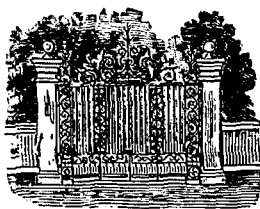


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



TO Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Editor of the *Woman's Signal*, we are indebted for a renewal of the suggestion in the *Illustrated London News*, which she originally put forth in the same columns in the Queen's Jubilee Year, that some Order of Knighthood shall be established for distribution amongst women illustrious in all departments of life, this Order to be founded in the present year of grace in honour of the Queen's diamond wedding with the nation. So long as male merit continues to be so recognised, it is only just that the same means should be adopted to recognise the original worth and work of women, and we hope Mrs. Fenwick Miller's suggestion may be taken into consideration.

The advocates of Women's Suffrage have been very energetic during the past week. At a meeting of the Combined Sub-Committee of the Societies of granting the Parliamentary Suffrage to Women, which met on Wednesday last, it was resolved to sink minor differences on questions of reform—*e.g.*, the lodger and owner franchises—and to co-operate with all M.P.'s who might be willing to take the necessary steps for eliciting the opinion of the House on the principle of extending the franchise to women. In view of the large demands now made upon the time once allotted to private members, it was also decided to proceed by way of resolution unless a position were secured in the ballot so exceptionally favourable as to insure an early Wednesday for the consideration of a Bill.

On the next day the following resolution was adopted by the Parliamentary Committee:—

"That this meeting, realising the excessive difficulty of obtaining a hearing in the House of Commons, earnestly requests Viscount Templeton to introduce the Woman's Suffrage Bill in the House of Lords at the earliest opportunity, and pledges itself that if, in the interest of the measure, to facilitate its passage through the Legislature, it be found necessary to modify the provisions of the Bill, such modification will receive their most careful consideration."

A further resolution was carried entreating the Government to make the concession of the suffrage to duly qualified women a Government measure, or, if that were not immediately possible, to grant such facilities as they could for the discussion of the measure during this Session. The Bill which Mr. Faithfull Begg will introduce is that drawn up by the committee, proposing to confer the suffrage on women owners and householders and upon such married women as have the necessary qualification.

Mr. Radcliffe Cooke has given notice of a motion for the rejection of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill, which is the first order on Wednesday, February 3rd.

Even in the beginning of the present century the Greek ladies whom Byron admired were obliged to walk veiled, after Asiatic fashion, through the streets of Athens, and they were not allowed their due share in the intellectual culture of the renaissant Hellas. It is interesting to learn that a few days ago two young Athenian ladies, the sisters Angelica and Alexandra Panagiotatos, passed their medical examination with brilliant success, and each received her diploma as doctor. The elder is aged twenty-two, the younger twenty. They are natives of Corfu, where they made their first studies, continuing them later in the French School at Athens. They matriculated afterwards at the University of Athens.

The first important meeting of the Committee on Woman's Work in connection with the forthcoming Victorian Era Exhibition at Earl's Court was held at Devonshire House on Saturday. It was decided that each member of the Committee should interest herself in a particular branch of the work. It is much to be deplored that, with the exception of Mrs. Normand (Henrietta Rae), who is to have control of the fine art branch, all experts have been excluded from the Woman's Work Committee, so that it will not be surprising if the Sections do not come up to the highest standard of excellence.

A Book of the Week.

"LIFE THE ACCUSER."*

ONE has no hesitation in saying at once that this is a book worth reading; and this for two reasons—It treats of the deepest feelings that we can be called upon to endure, goes to the heart of life; and in the course of the telling of the story there are many sayings that sink deeply into the mind, that remain in the memory, that will not let themselves be forgotten, as for example—

"This thing called love is the most bracing, to high natures, of all the tonics."

With the first of the conclusions drawn, in the last chapter, by Eliza, I am by no means in sympathy, but the second is a very true truth.

"From all I have watched and learnt, two lessons I have taken acutely to my heart. The first is the inadequacy of any theory of religious or philosophical consolation to touch the agonies of life or to explain them; the second is the almost magic power of patient will so to play upon the face of circumstance as to modify it, until even disaster becomes under its mastering touch something that is not disaster."

In this book we have two good, sweet women, strong in character, perfectly pure in mind, called upon to undergo two of the worst trials that can befall woman; the one, Constantia, to find that the husband who has possessed all her heart for almost twenty years, is the seducer of a young girl, the daughter of a lady with whom they are on friendly terms; and the other, Eliza, loving with every power of her soul a really adequate man, to find him entrapped by the merest

* "Life the Accuser," by E. F. Brooks. (William Heinemann).

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