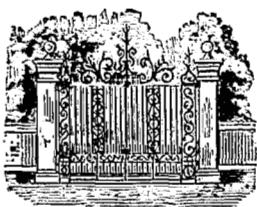


## Outside the Gates.

### AN OUTRAGE TO HUMANITY.



THE Dreyfus Trial is at length over, and the whole civilized world stands aghast at the verdict and sentence. There has been a strong feeling that, in the absence of any proof of guilt, and having regard to the strong proofs of innocence brought forward, the most biassed judges had no option, in spite of the pressure brought to bear by their incriminated superior officers, but to pronounce a verdict of "not guilty." Unhappily they have taken the opposite course, and in the words of a contemporary "in stupid blindness to the countless incidents which overwhelmingly sustained the character of Dreyfus as an innocent man, in wooden-headed inability to perceive that the honour of the French Army consisted in purging it of liars and forgers—not in upholding a Henry, an Esterhazy, a Mercier, and even five War Ministers, against truth and justice—five of the seven soldiers have flung reason and fact and rightfulness to the winds, and have delivered this infamous judgment, which disgraces France, dishonours her Army, insults the German Emperor, offends the best principles of humanity, and clumsily expiates the original wrong by a new official crime almost as wicked as the old one, and possibly more foolish and fatal in its consequences."

To Captain Dreyfus there must at least be a crumb of comfort, amid all the hideous injustice of which he is the victim, in the knowledge that, though in obedience to popular clamour, and considerations of self-interest, five out of seven of his judges have pronounced him guilty of an infamous crime, yet his innocence is known to the world, its sympathies are with him, while his judges are held in universal execration, and there are few persons who would not now rather exchange places with the unfortunate prisoner, condemned and degraded, rather than with the five men who passed sentence upon him, and whose names will for all time be held in contempt. For the rest—where is the honour of the French Army of which we have heard so much? It will be long before it is extricated from the mire in which it has been trampled by those whose business it was to uphold it. It remains now to France to reverse this disgraceful verdict, to see that justice is done to an innocent man, if she wishes to retain the least shred of respect from the nations who are now waiting to see if at the eleventh hour she will rise and remove, as much as may be, the stain upon her good name.

One lesson both for France and other nations is, we think, obvious as the outcome of the recent trial, namely that a purely military court is a mistake. Too many considerations of self-interest may be involved to make the position a desirable one to members of a court martial, and although happily in this country officers are commonly gentlemen, and act in accordance with the traditions of their class, still we can conceive their position being an extremely awkward one. Lastly, when from professional considerations it becomes necessary to uphold military "honour," the interests

of the civilian are imperilled, as in the present instance, when the whole French nation is disgraced by the action of a military court. Had any demonstration on behalf of the condemned man taken place last Saturday, we cannot doubt that those who participated in it would have been ruthlessly shot down, by order of the military authorities, in support of whose despotism an innocent man has been condemned, and the conscience of the whole world outraged.

In conclusion, we can only hope that unless the French nation repudiates this disgraceful action, that the nations who have arranged to take part in the Paris Exhibition next year will publicly express their indignation by refusing to have anything to do with it. We are glad to see that in this country as well as in the United States and Italy, such a course has already been suggested, and in Vienna an agitation has been immediately set on foot with the object of boycotting the Exhibition, and a committee of prominent persons has been formed to collect the signatures of all those who will promise on their honour neither to visit nor exhibit there, also that at a meeting of the Hungarian Parliament a motion will be brought forward to the effect that Hungary shall abandon all official participation in the Paris Exhibition. We hope our own Parliament will adopt a similar course.

To Madame Dreyfus in her grief and distress we offer our most sincere sympathy. We believe that eventually her husband will not only morally, but actually, be fully exonerated from the crime laid to his charge.

### WOMEN.

Presumably the announcement that the Legislative Council of Victoria had passed the Women's Suffrage Bill was premature, as news has now been received that the Bill has been rejected by twenty-seven votes to seventeen. So the women of Victoria have still to urge their just cause. They have all our sympathy.

Paris will have its Congress of Women next June, when the second "Congrès des Œuvres et Institutions Féminines" will meet in the palace of official congresses. The meetings will begin on June 18th and close on the 23rd, and the programme will deal with State and private philanthropic work, social economics, legislation and public morality, education, industrial work, and women's work in art, science and literature. The ladies who are organising the congress invite men as well as women to take part in the meetings. The president of the organising committee is Mlle. Monod, 95, Rue de Renilly; the general secretary M<sup>me</sup>. Pégard, 19, Rue Decamps, Paris.

Mlle. Monod, having attended and taken an active part in the International Congress in London this year, is well known to and greatly respected by those who had the pleasure of making her acquaintance.

The Duchess of Sutherland will shortly make an appearance in the ranks of the novelists, a story from her pen, entitled "One Hour and the Next," being among the season's announcements.

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