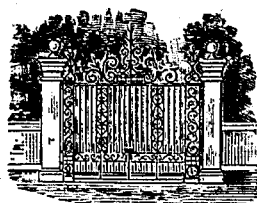


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



The special Fate which controls the ballot in the House of Commons is evidently a warm supporter of Women's Suffrage, as Sir C. B. McLaren drew first place for Private Members' motions for the evening of March 27th. Notice was at once given that he would call attention to the subject "of the enfranchisement of women, and move a resolution thereon." The resolution will be in the following terms: "That in the opinion of this House the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary franchise is neither expedient, justifiable, nor politically right."

Miss H. Adler, Mrs. S. Bryant, Miss M. Frere, and Miss S. Lawrence, have been co-opted on to the new Education Committee of the London County Council. Before long, let us hope, they will be elected by the ratepayers on to the Council, and cease to give the benefit of their great experience to London's children on sufferance.

News comes from Melbourne that the Australian Exhibition of Women's Work, which is to be opened in October, is rapidly assuming an international character, being warmly supported in all parts of the Commonwealth, Great Britain, and abroad. The exhibition is designed for competitive exhibits of all classes of Australian women's work, and the display of women's work from all countries. Medals and diplomas will be awarded. The Queen has given her direct patronage. Lady Northcote, who is President, and the wives of the State Governors, who are Vice-Presidents, and are personally directing the preparations, have received assurances of hearty co-operation from Ladies Minto, Grey, and Selborne. Lady Jersey has formed a London Committee, and an influential committee has been formed in Bombay.

Dr. Bódog Somló, the youngest professor of the University of Kolozsvár, recently delivered an interesting address in Nagyvarad on the subject of the Past and Future of Marriage. He spoke of matrimonial life in prehistoric times, and followed the various stages as marriage developed from its most primitive form to the present one. He said that once upon a time men captured their wives by force and later they purchased them. Matrimonial life has always had its economic background. He was optimistic with regard to the future of marriage, and thought that the marriages of the future would be much more idealistic than they are to-day.

The French Chamber of Deputies on Friday last considered a Bill, already voted by the Senate, for the reform of the prud'homme tribunals, which are composed of the elected representatives of employers and employees. M. Benazet moved an amendment rendering women eligible for election. The Minister of Labour admitted the justice of the demand, and promised that he would shortly present a Bill giving entire satisfaction to the author of the amendment.

## Book of the Week.

### THE LONELY LADY OF GROSVENOR SQUARE.\*

Once more Mrs. de la Pasture has shown us that it is quality and not subject matter that is the essential point in writing a story.

In this book she has returned to her best manner, and has given us humour and pathos, and glimpses of her own rare ability in nature painting.

Jeanne, her little heroine, is one of the simple ones of the earth. She is so simple that she is very nearly silly. Nearly, but just not quite: because, with the simplicity there is mingled an under layer of great things. Loyalty, truth, righteousness, unselfish devotion to family, to ideals, to causes. These are not the ingredients of silliness, though the intense simplicity and lack of sophistication are greater than would very likely be the case with a shallower nature.

Cecilia, the rector's daughter, who is contrasted, slightly but most effectively with Jeanne, is the typical shallow woman. She had been a very pretty girl when the distinguished scientific professor came down to their remote world. He, like most men, assuming that outward bloom was expressive of inner sweetness, married her, yet in her teens; and Cecilia set to work to try to be smart, by aping the manners of the women she met and the women she read about. She snubbed Jeanne until she found that Jeanne was going to be very, very rich. Then she tried to be intimate, but Jeanne the simple was emphatically not so silly that she could not see through Cecilia. The tragedy of the clever man tied to the heartless, shallow, selfish, vulgar woman is only indicated; but one feels it.

The gem of all the book is, however, of course, the social blunder of the sweet little Jeanne.

She is alone—quite alone—in the vast house in Grosvenor Square, until her beloved brother shall return from South Africa.

The old servants are concerned at her complete solitude. She ought to have friends, they tell her—to make friends while still young. How to make friends is the puzzle to Jeanne. Then she remembers that in the remote Welsh parish where she was brought up the Vicar's wife always called upon new-comers. She looked in the *Morning Post* and found that a certain Mr. and Mrs.

\* By Mrs. De La Pasture. (John Murray.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)