devonshire and the Earl of Kimberley availed themselves of the opportunity of expressing their "most uncompromising opposition to any proposal to give the franchise to women." Personally, we cannot conceive anything more humiliating for the wives of men holding these views than to read in the public press such opinions expressed by their husbands.

Dramatic Notes.

"PILGRIM'S PROGRESS" AT THE OLYMPIC.

THE striking drama lately wrought out of Bunyan's wonderful allegory, "The Pilgrim's Progress," and played for a short time at the Olympic Theatre, was revived last week under the management of Mr. Gore Ouseley; Miss Grace Hawthorne appearing as before in the rôle of Christian. The famous story was handled by the dramatizer with much skill and strength, and seemed to be to a considerable extent couched in blank verse. To some minds it may appear inconsistent to place such a subject on the stage, but when we consider that we have not only the examples of the Mysteries and Moralities of the Middle Ages before us, but also that of some very recent pieces, such as "The Sign of the Cross," which itself has met with ecclesiastical as well as secular favour, we cannot but think that the supposed inconsistency is imaginary rather than real! It must at least be declared in defence of the Olympic presentment, that the subject has been handled in the most unobjectionable manner. As Christian, Miss Grace Hawthorne has achieved this week an unequivocal success—albeit that we are compelled to regard her embodiment of the part in the light of a *tour de force*, since it is one which demands a male exponent in order to bring out its full strength. Still, Miss Grace Hawthorne did wonders with it, imparting to it the peculiar charm of youth—which Mr. G. G. Collingham's adaptation required, and a spirit and force in her sword encounter with Apollyon which we scarcely ever recollect to have seen in a lady on the stage. At the same time, there was nothing unfeminine in her impersonation—Christian only being made much younger than in Bunyan's book. The piece was well acted all round; Mr. Courtney Thorpe being a subtle as well as powerful, Apollyon, Mrs. Calhurn being peculiarly effective as the old witch Malignity, and Miss Jennie D. Eustace giving a life-like portraiture of Melusina. "The Pilgrim's Progress" was, we understood, only to run last week at the Olympic, but will probably be thence transferred to some other theatre.

E. G. H.

A Book of the Week.

"FARTHEST NORTH."*

FRIDTJOF NANSEN is a true child of the north. His story runs like one of the Sagas of the old Vikings, the same simplicity, the same undercurrent of deep romance. The fascination of it is hardly to be described.

One took it for granted, this wonderful voyage, as one heard of it—accepted it, with its difficulties surmounted, its scientific attainment, and its deliberate heroism, as one of the fruits of our wondrous age, a thing to be admired, and wondered at; but one did not ponder the cost of it.

* "Farthest North," by Fridtjof Nansen (A Constable and Co, Westminster)

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