

queenly graces. The latter is not only an accomplished artist, but is known throughout the kingdom for her charities, and her popular title is the "Angel of Pity." She is the head of a number of societies and charitable enterprises, and every detail of their various organisations she personally superintends. She is above all things, however, a devoted wife, and during the King's late serious illness, she was his indefatigable nurse—helping the doctors by her intelligent and zealous care of the patient, and winning golden opinions, and praise from them for her womanly tact and gentleness.

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THE death of the Marchioness of Ailsa, which took place last week, will be very generally regretted—especially in the district in which she lived, where it is said that "her good works will be her most lasting memorials." All know with what ardour she advocated the cause of temperance among working men, providing them, as a counter attraction, with a coffee house, and rooms for reading and recreation. She also substituted sanitary and excellent blocks of dwellings for the badly-drained, badly-built houses of many of the poorer classes in Maybole, and erected at her own expense a Convalescent Home at Maidens, and by her frequent visits and timely sympathy endeared herself in many ways to the people among whom she lived.

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It is not only in India and Egypt that the influence of English thought is beginning to affect the position of women. We read that, until lately, Chinese ladies have been kept in the strictest seclusion. But the other day, at a ball at the British Embassy in Peking, the Marquis Tseng brought with him two ladies of his family, and his example was followed by many other persons of distinction in the State.

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MRS. JANE AITKEN, who has just died at Dumfries, was the sister of the late Thomas Carlyle. She was a woman of great intellectual power; and it was to her that her illustrious brother wrote many of his characteristic letters. She was also the mother of the lady who was the "Sage of Chelsea's" companion and long-suffering Nurse during the solitary years of his widowership.

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It is good to read of brave women; and the two daughters of the lighthouse-keeper Ingram, who rendered such efficient aid to their father, and his heroic comrade, John Milne, in saving the lives of the poor people aboard the "Mona's Isle" in Douglas Bay, Isle of Man, have gained the well-deserved title of "The Grace Darlings of the Head." During the storm they climbed down

over the rock, and stood in a terrible sea, with ladders and ropes, while their father and Milne, by superhuman efforts, rescued the drowning men.

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It has been truly said that the Victorian era will be known as the age of woman's progress. It will be a good while, doubtless, before a lady is seated on the woolsack; but the first step towards that tremendous innovation has been taken, by the admission of Miss Letitia Walkington, M.A., to the degree of LL.B. This lady has the distinction, not only of being the first lady graduate in arts, but also the first to take a degree in law, having passed exceedingly well, after private study, the examination for LL.B., just held at Dublin. About a dozen Irish ladies have passed the recent examinations for the degree of B.A.

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WOMEN with a taste for decorative painting should pay a visit to the Studios of Mrs. Avant at 48, Berners-street, Oxford-street, and they will be amply repaid for their trouble. By dint of hard work, and giving her mind to her business this lady has built up a large trade that is still steadily increasing, and although she only commenced two years ago, she has now travellers in the provinces, and orders for goods are received from Scotland, and many of the large towns in England. Working at these studios will be found apprentices, others receiving payment for their labour, and others again, are artists who have been educated elsewhere. A class is held for private pupils in a separate studio in the house, and our readers will, doubtless, be glad to know that bazaars can be supplied on the lowest possible terms, with the innumerable charming articles described in the *Queen*, as follows:—"Decorative painting is the principal art followed in these studios, and with such success, that a large wholesale trade is being done in all kinds of fancy goods, such as satin sachets, sweet bags, and so on. Fans are painted to order, and mounted in twenty-four hours, besides which, a good stock is always kept on hand; and of this branch of art we can speak highly, for the designs are graceful, and carried out quite in Parisian style. The satin sachet sets are really lovely; one of white satin, painted with sprays of wild roses, was as near perfection as anyone could wish. The large envelope for the dressing-jacket, the glove and handkerchief sachets all matched, and so spotless are they, that it seemed as if hands could never have touched them—just the very things for wedding presents. The scale descends until we reach the little sachets only large enough to hold a few square folded handkerchiefs, and these are made and sold by the gross the demand being brisk. Some pink silk panels for a screen were

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