

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



HER MAJESTY has conferred a Medal upon the Lady Mayoress in commemoration of her Diamond Jubilee. The Princess of Wales has also presented the Lady Mayoress with a beautiful brooch of red enamel and diamonds, with the date 1897 in brilliants. Her Royal Highness further enhanced the value of the gift by attaching it herself to her Ladyship's dress at the luncheon at the Mansion House, on June 25th.

An address, signed by over three thousand women, the full text of which we publish below, has been prepared for presentation to the Queen from the women of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies. The title-page bears the inscription, "To her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, from the Women of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies." This is richly illuminated, and has a border of rococo ornament. On the second page are the Royal Arms, with crossed Union Jacks behind, and the monogram V.R. The subject matter of the address follows on three pages, the first of these having a border of roses, the second of thistle and heather, the third of shamrock and leeks. The volume is bound in white vellum, richly embossed and illuminated in gold and purple, with white watered-silk ends. It is imperial quarto in size. The address is as follows:—

"We, the undersigned, loyal subjects of your Majesty, venture on this the sixtieth anniversary of your gracious reign, to approach you with hearty congratulations and sympathy, and with warm wishes for your continued health and happiness. On this auspicious day, memorable in the life of your people as in your own, the nation rejoices in the longest and most prosperous record of rule yet achieved by any sovereign of these realms.

We believe that the growing sense in women of their responsibility in public affairs, and the opening out to them of useful employments and positions of honour and emolument, with the greater freedom and respect now accorded to them, are due in no small degree to the fact that a woman has filled the position of supreme head of the greatest Empire of the world for so long a period, not only with dignity and honour, and without in any degree impairing in the mind of her people the high ideal they have formed of the domestic claims and duties of the wife and mother, but so as to exalt that ideal.

Much has been done during the last half century to raise the position of women through educational culture in many directions. We know that your Majesty's sympathetic heart has rejoiced in the laws passed to give women the right to earn their own living and to control what they have earned, reforms which have proved an immense protection to those who most needed such protection. Other measures of importance to women have also received your gracious assent.

Your Majesty's reign has seen also new bread-winning employments thrown open to women, while the undertaking by them of unpaid public work on Boards of Guardians, School Boards, and Parish and District Councils, is bearing fruit in economy and efficiency and in greater tenderness and care, in the management of the young, the poor, the sick, and the aged.

Although much has been done, much still remains undone, and we present our earnest appeal to your Majesty on this unparalleled occasion, still further to encourage the good work of extending to your women subjects the legal protection, the educational opportunities, and the equality of civil rights for which they have so long and ardently striven.

One royal word of sympathy with the progress which women have achieved during your Majesty's illustrious reign, one expression of gracious confidence and hope in the happy results which may be expected to follow from still further enlarging the area brought under the influence of women, would greatly promote and consolidate throughout your Majesty's realms those principles of justice and equity which will sustain in permanence the vast empire over which your Majesty reigns."

The kindly thought of the Princess of Wales in initiating a movement to provide the "poorest of the poor" with a good meal at the Diamond Jubilee resulted in 305,000 people in London alone accepting the invitation of Her Royal Highness to dinner on the Thursday in Jubilee week. Several of the centres were honoured by a visit from their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the guests of the Princess showed their heartiest appreciation of this additional kindness on the part of their royal hostess.

The following letter has been addressed to the Editor of the *Times* by the President of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage:—

"SIR,—As the commemorative celebrations of this week have absorbed the day on which the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill was set down to go into Committee, it may be well to remind our friends throughout the kingdom that the Bill now stands early on the orders of the day for July 7th, and will take its turn with the rest of the Bills which have reached Committee stage according to the existing rules of Parliamentary procedure.

Consequently it is still within the range of reasonable probability that Mr. Faithfull Begg may see his Bill make further progress.

If the worst betide, it remains a case of 'never say die' for the United Women's Suffrage Societies of the United Kingdom, whose combined committee meantime declines to court disaster by premature belief therein.

Yours faithfully,

FRANCES BALFOUR,

President of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.
10, Great College Street, Westminster,

June 25th, 1897."

Lady Egerton has left Athens for Eubœa and other places in which the Greek exiles from Thessaly have taken refuge, in order to distribute to them pecuniary

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)