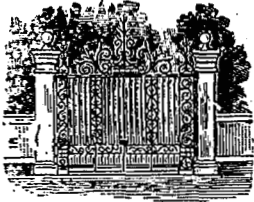


### Outside the Gates.



THE following letter has been addressed by the Queen to the Nation through the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

“Osborne,  
February 14th, 1896.

I have, alas! once more to thank My loyal subjects for their warm sympathy in a fresh grievous affliction which has befallen Me and My beloved Daughter, Princess Beatrice, Princess Henry of Battenburg.

This new sorrow is overwhelming, and to Me is a double one, for I lose a dearly loved and helpful Son, whose presence was like a bright sunbeam in My Home, and My dear Daughter loses a noble devoted Husband to whom she was united by the closest affection.

To witness the blighted happiness of the Daughter who has never left Me, and has comforted and helped Me, is hard to bear. But the feeling of universal sympathy so touchingly shown by all classes of My subjects has deeply moved My Child and Myself, and has helped and soothed us greatly. I wish from My heart to thank My People for this, as well as for the appreciation manifested of the dear and gallant Prince who laid down his life in the service of his adopted Country.

My beloved Child is an example to all in her courage, resignation, and submission to the will of God.

VICTORIA, R.I.”

In connection with the alleged ferocity of the Boers, and the argument brought forward to excuse Jameson's incursion that he wished to protect the women and children of Johannesburg from their cruelty, the following communication has been sent to the press by a lady, the wife of an officer, who vouches for the humanity of the Boers:

“I was working,” she says, “as a Nurse in the Military Hospital, at Newcastle, during the Transvaal war in 1881, and saw almost every officer and soldier who was wounded during the three engagements on the borders of Natal. I never heard—so far as I can now remember—one accusation of cruelty or insult from men who were completely in the power of the Boers after the fights at the Ingogo and Majuba. In fact, I heard from many of kindness and consideration shown both by individual Boers and by the commandant, General Joubert.

In the first fight in the Transvaal, in December, 1880, at Brunker's Spruit, two women were with the 94th Regiment, and one of them, the wife of Sergeant-Major Fox, was accidentally shot as she lay under a waggon when the Boers were firing on our men at a distance of some hundreds of yards. Mrs. Fox told me herself, a few months afterwards, how grieved and shocked the Boers were when they found she was injured; the Commandant especially, who repeated several times, ‘It is a terrible thing that we should have wounded a woman.’ She also said that they sent for her use everything she wanted that they could possibly procure for her, and showed her the greatest kindness.”

Baby Boris is “converted.” The ceremony lasted two hours. Bulgaria has shown her due submission to Russia by the conversion of its Royal two-year-old son to the Greek Church. His governess carried him into the Church, escorted by all the Ministers of State. We are told that “after he was divested of his broad white hat and pelisse, he was placed on the throne nearest to the altar, where he sat in perfect composure, wearing half a dozen Orders over his little white frock.”

The little Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George son of the Duke and Duchess of York, on account of his infantile age, did not have quite the same opportunity of distinguishing himself by “composedly sitting on a throne” during his christening, as did Prince Boris. But no doubt he bore himself bravely on Monday, when he was christened at Sandringham Church. He wore the rich lace robe that has been worn at their baptism by all the children of the Queen and by all the children of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The rumour that Dr. Nansen has reached the North Pole has received confirmation, and further news is eagerly awaited.

The correct text of the telegram which has been received at St. Petersburg concerning Nansen was as follows:—

“Irkutsk, January 31st (February 12th).—The contractor for Nansen, Kushnareff, through the Kolymsk *isppravnik* (chief of police) Kandakoff, by mail from Yakutsk to Kirensk, and thence by telegraph, informs the *Eastern Review* that Nansen has reached the Pole, has discovered land, and returns.”

The paper, *Eastern Review*, is a high-class weekly, published at Irkutsk.

Mr. Sexton, M.P., has declined to accept the leadership of the Irish Party in the House of Commons. Mr. John Dillon was on Tuesday elected to the Chairmanship by thirty-eight to twenty-one votes.

All the sick on the Hospital ship *Coromandel*, which arrived at the Canary Isles on the 17th from Cape Coast Castle, are doing well. The troops on the *Manila*, which is also homeward bound from Ashanti, are in good health.

Miss Clara Barton, the “Florence Nightingale” of America, has gone to Armenia on a mission to the women of that unhappy country. £10,000 has been raised in the States to further her work of mercy.

A public meeting will be held on Monday, February 24th, at 7.30 p.m., at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross Road, W.C., to explain the objects of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. The chair will be taken by Lady Henry Somerset, the President, who will give the opening Address. Mrs. Eva McLaren will speak on the International Idea of the Council; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on the Practical Work of the Council; Mrs. Alec Tweedie on the Work of the Agricultural Section; Mrs. Amie Hicks on the Industrial Section; and Professor Roberts-Austen and Professor Armstrong on the Scientific and Educational Value of Women's Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)