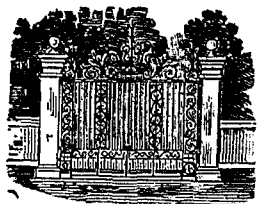


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Research Fellowship offered by the Council of Somerville College has been awarded to Miss Barbara Freire-Marreco, formerly a student of Lady Margaret Hall. Miss Freire-Marreco, who obtained the University Diploma in Anthropology with distinction last year, proposes to study the nature and genesis of the authority of chiefs and kings in uncivilised society.

The Earl of Lytton, speaking recently at a meeting held in the St. James's Theatre, organised by the Women's Social and Political Union, said the militant tactics of the past two years were to him, personally, painful and distressing. No one desired these tactics to stop more than he did, but he could not shut his eyes to the necessity for them and the evident failure of all orderly and constitutional methods. The time had come to settle this question; it was necessary to take one's stand and show one's colours. If they were in favour of votes for women, fight for the movement; if they were opposed to it, fight against it; fight in Parliament and at every election, but at least let their opponents do them the honour of treating the subject seriously, instead of treating it with indifference.

The International Council of Women, which is holding its quinquennial meeting in Toronto, is now in full swing. A week has been given up to business, and the second week will be devoted to a Congress. For the third term of five years the Countess of Aberdeen has been elected President, greatly to the dissatisfaction of the French Council, which nominated a candidate. The French naturally hold the democratic view that a change of Presidents tends to progress. Lady Aberdeen, in returning thanks, said she had received so many requests to accept re-nomination that, contrary to her personal wish, she had done so. The officers chosen were:—First Vice-President, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Great Britain; Second Vice-President, Countess Spalletti, Italy; Third Vice-President, Frau Hainisch, Austria; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Alice Salomon, Germany; Recording Secretary, Dr. Alexandra Skoglund, Sweden; Treasurer, Mrs. Sanford, Canada; Honorary President, Mrs. Sewall, United States.

We are pleased to note that Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis, the inspirer and founder of the International Council of Women, has at last received due recognition. Her brilliant idea, for which she worked so hard twenty years ago, has resulted in enormous practical success, and the credit should be given to this marvellous woman for the creative faculty which evolved internationalism amongst women. It is a fine mind stretcher, as we shall realise in July.

Book of the Week.

THE PERJURER.*

Mr. Norris has such an easy style that his books always makes pleasant reading, even when, as in the present case, the story is a somewhat painful one.

That it is always a mistake, even with the best intentions, to deviate from the truth is very clearly shown, also we recognise what an amount of trouble one wholly unworthy person can make in the lives of those with whom he is brought in contact. There is always an element of sadness in watching the downward course of any human being; when that being is well born, well educated, and possessing many so-called worldly advantages, it is borne in upon one that the real root of the evil, is want of serious work or rational occupation.

Sole heir to a fine property, Newbridge is probably only too true a picture of many a young man belonging to the moneyed classes. His father, a fine specimen of an English gentleman of an older generation, is in a way too hard on his son, but being a man of strictest honour himself, Lord Lavernock finds it intolerable that his only child should be more than suspected of not being always perfectly square in his dealings. The old lord's great wish is for his son to marry Helen Monk, his cousin, a really charming girl with a strong character. Her uncle is devoted to her, and feels that in marrying her lies his son's one hope of social salvation. As a very young girl, Helen made a hero of him, though not unnaturally the school boy and young man took little or no notice of the child, as he considered her. By the time that he realised that she had developed into a beautiful young woman, possessing great charm, she had discovered all the weakness, and general undesirableness of his character and way of life, and though being loyal by nature, she retains her cousinly affection, helping him constantly with his irate father, still, knowing she can never love or respect him, she refuses to marry him. Here Mr. Norris strikes one of the dominant notes in the life of right thinking women of the present day, by whom marriage is regarded from a different standpoint to what it was formerly. It is no longer the necessity it used to be considered, and without mutual respect it is impossible.

When, however, after her uncle's death Helen finds herself in possession of his large fortune, her cousin inheriting only the title and estate, she becomes obsessed by the idea that it is her duty to marry her cousin, in order to save him from absolute ruin, and to carry out her uncle's wish to see them united, the fact of his having left her all his money seems to emphasise this wish. What might have happened in spite of her repugnance it is difficult to say. Fortunately for her, her cousin some little time before his father's death, married an actress on the comedy stage, a woman of violent and undisciplined character.

Young Lavernock, reckless as ever, suffers loss

By W. E. Norris. (Constable.)

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