

## The Social Side.

### THE VISIT TO VERSAILLES.

Nearly 200 of the members of the Congress availed themselves of the arrangements made for the Friday afternoon by Mme. Alphen Salvador with the help of Mlle. Scherer and Mlle. Biais to visit the Palace of Versailles, the celebrated residence of Louis XIV. and his successors, and the historic Châteaux within the domain.

How greatly morality and suffering influence the human heart was demonstrated by those nurses who went to Versailles. Having arrived through avenues and parks at the Grand Trianon—the handsome villa erected by Louis XIV. for that prudish hypocrite, Madame de Maintenon—it was passed by with little interest. It was the Petit Trianon, built for Madame D'ubarry but associated with the hours of repose and gaiety of poor Marie Antoinette, where she played the rustic hoyden, and learnt to milk cows, which all were eager to see, so through the charming suite of rooms in this pretty villa we passed, so exquisitely decorated in tones of French grey and white, where each contains something to keep the memory of this unhappy Queen and mother alive—the silk curtains given by the city of Lyons upon her marriage, the harpsichord touched by her white, bejewelled fingers, her bust in Sevres *biscuit*, smashed at the Revolution, and afterwards restored! Then through her gardens, laid out in the English style, and so on to the "Hamlet," as the rustic cottages, which surround the artificial lake, are called, and where the Court beauties who wished to live the idyllic life, rose while the dew was still on leaf, and in short kirtle and with be-ribboned crooks played the shepherdess to elegant silk clad Corydon.

A walk through the park brought us to the splendid flight of stone steps, which ascend to the terrace, commanding a survey of the façade of the great Palace of Versailles, the building and decorating of which cost 20 million pounds.

It is of astounding splendour, 630 yards in length, and is pierced with 375 windows. The surrounding view is artificial, yet superb. We now entered the Palace, and passed through the Chapel and some of the gorgeous galleries in which are arranged a collection of works of art, for everything made in the 17th and 18th centuries, even for the commonest use, was touched with the fingers of genius. Time only permitted a glimpse at the grandeurs of the interior of this wonderful Palace. But we passed through the cabinets of Marie Antoinette, and amongst other fine things saw the wonderful statue of the dying Napoleon. Soon we were in the shady gardens of the Lycée de Jeunes Filles, at Versailles, where, by the kind invitation of Mlle. L. Alléret, the Directrice, we partook of tea, delicious sandwiches, cakes, and iced coffee.

Mme. Salvador, Mlle. Scherer, and Mlle. Biais, who accompanied the party, were indefatigable in their efforts for our happiness,

## The Farewell Fete.

### THE VISIT TO CHANTILLY.

The farewell fête of the Conference stands out as a golden event, the last in a week of happiness such as human beings may dream of but are seldom permitted to enjoy.

The invitation of the Baroness James de Rothschild, through the kind offices of Mlle. Chaptal, to sixty of the visitors to spend the day, at lovely Chantilly was greatly appreciated, everything was perfectly arranged and the hospitality most bountiful. At the Chantilly station six large carriages met the train, and they were soon full of buoyantly happy guests, and away they drove to the charming old Hotel d'Angleterre, a typical French inn with panelled rooms, on the walls of which hung fine old prints, Louis XV. mirrors, and other beautiful antiques, which one longed to annex. Here in two rooms, opening out of one another, fifteen little tables à *quatre* awaited the guests. Mlle. Chaptal presided, and seated with her were Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Robb, and Sister Karll; close by Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Miss Maxwell, Miss Hellfach, and Miss Lanschot-Hubrecht.

Soon all was gaiety and happiness, the *chef*, one of renown, excelled himself, and with the coffee the most kind *hostess rose* and welcomed the officers and members of the International Conference in the name of the Baroness James de Rothschild, who was very sorry not to be able to be present on account of her health. Mlle. Chaptal said she was happy to have the opportunity of thanking the organisers of the Congress for having chosen Paris for this very interesting meeting. "Certainly," said Mlle. Chaptal, "we shall keep the memory of your coming, and try to profit by the high examples that you have given us, and I heartily hope that when you come again to us you will find that all these examples for good have not been given in vain."

Mlle. Chaptal then proposed the health of all representatives of the various countries.

Mrs. Fenwick then rose to offer the warmest thanks in the name of the International Council of Nurses to the Baroness de Rothschild for her hospitality. All the benefits, she said, were on the side of the guests, who also thanked Mlle. Chaptal for the part she had taken in organising so delightful a day for their pleasure. She had seen French women, so bright and clever, at work in some French hospitals, and when at the beautiful new College of Nursing at Salpêtrière it flashed across her mind that in the future if English nurses wished to keep ahead they would have to organise educational curricula and also have their nursing colleges—a progressive step she had long advocated. Mrs. Fenwick then proposed that they should at once send a telegram of thanks to the Baroness de Rothschild, a suggestion acclaimed by all present, and which Mlle. Chaptal put into graceful French as follows:—

"Les membres du Congrès International des Infirmières réunies à Chantilly, adressent à la Baronne J. de Rothschild leurs plus chaleureux remerciements pour l'hospitalité charmante recue à Chantilly."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)