

Again, the Sisters, in common with most who embark upon real and earnest public work, were subject to misunderstanding and misrepresentation. We read, "We had some kind friends among the Protestant clergy, others of them seemed to be watching our every movement. We could not help feeling that they regarded us with great suspicion, and we often got letters from the War Office which we felt were owing to their reports. The letters used to amuse us very much; they accused us of interfering with the religion of the Protestant soldiers, and informed us that we were only nurses, that St. Paul said women were not to preach or to teach. Dear Rev. Mother would not feel put out by reports of that kind; she knew well that the War Office was misinformed, and that the truth would triumph. It is not our way to force the conscience of anyone. Even if we had never promised the War Office not to interfere with them the Protestant soldiers had been quite safe."

The little band of Sisters were to leave in the Crimea permanent memorials of their courage and devotion. Sister Winifred was attacked at Balaclava with cholera and succumbed the same day. She was buried on the hills between two rocks, many of the soldiers, doctors, officers, and officials attending the funeral. The men of the 89th Regiment begged as a favour that they might be allowed to put up a marble cross to mark the spot of the grave, and this was done. Later Sister Mary Elizabeth died of typhus fever, and was buried in the same place.

The following testimony to the work of the Sisters was given by the deputy-purveyor of the War Office in an official report:—

"The superiority of an ordered system is beautifully illustrated in the Sisters of Mercy. One mind appears to move all, and their intelligence, delicacy and conscientiousness invest them with a halo of extreme confidence. The medical officer can safely consign his most critical cases to their hands. Stimulants or opiates ordered every five minutes will be faithfully administered though the five minutes' labour were repeated uninterruptedly for a week."

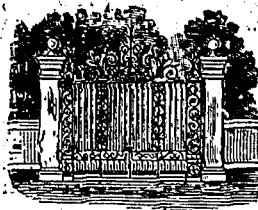
A letter received by the Rev. Mother from Miss Florence Nightingale, when she was about to return to England, leaving some of her Sisters at Balaclava and Scutari, shows the estimation in which the work of the Sisters was held by this lady. "You know that I shall do everything I can for the Sisters whom you have left me. I will care for them as if they were my own children. But it will not be like you. I do not presume to express praise or gratitude to you, Rev. Mother, because it would look as though I thought you had done this work, not unto God; but unto me. You were far above me in fitness for the general superintendency in worldly talent of administration, and far more in the spiritual qualifications which God values in a superior; my being placed over you was my misfortune; not my fault. What you have done for the work no one can ever say. I do not presume to give you any other tribute but my tears. But I should be glad that the Bishop of Southwark should know, and Dr. Manning, that you were valued here as you deserve; and that the gratitude of the army is yours."

All nurses will, after reading this book, rejoice that the work of the survivor of this heroic band of Sisters should have received in this year the public recognition which it assuredly deserves.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS.



On Thursday, the 28th October, during the week's Congress, held at Croydon, the morning's session was devoted to the Annual Meeting of the Union, and it is with very great pleasure that we announce that the National Union of Women Workers decided

to act as the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and to affiliate with the International Council of Women. This is the most progressive step forward—and Mrs. Creighton's resolution, proposed from the Chair, that a greeting should be cabled to the National Council of Women of the United States, then in Annual Meeting assembled at Nashville, U.S., was agreed to and passed with acclamation, so that the first action of the new Council was one of sisterly sympathy with those to whose genius we owe the suggestion of international co-operation of the women of all nations, and no action could have been more appropriate or more hopeful. We have no doubt that the women of England will greatly benefit by closer international communication with women of other nationalities, and that the benefit will be mutual. The great International Congress of National Councils is to be held in London in 1899, and we may now hope that it will be conducted on such liberal lines that it will distinctly demonstrate the enormous progress made by women up to the closing year of "the woman's century."

Before beginning the routine business of the Annual Meeting, Mrs. Creighton, the President, proposed from the chair, whilst the audience remained standing, this resolution:—"The General Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, now assembled for its annual conference, desires to express to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York their deep sympathy in the loss that she has sustained by the death of her mother, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Teck. They feel that the Duchess of Teck has shown how the discharge of public duties, and an active interest in many works for the good of others, may be combined with the most loving devotion to the duties of a wife and mother and the mistress of a household, and that in so doing she has set an example to all women." The expression of sympathy was, of course, adopted.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Goodeve, then presented the following balance sheet for the year, by which it will be seen that women managing their own financial affairs, do not incur the discredit of debt, and that the enormous work so splendidly accomplished by the Officers of the Union of Women Workers—is accomplished by a comparatively small expenditure, in fact for less than one-half of the money spent by the male honorary officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in mismanaging the trained nurses' affairs. A Union so economically managed deserves the financial

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