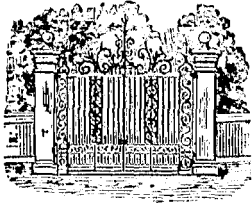


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



An interesting character now visiting in England is, says a contemporary, Miss Annie Royle Taylor, who has often been alluded to during past years as "The Only Englishwoman in Tibet." She is the only white woman who ever lived in Tibet for any length of time, and, indeed, became a universal favourite there.

Most of her time, however, was spent during recent years at Yatong, in the Chumbi Valley, the district north of Bhutan and Nepal. At Yatong, as representative of the Tibetan Pioneer Mission, she established a little shop for distributing Christian literature. This was eagerly bought, as books are very scarce in Tibet. Many of her little Tibetan Gospel booklets were found at Lhasa by members of the recent expedition.

Mdlle. Bartet, of the Comédie-Française, has been appointed to the rank of a Knight of the Legion of Honour, and is thus the first actress to receive this decoration in special recognition of her talent.

The formation of a Russian "Union of Defenders of Equal Rights for Women" has been received with enthusiasm by women of all classes of society throughout Russia. The members say that the struggle for the political liberation of Russia is inseparable from the struggle for women's rights, and that the denial of political rights to women would check all economic as well as political progress. They consider that in any Constitutional Assembly which may be formed it is absolutely essential that the members should be elected by secret ballot, on the basis of universal suffrage, without distinction of sex or religion. The Women's Union has been incorporated with the Russian Union of Unions lately founded for the political liberation of Russia.

News from Christiania states that the preliminary results of the Norwegian female vote regarding the dissolution of the union between Norway and Sweden have resulted in nearly 200,000 being in favour of dissolution and not one against it.

From the Report of the Committee on Legislation for Civil Rights given by Mrs. L. L. Blankenburg at the National Suffrage Convention, U.S.A., we learn that encouraging progress has been made in some directions. Thus in California a new law has been passed for the appointment of women physicians on boards of insane hospitals and on the Board of the State Home for the Feeble-minded.

Kansas passed a Bill requiring two women to be appointed to visit the charitable institutions of the State in connection with the Board of Control of the institutions.

In New Jersey a law was passed which compels the State to bear the expenses of the administration of the Women Teachers' Retirement Fund. This change saves the teachers several thousands a year.

In Oklahoma Territory school suffrage was granted to women in cities of the first class.

In New York an effort was made to secure the appointment of Mrs. Florence Kelly as labour commissioner, but was unsuccessful.

In Massachusetts a measure asking for full suffrage was also defeated.

It is reported from German East Africa that two Sisters—Sister Felicitas Hiltner and Sister Cordula Ebert—who were travelling from Kilwa to Liwale with the Roman Catholic Bishop Spies, and two other missionaries, have been murdered. The bishop was travelling on his own responsibility, as he had been advised to return by the district authorities, and had several times been requested to abandon the journey.

A Book of the Week.

THE MAN WHO WON.*

Much as we naturally looked for on the strength of the deservedly popular "Phoebe in Fetters," Mrs. Baillie-Reynolds has succeeded in surpassing all expectations by giving us a book that is not merely as good as its predecessor, but infinitely better, in that it is stronger, more forcible, and yet has lost nothing of her usual delicacy of touch. Opening in South Africa, the first quarter of "The Man Who Won" contains one of the most strikingly rugged bits of workmanship a woman has ever attempted. The picture is at times bordering upon lurid, yet the subject is treated with firmness. While the description of life in the demoralised little township lacks nothing in breadth and reality, there is a certain reticence which is in itself a strength. The men may be for the most part blackguards, the hero himself an undisciplined "blond and bearded giant," whose best friend cannot trust him to behave as a gentleman. Still nothing jars. The writer depicts coarse manners, and still coarser natures, but is never betrayed into handling her matter coarsely. The force of the plot grips attention from the first page; the sympathies of the reader are aroused at the outset by the most incongruous hero and heroine imaginable. The sketch of Melicent Lutwyche is daring in the extreme, utterly unprepossessing, an ill-clad, unkempt, sharp-tongued scrap of humanity, and yet one is conscious of the fascination that bewitched Bert Mestaer, despite her galling contempt of him. When he saves her from the brutality of her Boer step-mother, Melicent shrinks from being under an obligation to him—a promise to become his wife made in a moment of helplessness becomes the burden of her life for years, long after a turn in her fortunes takes her to England and apparent safety. The theme of two strong wills at variance may not be an uncommon one, but its treatment here is entirely out of the common. Mrs. Baillie-Reynolds uses no stereotyped methods, and her characterisation, whether of major or minor importance, is always crisp and convincing.

The contrast between Melicent's early life and her experiences in her uncle's remote country vicarage is most effective. One is tempted to wonder whether smiling, self-satisfied Mrs. Chetwynd-Cooper is not as bad and cruel an influence in young lives as ignorant Vrow Lutwyche.

Bert Mestaer's friend, Carol Mayne, is so attractive, one could wish for more of him; the Helstones are

* By Mrs. Baillie-Reynolds. (Hutchinson and Co.)

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