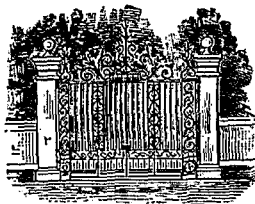


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.



and soul of this great movement during the past five years, and her help and advice will be invaluable in organising the forthcoming meeting.

The greatest interest, and we might say enthusiasm, is being evinced by all the leading women of the day, in the arrangements for the International Congress, and large and representative Sub-Committees are being organised, and definite work referred to them, thus a widespread support will be guaranteed for the success of the Congress.

The following ladies have consented to act as Conveners of Sub-Committees, or to arrange Public Meetings:—

- (1) International Arbitration, the Countess of Aberdeen.
- (2) Educational, Miss Faithfull.
- (3) Professional, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.
- (4) Political, Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lyttleton.
- (5) Legislative and Industrial, Mrs. Mac Donald.
- (6) Social, Mrs. Benson.
- (7) Hospitality, Mrs Roberts-Austen.
- (8) Finance, Mrs. Alfred Booth.
- (9) Press-Convenor not yet selected.

A fund of £1,000 is to be raised to carry out the arrangements on an adequate scale, which has already received promises of substantial support.

The affiliated National Councils are sending in the names of the leading men and women, whom they wish to take part in the Congress, and already, a goodly number have been received by the Committee of Arrangements.

Two large public meetings exclusive of Sectional Conferences are to be held at the Queen's Hall, the first on Tuesday the 27th of June, on "International Arbitration," a subject in which the National Councils of Canada and the United States are deeply interested, and the second on Thursday, 29th of June, on "Woman's Suffrage," which is already arousing a vast amount of interest, and at which it is to be hoped the voices of some of the great pioneers of the movement may be heard.

Miss Frances Mabel Robinson has just been appointed Secretary of Council to Bedford College. Miss Robinson has written several novels, the best

known of which are "Disenchantment," "Chimera," and "Mr. Butler's Ward."

A two days' Conference of delegates from towns in the Midland Union of Women's Liberal Associations, has just been held at Wolverhampton, under the presidency of Lady Trevelyan. Over fifty Associations were represented by 126 delegates.

Temperance, Peace, and Old Age Pensions were warmly advocated on the first day.

Mrs. King Roberts (Warwick) moved the first resolution, reaffirming the adherence of the Conference to the principle of woman's suffrage, and expressing the opinion that men and women should be placed upon an equality with regard to the Parliamentary franchise, and that no person should have more than one vote. She said the time was coming when married women would demand to be the business partners of their husbands, and would be their equals. It behoved every self-respecting woman in the land to take interest in elections.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The *Woman's Weekly* has a most interesting interview with Mrs. Kendal, and drew from this actress the opinion that there is room for nobody on the stage without two essential qualifications—imagination and concentration. Mrs. Kendal has a high conception of her art, and, so far from endorsing the view that the influence of the stage is bad, holds that it is distinctly good and helpful, both to the actors and the public. She insists, contrary to many critics, that the stage should aim to elevate as well as to amuse, and is as anxious as anyone can possibly be that the influence of the theatre should be wholly on the side of morality. "If you have any regrets after you have been to a play," she is fond of saying, "then the play has not been good. A play, like all other things, must bear reflection the next morning. It's a little home-made maxim of mine that the evening's amusement must bear the morning's reflection. The first object of a play should be to amuse, but to amuse without any deteriorating effect. It must be pure and healthy amusement. I think that, like all arts, the stage should aim at elevating. Music was meant to elevate and soothe, though it has a bad effect on some minds. I am told that the Wagnerian music is so popular because it is so sensual, but I don't believe it. And yet some people tell you that to hear Gounod or Beethoven is to have everything that is evil awakened in you. I utterly repudiate such an idea. On the contrary, I think such music has a distinct moral influence. I don't think you can hear good music, or see a good play, or read a good book without being elevated. When I see a lovely bit of sculpture like Chantrey's 'Sleep of Children' I burst into tears. When, in Venice, I visited Canova's grave and saw the beautiful sculpture, I cried. And why should my profession be considered enervating any more than these? I cannot understand why anything that is amusing need be degrading. I think our profession teaches that which is good as well as any other. There are no dangers for a woman in the theatre unless she seeks them, and if she does that, she will find them in a drawing-room and a ball-room with the same ease, as in the theatre."

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