

THAT your memorialists are persons who have worked, many of them, during a long series of years to procure the removal of the Electoral disabilities of Women.

THEY see with pain that the claims of women to representation which were affirmed by the present Parliament, on February 3rd., 1897, are again set aside and the day for their further consideration taken by the Government. They submit that such action increases the sense of injustice already widely felt by women, and that it is contrary to public policy to subject an intelligent and law-abiding section of the population to the stigma of entire exclusion from Parliamentary representation.

THEY therefore pray that facilities may be given to a measure for placing duly qualified women on the Parliamentary register."

Personally, we have no faith in any further action on this question, excepting organized opposition in the Constituencies to the return to Parliament of every Candidate, who will not pledge himself to support a Government measure to give women the Parliamentary Franchise, and sooner or later such a campaign must be organized and fought determinedly.

On April 20th, the Pioneer Club opens the summer session, when Mrs. Brownlow will speak of the distinguished inhabitants of Grafton Street. The Countess of Aberdeen will preside, and will take the opportunity of giving an account of the aims of the International Council of Women, and details of interest in relation to the forthcoming Quinquennial Congress to be opened on June 26th next, in London. The Pioneers are sure to heartily support a movement for the welfare of their sex.

A Book of the Week.

COUSIN IVO.*

It is delightful to welcome a new story by the author of "The Grasshoppers." There is something extremely fascinating in her style; a repressed drollery, a faint irony, a humorous touch which lights up every picture that she draws. She is particularly good at sketching German life—at "hitting off" in thoroughly good-humoured style the little weaknesses, the quaint characteristics, of the estimable *Deutschers*. Readers will therefore be delighted to learn that they are escorted to Germany in her new novel, though the glimpse that she there gives us of the Zipp family is far, far too brief. Jem Heriot is, or fancies himself, in love with his cousin Alicia. It is characteristic of Mrs. Sidgwick's admirable manner that, although the young man is himself the narrator, and though he believes himself to be broken-hearted, yet all the time the reader is allowed to see that he has really "not arrived,"—that he is capable of a far more deep and serious attachment than has been evoked by juxtaposition with the pretty, worldly Alicia.

To avoid being present at the false one's wedding, he undertakes a mission to Züringen, to find the heirs of one Berneck, who has made a fortune in boot buttons, and left a million of money.

Erach is in the most remote corner of the remote principality. No train will take the traveller there. He arrives, however, in due course, and finds that

* By Mrs. Andrew Dean (Mrs. Alfred Sidgwick). A. & C. Black.

there are two living members of the family,—the Gräfin Hulda, who inherits the money; and her cousin Ivo, who doesn't.

Seldom has such unredeemed rascality been embodied within the pages of a modern novel. The evolutions of the struggle for the throne of Zenda, quite pale before the machinations of Ivo, and Fridolin his hunchback servitor, and Tyras, the dangerous dog.

The weak spot in the story is the fact that will intrude itself upon the reader, that a man of Ivo's character could never have been allowed such free and constant access to his cousin as is here related. That Jem Heriot should have been unprepared for the fact that the German aristocrat would try to shoot him, drug his wine, and stab a peasant, is of course quite probable, but, Ivo's reputation was no secret in the neighbourhood. Is it likely that Hulda would have been left, with no chaperon but an English girl of five-and-twenty, who went off on long entomological excursions by herself, exposed to all the villany of a ruined, desperate bad character? It seems to me in a high degree unlikely; but except for this, you have here a delightful love-story—fresh, exciting, holding the interest from the first page, and so delightfully told—without a superfluous word; easy, humorous, most seductive; the very book for the Easter holidays.

G. M. R.

Verse.

Treasure the shadow. Somewhere, firmly based,
Arise those turrets that in cloudland shine;
Somewhere to thirsty toilers of the waste
Yon phantom well-spring is a living sign.
Treasure the shadow. Somewhere past thy sight,
Past all men's sight, waits the true heaven at last:
Tell them whose fear would put thy hope to flight,
There are no shadows save from substance cast.

EDITH M. THOMAS.

WHAT TO READ.

- "The Sinking of the Merrimac." By R. P. Hobson.
- "Holland and the Hollanders." By D. S. Meldrum.
- "The Drones Must Die." By Max Nordau.
- "The Mistake of Monica." By Nella Parker.
- "A Double Thread." By Ellen T. Fowler.
- "Samuel Boyd, of Catchpole Square." By B. L. Farjeon.
- "A Millionaire's Daughter." By Percy White.
- "Professor Hieronimus." Translated from the Danish of Amalie Skram. By Alice Stronach.

Coming Events.

April 13th.—Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar presides at the Banquet in aid the German Hospital, Dalston, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

April 20th.—Ball in aid of the London Hospital Convalescent Home, Hotel Cecil.

April 21st.—Banquet in aid of the Royal Eye Hospital or Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital, Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole.

May 2nd.—The Duke of Cambridge presides at the Annual Dinner of the Sanitary Institute, Whitehall Rooms.

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