

WOMEN.

Information reaches London from Constantinople to the effect that Miss Clara Barton has proceeded into the Armenian country. Miss Barton had an interview with the Turkish Minister for the Interior, and received permission to undertake her mission of succour. The movement in America to raise funds for distribution among the Armenians is progressing very favourably.

Under the Finance Act of last year, if the joint income of a husband and a wife is under £500 a year, the income is considered as two incomes in respect of the allowance for relief or abatement of income-tax. But the Board of Inland Revenue, "always on the make," has decided that because of something in the Income-tax Act of 1842 no allowance can be made if the woman is in trade. So a typewriter or a school-mistress may benefit, but not so a milliner or a dress-maker. Mr. Bartley and Mr. Loder have therefore brought in a Bill of two clauses to extend the relief to married persons in all classes of employment or business. We commend the little Bill to the favourable consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and we are sure Sir William Harcourt never intended to handicap any class of married women with small incomes.

At the discussion by the Senate of the University of Cambridge as to the desirability of conferring degrees upon women, some very advanced views were given, and, on the other hand, sentiments about women which carried us back to the darkest of the middle ages.

The Master of Trinity was impressed with the importance of the question, as affecting not only Newnham and Girton, but the education of girls throughout England. If all privileges were granted, and women were admitted to professorships, lectureships, and other offices in the University, he had no fear that the intellectual life in Cambridge would be lowered. Experience tended to the belief that the influence of women would not be used in any revolutionary manner. It is quite fitting that the Master of Trinity, who married a lady who distinguished herself at Cambridge by being Senior Wrangler, should hold these broad-minded views on women's education and the position they should take in the world.

Professor Marshall thought "if the numbers of women admitted to the university could be kept to ten per cent. of the whole body no serious harm would arise in having women amongst them, but he failed to see how any such guarantee could be given. The statement made by Mr. Sidgwick with regard to the present arrangements in American universities he believed was incorrect. At Owens College, in the arts departments, the students were now almost all women, the men having been driven out. In his experience of mixed classes, the women were afraid of the men and the men afraid of the women, and he prayed God that it would always be so."

The reason Prof. Marshall is so anxious to keep down the number of women, is for fear they might at some time be able to carry the vote in the Senate. We think it will not long be left to Prof. Marshall and his kind to dictate to women, nor to legislate for them. With regard to his prayer, that women should remain afraid of men and men afraid of women, it might be said that the only men women are afraid of are the narrow-minded ones of Prof. Marshall's kind. For it is he who has led the forces against the admission of

women to university degrees—and has fought the fight with much bitterness of spirit.

The Colleges of Sidney, Clare, Pembroke, Christ's, Queen's and St. John's at Cambridge were all founded by women, as were also the Lady Margaret Professorships, and many University prizes. It certainly seems fitting that women should have at least a share in the advantages thereof.

At a meeting of the Congregation of Oxford University held on the 3rd, in the Divinity School, a resolution proposing to allow women to take the B.A. degree was submitted, and rejected, after debate, by 215 to 140 votes.

The Bill to enable women to be elected as Poor-law Guardians in Ireland passed its second reading in the House of Lords. Viscount Clifden was the only opposer, and his weak argument that the Bill was a most mischievous one, as it was calculated to increase the influence of the priesthood, received neither support nor attention.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie has received a great many sympathetic letters and enquiries on the subject of the proposed "Women's British Produce League," the objects of which she explained in her speech at the meeting of the National Council of Women. It is an admirable, national and patriotic scheme, which should commend itself to all thinking women.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie has lately written an excellent article on "A Married Woman's Position," which lucidly and interestingly explains the rights to her own money enjoyed by women who possess an income, or who are able to earn it.

Reviews.

PENNY POETS.

THE discovery that the sale of penny dreadfuls was having a most pernicious effect upon the youth of our Metropolis, has been followed by one very satisfactory departure from old publishing customs. Mr. Stead, realising the growing demand, and even more the growing need, for good literature that should be within the limits of even the narrowest purse, is publishing every week, under the name of "The Masterpiece Library," a series of selections from the best poets, with short biographical and critical notices of their lives and writings.

I confess that at first I looked upon the scheme with apprehension, but one afternoon I had to make a hurried railway journey on some reporting business, and having glanced over the shilling shockers and usual railway novels with dislike, I at last invested in three penny poets, to wit, abridged versions of Wordsworth, Shelley and Walt Whitman. The journey was a tedious one, and the train stopped aggravatingly at many unnecessary stations, but the time seemed short to me, for inside the orange-yellow covers of the penny editions of these three poets I found all my greatest favourites, and as a preface to each little pamphlet there was a well-written dissertation about the poet and his poems. Being so much pleased with my first invested threepence, I afterwards acquired possession of all the rest of the series, and have, moreover, determined to write on all possible occasions and advise my readers to go and do likewise. Alas! I forgot that there is such a thing as competition in the world;

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)