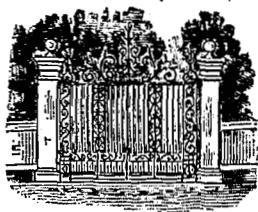


**Outside the Gates.****WOMEN.**

THERE is good news from Western Australia, and from Victoria, that in each case the Legislative Councils have passed Bills extending the franchise to women. Once more our Colonies are showing us the way. How long will it be before Great Britain allows this measure of justice? The many British women, who keenly feel the degradation of their own position before the law, will warmly congratulate and sympathise with their sisters in far Australia. They will moreover take heart of grace as they realise that Government after Government is recognising that its women subjects are not merely the chattels of their men folk, but responsible and reasonable human beings, who have a right to share in framing the laws by which they are governed.

Mr. Chamberlain's latest pronouncement is that "no British subject anywhere can suffer an injustice without a responsive chord being struck which will be heard in the most distant parts of the Empire." We can only hope that a responsive chord will be struck nearer home, and that Mr. Chamberlain will plead for justice for the women Uitlanders of the United Kingdom. It surely cannot coincide with his idea of justice that the women of this country should be ranked with incarcerated criminals, lunatics, and paupers.

We are glad to observe that the Women's Local Government Society will take steps to test the validity of the Order recently issued by the Irish Local Government Board, who have solved the difficulty as to women acting as rate-collectors by issuing a "general order" disqualifying them, in company with minors, felons and bankrupts, from becoming poor-rate collectors. Counsel's opinion has been taken on the matter, and is that the order is bad in law, as it repeals, in effect, Acts of Parliament which removed the disabilities of women at common law. The Women's Local Government Society merits the thanks of all women for taking up the question.

Madame Sarah Grand is a keen advocate for women's suffrage, and believes that the possession of the vote is the key to the whole question of improving the position of women. We emphatically agree with her.

Even in America it would seem that women are not admitted to municipal offices without opposition. Dr. Mary Breene has been appointed city health officer at Lamart, Iowa, and it is now claimed by her opponents that she is rendered ineligible for the appointment by her sex. The Attorney General has also pronounced Mrs. M. B. Abbott, who has been elected county prosecuting attorney by the men of Ogemaw, county Michigan, ineligible for the same reason.

Miss Lizzie Marguerite O'Kell, of Bedford, who was educated at Queen's College, Harley Street, London, and holds the certificate of the Sanitary Institute, has

been appointed sanitary inspector for Marylebone, her duties being chiefly the examination of the industrial establishments in the parish where women are employed.

Miss Boyd, of Sheffield, has been elected Secretary of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, in the place of the late Miss Holland.

Mrs. Robert Witt, formerly a student of Somerville College, Oxford, delivered a most interesting lecture on "Art Criticism in the Victorian Age," at the University Extension Summer Meeting. Mrs. Witt dealt at some length with the most prominent critics of the period, and concluded with some observations on the art of criticism.

Sir Theodore Martin, K.C.B., who is one of the trustees of Shakespeare's birthplace, has given £1,000 for the erection of a pulpit in Shakespeare's Church at Stratford-on-Avon in memory of his wife, the late Lady Martin, who, as Miss Helen Faucit was, on the stage, and subsequently by her writings, one of the noblest delineators of Shakespeare's female characters.

The Netherlands Women's League for International Disarmament has addressed appeals to the Queen of England not to allow war with the Transvaal, and to the people of Great Britain, urging them to bring pressure upon the Government to change its present policy, and to submit all questions at issue to the arbitration of "neutral and impartial judges."

Miss Jasin, a Japanese lady, who for the last two years has been studying English methods of education at the Cambridge Teachers' College, is now travelling in Switzerland with Miss Hughes, the late principal of the College. She has proved herself an excellent climber, possessed of pluck, and all the necessary qualities.

All honour to the nuns who, in the recent conflagration of a home for waifs in New York, remained in the burning house directing the escape of their charges until all chance of their own safety was gone. That they could not have done less is true. Nevertheless, it is in times of panic and terror that daily habits of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty bear fruit, and it is an honour to their sex that these brave women were not found wanting in the time of trial. It is sad to learn that of their number twenty are badly injured, ten so seriously that they will probably die, or be crippled for life.

**What to Read.**

- "Women and Economics." A Study of the Economic Relation between Men and Women as a factor in Social Evolution. By Charlotte Perkins Stetson.
- "An English South African's View of the Situation." Words in Season. By Olive Schreiner.
- "Under the Sjangbok." By George Hansby Russell.
- "The Modern Jew." By Arnold White.
- "A Book of the West." Being an Introduction to Devon and Cornwall. By S. Baring-Gould.
- "Richard Carvel." By Winston Churchill.
- "The Path of a Star." By Mrs. Everard Cotes.

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