

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

More good news! Miss Edith Palliser, Secretary of the Central and East of England Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, informs us that the full suffrage has been conferred on the women of Western Australia by a Bill which has passed both Houses in that Colony, and now waits the Royal assent. This is the third British Colony which has removed the sex disqualification from women, South Australia and New Zealand sharing this distinction with it. Is it too much to hope that the women of the United Kingdom may receive their enfranchisement from a monarch of their own sex, or will it be the one blot on the reign of our all powerful Queen that it passed still leaving women classed with the disfranchised criminal, lunatic and pauper?

Miss Susan B. Anthony, the great women's suffrage leader in the States, resigned the Presidency of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, at the annual meeting, just held in Washington. In more ways than one this convention was of unusual interest. It was the thirty-second annual convention of the association, all but three held in Washington, and it was associated with two interesting occurrences in the life of Miss Anthony—the celebration of her eightieth birthday and her resignation as president. The first was made a great festivity by friends of the veteran suffrage leader. The second will cause universal regret, even sorrow, though it is Miss Anthony herself who so earnestly desires to lay down the hammer. It is no question of failing vigour, mental or physical, for we hear Susan B. Anthony "never looked better in her life." Active of step, alert and ready of speech, retaining the forceful characteristics of her strong individuality, she would pass for a woman of sixty any day. There is no sign of fifty years' hard, steady work, full of doubt, discouragement and disappointment. On the contrary, she is bright and hopeful and very well satisfied.

"We have everything we want except equal political rights," Miss Anthony declares. "We have employments, education, professions—all open to women. We have school suffrage in nearly every State, municipal suffrage in one and equal suffrage in four States."

For twenty-eight years Miss Anthony has wielded the hammer at annual conventions—in the first years vice-president-at-large, acting in the absence of Mrs. Stanton, then president, and later when elected president to succeed Mrs. Stanton.

Miss Anthony says she has other work to do before passing "on beyond the river," and therefore desires herself to place the hammer in younger hands and encourage the younger element to lead in suffrage work. She does not specify the other work, but it is understood that it includes the complete history of suffrage from the beginning of 1848 to 1900. "I do not step down and out," Miss Anthony said laughingly, "I go up from fifty years' work without pay to retirement on full pay. You know, I have my annuity given me by friends five years ago. My sister has her small income, and in our old Rochester home we shall live very comfortably. There I shall have the leisure to finish my life work."

Miss Anthony believes that in this she will do more for the cause than to go on "running the machine." and she realises that the president of the National Woman Suffrage Association should be a woman of brains, leisure, money and freedom—in other words, ability to preside over a great body of women, time and means to devote to the work, and freedom from domestic duties, and, if married, one whose husband is in full sympathy with the suffrage cause.

In the number of delegates New York was the banner State, sending twenty-six to the convention. Miss Margaret Chanler, associated with the Spanish-American War, through her splendid work for the soldiers in Puerto Rico, is among the more recent converts to woman suffrage, and she took an active part in furthering the social side of the Convention, which was an immense success.

A Book of the Week.

SHAMELESS WAYNE.*

This is a romance with a quality all its own. It is a story of a blood feud on the Yorkshire moors; and its author leaves it as undated as was Maurice Hewlett's "Forest Lovers."

Did this kind of thing ever happen in England? Was the vendetta a recognised thing on our wild moors, as among the Corsican fastnesses? This is the first question which will occur to the reader. We know that there were blood feuds among the Americans of the Southern States, even as lately as in the beginning of the present century, and presumably the instinct was carried to America from the mother country.

But the present writer does not remember to have come across any mention of such a thing in any historical account of English society, and somehow it wears an air of improbability.

But it is likely that Mr. Sutcliffe knows of what he writes. He is evidently one who knows and loves the North Countrée, and the strong rugged moor-dwellers, nurtured in the keen uplands, were doubtless a wild folk and quarrelsome.

That any family should be as treacherous, as completely lost to all sense of honour, as the Ratcliffes, revolts one's very soul. In "Lorna Doone" with which "Shameless Wayne" will fearlessly stand comparison in many respects, the outlawed Doones of Badgerly are avowed freebooters, enemies of society, a clan that lives by plunder, and their proceedings are therefore by no means extravagant. But the family of that fearsome personage, "The Lean Man," are apparently country gentlefolk, and, with the solitary exception of Janet, they have not one single good quality among them, so far as one may be allowed to see.

The opening of the story is really weird. The tolling of the passing bell, the sexton's wife, knitting in the belfry, the choking rage of the murdered man's daughter, the fight in the churchyard, the sudden scattering of the wits of the childish step-mother, the poor little light-o'-love who has been the cause of all the trouble, and lastly, the conversion in a moment of agony, repentance and shame, of Shameless Wayne into an avenging angel; these are bold ingredients, mixed by a hand which is fearless and original.

* By Halliwell Sutcliffe. Fisher Unwin.

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