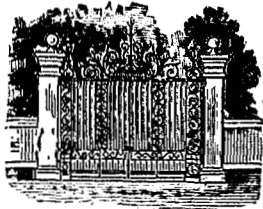


Outside the Gates.



PRINCESS MARIE OF GREECE has been formally betrothed to the Grand Duke George Michailovitch in the Royal Chapel at Athens. The marriage will probably take place in St. Petersburg. She is the fourth child and only surviving daughter of King George and Queen Olga

of Greece, and is just twenty-one years of age. Although it cannot be said that she is beautiful, she is certainly of prepossessing appearance. She is supposed to have maintained the decidedly Russian leanings which very naturally characterise her royal mother, herself a Russian Grand Duchess. This may have decided her choice between the two suitors for her hand. For it has been repeatedly said of late that the young King of Servia, who broke his journey to Athens at Mount Athos, in order possibly to secure the blessing of the monks of the Holy Mountain for the success of his mystical errand, undertook this Athenian journey in the hope of securing the hand of Princess Marie. Such a Greco-Servian Alliance would have been very popular both in Greece and Servia; but other considerations may have prevailed. The Grand Duke George is twelve years older than his *fiancée*, and is the fourth son of the Grand Duke Michael (third brother of the Tsar Nicholas I.), and first cousin of his future mother-in-law, Queen Olga of Greece.

At the revival of the Olympic games at Athens, the Princess and her *fiancé* were loudly cheered. It is interesting to note that the Americans have been the chief victors in the first athletic events.

The negotiations between Great Britain and the United States concerning the Venezuela boundary question are proceeding in a very satisfactory manner, and a solution favourable to all parties is now counted upon with great confidence.

The greatest enthusiasm is being shown by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force on finding that at last the time for action has arrived, it being evidently the intention of the Dervish leaders to immediately attack the new Egyptian lines. Dwellers in the Dongola Province have sent messages expressing their delight at the prospect of speedy deliverance from their barbarous and tyrannical masters. They say their only fear is that when the Dervish retreat occurs the natives will find their homes reduced to ruins by the cruel and rapacious Baggara warriors. The messages add that all classes rejoice to learn the intention of the Egyptian Government to reoccupy the fertile province of Dongola. That province has always been rich in cereals, and it invariably yielded revenue during the most critical periods of the former Soudan administration.

The prompt and spirited action taken by the British Government in the Matabele revolt will soon, it is hoped, cut the rising short.

WOMEN.

The Greenwich Board of Guardians have elected Miss M. Christie, M.B., London, junior medical officer of the Workhouse, at a salary of £80, with board and residence. There were 23 applicants, of whom three were women.

A new calling has been opened up for women by the appointment of Mrs. Ashford by the Exeter Board of Guardians to fill the place of her late husband as Vaccination Officer. There is no question that such work is admirably fitted for a woman. There are two or three women Registrars of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and it is always found that women attend well to such official duties.

A Bill has passed the Legislature of Virginia, authorising the appointment of female medical officers for the female wards of the State Lunatic Asylums.

The admirable suggestion made by the women of Cardiff and embodied in a petition to the Home Office, that a medical woman should be appointed to the Cardiff gaol, has not been carried out. There is every reason why the women in our gaols and prisons should be attended by their own sex, and it is a great injustice that medical women—who are themselves ratepayers—should not have free right to compete for any government or municipal appointment. Every fresh refusal and rebuff should only have the effect of stimulating women more and more to fresh demands for the vote; until they obtain this they will achieve very little in any direction.

The women of the Gold Coast are going into politics. The joy of the West African natives at the overthrow of King Prempeh has been expressed in a remarkable demonstration. A procession of 2,000 or 3,000 women paraded the town carrying a large board on which was a man under an immense umbrella. He was supposed to represent King Prempeh, and behind in a hammock was an old woman representing the Queen Mother. All the women were dressed in their best clothing, and each bore an emblem of her husband's profession or calling. This procession was in celebration of the downfall of King Prempeh. The women ran, shouted, and danced as the procession passed through the various streets, and the pseudo King Prempeh and Queen Mother were mocked and jeered by bystanders and by those in the procession.

Women are coming very much to the front as play-writers, and have been exceedingly successful. It is interesting to recall the plays that have recently been written by women. The novelists have been in great force. George Fleming (Miss Constance Fletcher) gave us "Mrs. Lessingham" at the Garrick Theatre, while Miss Dorothy Leighton wrote "Thyrza Fleming" for the Independent Theatre. Miss Florence Warden was responsible for the four-act comedy "Uncle Mike" at Terry's; John Oliver Hobbs (Mrs. Craigie) wrote in collaboration with Mr. George Moore "Journeys End in Lovers' Meeting." A copyright performance of two pieces by one of our youngest story-writers, Miss Nora Vynne, was given at the Shaftesbury Theatre quite recently, Miss Elliott Page, late of the

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