

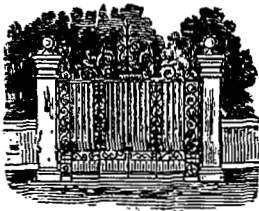
Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.

THE QUEEN'S THANKS.

HER MAJESTY'S LETTER TO HER PEOPLE.
(From a supplement to the *London Gazette*.)

Whitehall, July 16th, 1897.



THE following letter from the Queen has been received by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department:—

“Windsor Castle,
July 15th, 1897.

I have frequently expressed my personal feelings to my people, and though on this memorable occasion there have been many official expressions of my deep sense of the unbounded loyalty evinced, I cannot rest satisfied without personally giving utterance to these sentiments.

It is difficult for me on this occasion to say how truly touched and grateful I am for the spontaneous and universal outburst of loyal attachment and real affection which I have experienced on the completion of the Sixtieth year of my Reign.

During my progress through London on the 22nd of June this great enthusiasm was shown in the most striking manner, and can never be effaced from my heart.

It is indeed deeply gratifying, after so many years of labour and anxiety for the good of my beloved country, to find that my exertions have been appreciated throughout my vast Empire.

In weal and woe I have ever had the true sympathy of all my people, which has been warmly reciprocated by myself.

It has given me unbounded pleasure to see so many of my subjects from all parts of the world assembled here, and to find them joining in the acclamations of loyal devotion to myself, and I would wish to thank them all from the depth of my grateful heart.

I shall ever pray God to bless them, and to enable me still to discharge my duties for their welfare as long as life lasts.

VICTORIA, R.I.”

A large and influential meeting to consider the formation of a National Council of Women for Great Britain and Ireland was held on Monday last at the Women's Institute, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, when Mrs. Wynford Philipps, the founder of the Institute, received many well-deserved compliments upon the charming appearance and arrangements of the Club which she has recently opened. The meeting was held in the two large drawing-rooms, which are delightfully cool and airy. The walls are covered with an effective yellow paper, and the ceiling, which is handsomely decorated, is painted white and yellow, and tones in excellently with the colouring of the walls.

Both the large rooms were well filled by the time

that the chair was taken by the Countess of Aberdeen. Amongst those present were Lady Battersea, the Countess of Meath, the Dowager Countess of Aberdeen, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Mrs. Pearsall Smith, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mrs. Roberts Austen, Mrs. Brownlow, Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. L. T. Meade, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Carmichael Stopes, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, and many others.

The first resolution, proposed by Mrs. Russell Cooke, and seconded by Lady Henry Munro Ferguson, was ultimately withdrawn in favour of an amendment proposed by Mrs. Creighton, and seconded by Lady Battersea, “That a committee be formed to consult with the National Union of Women Workers, and discover whether an arrangement can be made according to which the National Union of Women Workers shall act as National Council for Great Britain and Ireland. Should this prove impossible, the Committee to have power to proceed to the formation of a new National Council.” This was carried with one dissentient, after speeches by Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. Wynford Philipps, Mrs. Pearsall Smith, Mrs. Russell Cooke, and Mrs. Carmichael Stopes.

The next resolution was proposed by Miss Windeyer, from New South Wales, and seconded by Mrs. Cox, President of the Montreal Branch of the National Council, “That the Provisional Committee be formed of four ladies to be appointed by the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, four to be appointed by the Countess of Aberdeen, four by the Executive Committee of the Women's Institute, the two ladies appointed in the first instance to take the initial steps in forming a National Council in this country” (these being Mrs. Eva Maclaren and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.) This was carried unanimously. After Mrs. Bunting and Frau Bieber Boehm had spoken, a vote of thanks to Lady Aberdeen for presiding was proposed by Mrs. Macdonald, of the National Union of Women Workers, and seconded by Mrs. Wynford Philipps. The interesting proceedings then terminated.

The annual general meeting of the National Society of Women's Suffrage was recently held at the Westminster Town Hall, Lady Frances Balfour presided. The report of the Committee stated that the means adopted by opponents to the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill but served to encourage the friends of the measure in the belief that ultimate success can be obtained only by continual effort in pressing for a direct vote on the subject on its merits in the House of Commons.

We are glad to see that it is proposed to promote greater and closer union among the various women's suffrage societies. In our opinion it is only by organisation and combination, by bringing pressure to bear upon individual Members of Parliament, and by bringing in the Woman's Suffrage Bill as a Government measure, that we may hope for success. We believe also that women must be prepared to sacrifice much, and possibly to suffer much, before this great principle is obtained, and, in our opinion, if a dozen women were to refuse to pay taxes, and to

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