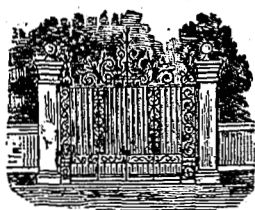


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Queen, who has recently been sitting for her portrait to Professor Angeli, desired that this portrait should represent her as a woman, not as a sovereign. She is, therefore, depicted in a simple black dress, relieved by the ribbon of the Order of the Garter.

Her Majesty has desired Professor Angeli to paint for her portraits of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and Lord Kitchener as two of her most distinguished subjects.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland opened the States General last week with a speech from the Throne of the most optimistic nature. She declared the relations of the Netherlands with foreign Powers to be very friendly, and the condition of the mother country and its colonies "a matter for profound gratitude." She further made the important statement that the Peace Conference at The Hague had resulted in the drafting of international treaties, to which there was "reason to hope that all the Powers represented at the Conference would attach their signatures."

Seventy members of the Rational Dress League visited Reading on Saturday last, some of them, including Lady Harberton and Miss Vance, riding down from Hyde Park Corner. At the dinner which subsequently took place at the Queen's Hotel, Lady Harberton was in the chair, and was supported by Mme. Sarah Grand, Mrs. Heron Maxwell, and other members of the League. Mme. Sarah Grand wore a dress of black material, "twined with nestling lace and chiffon," which drew from the reporter of a contemporary the following description: It was "a dress such as a male opponent of the league would look upon with pleasure, and touch reverently with his rough hand, lest he should spoil its delicate perfection."

In a charming speech Mme. Sarah Grand, in replying for the visitors, said that if she had been on active service she would have worn rational dress, which was the only sensible costume for cycling. She caused considerable amusement by her description of the fate which befell her in a cycling skirt she had bought from a London tailor, "whose price certainly inspired confidence." She fancied herself in it very much, and had her photograph taken. Shortly afterwards the skirt was caught in the spokes of her wheel when riding and torn off at the waist, and had it not been for two nice old gentlemen who presented her with pins she would have been a most indecent spectacle.

Prizes for the best costumes were subsequently awarded. Miss Nurrell and Miss Sommerville who were bracketed equal for the first prize, both wore tailor-built knickers and saque jackets. Miss Ainsworth carried off the second prize with a similar costume, and Mrs. Skelton the third. She only lost the first prize because her jacket was too short.

A correspondent writes:—"I wonder when the time will come when every woman will learn a trade—I mean in a wide sense." We believe that the next generation of parents will be much more alive to the desirability and duty of providing their daughters, as well as their sons, with a skilled knowledge of a craft by which they can earn their living. Girls themselves also appreciate much more the dignity of work than they did ten or twenty years ago.

French women have the privilege of being enrolled as Freemasons, and avail themselves to a considerable extent of it, on the ground that it prevents husband and wife from drifting apart. There is a mixed Lodge, whose Grand Mistress is a lady named Mme. George Matin. This Lodge already numbers 200 members, two-thirds of these being women.

Mrs. Kruger, according to the *Daily Chronicle*, takes absolutely no interest in her husband's schemes or affairs of State. She looks upon all the present trouble as "much ado about nothing." She has an extraordinary aversion to medical men.

Next to Miss Olive Schreiner, Miss Alice Rhodes is said to be the most interesting woman in South Africa. She is famed for evincing the same dislike for men that her brother, the empire builder, shows towards women. The open, and a spice of danger, are the breath of life to her, and she is a thorough sportswoman.

The Royal Melbourne Ladies' Golf Club has instituted an annual dinner, the first being held in the Grand Hotel in that city. The popularity of women's dinners is certainly increasing.

Dramatic Notes.

"KING JOHN" AT HER MAJESTY'S.

IN the current production of Shakespeare's historical drama "King John," at Her Majesty's Theatre, Mr. Beerbohm Tree has, undoubtedly, eclipsed all previous presentments of the said wonderful play! And this may be conscientiously affirmed, not only in regard to the setting of the piece, but also in regard to its performance—at any rate so far as living critical memory extends! With his usual commendable disregard for mere self-glorification—a virtue, which, I fear, has rarely been met with in the case of actor-managers in modern times—Mr. Beerbohm Tree has again surrounded himself with a galaxy of talent, which, instead of deteriorating from, only serves, as it justly ought to do, to enhance his own commanding personality. Of his treatment of the piece itself, though I cannot, from a strictly Shakespearian point of view, accept, as justifiable, its arrangement in three acts, yet I am reluctant to demur altogether to the wisdom of such arrangement seeing that it has been resolved upon, not so much for the purposes of compression or of excision, as for those of exhibiting unity of idea and coherence of scenic effect. At the same time, I cannot but remark, that it is always dangerous to tamper with the construction, no less than with the obvious intention of so pre-eminent a master

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