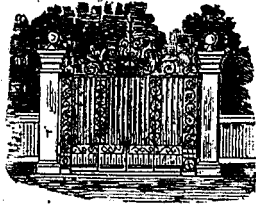


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Conciliation Committee, which is furthering the interests of the Women's Suffrage Bill, which has been so fortunate as to win the first place in the ballot, held a largely attended meeting last week under the presidency of Lord Lytton. A request was sent from the meeting to the Liberal group formed to advance the cause, asking them to give their help in gaining facilities for the Bill. The members of the group assembled in large numbers in the Grand Committee Room of Westminster Hall, elected Mr. Cameron Corbett, an old and tried friend of the Women's Suffrage movement, as their chairman in succession to Sir Charles McLaren, who is not now a member of the House, and re-elected Mr. J. H. Whitehouse, Hon. Secretary.

After a full discussion it was resolved to send the following representation to the Prime Minister:—(1) That the group supports the Conciliation Bill, seeing that it is now to be introduced under a title which will admit of amendments being considered in Committee. (2) That the group requests the Prime Minister not to take the day which has been won for the Bill in the ballot. (3) That, in the event of the second reading being carried, the group asks the Prime Minister to give facilities for the further stages of the measure.

The following are the clauses which have been altered in the "Bill to confer the Parliamentary Franchise on Women" since last year. They now run—(1) Every woman possessed of a household qualification, within the meaning of The Representation of the People Act (1884), shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and when registered to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate. (2) For the purposes of this Act a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be registered as voters in the same Parliamentary borough or county division.

The Austrian Women's Union have petitioned the Chamber of Deputies in favour of a reform of the Law of Association which at present prohibits foreigners, "Frauenspersonen," and minors from joining political associations, and a Parliamentary Committee has reported in favour of such amendment.

Like their English sisters, Austrian women justly object to being classed with incarcerated criminals, paupers, lunatics, and minors. We wish them every success in their efforts.

Book of the Week.

IN THE POTTER'S HOUSE.*

It is always a delightful experience to happen on a book that is without any question above the commonplace, and readers who were previously convinced that there is nothing new under the sun, will have their hopes once more revived by "In the Potter's House." It will be impossible to do justice to such a work as this by merely giving extracts, but it is almost safe to say that from every page of this fascinating book there could be culled some gem of description that would surely whet the appetite for more.

Take the first chapter.

"Sartain sure they be scriptural fur they eat what is set before 'em."

It was the ordination dinner spread in the prayer meeting room of Pandaram Meeting House. The tables were loaded with roast spare ribs, chicken pies, pork tenderloins, baked beans, mince and pumpkin pies, and great platters of brown crisp doughnuts that dropped of the fatness of the land.

"Thar's one thet's off his feed," Deacon Buffington nodded as he spoke towards the table where the newly ordained clergyman sat.

"It's kinder flyin' in the face o' Providence to balk at sech a meal as this," Blanket declared.

"You hain't temptin' Providence one mite, be you?" grunted Peleg Singleton.

Now the village slept under the stars. Pandaram had seen no other such day as that now closed, on which the Reverend Simeon Craig had been ordained to the ministry. While his flock slept he, the shepherd, watched, and God watched with him.

Amanda Seagrave, whose heart-breaking history occupies the greater part of the book, is "a tall slip of a girl quaintly and coarsely dressed, carrying a basket too heavy for her strength. A ray of sun stole under the broad rim of her hat of roughly plaited straw, and fell on a face that startled the younger man with a sense of intense sadness. Yet when he had looked again, the face was transfigured with a smile, so softly radiant that it was sacrilege to associate with it even the thought of sadness."

Her ruin, accomplished by the wild, lawless, handsome Ashgrave, is brought about more by his physical fascination than from any love she bears him, and the dramatic confession of her sin at the Communion service is one of the finest episodes in the story.

"Slowly Amanda arose, stung with the sense of temerity under compulsion that was resistless in her state of nervous exaltation. In a voice low and pitiless she made confession of her sin."

Ashgrave's despicable conduct to her, in consequence is explained as follows:—

"Ashgrave was at work in his fields, stilling by the anodyne of tremendous physical accomplishment the mental and spiritual conflict that was dominant in brain and soul.

* By George Dyre Eldridge. (Methuen and Co., London.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)