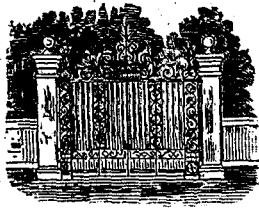


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Lady Furley was introduced into the presence of the Sovereign on Saturday, and received from His Majesty the Royal Red Cross.

Lady Frances Balfour distributed prizes at the Horticultural College, Swanley, on Saturday. Sir John Cockburn, one of the governing body, presided, and there was a large gathering of friends to listen to the speeches and inspect the domain. The Chairman announced that the College had recently achieved some remarkable successes, chief among which was the winning of the Royal Horticultural Society's silver-gilt medal by Miss Winifred Brenchley in an examination open to all England, and Miss Robinson had been awarded a silver salver for the highest aggregate marks in the diploma examinations. The Colonial branch of the College was of great value, for the Colonies demanded women who were fitted for the life they would have to lead if they went out there. Indeed, the success of Swanley College in attracting women students has become so great that it has been decided to restrict its instruction to women.

Since our last issue we feel as if we had received a smart slap on either cheek, and both still tingle briskly. First the London Education Bill creates a fresh disability for women, and deprives them of their right to participate effectively in the elementary and secondary education of the young in the Metropolis. Thus the nation is deprived of the inestimable services of such women as Mrs. Homan, who have done more practical work for the benefit of the children than any man who ever sat upon the London School Board. Moreover, by this Bill the elector is deprived of power to vote for a woman if he desires to be directly represented by one on London's educational authority. So that we find reactionary tyranny upon the part of the Government in all directions.

Less important, yet equally significant and insulting to women, was the decision arrived at in Convocation to exclude women from exercising their right—as members of the Church of England—of the Church franchise for laymen. "Foolish women," we were stigmatised by that sorry politician Lord Hugh Cecil; and, to their shame, "our right reverend fathers in God" supported his obsolete views, and voted to deprive women of their vote. The Bishop of Guildford said that "for an assembly of men to propose to exclude women from the franchise was a scandal." It is more—it is a cowardly crime—and sooner or later will have to be expiated.

Miss Grace Louise Cook contributes to a recent issue of the *New York Churchman* an interesting article on "Colorado Women." She speaks of their large vote, the earnestness with which they have accepted their political responsibilities, and their warm patriotic interest in State and municipal affairs. She says: "Such zeal must, of course, make itself felt in the

community. Often through the various clubs, and especially by service on committees appointed for the investigation of county and municipal affairs, important minor questions of reform are brought before the people. Such investigations are far more effective when the women's vote will be counted, than when a woman's opinion is merely expressed before men who alone have the privilege of decision."

For the first time in its history, the Chicago Medical Society has elected women physicians as members of the Board of Councillors. Dr. Frances Dickinson and Dr. Rachel Hickey Carr have been chosen councillors for one year.

Dietists are becoming greatly appreciated in the United States. Thus, a Mrs. Mary B. James, of Minneapolis, has been appointed by the Minnesota State Board of Control to supervise the cooking in State institutions. The Board expects to promote economy in its institutions, and has engaged the services of a trained expert in dietary matters rather than trust the matter to male superintendents, whose usual procedure is to cut down the expenditure without considering the comfort of the inmates.

A Church Scandal.

BY A CHURCHWOMAN.

The joint meeting of the United Convocations and Houses of Laymen, held on July 9th and 10th, was occupied with the discussion of the proposal to found a National Church Council. That the foundation of such a Council, on wise lines, is desirable is widely admitted. Mr. Arthur Perkins, the seconder of one resolution, pointed out that the growth and progress of the Church in the last half-century were largely due to the fact that the laity had more and more come into line with the clergy, and if there was to be in the future success for the Church he believed that that must be largely due to the laity. This view will be shared by many, provided that it is recognised that the laity is composed of two sexes. The question which aroused most interest was the franchise one, *i.e.*, the basis of suffrage for electors of the representatives of the National Church Council. The Bishop of Worcester advocated the Confirmation Suffrage, *i.e.*, that all who have, by presenting themselves for confirmation, accepted voluntarily and knowingly the responsibility of Christian manhood should be qualified to vote. Bishop Gore pointed out that the only point of principle arising from the definition which he advocated was that it included women.

Chancellor Smith proposed to admit women to the franchise so far as they were householders. There ought to be some limitation of the female franchise.

Lord Hugh Cecil fell back upon St. Paul for support of his contention, on the ground of *principle*, that the suffrage should be confined to men. He omitted to point out both that St. Paul was an oriental, and also that, had he lived in the year of grace 1903 instead of in the first years of the Christian era, it is conceivable that an apostle sufficiently liberal-minded to become the champion of the hitherto despised Gentiles, and to cast off the trammels of custom in this connection, might possibly have realised the desirability of adapting the methods of the Church to the needs of the times.

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