

many University women; all, we hope, in the cap, gown, and hood that denote their several degrees. In fact, the professional women in their several groups are to be a very special feature of the pageant. Women teachers, women writers, women artists, actresses, musicians, business women, women clerks, and secretaries, gardeners, and gymnasts, will all come, walking under their respective banners: and besides this large section of the professional class, there will, of course, be the great groups of the various political, social, and industrial societies.

It only remains to add that all is organised with the permission and, indeed, most kind assistance of the Police Authorities.

Tickets for the Albert Hall meeting may be had from Miss P. Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, at 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s. and 6d.

M. L., *One of the Banner-makers.*

The value and need of women's work in connection with the operations of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts were emphasised at the annual meeting of this branch of the Society, held at Church House, Westminster, recently. Earl Beauchamp, who presided over a large attendance, spoke from personal knowledge of the useful work which was being carried on in Australia. It was impossible to estimate the importance of the work of the Church of England through the agency of the Society, not only in the Colonies but in the wider sphere of foreign parts. The Rev. Lord William Cecil specially pleaded the claims of women's work in China, where, he said, the people were ready and anxious to listen to the message which Christian women were able to convey with convincing force. The Bishop of Dorking mentioned that in the mission fields of India there were great opportunities for the work of women. The standard of one age could not be taken as the standard of another. At one time the life of the young woman was in the home circle, where, cultivated and domesticated, she fulfilled her mission. That old atmosphere had produced many of the highest types of womanhood, but it could not be ignored that the woman of to-day found in the new circumstances greater opportunities for useful service in which she took her part equally with man. She had now entered many spheres of life, but her place pre-eminently was in the mission field, where her beneficent influence aided the work of Christian societies.

At a meeting recently held at Birmingham the Bishop of Birmingham paid a high tribute to the service of women on boards of guardians and other public bodies. He expressed a strong conviction that women relieving officers should be appointed, and moved that a society be inaugurated with the object of promoting the election of women on bodies entrusted with the administration of local affairs.

The attitude of the Bishop of Birmingham towards women and their work is always a liberal one; and then, as an historian, he knows that they have held honourable positions both in Church and State in former days.

Book of the Week.

THE THREE MISS GRAEMES.*

There are, we may say, two definite threads running through this book, which, as they concern the love stories of two of the Miss Graemes, give it a right to its title. It must be confessed that the threads are a trifle delicate and slender for the burden they have to bear, which is a series of the cleverest, most delightful little character sketches imaginable. There are no pretensions to plot; the love-stories are so obvious as to be scarcely more interesting than the engagements daily taking place in quite a decorous humdrum way amongst our acquaintance; they are just as commonplace and true to life.

Nor are the adventures of the Miss Graemes, when they are thrown on the world at the death of their improvident father, of such an extraordinary nature as to call for chronicle. There are many episodes probably within our experiences that would seem to demand it more.

Nevertheless, we are delighted to have met the three Miss Graemes, who are, to use their historians own word, "ingenuous" indeed, and quite charming. But particularly are we indebted to them for being the means of introducing us to a variety of amusing and realistic types of humanity.

There is, first of all, their own household in the far-away Scottish island belonging to their father. Captain Graeme's eccentricities, the inheritance of a perfect disposition from their dead mother, and the upbringing by a French lady of exceedingly good family, all serve to make the girls what they are—sporting and keenly interested in racing, religious, well-read in the classics, and courtly in their bearing. Major Hanbury, Captain Graeme's old friend, may well be astonished by the atmosphere in which he finds himself. The contrast between the two men is well portrayed—Hanbury, solid, reliable, keen soldier and good friend; Graeme, brilliant, variable, with a ruined career and friendless. It is small wonder that, feeling himself to be approaching death, Graeme sends for Hanbury and commits his daughters to the good fellow's care.

Upon their bereavement, the girls find they have no alternative: the island has to be let, and, with the four hundred a year this brings them, they resort to London and the chaperonage of their aunt, Lady Parfield. And here we are presented with a second picture, another type of life. The mistakes that the girls make in this new, conventional atmosphere are at once pathetic and amusing. For instance, when, on their first morning, they inadvertently stray from the gardens at the back of their aunt's house up the wrong iron staircase, and the owner of the room comes down at seven o'clock to find three strange young ladies seemingly robbing his valuable library.

The next quaint sketch on the thread is the ménage presided over by good-natured, untidy Mrs.

*By Miss MacNaughtan. (John Murray.)

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