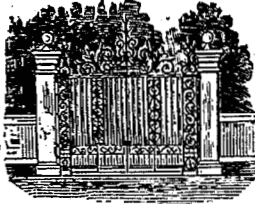


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Mr. Sidney Lee has done a public service by expanding his *Life of Queen Victoria*, which recently appeared in "The National Dictionary of Biography," into a more comprehensive book. It is a work of great interest and historic value, and should be carefully read, for it is not merely a courtier's banal record of her long and arduous life, but criticises freely her forceful character.

To younger generations of women her detestation of the movement in favour of the emancipation of her sex seems incomprehensible. It is reported that in 1870 she wrote:—

"The Queen is most anxious to enlist everyone who can speak or write to join in checking this mad wicked folly of 'Woman's Rights,' with all its attendant horrors, on which her poor feeble sex is bent, forgetting every sense of womanly feeling and propriety. . . . God created men and women different—then let them remain each in their own position. . . . Woman would become the most hateful, heartless, and disgusting of human beings were she allowed to unsex herself; and where would be the protection which man was intended to give the weaker sex?"

For women to speak in public, or to be associated with public movements, was in Queen Victoria's opinion an unpardonable sin. It was a subject which, as she wrote on one occasion, "made her so furious that she could not contain herself." This vehemence of dissent is the more extraordinary as her position as Queen of the Realm furnished the advocates of justice for women with their most effective argument.

It is deeply to be regretted that Victoria the Good had about her no Minister of sufficient modernity to have advised the enfranchisement of the women of the United Kingdom upon the occasion of her Jubilee. We should then have acclaimed her Great as well as Good. This act of justice would have burnished with imperishable lustre the glory of the Victorian era for all time. It was a golden opportunity lost.

The *Review of Reviews* outlines the Party of the Future and its Programme, and we note with pleasure it is stated, under the heading of "Justice to Women," that—

"The Progressive Party, which will, of course, recognise the rights of women to equal citizenship and to the privilege of public service with men, will be colour-blind as to sex, excepting so far as is necessary to redress the accumulated injustices of long ages of suppression to which women have been subjected, and to restore them to an equal share, when equally capable with men, to the endowments, the honours, and the emoluments of the State. There are some Progressives who do not realise that when once a social policy has been adopted it is absolutely indispensable for its successful working that both men and women should co-operate both in legislation and in administration. The State could be

male when it was only a fighting machine. It must represent both parents when it seeks to be the home of all its citizens."

The Countess of Aberdeen has accepted an invitation to read a paper before the Colonial Section of the Society of Arts on Tuesday afternoon, February 10th, on "Women in Canada." The chair will be taken at five o'clock by the Right Hon. Leonard H. Courtney.

A lady writes from Capetown as follows:—

"I have just had to pay £3 17s. 6d. for half a ton of coals—think of that! Tea runs from 2s. 2d. to 3s. 6d. per pound, moist sugars are 3d., loaf ditto 4½d., potatoes 3d. and 3½d., beef 10d. and 1s., mutton 8d., pork 1s. per pound. Wages of a working housekeeper (Dutch) are £3 10s. per month."

Miss A. M. Browne, L.S.A., has been appointed Anaesthetist to the New Hospital for Women, London.

A Book of the Week.

LORD LEONARD THE LUCKLESS.*

Mr. Chesterton, in his brilliant volume of essays, lays it down that the marriage of a celebrated person is an irrelevancy when it comes to writing a history of his life. It is not precisely certain what he meant by this. It matters perhaps comparatively little whether a man married Miss Black of Putney, or an American heiress, or a girl from the provinces; but the character of the individual girl whom he did marry not only is not irrelevant, it is absolutely essential, in considering the man's career. Shakespeare, of course, knew this. The greatness of his men is limited, or increased, by the nature of the women they loved; in many cases the man proves wholly incapable of standing alone, and, though full of genius, perishes miserably, like Hamlet, because the woman upon whom his affections were fixed was incurably weak.

In his new novel Mr. Norris gives us a variant of this theme, and gives it most successfully. He shows us the man who, fine in character, of delicate honour, of a fibre sensitive enough to respond to all high things, is yet, through shyness and lack of initiative, dependent upon the circumstances in which he finds himself.

Lord Leonard's mother is conscientious, but not sympathetic. He inherits the title most unexpectedly at the age of sixteen, when his whole heart has already become fixed upon a sea-going career. He meekly submits to the inevitable as diagnosed by his masterful mother, and endeavours to assume the role of Lord Leonard with what grace he can.

Very early in his manhood he meets Juliet Vyse, and loves her. It is in the delineation of Juliet that Mr. Norris has shown his skill in a way that deserves admiration; for it is talent of no mean order to make such very delicate outlines tell with the force that he somehow imparts. Juliet is the typical "nice girl" of modern England. She is, like the thousands of English girls, of a most average sort, who at this moment are expecting that fate will give them, as their due, a husband who shall be handsome, good, brave, clever, rich, everything that they themselves

* By W. E. Norris. Methuen.

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