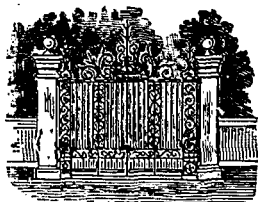


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A CHARMING little story is told in the Russian papers of the wooing of the Czar and Czarina of Russia. When His Majesty proposed to his future wife, then the Princess Alix of Hesse, "The Emperor, my father, has commanded me to make you the offer

of my hand and heart," was the Czarewitch's quaint way of putting it. "And my grandmother, the Queen," replied the lady, "has commanded me to accept the offer of your hand; your heart I will take myself."

It is said, that the Czarina is making a special study of the Russian laws. "How can I be expected to assist in the government of a people," she is said to have declared, "when I know nothing about their laws?" Thereupon she ordered the law books to be brought to her, and began to read diligently.

The Emperor of Austria has conferred upon Queen Elizabeth of Roumania (better known as "Carmen Sylva") the decoration for Arts and Sciences. This is the first time this distinction has been extended to a woman.

At the request of Lady Henry Somerset, General Booth has sent two of his officers from the International headquarters of the Salvation Army to Marseilles in order to assist in mitigating the sufferings of Armenian refugees. Reports received yesterday state that everything possible is being done in the South of France for the housing and feeding of the distressed aliens, and arrangements are being carried out for their transfer to other countries.

The inaugural address of the winter session of the Sheffield School of Medicine was delivered by Sir Henry Littlejohn, M.D., LL.D., of Edinburgh. In the course of his remarks he said that he was bound to testify that no set of students could be more intelligent or more responsible to the teaching of the lecturer than the lady medicals. He was indeed surprised at the courageous manner in which they faced the drudgery of the subjects of their first and second examinations; and when they came to their final trials they made a highly creditable appearance. In this country, except in the centres of population, there was little or no demand for their services, and few so-called prizes could fall to them in the shape of assistantships and house-surgeonships. The time might come, however, when the portals of all their Institutions would be thrown open to ladies.

It is to be hoped that the women of the Eastern Counties who live on farms, or who are otherwise in a position to cultivate country products, will take advantage of the cheap rates of carriage for small

parcels of agricultural produce which have been introduced by the G.E.R. Co., and have proved such a success that many farmers have been unable to meet the demand for fowls and eggs to be sent direct to town.

Hitherto one of the great stumbling blocks in the way of home produce has been the enormous rates charged by railways and by Parcel Post, which completely absorbed the profits. In the south of England and in Ireland the climate is such that a great proportion of the flowers now sent from the Riviera could be grown for the benefit and profit of our own people. It will scarcely be credited that flowers that cost but twopence-halfpenny to be delivered in England from the south of France are charged to the poor grower at home at ninepence.

As another example, eggs in some parts of Ireland—real fresh eggs—can be bought for sixpence a dozen, but as the postage costs at present ninepence, besides price of box, the venture would result in loss. An energetic lady, who manages a large dairy, sent out during the past twelve months 2,500lbs. of butter by parcel post to families at a distance. The carriage she paid was at the rate of £22 a ton.

A memorial is to be presented to Parliament asking that some special postage rates shall be made in favour of home growers and home buyers. Any who want to help in such a good cause can have copies of the memorial, and some interesting details supporting it, from the Women's Employment Society, 22, Berners Street, Oxford Street.

On Thursday forty-five ladies will sail from England for the stations in India, China, and Ceylon of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, and a valedictory meeting will be held in the Church House, Westminster, at 2.30. Miss Codrington, the one survivor of the band of English missionaries upon whom an attack was made at Hwa Sang, China, on August 1st, 1895, is amongst the number who are returning to China.

Great surprise was evinced at the Berlin International Congress of Women that England sent so few delegates; and Ireland, it was remarked, "did not exist." We are pleased to report that, as usual, Scotland was well to the fore. The German papers were quite unable to dispute the magnificent success of the Congress; 1,350 delegates from thirteen countries attending—the audience in the Rathhaus numbering daily an average of 12,000. We must look to our laurels if we are to beat this record in London in 1898.

The Women's Congress, which has just been held in Geneva, was also admirably attended by both men and women; and a Committee has been formed to obtain from the French-speaking Cantons, some settled code concerning forced apprenticeships; the appointment of women inspectors of factories; to authorise girls to attend the industrial and commercial schools; to request railway companies to employ women as cashiers, shorthand and typewriters; to improve the training of Nurses, &c.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)