

translated into delightful social intercourse, and how the crowning success of all effort was to *be*, not to *play*, the perfect lady and the perfect wife. Feeling, as I am sure all his friends must feel, sincere sympathy for her eminent and devoted husband, Sir Theodore Martin in his sad bereavement,

I am, Madam,  
Yours obediently,  
The Vicarage, E. GILBERT HIGHTON.  
Brixham, S. Devon, Nov. 2nd.

#### WOMEN.

LAST Saturday the Queen presented the 2nd Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders with a set of colours. The consecration having been performed in the usual manner, Her Majesty said:—

"It gives me great pleasure to present these colours to the new battalion of my own Cameron Highlanders. I feel sure that they will always be in safe keeping, and that you will ever maintain the high reputation of your gallant regiment, and emulate the noble example of those who so recently laid down their lives at duty's call."

Another Conference of the National Union of Women Workers has come and gone, and all present at Norwich were agreed that it had been a delightful meeting, the lovely old city having given the delegates a most hospitable welcome. The papers read were instructive, mostly dealing with matters of social reform, and the earnest spirit of the women workers was apparent in every word.

Mrs. Alfred Booth, of Liverpool, was unanimously re-elected President, and Mrs. George Cadbury, of Birmingham, has succeeded Mrs. Goodeve as Treasurer. The Vice-Presidents and Executive Committee were elected for the coming year, very few changes being made in the personnel.

It was announced that the Annual Conference would not take place next year, as the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland would take part in the great Congress of the International Council of Women, under the Presidency of the Countess of Aberdeen, convened to meet in London on the 26th of June, 1899.

The energetic Secretary, Miss Annie Leigh Browne, of the Women's Local Government Society, has sent the following letter to the press:—

"May I ask you to call public attention to the contents of the telegram received to-day by my Society?"

The Irish Local Government Board have now pushed to an extreme their unwarrantable policy of refusing to sanction the appointment of Miss Magill as Poor Rate Collector in Clogher Union, and this in spite of the fact that there is no legal ground for their action, and that the statement of the Irish Local Government Board (and of Mr. Gerald Balfour to the House of Commons) as to the law of distraint for poor rate in Ireland has been shown to be erroneous."

The Irish Press of all shades of political opinion is unanimous in its support of the Guardians.

It is contended that there is no legal ground for the view of the Local Government Board that a woman is illegible. Since it has been shown that the law

which compelled an Irish rate-collector to distraint in person for unpaid rates was obsolete, the main objection of the Local Government Board to the appointment of a woman to fill that responsible post has been swept away.

We are glad to see "an erring woman" making an appeal for mercy, in the *Daily Mail*, for the unfortunate man Dr. Whitmarsh. If vain and heartless women would bear in mind that in tempting poor medical men to commit the crime of abortion, they are tempting them to *murder their own unborn children*—even if they escape with their lives—surely some of our "Society Leaders" would hesitate in lowering the natural moral tone.

The Countess of Jersey points out that the Children's Happy Evenings Association is reopening its evenings for the winter in over sixty-eight Board schools in the poorest parts of London, and in several suburban districts devoid of well-to-do residents. Applications are constantly received by the committee to open additional branches, but compliance is difficult, and sometimes almost impossible, owing to the need of more workers. She, therefore, appeals to ladies and young men resident in town during the coming months to spare two hours weekly or fortnightly for the purpose of amusing their 10,000 girls and boys. They are also anxious to receive a larger supply of dolls to dress and undress. Offers of help will be gladly received by the hon. secretary, Miss Edith Heather-Bigg, 14, Radnor Place, Hyde Park, who will have pleasure in supplying further information. She will also forward dolls for dressing, if desired, at reduced wholesale price.

### A Book of the Week.

#### "THE CALIFORNIANS." \*

THIS novel seems to me to be a distinct advance upon Mrs. Atherton's former books, both in manner and matter. It has more artistic reticence, and the composition is well-balanced and complete.

It treats of a place and a period sufficiently unknown to the English reader to make very original reading. It is of society among the mushroom millionaires of San Francisco that the authoress writes.

Mixtures of race make curious, warring, eccentric, characters, and Magdalena, the heroine of the tale, is one of these. Her father is a Californian Spaniard, who, in his youth, made the acquaintance of an American named Polk, the sole aim of whose existence was to make money. This man becomes the guide and influence of Don Roberto's life, and the easy-going Southern nature, once awakened to the lust of gold, becomes entirely enslaved by the passion for wealth—hopelessly degraded and demoralised. These two men, so unlike and so antagonistic from most points of view, marry each other's sisters; the hard, heartless, Yankee, with his traditions of parsimony and thrift, and his total lack of passion, marries the sister of Don Roberto, and Don Roberto, himself, espouses the hard-headed, bony, frugal-minded Miss Polk.

The result of this latter union is Magdalena.

The girl is not beautiful; but, worse than that, she is born with a great spirit, pent up within the limits of

\* "The Californians." By Gertrude Atherton. John Lane.

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