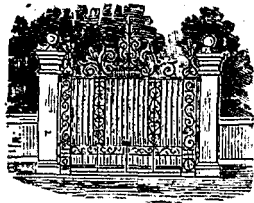


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A special meeting of the Council of the International Council of Women was held last week in Geneva under the presidency of the Countess of Aberdeen, when delegates from most of the affiliated countries were present. The National Councils of Crete and Bulgaria were welcomed to affiliation, and a cordial greeting was also extended to Mme. Anna de Philossoff, from Russia, the pioneer of university education for women in that country, who is now seeking to form a National Council of Women in Russia, where a meeting will be held in December next, with the consent of the Government, with the object of considering the possibility of the scheme. Mrs. Willoughby Cummings formally invited the International Council of Women to meet next year at Toronto, and the invitation was accepted. The revised Constitution has been adopted.

The September magazines are an indication of the widespread public interest in Woman's Suffrage at the present time. In *The Nineteenth Century and After*, Miss Eva Gore-Booth, in an article entitled "Women and the Suffrage," replies to Lady Lovat and Mrs. Humphry Ward. Mrs. C. Carmichael Stopes, in *The Fortnightly Review*, treats of the question in clear and forceful style from the constitutional point of view, and Mrs. Billington-Greig, in the *International*, writes of "The Storm-Centre of the Woman's Suffrage Movement."

The Young Turkey movement has been full of surprises, but there is none greater than the part which the women, until recently immured in the harem, are taking in it. The *Westminster Gazette* publishes the following account by an eye-witness of a women's meeting in Constantinople:—

At four in the afternoon (writes a correspondent of the *Tageblatt*) I went with a Young Turkey friend and an Italian colleague to Giostepe (a hill on the east shore of the Bosphorus). It is said that the spirit of Mohammed has blessed this spot with his breath, and comes to it every morning to rejoice, and to drink of the crystal spring of Giostepe. . . . And now, in gay and merry groups, laughing and chattering, the ladies of the harem came, leaving their luxurious prisons, and rejoicing in the fullest liberty. What a strange sight it was! I asked myself what business I, the *giaour*, had among these fragrant blossoms of Allah, and the reality seemed but a dream and a vision. But no, it was all true, and I was a witness of the great moment when these lovely little women, breaking away, from the prejudices and

laws of thousands of years, were pulling down the walls of the harem, in order that the women of Turkey might obtain their liberty.

The ladies—there were over three hundred—grouped themselves round an improvised platform, which was occupied by the president, Labineh-Hannum, the wife of the physician Rifaat Pasha. The president of the advocates of women's rights in Turkey is young and pretty, and wore a costume which plainly showed traces of the change from Mohammedan to European dress. Her dress had a waist, and her face was unveiled. On her head was perched a pretty little thing which, however, could hardly be called a hat. The lady spoke quietly and distinctly, but her voice shook now and then with emotion. She said: "The light which has risen over our country is to light everyone, without distinction of sex. We women also must receive its beams, for we, too, have the right to demand our freedom. We wish to help at the new birth of our race; we wish to help to bring charitable institutions into being, homes for the poor and their children. But we must have the same rights and the same position as that which European women hold. And in aspiring to this we must be strong in virtue and in honour. We want full equality, full freedom. The Turkish woman must in future be able to breathe freely; the intolerable fate of being guarded, the bondage of the harem, which has hitherto made us slaves and degraded our womanly dignity, is a thing of the past. Turkish family life must now be built upon the foundations of right, liberty, and equality. We want to get away from the harem, and our motto must be, "Down with the harem! Long life to liberty and to the equality of the sexes!"

The President's speech was frequently interrupted by enthusiastic applause, and when she had finished they lifted her shoulder-high, amid frantic cheers. Indeed, the scene and the sight of the small white hands, sparkling with jewels and clapping with such enthusiasm, took one to Madison Square, New York, into a meeting of the free women of America.

Our Young Turkey guide added, "The scene which you have just seen will remain historic. After centuries of slavery the day of freedom has come for our women. An echo of this will soon come from the provinces. Under the token of Europe the second birth of our race will take place."

The age of heroism has not passed. Was there ever a braver deed than that of Mrs. Sarah Rooke, the telephone operator, in the town of Folsom, New Mexico, where the disaster occasioned by the recent cloud burst came on so suddenly that it would, says a contemporary, have been far greater had it not been for the heroism of Mrs. Rooke.

She had been warned from a neighbouring exchange of the approaching wall of water which was carrying all before it, and though she had time to flee and save her life she stuck to her post and, as

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