

## WOMEN.

A monument has been erected in Kensal Green Cemetery by the Queen and the Royal Family, in memory of Mrs. Thurston, who nursed all Her Majesty's children between the years 1845 and 1867. It is a graceful and striking wheel cross in grey marble, standing upon a base of three solid blocks of the same stone, which rests upon a slab covering the entire grave, the height being seven feet. The wheel bears, in bas-relief, in pure white marble, a singularly sympathetic representation of a nurse shielding two young children in the folds of her cloak from the wind that visits them too roughly. The ample stone stretching over the grave bears the following lines:—

Love followed duty in her heart for those  
The children given to her charge, and they  
Like her own child, returned the love that grows  
In honour strengthened thro' the waning day.

The devotion of children's nurses is so often taken as a matter of course, that it is not realized in many instances how self sacrificing are the duties of a good nurse, and what depths of affection exist between them and their little charges.

Miss Florence Nightingale has written the following letter to the hon. election secretary, in support of Mr. Frederick Verney's candidature, as a Progressive for Peckham, to the London County Council:—

London, February 7th, 1898.

"Dear Sir,—I understand that it would not be considered an intrusion if I write you my good wishes for the election of Mr. Frederick Verney to the London County Council. My best good wishes are his, because I have known him for many years as a constant, wise, and active man in the Progressive cause, which is ours.—Allow me to be, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE."

The Women's Industrial Council, says the *New Age*, is completing its preparations for introducing a deputation to Sir John Gorst to lay before him facts showing the ill effects upon children of employment out of school hours. The date of the deputation will be between the 10th and 18th March. Either Lord Reay or the Bishop of London is to introduce it. The circular that has been sent out by the Industrial Council, asking the co-operation of Oxford and Cambridge and of other educational bodies, has been very largely signed, and the favourable replies of influential men and women who have been asked to take part in the deputation give reason to suppose that it will be a very representative one.

It is to be regretted that the male students at the Durham University are influenced by the same mean spirit which actuated the disgraceful scenes at Cambridge last summer, when the question of justice to women students was on the *tapis*. A meeting of the undergraduates of the Durham University was held on Friday, to discuss a proposal to allow lady students who have recently been attached to the University to become members of the University Union. After a long discussion, the proposal was defeated by seventy-two votes to eighteen. There is a general expression of disapproval among the students at the admission of women to the University, the Durham students taking the same attitude in this

matter as those of Oxford and Cambridge. Anyway, we are glad to find eighteen gentlemen amongst them.

We agree with our contemporary, the *Woman's Signal*, that it is to be deeply regretted that some representative British Suffragists did not attend officially the Convention which has taken place this week at Washington, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first "Woman's Rights" meeting, held at Linacre Falls in 1848. At the last Congress of the National American Women's Suffrage Association held in Chicago in 1893, we were ably represented by the Countess of Aberdeen, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mrs. Cobden Unwin, and Mrs. Ormiston Chant.

## A Book of the Week.

## "SHREWSBURY."\*

It is with the greatest delight that we hail Mr. Weyman after his comparatively long silence. His last book conveyed the idea that he was writing too fast, and we felt certain that this new attempt would find him like a giant refreshed, ready again to chain our attention, take captive our imagination, and throw over us the glamour of his wonderful style.

In many respects "Shrewsbury" fulfils all these hopes. It is well thought out, well told, and some of the scenes are quite on the high level of that modern classic, "A Gentleman of France."

But there is one fatal flaw in the construction of "Shrewsbury"; or rather, the author has set before himself a task in which he has failed, not for want of care, or indeed genius, but because the thing he would do is so difficult as to be impossible.

He has made the hero of his story an arrant coward.

It will at once be urged against this that the Duke of Shrewsbury, and not Richard Price, is the hero of the tale before us. But this is a mere quibble. We only hear of Shrewsbury through the mouth of the man who loved and was beholden to him. Of his private life we know nothing. He was never, so far as we know, in love, and though what we see of him is always noble, still he is only a shadow, not a living, breathing man like that irresistible "Gentleman of France."

The story is the story of Richard Price, written by himself, and Richard Price is a coward, and as a consequence, sometimes a liar, sometimes a thief, and always thoroughly unreliable, though from the very first meaning to do right. It is to be presumed that it was his good intentions which recommended him to the notice of Lord Shrewsbury—at least, nothing else is suggested. He must have been handsome, as he so nearly resembled Shrewsbury as to be made to pass for him; and this may have been the reason why Mary Ferguson was fond of him—a meaner spirited lover it would have been hard for her to find. And the long and short of it is, that this will not do. We feel that we can forgive anything sooner than personal fear of danger. When he is a shy boy of eighteen, we forgive a good deal, but when he reappears at thirty, just as ready to shake in his shoes at the least threat, just as lacking in invention, just as stupid and just as

\* "Shrewsbury." By Stanley Weyman. (Longmans.)

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