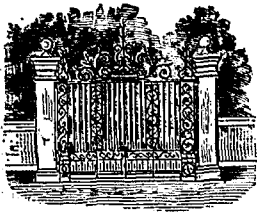


## Outside the Gates.

## WOMEN.



The Queen has intimated through her private secretary that it does not appear her Majesty can exercise any personal interference in the matter of wounded animals on the battlefield. This reply has come in answer to a petition adopted at a meeting held at the Mansion House, York, under the auspices of the Church Society for the Promotion of Kindness to Animals. The wording of the petition to her Majesty was as follows:—"That a humble petition be presented to her gracious Majesty begging her to consider the desirability of proposing to the Powers that have signified their adherence to the terms of the Geneva Convention that they enter into an international agreement extending to those who on the battlefield may be engaged in mitigating or putting an end to the sufferings of wounded animals the same protection as is now afforded to those who succour wounded men." We hope, however, that the benefits of the Geneva Convention may be extended to wounded animals in the near future. There can surely be but one opinion on this subject.

The Council of Newnham College, Cambridge, have decided to raise the college fees from Michaelmas, 1901. Hitherto Newnham has been considerably cheaper than Girton, the fees there having been £25 per term, with some extras attached, while at Girton they are £35 per term. From the above date, Newnham fees will be £30—£35 per term, this sum covering tripos and laboratory fees, board, lodging, and teaching in preparation for tripos examinations. Newnham now spends about £1,600 per annum in Scholarships and grants to poor students.

The International Union of Friends of Young Women is a society which does excellent work in befriending girls in foreign countries. The English National Committee of this Society are endeavouring, in conjunction with the World's Young Women's Christian Association, to provide suitable accommodation for the many English girls who will be employed in Paris in connection with the Exhibition this year. The Paris Committee of the International Union, under the guidance of Mme. Fisch, Mlle. Sarah Monod, and others, are entering warmly into the scheme, and a building not far from the Exhibition has already been secured. Houses will also be secured in the immediate neighbourhood, providing accommodation for girls of different nationalities, which will be under the charge of lady superintendents.

The Board of Education at Detroit, Michigan, has recently issued an order to its women teachers to abstain from wearing corsets, on the ground that they will by so doing look more Grecian and graceful. In the opinion of the Board, corsets interfere with the teachers' efficiency in taking graceful poses, and consequently without them they will be able more effectively to impress their scholars, and educate them in an appreciation of the beautiful. The teachers are by no means of the same opinion, and are revolting at the decree.

## A Book of the Week.

## JANICE MEREDITH.\*

The historical romance still continues to flourish, and any novel which deals with a big war is sure of striking a sympathetic chord in people's hearts just now. Mr. Ford is an American, and his book is a story of the American war of secession.

It is a charming story, well written, most interesting, and weaving the historical portion in with the fortunes of the family of Meredith in a way which must be described as masterly.

The impression most forcibly left upon the mind is that if ever a nation deserved defeat, it was the English nation when they went to war with their colony. And no doubt the weight and force of this impression is derived from the fact of Mr. Ford's extreme moderation. He is no Anglophobe, and he writes without a spark of prejudice. Of course, he may select anecdotes damaging to the British cause, and suppress the worst that disfigured the "Continental," as he calls the Americans, but his book does not give that impression. He is as ready as we could be to praise heroism in a British officer. The character of Sir Frederick Mobray is a charmingly pathetic study; and the hero of the story, the furious and fiery Brereton, is an Englishman by birth, though he fights on the side of Washington.

Judging by what he tells us, we are irresistibly reminded of modern Boer tactics in the proceedings of the British. The causes which led to the revolt were very much those which have brought on the present war, unjust taxation without representation, and a putting down of opposition by a display of superior force. The British Government hired regiments of Hessian mercenaries, who over-ran the country, and "commandeered" as we now should call it, the goods and substance of the inhabitants; these Hessian officers were quite unable to restrain their men, who looted and outraged in a shocking manner. One quite ceases to wonder at the legacy of hate which the British bequeathed to several succeeding generations of Americans. The picture of the meanness and disloyalty with which Washington had to struggle, is a fine one; the intrigues, the pettiness, the lack of single-mindedness among those whom he was struggling to free,—all these are but touched in, but touched in with a skilled hand.

But we are saying much of the politics, and but little of the love story, which is the essence of this book. Janice Meredith, is, of course, not a heroine of to-day. She has absolutely no will of her own, but is at the mercy of her men-kind completely. Her mother thinks it a disgrace for a girl to be still un-married at the age of eighteen, and her father offers her to anybody he likes, with no more regard to her feelings than if she were a sack of potatoes. With such a rearing, and at such an age, with complete lack of experience, it is but natural that she should fall a victim to the first man that makes ardent but clandestine love to her, and that she should elope with him and be rescued only by the merest chance by Brereton. It is, to me, not so natural, that the parents, after making the girl's life a misery to her on account of this disgrace, should afterwards put pressure upon her to marry the very man, when they find he is rich and likely to prove a valuable friend. Indeed, the whole conduct of Mr. Meredith is so objectionable, he is throughout so prejudiced, so selfish, so regardless

\* By Paul Leicester Ford. Constable.

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