

Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Women's Liberal Federation last week, the following resolution was unanimously passed on the motion of Lady Carlisle, who was in the chair:—
"That the Executive Committee of the Women's

Liberal Federation expresses its conviction that the matters in dispute between the Governments of England and the Transvaal ought to be, and can be, settled by peaceful conference, and that the contemplated attempt to enforce the demands of England by force of arms would be not only an error, but a crime. They believe that such a war would soon resolve itself into an unjustifiable war of conquest on the part of England; that among European inhabitants of Africa it would be a civil war of the most aggravated nature; and that in face of the large native populations it would be attended by great dangers to civilisation. The executive, therefore, calls upon all Liberal women to protest against such a war, and to use all the means in their power to prevent it.

Olive Schreiner has communicated to the special correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* an impassioned appeal on behalf of the people of the Transvaal. She says; "By ceaseless misrepresentation and exactions, which would mean the surrender of their land, we are to-day driving one of the bravest and most heroic little Teutonic folk the world has seen to despair. We are setting them with their back to the wall and offering them this choice, 'your land or destruction.' They are prepared to give the only answer possible to a small race under such conditions.

"Let England clearly understand what war in South Africa means. The largest empire the world has ever seen will hurl its full force against a small state, and about thirty thousand men, including lads of sixteen and old men of sixty, without a standing army or organised commissariat. The entire little people will have to resolve itself into an army of wives and daughters, who will prepare the bread and meat the farmers put into their saddlebags, when they go out to meet our enemies. To-day, the women in the Transvaal are demanding guns that they may take part in the last stand.

"We may crush this little people with the aid of the Australians and the Canadians, since the British Isles seem unable to crush them alone. We have numbers and wealth on our side; they have the conviction that their God fights with them. Ours is a politician's war, theirs is a people's; but with our vast resources we must literally crush them. They may well sell their lives dearly. At a cost of twenty or thirty millions, and of a heavy loss among our soldiers we may take the land and lower the little flag of his independence, so dear to the Boer, but we shall have placed a stain upon our own that the centuries will not wash out."

But if Oom Paul would "climb down" there would be no question of war.

This month's *Nineteenth Century* contains a reply from Mrs. Gaffney, President of the National Council of Women of the United States, to a criticism of the Women's Congress, which appeared in that publication for August, by Miss Low, who closed her article as follows:—"To exaggerate the importance of woman's work in activities which are adequately accomplished by men, and to underrate all the simple homely duties which have been dignified and rendered lovely by myriads of noble and cultured women, and instructively consecrated by the wisdom of generations, is wanting in breadth, insight, and loftiness, and productive of unnecessary confusion and chaos."

Mrs. Gaffney considers this, as well as other statements made by Miss Low, a "warped view," and as those who had the pleasure and privilege of meeting her when she was in this country, will feel assured, she disposes of them in a most thorough and trenchant manner. We advise our readers to procure and read this article, from which we quote the final sentence.

"In closing I would say that the Congress of Women would have been grateful for Miss Low's voice and criticism while it was in session. Discussion was open to anyone who would, within a reasonable time, send her card to the presiding officer, requesting the favour of the floor, either to refute or sustain a speaker. It is to be regretted that one of such strong opinions (and, from her own point of view, one possessing riper, truer judgment and balance) failed to give utterance to such valuable remonstrances and opinions at the Congress, where *her* word would have had as good a chance to mould the opinion of her weaker sisters as any of the others she so regrettably mentions."

We think there will be few of our readers who will not agree with Mrs. Gaffney.

The Autumn Meetings of the Women's Total Abstinence Union are to be held at Southampton from September 24th to 27th. The series includes public meetings in Southampton and adjacent districts, Bournemouth, Shanklin, Sandown, etc. Public Conference, drawing room meetings at Lord Radstock's, the Deanery, and other places.

A Women's Parliament.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN'S WORKS AND INSTITUTIONS. PARIS, 1900.

A notice of the International Congress of Women's Work, to be held in Paris next year, with the official sanction of the French Government, has reached us. The organizing committee is composed of the following ladies:—

OFFICERS.*Honorary Presidents.*

Mme. Isabelle Bogelot, Directrice Générale of the "Œuvre des libérées de Saint Lazare."
Mme. Jules Simon, President of the French Union for the Rescue of Children.

President.

Mlle. Sarah Monod, President of the Conference of Versailles.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)