

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The Five Power Naval Conference.

Before adjourning for the Christmas holiday the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons, that the first public plenary meeting of the Five-Power Naval Conference would be opened by the King, and his Majesty would deliver the opening address. This meeting would be held in the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords on January 21st.

An epoch making event indeed! We British women will eagerly scan every item of information which may be made public; the decisions of this Conference may mean life or death to this Empire—let there be no mistake about that.

"The Freedom of the Seas."

Speaking on "The Freedom of the Seas" at the annual general meeting of the Historical Society, Admiral Sir Richard Webb said:—"Freedom of the Seas" had been a rallying cry in the past of weaker sea Powers or of those who sought to limit a belligerent's action. It was one that Britain could never accept; were she to do so, she would at once renounce her power in the world."

What I Have I Hold.

We are very rapacious where the nation is concerned—especially in these days when wealthy foreigners have no compunction in buying and transporting across the seas our most sacred possessions, and the news that Runnymede, the meadows on the banks of the Thames, on which Magna Carta is believed to have been sealed, has been purchased by Lady Fairhaven and her sons for the nation, is a relief. So perturbed has a patriotic section of the public become at the ruthless exploitation of rural England that we note with pleasure societies for its protection are becoming keenly vigilant. The sooner an Act of Parliament is passed to prevent further deprivation the better. Let us all make ourselves audible on this matter.

A Step in the Right Direction.

The movement towards industrial co-operation has made notable progress. At a meeting of representatives of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations, and the Federation of British Industries, a permanent method of consultation and co-operation was unanimously approved. The scheme establishes formal and friendly relations between the national body of trade unionists and the two national bodies of employers. That of itself is something new and a step in the right direction.

Honour to Whom Honour is Due.

On March 6th, at 12 noon, the unveiling of Mrs. Pankhurst's Statue will take place in Victoria Tower Gardens. The Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P., will perform the ceremony and subscribers to the Memorial Fund will receive tickets of invitation. The Statue is the work of Mr. A. G. Walker, A.R.A., assisted by Sir Herbert Baker, A.R.A. The Headstone for Mrs. Pankhurst's grave in Brompton Cemetery, designed and executed by Miss Allan, will be placed there the same day, and at 3 p.m. a short service will be held at the grave. Further particulars can be had from: Viscountess Rhondda, Hon. Treasurer, or the Hon. Secs., Mrs. Pankhurst Memorial Fund, 15, Gayfere Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Humane Slaughter Bill.

Do let us all use our influence in the New Year to decrease the horrible cruelty to animals—so often reported in the papers, and so inadequately punished. Let us begin with supporting the agitation for the speedy passage of the Humane Slaughter Bill. Scotland has proved the practicality of the measure.

Shrines to our Quality.

However we may persecute our great thinkers in life there is no doubt once safely in a higher sphere—remorse presumably inspires us to "give the devil his due." In other words with pride we recognise their quality.

Shrines are arising all over the country and wherever erstwhile disturbers of the peace or morals have resided, there their memories must be preserved for ever.

The latest gift to the nation is Dr. Johnson's house in Gough Square between Fleet Street and Holborn—which has been handed over at a most inspiring function, to a body of Governors, by Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, in the big attic in the top floor of which Dr. Johnson worked for several years on his Dictionary.

Mr. Harmsworth said he was parting with the house with regret. He had found it a glorious hobby. In making his collection of Johnsoniana which went with it, he had had great help from Johnsonians in this country and in America. It was going to be increasingly difficult to add to the collection, for the cost of Johnsonian items had gone up by leaps and bounds.

Lord Hewart said that Mr. Harmsworth valued that house very much. He had filled it with his affection and enriched it from his wealth. Now, because he valued it so much, he had given it to others. So doing, he had erected a monument more durable than bronze, and a monument not to Dr. Johnson alone.

Alas! the little house in South Street in which Miss Nightingale lived for so many years, and from where even in extreme old age she exercised such world-wide influence, has been demolished. Does this matter, we wonder? We think not. We know a better place in which to focus her individual genius.

1929—1930.

Old "29" has joined the vanished years!
Some who have seen the end of him may find
But little promise of more joy than tears
Among his legacies to human-kind!

There comes another down the vacant path,
Serenely searching out untrodden ways
With all the confidence a novice hath,
Welcome the lad—he *must* bring *some* good days.

Give him your hand and trust him till he fails
To grace his little span with worthy things,
Good luck may pilot *any* ship that sails
Or risks a cargo in the air, on wings!

C. B. M.

LAST WORDS 1929.

"You gave us a Summer
(Tho' since you've been glummer)
You gave us a Summer
Delightful and dear;
Your bounty enriched us,
Your beauty bewitched us,
We love you and lose you, Farewell, good old year."

FIRST WORDS FOR 1930.

"Que la nouvelle année vous soit prospice et que Dieu vous accorde toutes ses bénédictions et une bonne santé"

MADAME DE SEVIGNE.

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