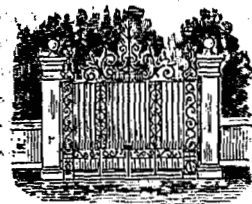


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Under a proclamation of the President of the United States all nations and peoples are invited to participate in the World's Fair and Universal Exposition, to be opened at Saint Louis, in the State of Missouri, not later than May 1st, 1904. The Exposition will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana territory by the United States from France, and will embrace an exhibition of arts, industries, and manufactures, the products of the soil, mine, forest, and sea. Miss Florence Hayward, its Special Commissioner, is now in this country trying to arouse the interest of those in high places in the Exposition, and it is indeed time for England to rub her sleepy eyes and wake up if she is not to be left in the background altogether. Germany, which is, of course, organising a most comprehensive show, has some of its exhibits on the spot already. Japan has secured the site which should have been possessed by Great Britain, while France is also alert and will reproduce the Grand Trianon and four chalets. The pictures of the exhibition buildings show the progress already made and also the great extent of the Fair, while the situation has been excellently planned amongst primeval trees. Of course there were difficulties to contend with, but these merely represent to the American mind obstacles to overcome. For instance, the course of a certain river was found to be very inconvenient. "We just moved the river, and we are going to move it back again when the Exposition is over," explained Miss Hayward casually. The cost to be incurred in the necessary arrangements is estimated at eight millions sterling.

A Committee, which is to be given the status of a Royal Commission, has been recently appointed to deal with exhibits from this country. The Chairman is Viscount Peel, with whom are associated the Hon. C. Lawrence, Sir E. Poynter, Colonel Sir H. Jekyll, Hon. Sir C. Fremantle, the Right Hon. Lord Alverstone, Sir G. Hayter-Chubb, Sir C. Burdon-Clarke, Mr. G. Donaldson, Mr. F. Grant Ogilvie, and Colonel C. M. Watson (Sec.).

The Commission has plenty of work before it if a representative exhibit worthy of the occasion is to be in place in St. Louis before May of next year. We note in the official classification of exhibits that there is no group devoted to nursing interests. We do not think there is time now to send an adequate contribution from this country, but our colleagues in the United States are well qualified to arrange an exhibit, and we hope that nursing will be represented.

The Dowager Empress of China has ordered the appropriation of half a million taels for the purpose of China's participation in the St. Louis Exhibition.

Miss Constance Jones, vice-mistress and lecturer in moral science at Girton College, Cambridge, has been

appointed to be mistress of the college in succession to Miss Welsh, resigned. Miss Jones has published a translation of Lotze's "Mikrokosmos," and has lately been engaged in editing the unpublished lectures of the late Professor Sidgwick.

An interesting personage has passed away by the death, near Hambleden, Bucks, of Miss Georgina Charlotte Hobbs, at the age of eighty-five. Miss Hobbs was in the service of the Princess Royal of England previous to her marriage with the Crown Prince of Prussia, afterwards the Emperor Frederick, and proceeded to Germany with her Royal Highness after her marriage in 1858. She went as housemaid, but was subsequently promoted to the position of nurse to the Imperial Household. In this capacity she nursed the present German Emperor during his tender years, as well as the other children of the Empress Frederick. After a stay in Germany of nearly thirty years Miss Hobbs returned to England to enjoy a substantial pension, and spent the rest of her life in the pleasant neighbourhood of Henley.

A Book of the Week.

THE CIRCLE.*

With enthusiasm we welcome an addition to our woman novelists, who promises to become a real credit to us. To have one's first book published by Blackwood confers, in itself, a kind of *cachet*. We expect literary merit, and we find it in these pages.

One cannot truly say that the story unfolded strikes us as a probable one. The author does not get near enough to her characters for that to be achieved. Her power is largely dramatic. So much so, that one feels inclined to urge her to turn her attention to the hungry managers who are crying out for home-made productions of merit.

Her heroine is Anna Solny, the young daughter of an old Jewish curio dealer in the East-end of London. There is much that is conventional in these two figures—the radiantly lovely and refined girl, who has been reared in the gutter, as one might say; and her aged father, who seems too old even for a grandfather, and must, one would think, have verged on sixty when he married his young and beautiful wife, the dead mother of Anna. . . . There is also something stagey about his entire indifference to the girl, his complete absorption in his books, and his being so overcome when she leaves him that he at once loses his mind. But, when you have granted this, you must yield your admiration to the vividness and the directness of Mrs. Thurston's narrative.

Anna comes, in a way which is original and well managed, to visit a lady of the name of Maxstead—a widow who lives on her wits, with a thousand a year as a foundation. This woman recognises genius in Anna from the first. She has, in fact, trained herself as an exploiter of humanity, and has always wished to have the handling of genius, if she could but come across a real one. She learns from Anna that her father is a Russian Jew; and she has a theory.

"Do you know," she says, "that suppressed races burst out at intervals, like volcanoes, in a flash of flame, a flash of genius?"

* By Katherine Cecil Thurston. Blackwood.

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