

had better things in store for his hearers, and his words respecting the power and far-reaching influence of Christian home life were noble and in just the right spirit.

THERE were things in Mrs. Pelham's paper with which it was possible to disagree. She seemed to think that society now is more vicious than it was fifty years ago. The truth of this matter seems to be that, fifty years ago, good women were sedulously kept from all knowledge of the realities of life; they lived in a world of their own, and so remained practically unable to be of service to the great, deplorable, bad world that seethed outside their high garden-walls of sunshiny peace and seclusion. That good women should know of the existence of evil must mean that good women will face it and grapple with it, than which no better way of stamping it out can be conceived.

THE Bishop of Chichester spoke well. He dwelt upon the immense increase of women's opportunities. He touched upon that vast point of the special function of woman as the fountain-head of social purity. English girls, English women, as workers for the glory of God, for their own bread, or for their fellow men—pioneer farmers, plague nurses, Zenana doctors, school-mistresses, novelists, explorers—what not? A steadily increasing stream of such, flowing through the arteries of our Empire, everywhere making themselves felt, everywhere setting up new standards, what may not such achieve in the future that lies before us?

BUT it was Mrs. Creighton, perhaps, who came nearest to the core and centre of the beating heart of the "woman question." The reason why the first meeting of the Congress was a woman's meeting, said she, was because women have in their hands the first beginnings of life—it is a woman who first starts every man upon his path. "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world." Not every woman is the mother of a son; but every man in the world, every man in the Church, is the son of a woman. The Jesuit who said that, if he might have a man to train for the first seven years of his life, anybody else might have him afterwards, knew his trade. The mother has the unspeakable advantage of holding in the hollow of her hand these mystic seven first years, and the speaker laid her finger on the weak spot when she said that mothers now-a-days shrank from disciplining their children's wills. We let the child do as he likes; then the man also will insist upon doing as he likes, even at the cost of a woman's ruin!

She also emphasized the great old truth that the woman must *be* what she teaches, and live as she believes.

THE speaking in the evening was, of course, of a simpler character, and the vast audience was not only younger, but of a less educated description than in the afternoon.

Women were well represented at the opening of the Congress on Tuesday afternoon, though the number of men at this time was very great, and by no means confined to the clergy. Every arrangement has been made for the comfort of ladies during the Congress, the drawing-room and writing-room, which have been fitted up in the Hall, meeting a most decided want.

It should be particularly mentioned that, in spite of the vast size of the auditorium, most of the speakers were heard without an effort, a result probably due to the cleverly arranged sounding-board, which has, however, the effect of placing the speaker much in shadow.

WOMEN.

When the Queen visits Bristol and Clifton on Wednesday, November 15th, her Majesty will travel by special train from Windsor, accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, Princess Beatrice, and a large suite. The Queen will arrive at Bristol soon after one o'clock, and in the course of the drive from the station to Redland, her Majesty will stop at the Council House to receive an address from the Lord Mayor and Corporation. The Queen is to leave Bristol on her return to Windsor about a quarter past four. Her Majesty's carriage (which will be sent from the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace) will have an escort of Life Guards from London, and the servants in attendance are to wear their semi-state liveries.

A strong attitude has been taken by women Liberals throughout the country. The president or secretaries of the many Women's Liberal Associations have signed the national memorial against war with the Transvaal on behalf of the members.

Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, hon. secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, points out that many cases of lead poisoning have been successfully treated by electric baths at Wolverhampton, and were enabled to avail themselves of the treatment out of the fund raised by the League and subscribed by the readers of the *Daily Chronicle*.

Preparations are being made for the erection in Llantysilio Church of a memorial white marble panel of Lady Martin, as Helen Faucit, from the exquisite model by Foley.

Madame Adam, the leading woman political writer in France for many years, has, it is reported from Paris, retired from the editorship of the *Nouvelle Revue*.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)