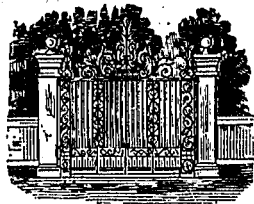


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Queen Alexandra, it is stated, will present each soldier in the Irish Guards with a bunch of shamrock on St. Patrick's Day, and has given an order to the Shamrock League for the necessary supply. The League, of which the Countess of Limerick is the President, has been established to aid the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association by the sale of shamrock.

An influential committee has been formed to perpetuate by means of a Helen Blackburn Memorial Fund the memory of an estimable woman. This will be in the nature of a loan fund for the training of young women in trades and professions after the manner of the Caroline Ashurst Biggs Fund, which Miss Blackburn herself was largely instrumental in raising. Women suffragists owe a deep debt of gratitude to Miss Blackburn for the whole-hearted and untiring work she gave to further this cause, so absolutely all-important to women and to the world.

Mr. E. A. Cornwall, the official organiser of the triumphant Progressive Party of the London County Council, has given it as his opinion, in answer to the question—

“Does the transfer of the work of the School Board to the County Council mean that Parliament must sanction the admission of women to Spring Gardens?”

“Undoubtedly that is what must happen. It is absolutely essential that women should serve on the Council. Look what useful work they could do in administering education, inebriates' homes, asylums, the Midwives' Act, and other specific departments.”

Sir Charles MacLaren recently gave notice in the House of Commons of his intention to call attention to “the disabilities of women in respect of elections to municipal, district, and county councils, and in respect of the Parliamentary franchise, and to move that such disabilities ought to be removed by legislation.” The notice was received with applause. It is high time that the House of Commons was compelled to express an opinion on the matter of women's suffrage. The manner in which it has been shirked during the past few years is highly discreditable to the honour of the House. Moreover, it makes our legislators ridiculous in the eyes of the world to be classed in their attitude to women with the unspeakable Turk and the Orientals. Even in the land of the Dalai-Lama, according to Mr. G. T. Tsyhikoo in last month's *Strand*, our expedition may bring away from Lhasa, the “land of the gods,”—if they ever reach it—some useful hints on the treatment of women.

According to this Russian authority, the women in Lhasa seem to have it much their own way, and the city should afford many arguments for the feminist. Of its entire population—hardly more than 10,000—at least two-thirds are women; and not only Lhasa, but

Tibet itself can be described as the land of women and women's rights. The clerks in the shops, except those kept by Kashmir and Nepaul merchants, are nearly all women. “I can recall no occupation,” writes Mr. Tsyhikoo, “that is carried on in the country in which women are not actively engaged, and they often conduct great undertakings quite independently of men.” This preponderating feminine influence is ascribed by the writer to the vast number of celibate priests.

A Bill was passed by the Italian Chamber last week for the admission of women into the legal profession. The result of the voting—115 against 95—was a great surprise, as in reality the measure had only one partisan, its promoter, Signor Socci.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* says:—“The Italian Chamber of Deputies approved the Bill giving women the right to plead as advocates in courts of law by a majority of only twenty votes. As far as I can gather, only one lady in Italy is at present qualified. She holds the law degree of Turin University. This is, however, a remarkable departure for a country like Italy, where women do not occupy the same intellectual position as in some northern countries, and it must be taken as a sign of increasing liberalism in Italian thought. It remains to be seen if the Senate will take the same view as the Chamber of the project.”

Miss Christabel Pankhurst, the young Manchester lady who recently made an unsuccessful application for admission to one of the Inns of Court, has applied for membership of the Manchester Law Students' Society. The rules at present only allow for the admission of men, but the Treasurer (Mr. Hislop) will move their amendment so as to include women.

The fifth anniversary luncheon of the Society of American Women in London, which took place at the Hotel Cecil on Monday last, was a very brilliant function, and amongst those who assembled as guests were the Lady Mayoress, the Countess of Aberdeen, Mrs. Randall Davidson, Mrs. Ayrton, Mrs. Percy Boulnois, and Miss Bertha Cave. The President, Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffin, was in the chair, behind which the Union Jack and Stars and Stripes were draped. She welcomed the members and guests, and spoke of the progress which had been made by the Society of American Women in London during the five years it had been in existence. Mrs. Roche read greetings which had been telegraphed to the Society from America. Mrs. Griffin then installed the newly-elected officers, among whom were Mrs. Glynas as President. The Countess of Aberdeen, in the course of a short speech, extended an invitation to the members of the Society to attend the conference of the International Council of Women, to be held in Berlin in June. Mrs. Percy Boulnois, of the National Union of Women Workers, Lady Elizabeth Cust, of the Pioneer Club, Miss Smedley, of the Lyceum Club, and Mrs. Ayrton also spoke. The Lady Mayoress said it gave her the greatest pleasure to be present. During the afternoon Mrs. Griffin was presented with the badge of the Society set in brilliants, which was offered to her in the name of the Society by the in-coming President. The proceedings closed with the National Anthem and a verse from “America.”

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)