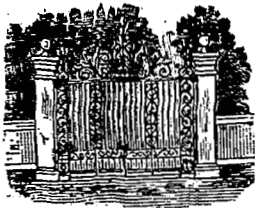


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Industrial Law Committee has just issued a handbook prepared by Miss Mona Wilson on the Factory Laws, which is a model of what such a book should be—so many of our readers are interested in working women of all classes that "Our Industrial Laws: Working Women in Factories, Workshops, Shops, and Laundries, and How to Help Them," which only costs 1s., should be studied by them. Mrs. Tennant, the first woman factory inspector, explains in the preface that "Our Industrial Laws" are issued "to meet the needs and answer the questions of persons who are in a position to make the administration of these laws effective—such persons as district visitors, mission workers, residents in settlements, helpers in friendly societies and working girls' clubs," and she goes on to show how such persons can help in the matter, in the following passage:—

"The social workers to whom I have referred, who are in intimate relationship with the conditions which cry out for relief, are those who can most easily judge of the depth and extent of the injury, and who can most easily apply the remedy. . . . They can see the injury to health if excessive hours are worked; if meal times are not observed; if the workplace be ill-warmed or ill-ventilated, or otherwise insanitary; or if a "dangerous" trade be carried on without due precaution; the cruel injury to limb and life if dangerous machinery be unguarded; the injustice to children and to their future if health or education be stunted by employment at too early an age, or by neglect of the legal educational requirements; the degrading influence upon the moral tone in a factory if the sanitary accommodation offend against the decencies of life; the injustice of fraudulent miscalculation and consequent reduction of the wages agreed upon, and its consequent effect upon the wage-earning power of the household; the constant injustice—again bearing the same harmful effect—of fines and deductions; and the hardship of the sudden withdrawal of a wage earner, killed or injured at his employment, without even compensation in money to those who were dependent upon him for their daily bread."

The decision of the Legislature to exclude women from serving on the new London Councils is causing considerable disappointment among the lady members of the various local bodies. This found expression at the meeting of the Hackney Board of Guardians, when, on the motion of Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Barralett, it was decided to send a copy of the following resolution to Lord Salisbury and the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour: "That this Board of Guardians hereby protests against the action of the Government in depriving women of their eligibility to serve on the new borough councils of London, and regards such action as a retrograde step in view of the fact that the good work women have done on the vestries and boards of guardians since the Local Government Act of 1894 is universally recognised." Other Boards please follow suit.

A Book of the Week.

ONE OF THE GRENVILLES.*

THIS week I want to recommend another of the books which appeared in the early part of the year. This story has stuff in it. The interest throughout is of a quiet kind, but the writing is strong enough always to arrest attention. There is something about the style which reminds me—I do not want ridiculously to overpraise Mr. Lysaght—but most undoubtedly there are passages in the book, or in the method of narration here and there, which remind one of George Meredith.

Martin, the hero, the one of the Grenvilles whose history is here more particularly written, is not a Grenville at all, so far as his legal right to bear the name goes. The circumstances of the irregularity of his birth are very touching and natural, and delicately drawn.

The weak part in the story, is the making Creina, who is a most fascinating heroine, so long blind to the intrinsic littleness of Horton Macey. No girl of Creina's discrimination and breeding could, I am prepared to maintain, have remained so long under the impression that she was in love with such a man, or could tolerate such a family.

The part of the book which seems to me Meredithian, is the curious and interesting character of Roger Wynkin, and his relations with Nancy Gifford. I will own to a feeling of great sympathy with Nancy's husband, who was a fine fellow, and got very scant measure meted out to him; but the conduct of Wynkin from beginning to end, is thoroughly consistent and natural; and the lack of dénouement was undoubtedly the best thing for all concerned; he was not framed for domesticity.

The relations between Martin and Mab are very curious and give an extra flavour of originality to this strange book; and the Rev. Christopher Holt also is a person whom one has not met before; in fact, most of the personages are well and clearly drawn.

The love story of Martin is charming, and especially the part where he goes to see Creina when she is staying with the very deaf and delightful old Irish aunt who, knowing her to be engaged, cannot by any means be made to understand that this young man is not her intended.

There is plenty of reading in the big close printed volume, and it is in consequence a very excellent book to take for holidays, if you are going to places where books cannot be easily changed.

In addition to a good many thoughtful sayings, there is many a little sly flash of humour—rarest of gifts—in the book; as one tiny quotation may serve to show.

"Being too poor to keep a wife, he had no reason for regret that she was engaged. Nevertheless he was deeply interested in her. 'I feel,' he thought, 'as Wordsworth felt when he addressed the highland girl, and wished to have some claim upon her—

'I would be

Thy Father, anything to thee.'

And then he remembered that this was a very rash wish of the poet, considering that he had not seen the girl's mother!"

G. M. R.

* By S. R. Lysaght. Macmillan and Co.

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