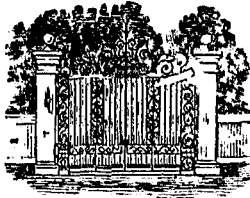


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



It is interesting to note that a lady has for the first time been appointed to the office of Clerk to the Guardians, the appointment having been made by the Reeth Guardians and the Reeth Rural District Council, who have elected Mrs. Greathead as their Clerk, in the place of the late Mr. A. B. Hudson. As the widow of Mr. Greathead, a solicitor, who held the office for a number of years, the new Clerk is well acquainted with the duties to be performed. The appointment is subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board.

In commenting on the heavy infant mortality at Preston during the month, Dr. Pilkington, the medical officer of health, said it was proved that prosperity in the cotton trade meant increased opportunities for female labour, and induced mothers to relinquish the care of their children.

There is every indication that the Joint Women's Franchise Demonstration, arranged for February 9th, will be one of the most representative demonstrations ever held in advocacy of the extension of the franchise to women. The idea of a procession and mass meeting on the eve of the opening of Parliament was put forward by the Central Society for Women's Suffrage, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and the Women's Northern Franchise Demonstration Committee, and now these three organisations have secured the co-operation of the Women's Liberal Federation and the National British Women's Temperance Association.

The action taken at Belfast at the Labour Party Conference on Women's Suffrage, was natural if disappointing. Labour will not support a Bill for the enfranchisement of women on the present property qualification, but demands adult suffrage for men and women. Let us hope the Liberal Government will give us what we are praying for, a vote on the same terms as men now exercise it and thus remove the *sex* disqualification, which is an unwarrantable degradation.

Mrs. Borrmann Wells, of London, who has been addressing meetings of women suffragists in New York, has started an agitation in favour of a brief sensational campaign in that city. The older suffragists, however, vigorously oppose such a policy, declaring that it is unnecessary.

Mrs. Lillie Blake, one of the leading local suffragists, says: "We could not get arrested in New York if we tried. If we made a demonstration in front of the residences of public officials, they would invite us within and treat us with the utmost courtesy."

Book of the Week.

THE SECOND BOOK OF TOBIAH.*

When I saw that Miss Silberrad had done some more stories concerning the redoubtable Dissenter, Tobiah, and his surpassing interest in the doings of his fellow-townsmen, I felt impelled to procure the new volume at once. For there is no doubt that Miss Silberrad has made the period—I suppose, somewhere about the time of John Bunyan—peculiarly her own. The town of which she writes is not specified. It is a sea-port, and has a river-mouth; and, judging by the wildness of the surrounding country, should be somewhere in the North. But one has a wondrously solid idea of the town and its inmates, of the conditions of their life, their greatneses and their superstitions, and Tobiah himself, that mighty man of his feet, that prince of admonishers to the backsliding, that good strong help in time of need—Tobiah is indeed a creation, and we feel that his author is well advised to tell us more of him.

The first story in the volume is as charming as any in the foregoing one. It is called "Drusilla the Jewess," and tells of an honest man. Josiah Coot, the Mayor, middle-aged and square and grey, has never desired a woman until his eye falls upon the glorious beauty of the Jewish maiden, whose father, Jacob, is one of the most cunning rogues in the country. Josiah tries to stifle his passion, for is not the match a most unequal one? But his feelings are too strong for him, and he asks Drusilla to marry him. The girl, who is clever as she is handsome, knew full well that her eyes had ensnared the man; but that he would make her his wife she had not dreamed. His honesty makes her refuse. Her father, to gain his own ends would have sold her on any terms. But the Mayor persists and they are wed, to the disgust and scandal of Tobiah. Soon comes the time which old Jacob foresaw, when his accomplice in coining false money, Amos, is apprehended. He forges a warrant for the removal of Amos from the gaol and sends it to Drusilla, for her to deceive her husband, and affix the town seal to the false document. Her father's very life being involved Drusilla does the thing. She deceives the man who trusts her and whose integrity has won her heart. "I have given my soul for your neck," she tells her father. But having so done, she departs. She will not live on, as wife to the man she has so betrayed. But Tobiah finds her in the woods, and Tobiah, after much godly admonition, is the means of restoring her to her husband, whose joy at knowing that he is beloved is touching and most delicately given. "You wed me for gain and you left me—for love," he tells her, as he takes her to his heart.

The were-wolf story just fails, somehow, to convince. Miss Silberrad well knows that, in touching such subjects, a blurring of detail is necessary, but this she has slightly overdone. However, there is real horror, as the young wife waits in the dark for the entrance of the awful creature who is at times her husband, and she and young Ginfillen hear it pad-padding upstairs in the dark.

* By Una L. Silberrad. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

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