

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The General Committee of the National Liberal Federation, which lately met at Derby, carried an amendment in favour of Woman Suffrage by a majority of 182 against 124. The Countess of Carlisle, Mrs. Wynford Philipps and Mrs. Morgan Browne spoke eloquently in favour of this registration reform. The leaders, who for many years have been working for the righteous cause of the enfranchisement of women, are very anxious that it should not be made a party question; at the same time, no Liberal Party can exist that denies to women the just right to vote, and, if need be, to sit in Parliament. Such a title as Liberal must be quite inapplicable to a Party which maintains illiberal sex restrictions.

The *Weekly Sun* thus defines the function of the Liberal Party:—"It is to appeal to the higher instincts of mankind; to make war on unrighteousness, on selfishness, on vain-glory, on vicious indulgence; to raise the moral standard of every man so far as legislation can do it." Let it begin then by helping to obtain *justice for women*, for until this fact is realized, that the disfranchisement of half a nation is a disgrace to that nation, liberalism exists only in high-sounding and futile phrases, and is a rank and rootless weed, incapable of bringing forth good fruit.

MISS EMILY PENROSE, Principal of Bedford College, London, has been appointed Principal of the Royal Holloway College, Egham.

The Kingston Vale parishioners have decided to place a reredos in the parish church in memory of the late Duchess of Teck, who worshipped there.

At an examination for inspectors of nuisances, held in London, on December 3rd and 4th, ninety candidates presented themselves. Of these, forty-seven candidates were certified, as regards their sanitary knowledge, competent to discharge the duties of inspectors of nuisances. Amongst this number were the following ladies:—Miss Edith Emma Richards Davies, Miss Marie Michaelis, Miss Dorothea Thornes Roberts, Miss Eleonora Henrietta Shillington, Miss Georgeana Simons, Miss Hilda Stark, and Miss Eliza Wakeford. We have no doubt that the services of these ladies as inspectors of nuisances will be of great value.

The Women's Total Abstinence Union has published an interesting little booklet, entitled "A Glimpse at Woman's work for Temperance during the Victorian Era," being a paper read by Miss M. E. Docwra at the autumn meeting of the Union. Though our National Drink Bill is still enormous, and though the drunkenness which follows in the train of British "civilization" is a disgrace alike to our morals and our Christianity, still there is no doubt that considered in the aggregate the nation is much more sober than was the case at the beginning of the Victorian Era. Public opinion has been to some extent educated on

the subject, and it is no longer "good form" for men aspiring to rank as gentlemen to get drunk after dinner, or to drink a bottle of port at a sitting. Those who desire to abstain altogether from alcoholic drinks may do so without incurring any more opposition than a little good-humoured chaff. It was far otherwise in the early part of the century, and all honour is due to the earnest-minded men and women, who, in the face of popular opinion, made a determined stand against a condition which was a disgrace to the country. That the women were in earnest is proved by the third rule of the Birmingham Women's Temperance Society, which ran:—"We promise that those of us who are unmarried will not accept the addresses of any man who is not a member of a total abstinence society." We think that the spinsters of the present day might, with advantage, take a similar pledge with regard to men who do not support the just demands of women to have a voice in the management of national affairs, and the framing of the laws by which they are governed.

A Book of the Week.

"THE SCHOOL FOR SAINTS."*

THE lady who disguises herself as John O. Hobbs has, in this book, attempted a great deal more than ever before. She has left the atmosphere of smartness, and attempted depth; and to say that she is far more delightful in her later method than in her former, is to understate the case.

Robert Orange, the hero of the book, is the son of a Dominican monk, who renounced his priesthood in order to marry, and then repented as wildly as he had sinned. Why the young man calls himself Orange, and not by his family name of De Hausée, is never quite apparent. He is brought up by an old aunt, in France, and is introduced, by a man named Parflete, to the family of Lord Almouth, who has twin sons, Lord Reckage, and Hercy Berenville, who is lame. Robert becomes companion to Hercy, at a salary of two hundred a year. In the society of these two young men he meets a good many people of influence. At last, in Paris, he falls in again with Parflete, who has married, in middle age, the beautiful daughter of the Archduke Charles of Alberia, by a French music-hall actress, named Duboc. As a matter of fact, the actress was the canonical wife of the Archduke, he having morganatically married her: but this is not generally known. The whole book reads as if meant for what is known as a *roman à clef*; but, into the midst of the society of pseudonyms, the author suddenly introduces Disraeli, in his own proper person.

He instantly recognizes Robert's unusual abilities (we are not personally introduced to Robert's abilities, except in the letter-writing line, in which he certainly was a master). We are then asked to believe:—1. That Disraeli put the young man up as candidate in the Conservative interest for the borough of Norbet Royal, in opposition to another Conservative candidate—a strong one—already in the field, which manœuvre could have had no conceivable object but to divide the Conservative vote; 2. That the result of this proceeding was to return Robert at the head of the poll, the Liberal candidate, who is also represented as

* "The School for Saints." By John Oliver Hobbs. (T. Fisher Unwin.)

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