

Outside the Gates.

THE SCHEME FOR A COLLEGE AT KARTOUM.

WE have awaited with some curiosity the ebb-tide in the flood of enthusiasm that has been let loose over the project of a College at Kartoum—would the voice of common sense ever make itself heard above the hurrahs of excited stock-brokers and the shouts of the man in the streets generally?

It is cheering to notice that some whisper of sanity is beginning to be echoed from here and there, which doubtless will grow stronger before long as the testimony of travellers, who are familiar with the country is more openly voiced.

To those who know the Soudan, there is something inexpressibly funny in the idea of a "College" with "Fuzzy-wuzzy" running about in it. A good Board school (in process of time) would hit the mark much nearer, but quite a generation of well conducted Infant schools is required to pave the way for that.

That the "College" will be built, goes without saying, for there is much capital to be expended, among architects, engineers, contractors, and so forth; but after that is over, the College built, opened, and "filled to the lip on the opening day," as the newspapers very rightly predict, there will come the Second day, when the simple savages will have dispersed to their own avocations and the professors will sit lonely in their marble halls—it may then, perhaps, be borne in upon them, and through them upon the projectors of the scheme, that a mistake has been made and that they will have to "begin with shame to take a lower place," as has happened before, many a time in the world's history—and particularly in the history of Egypt.

The first necessity for instruction is, to have some one to teach. The population of the whole of Egypt is under nine millions. In the Soudan, the few thousands who were scattered over that country—are gone. They are utterly swept away—never to return, and their place will know them no more. There is no one left of an age to profit by a "College," who is not pressingly needed to supply the daily wants and keep life itself going. The only hope for "Misr—Land of Darkness" the *only* hope lies in the educating of all the very young children that can be got together, and especially of the girl-children, for, as all Orientalists know, nothing will be done in the East until the women-children are educated, and to begin anything on lines that must repeat the pitiable failure of India, is absolute lunacy.

All people should remember—what all archeologists know—and that is, that the system of teaching males only (replacing that of general education), was invented only some few thousand years ago, and Egypt began to go steadily down-

hill from that time, until its glory faded, and the Sciences which had culminated there, were lost and until its decadence reached the present depth of degradation—a depth so low that, humanly speaking, it is a certainty the people as they stand can never rise from it again.

Take it for all in all, Egypt is a land that for many centuries has been entirely abandoned to the men, and what have they made of it? An object lesson to the world! And as it is in Egypt, so it is in India, in China, in Turkey, in all the decadent countries that are passing through the same phase—a phase that has nearly run out its appointed time and of which the world is consciously aware.

A special appeal has been made to the soft-hearted women of various countries, America especially, it was hoped, would contribute a large sum of money, without enquiring further into the scheme, we wish to point out that it is exceedingly unadvisable for women to contribute towards any educational devices that do not include the girl-children, for that would mean hindering the rising wheel that will bring the education of women to the surface once more, and restore to them the status that was theirs in the palmy days of ancient Egypt, when the great Queens ruled and there was much learning in the land, a learning whose reflected light still shines on our own pathway and regulates our hours. Do not we still take our Time, our Calendar from those brilliant lost Ages? And have we ever bettered their rubric?

Ah, the ghastly contrast between the "then" and the "now"!

When will the lesson be learnt? . . . When?

EMILY CRAWFORD.

Women.

The Industrial Law Committee, of which Mrs. J. H. Tennant is the president, and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell the honorary secretary, has arranged a course of lectures, to be held on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, under the auspices of the London branch of the Christian Social Union. Mrs. J. H. Tennant opened the course on Tuesday with a paper on "Industrial Legislation." On the 24th Miss Anderson (H.M. Principal Lady Inspector of Factories and Workshops) lectures on "The Law relating to Factories and Workshops"; on the 31st Miss Paterson (H.M. Inspector), deals with "The Law relating to Laundries and the Truck Acts"; while, on February 7th Miss Lucy Deane (H.M. Inspector for Kensington) takes the subject of the "Public Health Acts." On February 14th Mr. Reginald McKenna, M.P., will lecture on "The Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts." The lectures are open to the public.

The Women's Trade Union League is not unmindful of its obligations, says the *Woman's Signal*, and over the entrance of the offices of the League, at Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, there has been placed,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)