

Society for the amelioration of prison life. His wife sympathised and encouraged this work enthusiastically.

Frederika was an example of the oft-disputed possibility of uniting domestic efficiency with public activity. At this time, and later on during the unexpected development of all she undertook for the general good, she found time (like many another busy woman) to do justice to the sacred claims of wife- and motherhood. At the time of her marriage her husband had several of his younger brothers and sisters with him, besides pupil-boarders. One of these (afterwards a famous man) loved to speak of the "Frau Pastorin." "She was so good!" She seems to have found plenty of time to "mother" the boys, to sympathise with their pranks, and beg them off when they got into mischief, to be their good-tempered, kindly companion, as well as the revered "house mother." In her parish "she showed," says one who knew her well, "the art of acting silently, and of saying the right word in the right place." In all her dealings with the poor and afflicted she showed a marvellous insight into the mental and moral difficulties of their position. She was literally able "to sorrow with the sorrowful." For the girls and women of her parish she organised sewing classes, and a knitting school for the tinies. The latter is the germ from which the subsequent infant schools sprang.

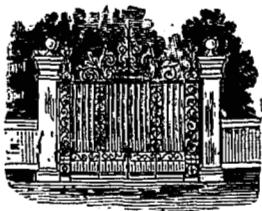
The helpless condition of dismissed criminals, especially female criminals, led Frederika to open her summer-house for the miserable—but now historical Minna—who appealed to her for shelter. Assisted by a friend, Katharine Göbel, Frederika now turned her mind to the reformation of dismissed criminals and female penitents, and came to the conclusion that love and work should be their teachers. A house suited for the purpose was acquired, and Katherine was placed at its head. She had no experience, and had to be her own Probationer and Matron, but time taught much, and by holding fast the two first principles they had adopted, she and the Frau Pastorin achieved remarkable results. The women reclaimed were afterwards placed in service or other work suited to their strength.

(To be continued)

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.

#### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.



A MEETING of women interested in various branches of work was held at the Royal Mint on Thursday, the 12th inst., at which the scheme for a National Council of Women was discussed. Mrs. ROBERTS-AUSTEN, the hostess, presided, and briefly introduced Mrs. EVA MCLAREN, the Secretary of the International Council, who had been invited to speak on the International scheme, and to give a few details on the work of foreign Councils. She said that

the International idea had originated, as many ideas originate, in America. In May, 1893, on the invitation of the American officers of the National Council of Women of the United States, a Convention was held in Chicago called the World's Congress of Representative Women. Delegates from many organisations of women in European countries attended this great Congress, and the question of establishing an International Council was discussed. It was felt that the International Council would be a source of strength to the National Councils affiliated to it by establishing a means of inter-communication between the women of different nations, in the same way as the National Councils in each country consolidated the work and interests of the various Societies which had previously been more or less isolated.

The delegates present at the World's Congress of Representative Women undertook to communicate with chosen persons in their own countries, with a view to inducing them to act as officers of a National Council, and by this means, beginnings were made in France, Germany, Switzerland and Finland. In these countries, women had already established different Societies in the interests of their sex, and by drawing these together for mutual sympathy and support, the nucleus of a National Council was formed.

As the outcome of this, there were now Councils at work in Canada (of which Lady Aberdeen was the President); in the United States with branches all over the country; in Germany, where, by the efforts of some of the more progressive women, the Deutsche Frauen Verein reconstituted itself on the lines laid down in Chicago, and was taking up such questions as the position of married women in regard to their property, the guardianship of their children, the position of illegitimate children, &c. A lady visiting the officers of this Council had lately written of them as being "wise and enthusiastic, and very keen over their work." In Finland two powerful societies of women are considering the advisability of amalgamating to form a Council. One of these societies has for its aim the raising of woman intellectually and morally, and the improvement of her position from the economical and civic points of view. In Denmark steps are being taken to form a Council by the officers and those interested in the "Danish Women's Association," a Society which has done much work, and has struggled against adverse circumstances to secure rights of property to married women. In France, the National Council has taken a shape different from that of other countries. It is formed of a number of groups, and is called "La Federation des Groupes Feministes." Several of these societies are doing excellent work, and are gathering together a small knot of members of Parliament in favour of reforms for women. In New Zealand, a Council was being formed by Mrs. Sheppard, of which Lady Stout, the wife of the present Governor, had consented to become President. Another was being organised in New South Wales by Miss Margaret Windeyer.

Many English women were feeling the time had come for them to federate the many societies existing to a central body, and were therefore taking steps to form a National Council for Great Britain and Ireland.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK then addressed the meeting, and explained the proposed organisation of the National Council. She said that they as women had received an excellent hint from Mr. Chamberlain

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)