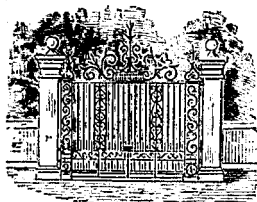


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The stars in their courses are fighting for the women's cause, and the women of this country must be ever grateful to Mr. W. H. Dickinson, Liberal Member for North St. Pancras, who, having secured that most coveted position, the first place in the ballot in the House of Commons, has decided that their enfranchisement shall take precedence of the many other questions in which he is keenly interested and on Friday, February 15th, introduced a "Bill to enable women to vote at Parliamentary elections." The Bill is backed by Professor James Stuart, Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. Hart Davies, and the Hon. Geoffrey Howard (Liberals), Mr. Phillip Snowden (Labour Member), and Mr. Cameron Corbett (Unionist). March 8th, which has been decided on as the date for the second reading of the Bill, will be a day of stupendous excitement, and in the meantime all who have any influence with Members of Parliament must do their utmost to secure their support for the Measure. The announcement that Mr. Whitehead, Liberal Member for South-East Essex, and Sir Frederick Banbury, Unionist Member for the City of London, Mr. Bertram (Herts, Hitchin), Major Renton (Lincoln, Gainsborough), Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland), and Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston), have given notice to move the rejection of the Bill, should incite us all, if indeed excitement is needed, to work our very hardest.

The reception held last week by the Women and Local Government Society at 24, Park Lane, by permission of Lord and Lady Brassey, resolved itself into a meeting of congratulation that the cause which it advocates was referred to in the King's Speech. The guests, who numbered 600, were received by Lady Strachey, Lady Lockyer, and the Hon. Mildred C. Davey. A meeting of an hour's duration was held in the Indian apartment in the course of the evening.

Her Majesty the Empress of Germany has presented a golden brooch to 146 midwives, who have done 40 years of service, two of them in Berlin. She has also given a gold cross and diploma, signed in her own handwriting, to 276 women who have remained in service in the same family for 40 years. Thirteen of these live in Berlin.

Madame Sarah Bernhardt has been appointed Professor of Dramatic Declamation at the Conservatoire, Paris, in succession to the late M. Pierre Laugier, of the Comédie-Française.

Book of the Week.

AMALIA.*

Miss Hope still gives us history, but this time it is history in the making. She chooses the court of Montarvia for the setting of her romance; and very prettily the thing is done.

The Prince of Salzheim-Schlüsselberg had five daughters, and the only one who had married—the fair Luitgarda—had not been a success, for she had quarrelled violently with her Archduke, got herself talked about, and been sent home in disgrace.

The sketch of life in this pocket German Court is most humorous, and we wish it could have been longer. The family, as we are introduced to them, with the Scotch governess, Miss Macleod, with whom Max, the heir, is in love—and whom he desires to marry—morganatically, of course—is quite delightfully well touched off.

Amalia is the youngest, and when Karl Friedrich, of Montarvia, sends his emissary to choose among the young ladies, his choice falls upon her. Poor Amalia! She is modern enough to rebel at the idea of being married to a man she has never seen, and of whom she has heard as an invalidish kind of crank. Her mother sends her off to spend a week at a farm in the mountains, to teach her what lies before her if she does not marry; and Amalia comes back tamed, and says she will do as she is bid.

So to Montarvia.

"It was late in the afternoon when they reached Vienna to find, in addition to the expected suite, a group of Montarvian students with a bouquet, and—a new experience for her—journalists. Her face, figure, air, were noted for report in every newspaper throughout the world; and kodaks were brought to bear, that Misses Bull and Jonathan might feast their eyes upon the 'Royal Bride' whose 'love-match' was the sensation of the hour. Every well-informed Anglo-Saxon maiden knew that the Prince had loved his cousin when she was still in the nursery, and had waited for her with unswerving fidelity."

This is excellent.

Karl Friedrich himself turned out to be a very personable young man, but he was also very preoccupied. He had specially desired his envoy to explain to his future wife the personal danger she ran in becoming his wife, for his throne and government were in the very early stages of development, and his sister had been seriously injured by the throwing of a bomb not long before. He was much taken aback when he heard that no warning had been given. The little Princess captured the populace on her wedding day. There was a furore of enthusiasm in Nischigrade; but her husband remained very cool and detached, and she was more than a little inclined to despise a man who played the piano and shot with a revolver, instead of fighting battles and shooting with a rifle.

* By Graham Hope. (Smith Elder.)

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