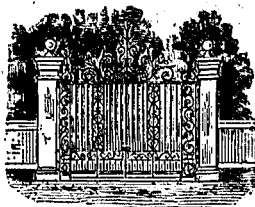


Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

THE following is the text of the petition presented to the Queen by the women of the Netherlands:—

Her Majesty Victoria,
Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Madame,—The Council of the Netherlands Women's League for International Disarmament, considering that quite recently it pleased your Majesty by a most gracious act to approve the efforts of women to work for various humanitarian causes; considering also that a fratricidal war between your Majesty's subjects and the people of the Transvaal would cast a frightful blot on your Majesty's most glorious reign,

Approach your Majesty with the utmost reverence, and, on behalf of the members of the aforesaid league, respectfully appeal to your Majesty's sense of justice and kindness of heart, beseeching your Majesty not to allow thousands of our sisters, both in England and South Africa, to be robbed of their men-folk by the wholesale butchery of war, by which so many wives would be made widows, so many children would be made orphans, and so many mothers would be bereaved of their sons.

We, as subjects, appeal to your Majesty as a Sovereign whose throne is based upon justice; we, as women, appeal to your Majesty as a woman; as mothers, we appeal to your Majesty as a mother; as wives, we appeal to your Majesty as one who knows the bitterness of widowhood! May our appeal not be in vain, but may it please your Majesty to crown a reign which has been a blessing to all the world by an act of supreme humanity and justice.

(Signed) C. M. VAN HOGENDORP, Vice-President.

C. DE NEREE TOT BABBERICH VAN HOUTEN, Secretary.

B. DUDOK VAN HEEL, Treasurer.

M. MAARSCHALK.

M. VAN DIJK.

It is stated that the Treasury intends to draft into the Education Department at Whitehall a picked corps of female clerks from the Savings Bank Department. The Departmental Committee, on the reorganization of the War Office, has also considered the desirability of increasing the staff of women clerks, a course which, if decided upon, would provide employment for the orphan daughters of officers of narrow means. The typewriting department at the War Office has been entirely in the hands of women for some time, and their accuracy and diligence has received high commendation.

We are glad to observe that women will be considered, and will take their part in the coming Church Congress. On Monday, October 9th, there will be a mass meeting for women at the Albert Hall at 3.30, at

which the speakers will be the Bishop of Chichester, Rev. Cosmo G. Lang, Hon. Mrs. F. G. Pelham, and Mrs. Creighton. At 8 p.m. on the same day, and in the same place, will be a meeting for girls over sixteen, at which the speakers will be the Bishop of Wakefield, Rev. Canon Holmes, Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lyttleton, and Mrs. Creighton.

A Sectional Meeting will also be held on Wednesday evening, October 11th, in the theatre of the Albert Hall, when the chair will be taken by Mrs. Creighton. The speakers will be Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lyttleton, on the Training and Payment of Women Church Workers; Miss Beatrice Harrington and Miss Edith Argles, on Women's Settlements; and Mrs. John F. Bishop and Miss Clifford, on Women's Work for Missions.

Mrs. John Rylands, of Longford Hall, Stretford, is the first lady to be honoured by the presentation of the freedom of the city of Manchester. The honour is conferred on her "in recognition of the eminent services rendered by her to the city," to which she has presented the Althorp or Spencer Library, of unique historical, and intrinsic value, as well as a costly collection of books gathered together by her late husband. The collection will be housed in a handsome building in Deansgate, Manchester, and will be opened to the public in October.

The third statue in the United Kingdom, erected to the memory of women other than Royalties, has been unveiled at Inverness. It is that of Flora Macdonald, a member of a formerly well-known Inverness family, and the cost has been defrayed by the late Captain Henderson Macdonald. The first portrait statue of a woman set up in England was that of Sister Dora, the distinguished Black Country nurse at Walsall, who is represented in her professional attire, and the second was that of Mrs. Siddons, erected some two years ago on Paddington Green.

One paper suggests as the reason of so few statues having been erected to women that their usual attire does not lend itself to artistic effect, whereas the classic garb of Mrs. Siddons—the simple uniform of a nurse, and the kilted skirt of the highlander are effective, and not of ephemeral fashion. It of course decries rationals as non-statuesque, but what can be more eminently inartistic and grotesque than "bags" and a frock coat, the garb in which it has pleased many of our sculptors to clothe the effigies of many of our great men, and with which our public places are made hideous.

Five hundred Lithuanian girls have sent in a petition asking to be allowed to form a guard of honour to the Kaiser during the imperial hunting season in Prussia this year. They make one condition. "Our Duke (the Kaiser) must have no other body guard. During the time of his stay in our country we want to be his soldiers." The proposal has been provisionally accepted. Every Lithuanian girl is a skilled horse-woman, and those who sent in the petition were the pick of the country.

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