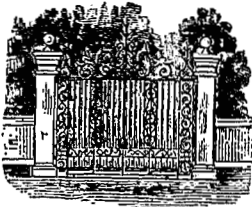


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



MR. WYNDHAM, M.P., on accepting office as Under-Secretary for State for War has retired from the leadership of the Women's Suffrage Question in the House of Commons. Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., has been requested to take the position thus rendered vacant on the Unionist side of the House, and, in an interview with a deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, consisting of Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Fawcett, and others, agreed to accept office. Mr. Faithfull Begg immediately consulted with the deputation, and they considered the arrangements for summoning a conference of Parliamentary friends of the movement on the first day of the Session, in conjunction with Sir Edward Grey.

THE Women's Total Abstinence Union has before it a very busy season. On February 3rd the Metropolitan members are invited to confer with the Executive Committee at the offices, 4, Ludgate Hill, on "How to oppose licenses at the approaching Brewster Sessions in Middlesex and Surrey."

On the afternoon of Thursday, March 16th, an invitation meeting of the W.T.A.U. will be held by kind permission of the Master and the Court of Assistants at the hall of the Worshipful Company of Leather-sellers, and the Annual Meetings of the Women's Total Abstinence Union are arranged for May 2nd and 3rd, and will be held at St. Martin's Town Hall.

A Society of American women is in process of formation in London on the lines of the "Serosis" in New York, and about fifty names have already been received. The annual fee of membership is £1 1s., and the meetings will take the form of monthly luncheons at the Hotel Cecil, except during the months of August, September, and October. The expenses of the luncheon, which will be defrayed by each individual member, will not exceed 4s. a head. The following quotation from the circular which is being issued will explain the objects of the Society.

"The desire to keep in touch with what is truest and best in America, as well as in the country of our sojourn, has assumed definite form in the idea of a social reunion of the women of America in London. The object of the society is for social intercourse, and for the help and benefit each may derive from a society whose influence will be exerted in every way to promote the highest ideals in art, literature, and music."

Intending members are invited to send in their names to the Hon. Secretary, 4, Lambelle-road, Belsize-park, N.W., by February 15th.

The Society will, we imagine, be a popular one, and the well-known energy and public spirit of American women should ensure its success.

A Book of the Week.

PAN AND THE YOUNG SHEPHERD.*

I think we may say, without boasting that it not often that the RECORD fails to record the appearance of a new voice in the ranks of English story-tellers; but last year there arose and spoke one who was but little known, but whose voice made everyone turn and listen, much as did the voice of one Shorthouse, in the early eighties.

And this wonderful utterance was not chronicled here, as it should have been. The owners of the *Academy* newspaper recognized with joy the peculiar genius of the writer of "The Forest Lovers," and awarded to him a prize of £50 for producing one of the best books of the year. Now he has spoken again, in a pastoral in Two Acts, and I take the opportunity of trying to tell you something of what manner of genius he is.

The simile that rises most readily to the mind is, that Maurice Hewlett in literature is what Burne Jones is in art. He creates a world of his own, and his people move through the pleasant dappled light and shadow of a land that is not Arcady, because there is in it too much of storm and stress, and saving of souls through much tribulation, but which is purely ideal, and belongs more closely perhaps to Malory than to any other creator. Like Burne Jones, and like Robert Browning, this new writer "takes so much of body as shows soul," and whispers to you with convincing breath, how little worth is the former, except as considered as interpreter of the latter.

Mr. Hewlett's aim is, apparently, not to be modern. In this he does not always succeed, because we are all so tied and bound nowadays, with the chains of introspection, that just now and then his characters forget themselves. But some of the dialogue of the old peasants in "Pan and the young Shepherd," is almost worthy of "Love's Labour Lost."

Neonias, the young shepherd of Pascency (wherever that may be) comes on the father's side of a vigorous bucolic stock, on the mother's from something mysterious and unknown. This strange blood in his veins enables him to interpret the mysterious voices of the night, when it is "alive and awake," and one windy summer night, he actually beholds the seven "Earth Daughters," of whom the youngest, Aglaë, will not give herself to Pan, and has for this been stricken with dumbness by the angry god. All the daughters of the earth make love to Neonias, but he has eyes only for the cold, terrified and stricken Aglaë. Her he forthwith marries and brings home to his mother, and the girl, for love of him, accepts the humble lot with proud gentleness. But she has a rival in Merla the cow girl who loves Neonias in very earthly fashion. The evil wishes of Merla give Pan power, and one winter night he calls from the wild tempest and Aglaë goes out into the dark. Neonias follows her, and Merla follows Neonias, and they all encounter the bodily presence of Pan and the earth daughters. Pan strikes blind the stubborn Aglaë, and is minded to destroy both her and Neonias, but suddenly sees and admires Merla, who is certainly, one would think, more to his taste. Merla is now bitterly sorry for her hatred

*"Pan and the Young Shepherd." By Maurice Hewlett. John Lane. The Bodley Head.

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