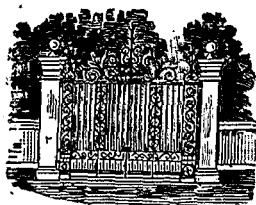


## Outside the Gates.



## WOMEN.

The Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women will be held at Toronto, Canada, from the 15th to 18th June inclusive. Special arrangements for the journey to and from

Canada by the White Star Line have been made for the ten delegates, and ladies wishing to attend the Congress can join this party on very advantageous terms. Miss Janes, Organising Secretary, National Union of Women Workers, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W., will give further information of what will be a delightful trip for those who can afford it.

The London Society for Women's Suffrage is organising a public meeting at the Albert Hall on Tuesday, April 27th, at 8 p.m., in honour of the International Alliance, which meets in conference in London from the 26th April to 2nd May. A pageant of women's trades and professions will form part of the programme, and in the arrangement of this the Society will have the assistance of the Artists' Suffrage League, to whose skill they were indebted for the scheme of decoration which was so important a factor in the success of the procession last June. It is not proposed to have a monster procession, but just ten members of each profession and trade, and they will follow the emblems, not the banners, of their craft. Who can suggest the most suggestive device for trained nurses?

Although women are to be admitted to examination for the diplomas of the College of Surgeons, the new by-law which is to come into force this month provides that women shall not be eligible as members of the council, or vote at, or take part in, any election of a member or members of the Council, or attend any meeting of Fellows or of Fellows and Members (except meetings convened for the delivery of lectures or orations), or otherwise take any part in the government, management, or proceedings of the College. Women shall not be eligible as members of the Court of Examiners or for any examinership to which the Council appoint. It is understood that women students will not be able to enter for the College examinations before next July.

Dr. Marie Stopes, Lecturer on Fossil Botany at Manchester University, the brilliant daughter of a brilliant mother, has just returned to London from a visit of eighteen months duration to Japan, where she has been searching for fossils in the rich coal mines with which the country abounds. Dr. Stopes is delighted with her visit, not only because it has been highly satisfactory from the scientific point of view, for she has obtained over thirty new specimens of early plant forms, but because of the respect and kindness she received from the people of the country. She travelled through unknown districts where no European has ever been before, and was always treated with the utmost courtesy.

## Book of the Week.

## KINCAID'S BATTERY.\*

There is doubtless a far stronger halo of romance, surrounding some portions of history than others, as, for instance, the French Revolution, and our own Stuart period, but in no case is it more marked than when we are brought in contact with the great struggle between the Northern and Southern States of America, the avowed object of the North being the abolition of slavery, but in reality involving matters of much greater national importance than the mere freeing of slaves in a very limited number of States.

In "Kincaid's Battery," Mr. Cable has given a most graphic and thrilling narrative of the happenings from 1861 to 1865. With evidently strong Southern sympathies he has chosen New Orleans as the centre round which the story moves. In spite of the minute and intricate military details which some may find wearisome, the attention of the reader being rivetted at the very commencement, it never wavers, through the four hundred pages of the book. With marvellous skill the author keeps up the interest both in the military and the romantic sides of his work. His style is easy and vivid, and to use an expression of the hero's, possesses a certain "tang" which is refreshing.

The descriptions of the lovely "crescent city" and the surrounding portions of Louisiana are so detailed and forcible that at times the reader appears to see them, to be living and moving amongst the people who lived and loved, plotted and fought in the long ago. The characters of which there are many, are well sustained and varied, each claiming a distinct personality, the inevitable Creole element showing in sharp contrast to the Anglo-Saxon. Hilary Kincaid, the hero, is advisedly made the most interesting character. The Battery, which gives the title to the book, has been presented by the wealthy and patriotic Anne Callender to her own State, to help in the coming great struggle. The guns were cast in Kincaid's Foundry, of which Hilary was owner. He proves himself to be not only an excellent manufacturer, but a born leader of men, a brave and dashing soldier, and as ardent a lover as he is a patriot.

Most admirable is the sentiment he voices to his men, at the close of the campaign. "The perfect soldier loves peace, loathes war. No man can be such who cannot strive, suffer, and wait with magnanimous patience, stake life and fortune, and in extremity fight like a whirlwind for the victories of peace."

The contrast between the two women both loving Hilary is well sustained. Anna Callender, with "a child's mouth and a woman's eyes," loving, yet difficult to win, true as steel, and open as the day, and Flora Valcour, the beautiful Creole, scheming, passionate, and ruthless in her methods, often winning all along the line through the sheer force of her beauty and charming personality, which enables her to hoodwink all who come in contact with her. The only person before whom she ever drops

\* By George W. Cable. (Hodder and Stoughton.)

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