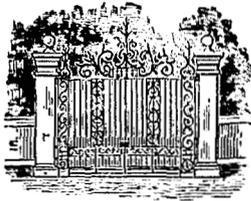


Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

For the sixth time the Victorian Legislative Assembly has passed the Women's Suffrage Bill. But the fact that the "Upper House" of the Colony has overriden the will of the people and thrown the Bill out on five separate occasions, points to the urgent necessity for constitutional reform of the latter obsolete Council. New South Wales is in much the same plight, although in both colonies the Premiers favour women's suffrage. It is also important to note that in both colonies the organized Labour Party works actively with and for the women.

At home we are told that until it pleases Society Women "who govern our governors" to take up this reform, there is no chance of a Suffrage Bill passing the "Commons" and more especially the "Lords." The "average female" who spends laborious days working for her horrible little pittance with which to keep body and soul together, and whose conscience shies at illicit chiffons, does not count—this is rather nasty—but Labour must realize facts.

Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll), who undertook to execute a statue of the Queen to be placed over the new western porch of Manchester Cathedral, has expressed the wish that it may be her gift, and a remembrance of the time when the duke and her Royal Highness were connected with Manchester through his membership for the southern division.

While the credit of the first lady practising barrister belongs to Paris, Rome is the first city in Europe to confer upon a woman a University Lectureship in Law. The pioneers of female emancipation in Italy are celebrating triumphantly the appointment of Signorina Teresina Labriola to a Professorship of Law in Rome University. The decree sanctioning the appointment has just been signed by Signor Gallo, Minister of Public Instruction. Signorina Labriola is the first woman to obtain a chair in Rome University, and the first woman to be appointed Professor of Law in any Italian University. She is described as a handsome woman, well under thirty, and her speciality is the philosophy of jurisprudence. Her lectures begin in January.

If the whole question of woman's status in Great Britain were not so tragic, one would venture to smile at the national claim of precedence upon which we are apt to plume ourselves in esteeming the position of women of other nations.

The truth is, we are far, far behind, both in education and self-respect, the Norsewoman, in tact, taste, and business capacity our brilliant Gallic neighbours, and a whole century behind the *real* American woman—who must not be confused with the type whose purchase of peerages entitles them to the *cachet* of the "smart set" in London. And oh! how deadly dull we are! Too dull to realise our own shortcomings—or to appreciate the fact that we are being left behind.

Surely Shakespeare's country should have evoked the first Portia—one longs to put back the clock of time a quarter of a century for this purpose. But what a chance for a young woman of spirit (with the hide of a hippopotamus)—imagine the assault upon all the musty fusty prejudices of our "High Courts of Injustice!" What pie for the vulgar little boys who surround its gates and cry with derision "keep yer 'air on." Just wouldn't there be "wigs on the green!" Poor old British Constitution! spontaneous combustion would be its only expedient.

As we go to press we learn that a petition was boxed in the Court of Session in Edinburgh, on Saturday, by a lady who is desirous of being admitted as a law agent. It was the first petition of the kind. The petitioner is Miss Margaret Howie Strang Hall, spinster, Kimbrae House, Kirn, Argyllshire. She says she desires to enter the legal profession and to qualify as a law agent. The examiners had lately under consideration the question of lady candidates, and they were of opinion that they could not enrol them unless authorised by the court.

At a recent meeting held in Minneapolis by the National Council of Women of the United States, the National Association of Colored Women was admitted to membership in the Council, and its president, Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, of Washington, spoke at one of the public meetings on "The Progress of the Colored Race."

A Book of the Week.**THE LADY OF DREAMS.***

This book, by a comparatively unknown author, contains much to fix the attention. The central character alone, that of Jim Tancreed, the East End doctor, is enough to set the mind which created it in a high place among writers of fiction.

Most of the action of the book passes in the East End, and what slumming we get, is admirably done. Then there are glimpses of a little country town, and the old ladies who live in it; and these are so skilfully and sympathetically sketched in, that they remind us of Cranford. Could praise go farther? Miss Croft and Miss Pollock are worthy to have called upon the Misses Jenkins, and added their mite to the subscription for dear delightful Miss Mattie!

It is in the character of the young woman—one cannot say the heroine—in the character of Agnes, that the author develops that curious, pagan element which crops up so constantly in the newest pictures of life that we have.

The underlying idea seems to be that human beings are animals after all, and that no amount of civilizing will prevent their indulging the imperious promptings of passion. True enough it is; nothing is strong enough to conquer the flesh but the grace of God; and to the modern author the grace of God does not exist.

Jim Tancreed lives in a curious old house in a forgotten corner of London, a relic of days when rich

* By Una Silberrad. Heinemann.

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