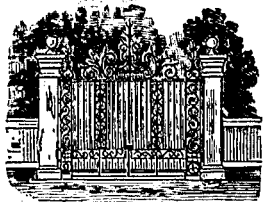


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



MRS. WYNFORD PHILLIPS has secured 15, Grosvenor Crescent, Hyde Park Corner, opposite the Wellington Club, for the New Women's Institute and Pioneer Club. The house contains a very fine suite of drawing-rooms, and is light and airy, and in all

ways adapted for the purpose.

The Annual Council of the British Women's Temperance Association was held last week in Westminster Chapel, Lady Henry Somerset presided. It was announced that it was proposed to raise a Diamond Jubilee Endowment Fund for the industrial farm colony at Duxhurst. Lady Henry Somerset, in the course of her opening remarks, commented severely upon the recent refusal of Cambridge to grant its degrees to women. She was of opinion that "the undergraduates in their sober moments would be ashamed of their action on that occasion." The conference lasted two days, and many subjects of interest were discussed, Mrs. Ormiston Chant and Miss Florence Balfour being amongst the speakers. Lady Battersea presided at the evening meeting in the Queen's Hall, when addresses were delivered by Canon Wilberforce and Lady Henry Somerset. It was announced that the next World's Convention would be held at Toronto, in October.

Mr. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand, speaking recently in London upon female suffrage in that country, said that it had "come to stay." He also said that there was not a single argument urged against female suffrage in England that was not urged almost as "monotonously and drearily against female suffrage at the other end of the world." He continued: "Awful pictures were drawn of neglected babies, uncooked dinners, judicial separations, a plentiful crop of divorce suits, deserted domestic hearths. We were told that women did not want the franchise, and yet it was said that no sooner did they get the franchise than they would be so enthralled, so enthusiastic, that they would neglect all the duties of domestic life. Public platforms would be taken possession of by unattractive terrible persons, attired in ill-fitting clothes, wearing blue spectacles, all having shrill, high voices, all making unreasonable demands and emphasising those demands with gingham umbrellas! Did any of those frightful consequences ensue? Not one; and if I do not approach the subject this evening with that solemn earnestness which some of you think right, it is because we have outlived the objections, and are already beginning to regard them as interesting specimens of political antiquity. Now, if I may begin with that most important of all beings, the baby, permit me to say that he is not neglected at all; and the perhaps less important, but still necessary husband, finds his dinners are cooked and his buttons sewn on. I have yet to learn that families are

estranged, and that judicial separations are growing more plentiful or divorce suits more numerous. In New Zealand women, because they have become citizens, yet have not ceased to be women; their clothes still fit them well, their manners have not lost their feminine charm. Things are very much as they were in social life. In fact, the complaint of the old prophets of evil now is, not that the skies have fallen or that the country is upside down, but that there is so very little change or alteration. They say now "What is the use of giving women the suffrage?"

Mr. Reeves said further: "Female suffrage has very distinctly affected legislation. Laws have been passed because of it; other laws have been modified; changes have been made in the administration of the public service; changes are being made in public opinion outside the public service; altogether, people are beginning to look at customs and institutions with different eyes. Personal results are taking place. I do not think any politician or public worker would try now, in his daily life to outrage the finer feelings of women. It is true that for the most part women do vote not against their husbands and families but with them; that they usually do stand with their class and to their class interests. No one, except an Anarchist, could have expected anything else. But it does not follow from that that they do not exercise a distinct influence in politics; they do, and they bid fair to influence politics still more. In addition to that it is not merely the influence of women upon public life that we have to look to, it is the influence of public life and fuller responsibilities upon women. No one can deny that already the possession of the rights of citizenship has begun to influence women's life, and thought, and brain, in New Zealand, and that influence is altogether for good."

Mrs. Randall Davidson, wife of the Bishop of Winchester, has been elected President of the Winchester Branch of the National Union of Women Workers, and Mrs. Wood Stephens (wife of the Dean), Mrs. Haigh (wife of Archdeacon Haigh), and Miss Bramston have been appointed Vice-presidents.

The annual meeting of the Women Guardians' Association was recently held in the Lord Mayor's Parlour, at the Manchester Town Hall. The Lady Mayoress (Miss Roberts) presided.

The Rev. Canon Hicks, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lady Mayoress for presiding, and to the Lord Mayor for permitting the use of his parlour for the meeting, said it seemed to him that if they could take a sample of their women guardians, and then a sample of their men guardians, they would find that up to the present time the women guardians had been selected with very much greater care in regard to their qualifications. There were men appointed guardians who were a disgrace to any kind of local government—men who had no manners, who went to the Board drunk, who were capable of a great deal of jobbery, and were most undesirable persons. One of the reasons why he, for one, rejoiced in the progress of women guardians was that where a suitable woman or two appeared on a Board it became impossible to have bad manners, and less likely they would have any gross jobbery.

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