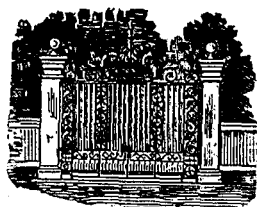


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



In connection with the recent deputations of women to the House of Commons, and to the Prime Minister's House, to demand their political enfranchisement, the brutality of many members of the police force, and the abominable behaviour of men in the crowd, should be thoroughly realised. The brutality has been attested by unimpeachable witnesses. Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., has stated, of the memorable deputation on Friday, November 18th, that though the leaders were courteously treated by the police, their followers were "brutally ill used"; and Mr. C. Mansell-Moulin, Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons, wrote subsequently to the press: "The women were treated with the greatest brutality. They were pushed about in every direction by the police, and thrown down, their arms were twisted till they were almost broken, their thumbs were forcibly bent back, and they were tortured in other nameless ways that made one feel sick at the sight."

And Mr. H. W. Nevinson, writing in *Votes for Women* of "The Battle of Downing Street," speaks still more plainly of matters which are common knowledge amongst Suffragists: "I cannot specially blame the police, violent and savage though many of them were. . . . But what death is hideous enough for the men who come to these scenes for the deliberate purpose of filthy insult to women struggling for the rights of human beings. . . . I wish to give these scoundrels full notice that they do this sort of thing at the risk of their lives."

Can we wonder that the Home Secretary, and his wife and child, have to be guarded by detectives when such things are possible? The women have endured brutality with the greatest courage, but students of history—and history repeats itself—know that in France "filthy insult" to women was a leading factor in producing the sense of outrage which resulted in the carnage of the closing years of the eighteenth century.

The following extract from *Hume's History of England* shows how history repeats itself with a difference. Women in 1642 were used, as now, as political pawns by politicians.

The Commons, to excite the people against King Charles I., renewed the expedient of petitioning.

"The very women were seized with the same rage. A brewer's wife, followed by many thousands of her sex, brought a petition to the House; in which the petitioners expressed their terror of the papists and prelates and their dread of like massacres and outrages with those which had been committed upon their sex in Ireland. They had been necessitated,

they said, to imitate the example of the women of Tekoah, and they claimed equal right with the men of declaring by petition their sense of the public cause, because Christ had purchased them at as dear a rate, and in the free enjoyment of Christ consists equally the happiness of both sexes. Pym came to the door of the House and, having told the female zealots that their petition was thankfully accepted and was presented in a seasonable time, he begged that their prayers for the success of the Commons might follow their petition."

Many people have dreamed of communal house-keeping combined with the privacy of home life, and at "Homesgarth," at Letchworth, people with moderate means seem likely to have their dreams converted into reality. When the scheme is complete there will be 32 houses built round three sides of a quadrangle, three and a-half acres in extent, and laid out as a garden. There is a central administrative block with dining-hall, kitchens, tea-room, reading-rooms, etc., where meals are served, and the manageress, Miss M. B. Brown, supplies the domestic work in the individual houses, so that the cares of house-keeping are reduced to a minimum. It should be, and no doubt will be, a great success.

Viscountess Morpeth, in opening a sale of work at the Deaconess House, Albert Square, Clapham Road, in aid of Mrs. Meredith's Prison Mission, said the work done by the Mission in one corner of the field of social endeavour was urgently needed and was carried on with much advantage. The State acted in the only possible way in sending offenders to prison, but it remained for the charitable and kindly, who prayed for "all prisoners and captives," to come to the rescue of the prisoner, however guilty, and to help her, when once more free, to some honest means of livelihood.

Book of the Week.

THROUGH THE CHRYSALIS.*

The preface of this book tells us that "Babette of my story did finally find her way through the meshes she had wound round and round her life, as the butterflies have found their way through the chrysalis." The reader is introduced to this same Babette in the ancient and royal town of Compiègne, at the pension of kindly Madame Berne.

"One afternoon a man and a girl came rather wearily into the courtyard of the pension. It was about five o'clock, and some of the little tables were set with teacups, and a few of the old ladies were sitting in the wicker chairs. The place seemed homelike and peaceful in the softening mellow light of a late afternoon. The man sat down as if he were too tired to walk a step farther.

"You can arrange it all," he said."

That same night the man died suddenly, and Babette begins to weave a web of deceit around her life.

* By F. F. Montresor. (John Murray, London.)

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