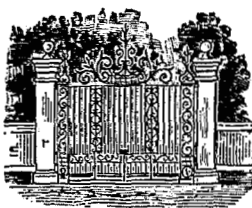


Outside the Gates.



We are glad to observe that a majority of mere untitled women are to be permitted to compose a Ladies' Committee for the City of London to collect funds for the Women's Memorial of our late Queen Victoria, in aid of the Jubilee Nurses' Institute. We have no doubt their efforts will be successful, as the majority belong to the moneyed class. The Central Committee, who will have all the power in distributing the Fund, is almost entirely composed of peeresses. Dear, simple-minded old Queen, we think she would have preferred that vulgar class distinctions should have been avoided in a woman's National Memorial of herself. Women of all social sections should have been represented on the Central Committee if the Fund was to be popular; as it is, hundreds of professional and industrial workers will decline to pay for the glorification of advertising Society women, and we cannot blame them. We must always remember that it was a "mere Mrs." whose fertile brain suggested the Women's Jubilee Fund, that the £70,000 was largely contributed by the "commonality," and that all the splendid work of the Queen's Nurses is done by middle-class women. Under these circumstances, why the domination of Duchesses?

Male shorthand writers have long cherished the conviction (says the *Westminster Gazette*) that, whatever might be the case in the lower grades of shorthand work, they could easily hold their own against the inroads of the other sex where long spells of rapid writing were required. But this opinion seems likely to take its place soon among "exploded" superstitions. The Phonetic Shorthand Society announces that at a recent competition at which nearly forty candidates sat, two-thirds being males, the best three transcripts handed in were by ladies, who have accordingly been awarded the gold, silver, and bronze medals offered. The test was at the respectable pace of 150 words per minute, and the competition has been an annual one for upwards of ten years past. Till very recently no lady was ever seen among the candidates!

The tragic death, deeply deplored by all who knew him, of Mr. Thomas Bond, of Westminster, reminds one of his invaluable services in connection with most of the notorious crimes committed during the past quarter of a century.

Most people have forgotten the facts associated with the trial of Kate Webster, who, on the testimony of Mr. Bond, was hanged on July 29th, 1879, under circumstances which probably have no parallel in the grim records of the Old Bailey, for the murder of her mistress, Mrs. Thomas, in Richmond.

At the last moment of the trial the accused pleaded her condition, and as the law says two lives must not be sacrificed for one, if her contention had been verified her neck would have been saved.

The first jury of matrons ever summoned to Newgate was empanelled. It was drawn hastily from the wives of ushers and police-constables, and attendants living

adjacent. They were duly "boxed" and sworn, and the convicted prisoner from the dock officially handed over to their custody and inspection.

They were unable to agree, and came back to consult the judge, who, finding himself in a quandary, requested Mr. Bond to ascertain the truth.

He was absent for only a few minutes, when he returned and on oath deposed that the woman, then again placed in the dock, was not in even the condition of pregnancy.

The sentence of death was then pronounced.

Decoration Day witnessed the dedication at the University of New York of the Hall of Fame, the cost of constructing and fitting of which has been entirely defrayed by Miss Helen Gould. In the front hall are 150 panels, upon which are to be recorded, for the benefit of posterity, the deeds of as many illustrious American men and women. Up to the present only twenty-nine "immortals" have been selected for the honour.

The Women's Local Government Society.

The Women's Local Government Society have issued the following memorandum on some points in the Education Bill, introduced by the Government, "to make provision for and confer certain powers on local Education Authorities in England and Wales."

Prominence should be given to the fact that—as has been pointed out by the Royal Commission on Secondary Education—in the absence of women on an education authority, "the interests of girls often receive insufficient attention."

The Committee of the Women's Local Government Society therefore invite attention to provisions in the Bill to which they take grave objection:—

I. The education authority created by the Bill is the County or County Borough Council, acting through an Education Committee constituted in accordance with a scheme made by the County or County Borough Council in each locality, and approved by the Board of Education.

Objection.—Women are ineligible as members of County and County Borough Councils, and, therefore, the Council that is to make the scheme will necessarily consist of men only.

II. Every such scheme is to provide that a majority of the Members of the Education Committee shall be members of the Council.

Objection.—To a majority of the seats on the Education Committee no women will be eligible.

III. The remaining minority of the seats on the Education Committee are to be filled by persons, male or female, who are not members of the Council, and who are placed on the Committee either by co-option or by some other means, as may be provided by the scheme.

Objections.—(a) No woman who may be placed on the Committee without the support of the electorate behind her, can hold as strong a position as if elected.

(b) Until the schemes shall have been made (in the making of which by the Councils women will have no share), there is actually no sure provision for the co-operation of women even as a part of a minority.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)