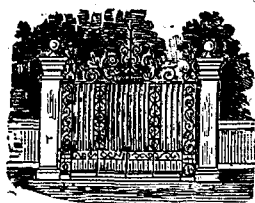


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



The Duchess of Somerset's Committee wish to inform those who so kindly contributed towards the 30,000 garments which they were able to send to the victims of the Sicilian disaster, that news has now been received of the safe arrival of all the bales and crates, and that many grateful letters of thanks have arrived from the various working committees both at Naples and Palermo.

Women's Suffrage has been buzzing all the week, and the members of all the Societies have been up and doing. Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Representation of the People Bill, which proposes to grant adult Suffrage to men and women alike, reached its second reading in the House of Commons on Friday, 19th inst. The Suffrage Societies, militant and otherwise, were against it, as they ask for Suffrage on the same terms as men have it now, and are well aware that adult suffrage is not yet.

The London Society for Women's Suffrage have moved into more commodious offices at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., and are busy preparing for the International gathering next month, when charming Mrs. Carrie Catt will take all our hearts by storm.

The third annual report of the work of the National Women's Social and Political Union, just published, shows that the scope of the operations of the organisation increased greatly during last year, and is a splendid proof of the popularity of its forceful tactics. The expenditure rose from £6,000 to £20,000. Altogether there are 75 persons employed by the Union, in addition to the large number of volunteers. It has been found necessary to increase the number of rooms at the headquarters from 13 to 19, and centres have been opened in eleven cities and towns in the provinces. For the present year's work a sum of £50,000 is being asked for, and if anyone can get it it will be Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. The amount of subscriptions received last year was £13,992, and there was a balance in hand at the close of the year of £1,340.

Mrs. Philip Snowden, speaking at Holborn Town Hall on "Women's Suffrage in America," said the majority of women did not want the vote either there or here, but the minority were very anxious to have it as soon as possible. The cause in America was going ahead. Politics in America were largely in the hands of adventurers, but the country was awakening, and she was told by American men that they wanted the women to have the vote in order to help them in the cleaning-out process. Woman suffrage in America, far from approaching defeat and extinction, was one of the strongest social and political causes to-day.

A new weekly independent woman's paper will appear on Thursday, April 15th, with the title of *The Common Cause*.

The Nebraska Assembly recently approved of a Bill amending the Constitution, allowing women to vote in all elections.

An excellent fund, deserving of support, is the Educated Women Workers' Loan Training Fund, the object of which is to assist educated girls who have not the means to enable them to train for any of the professions or occupations open to women. In those cases which are assisted money is lent if necessary for board and residence during the training period as well as for training fees. The Committee appeal to those parents who are able to place their daughters beyond the ranks of the wage earners to give them the means of making the struggle for life easier for those who will have to work for their daily bread. A drawing-room meeting in support of the Fund was held on Thursday last week at 35, Bryanston Square, W., by kind permission of Mrs. Annan Bryce, when the Countess Dowager of Desart presided, and interesting speeches were made by the Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., Mrs. N. L. Cohen, and others.

Miss Maud Diver is bringing out with the house of Blackwood "*The Englishwoman in India*," which will deal with the pioneer work undertaken by Englishwomen in the East. It will also give an account of certain pioneers among the native Indian women themselves.

With the approval of the Women's Labour League, Dr. Ethel Bentham and Miss Margaret Bondfield will offer themselves as Labour candidates for the London County Council election next March, but it is not finally settled what constituencies they will contest.

Seven women of the 42 members have been elected on to the Municipal Council of Copenhagen, of whom three are Conservatives, two Socialists, and two Radicals. It is time our London County Council had a leaven of mother influence in its deliberations.

### THE BOOK OF LIFE.

Each day in life is like a spotless page  
That comes to us for writings, vain or sage;  
Upon its face that which we say or do  
Is written down—the false, the good and true.

Each year a chapter is that tells the tale  
Of joy or grief, success or failure pale—  
In sickness and in health, ambitions, fears,  
Our good and evil deeds, our smiles and tears.

And at the last a book the record stands—  
The History of Self, by our own hands—  
By self alone made, bound, and fully writ,  
No word, or thought, or deed escaping it.

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS in the *Munsey*.

*previous page*

*next page*