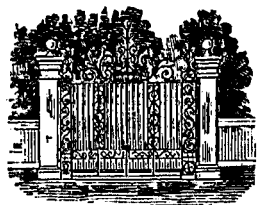


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The casket presented to H.R.H. Princess Christian by the Central Committee of the Guild of Loyal Women, on behalf of the Transvaal branches at Johannesburg, is made of Transvaal gold, presented by Messrs. Eckstein. The British coat-of-arms appears on the lid in raised enamel, and the letter "C" in a circle of diamonds. At the other side the words "South Africa, 1904," appear in a circle of diamonds. The Transvaal coat-of-arms is at the front of the casket, and a magnificent rough diamond (blue), for which space has been left for its insertion after cutting and polishing, was placed inside the casket. All the diamonds are from the Premier Mine, and the workmanship was done locally, so that the casket is in every way representative of the colony.

In addition to the casket which was given to Princess Christian, the Loyal Women's Guild presented Princess Victoria with a magnificent album of views of all the places of interest which her brother visited in South Africa. The album is covered in Royal red morocco of a rough surface, with gold framework lines, and the monogram of the Princess stamped in gold as sole ornament on the cover. Two photographs are set on each page in a silver-grey mount, with scrolled design running round the border, and in the interspace between the photographs.

The Emigrants' Information Office has drawn up a series of concise statements on the prospects of emigration at the present time in Canada, Australasia, and the South African Colonies, from which it would appear that, with the exception of domestic service, there is little work for women, and, as domestic service in our colonies is very rough-and-ready, it would appear that women had better stay at home.

It comes as rather a surprise that no persons are now allowed to land in Cape Colony unless they have secured definite employment in the Colony and possess £20 on arrival, or have permits to enter the Transvaal or Orange River Colony. The labour market is overstocked. How about South Africa as a white man's country? A correspondent says "the whole continent is in the clutches of the finance fiend."

At the inauguration of the new University at Leeds an honorary degree was conferred upon Lady Frederick Cavendish.

For the first time in Scottish academic history, a Ferguson Scholarship has been won by a lady. The lady is Miss Jessie Elliot Murdoch, M.A., of Aberdeen University. There are three scholarships of £80 each a year for two years, which are given in classics, mathematics, and philosophy. All three scholarships have been won by Aberdeen students, though one was shared by a student of Edinburgh University. Miss Murdoch took her degree this year with first-class honours and many prizes.

Mrs. Isabella L. Bishop, better known as Miss Isabella Bird, the famous traveller and authoress, died in Edinburgh on Friday, within a few days of completing her seventy-second year. Her first book, "The Englishwoman in America," was published so long ago as 1856, and so recently as 1900 she published "The Yangtse Valley and Beyond." Mrs. Bishop was an ardent supporter of philanthropic work at home and abroad, and had built five hospitals and an orphanage in the East. She married, in 1881, Dr. John Bishop, who died in 1886. In 1901 she rode a thousand miles in Morocco, including a journey to the Atlas Mountains. She was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (the first lady Fellow elected to that body) and of other societies, and an honorary member of the Oriental Society of Peking.

In his exceedingly interesting "Report on Commercial Instruction in Germany," just published by the Foreign Office, Dr. Frederic Rose, British Consul at Stuttgart, gives some information concerning certain commercial schools for girls that have been set up in the Fatherland. One of the most interesting of these is the municipal commercial school for girls at Nuremberg. At this institution—intended for the instruction of girls who have passed through the elementary schools, and who wish to enter business—pupils are taken through a three years' course in religion, arithmetic, book-keeping, commercial knowledge (including principles of economics, foreign exchanges, and elements of German commercial law), German, French, English, commercial geography, handwriting, shorthand, and typewriting. The fees are 36s. per annum, payable quarterly. The number of pupils increases steadily year by year, and reached 280 in 1903.

The discipline at the school is severe, and extends to the pupil's conduct at home. The would-be German lady clerk is "not allowed" to visit concerts or theatres without the permission of the school inspector or the class teacher. Parents and guardians are specially enjoined not only to see that pupils attend the school regularly, but also to be careful that the pupils are clothed "as simply as possible." They are further required to control the literature read by pupils at home, and not to allow private masters to assist pupils without first consulting the master at the school; and, finally, not to permit pupils to take part in pleasures and social distractions beyond their years. Many English girls would regard this as slavery. But the Nuremberg commercial girls appear to be in request, for it is stated that on leaving they all find paid employment *immediately!*

October.

In rainbow hues the woods are drest,
The heath is spread with cloth of gold,
The sun, in crimson garments roll'd,
Is holding triumph in the west.

Such gorgeous weeds are earth's array,
To mourn her summer cold and still,
For in her heart she feels the thrill
Of summer's resurrection day.

—A. B. COOPER, in the October *Sunday Strand*.

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