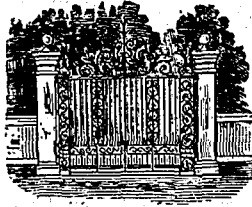


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A largely-attended meeting in support of the movement for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was held at 30, Ennismore Gardens, on Monday, the residence of Mr. Alfred Emmott, M.P. The chair was occupied by Lady Penrose-FitzGerald.

The first resolution, moved by Lady Frances Balfour, was as follows:—"That this meeting adopts as its own, and affirms with ardour and emphasis, the resolution carried by a majority of 114 in the House of Commons, March 16th, 1904, to the following effect:—"This House considers that the disabilities of women in respect of the Parliamentary franchise ought to be removed by legislation." Lady Frances Balfour said that when Mr. Gladstone was in power, if the Queen had expressed an opinion in favour of women's suffrage it would have become law. Unfortunately her Majesty was unfavourable, and the matter was not pressed. Since that time public opinion had progressed in favour of the enfranchisement of women. The resolution was passed unanimously.

A conference of members favourable to Women's Suffrage was held in the Grand Committee Room of the House of Commons immediately upon the opening of Parliament. Colonel Denny presided, and amongst those present were Mr. Weir, Captain Norton, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir M. Bohnaggee, Mr. Channing, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. W. Jones, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Agg-Gardiner, Sir J. Rolleston, Mr. H. Lewis, Mr. John Wilson (St. Rollox), Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Eva McLaren, Miss I. O. Ford, and Mrs. Newport. Sixty delegates from different parts of England and Scotland representing the twenty-seven women's suffrage societies and nine branch societies also attended.

Mr. Henry Hobhouse presided last week at a conference of members and others who support the Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill. It was resolved that in the event of the ballot for the Bill being unsuccessful an endeavour should be made to secure a day for a motion on the subject.

Bills to be introduced into Parliament this Session which are of special interest to women include the following measures:—

Registration of Nurses' Bill, by Mr. Munro-Ferguson.
Bill to Amend the Law Relating to Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, by Colonel Lockwood.

Bill to enable Women to be Elected and act as Members of County and Borough Councils and Metropolitan Borough Councils.

Bill to Establish a Single Franchise at all Elections, and thereby to abolish University Representation, and to remove the Disabilities of Women, by Sir Charles Dilke; and, most important of all, a Bill to enable Women to Vote at Parliamentary Elections, by Mr. Bamford Slack.

At a lecture on the work of Mr. George Meredith, given before the Liskeard Literary Society, a letter from the novelist was read, in which he said:—"Since

I began to reflect I have been oppressed with the injustice done to women, the constraint put upon their natural aptitudes and their faculties generally, much to the degradation of the race. I have not studied women more than men, but with more affection, with deeper interest in their enfranchisement and development, being assured that women of the independent mind are needed for any sensible degree of progress. They will so educate their daughters that these will not be instructed at the start to think themselves naturally inferior to men because less muscular, and need not have recourse to particular arts, feline chiefly, to make their way in the world. I have no special choice among the women of my books, but perhaps I gave more colour to 'Diana of the Crossways' and Clara Middleton of 'The Egoist,' and this on account of their position."

The Grand Duke Sergius of Russia has expiated his crimes—by death swift and terrible—having been blown to atoms by the explosion of a bomb hurled by a relentless hand in Moscow, the scene of his despotic rule. His remains have been gathered together for burial, but terror prohibits obsequies of regal pomp customary in the Imperial family of Russia.

The Revolutionary Tribunal has warned the Dowager Empress to prepare for death. Suffering has maddened the Russian people, and what wonder? A dispatch from Warsaw states that amongst the political suspects under arrest in the Odessa Prison were five girls, four Christians and a Jewess, whose ages varied from eighteen to twenty-one, and three of whom had been attending the higher course lectures for women. Without any form of trial, or even interrogation by a juge d'instruction, these young women were stripped completely naked and cruelly flogged.

The women of Moscow have forwarded the following address, bearing a large number of signatures, to the Empress of Russia:—"We Russian women, mothers, wives, and sisters of the warriors who are shedding their blood in the Far East for the beloved Fatherland, address ourselves to you, O Sovereign, believing that, with your mother's heart, you feel all the horrors of war as we do. You will understand that a woman ardently desires peace. Peace is being violated, not only beyond the frontiers of our country, but even in the heart of the Fatherland. We see with terror in the recent troubles the beginning of calamities that may crush all Russia if the Emperor does not seek, in unity with his people, to avert them. All the bases of life are shaken, and all moral foundations are trembling. Mothers, those who have to bring up the young generation, are saddened and their task made impossible. It is beyond their power, beyond all possibility, to train children up on bases of unshakable truth and love of duty when the social life of the country does not rest on these for its foundation. The youth of the country, on entering life, constantly meet contradictions to what was taught them in their families. They thus lose all faith in the principles taught them, seek new faiths, and fall into extremes. Our best forces are perishing. Mothers' hearts are breaking. They cannot remain silent. They feel that many more lives will yet be sacrificed, for what is happening is not spasmodic, but the result of earlier calamities. The Emperor can still save Russia by his puissant will. Be our pleader and pray the Emperor that he may listen to the voice of

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