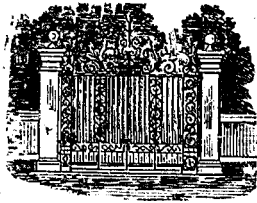


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein attended the annual distribution, at the Crystal Palace, on Saturday, May 13th, of prizes and certificates awarded by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the best essays on kindness to animals written by scholars and pupil teachers in elementary schools.

On Friday in last week the Lord Mayor of Dublin attended in State at the Bar of the House of Commons, in accordance with the privilege enjoyed by the representatives of the Corporation of Dublin, and presented a petition from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of that city, under their common seal, in favour of the Bill which is before the House to confer the Parliamentary franchise on women. As he left the House he was loudly cheered by a gathering of enthusiastic women.

In the evening a banquet in honour of the Lord Mayor of Dublin was held at the Connaught Rooms, W.C., at which Mrs. Pankhurst presided, and in responding to the toast of his health, which was proposed by Mrs. Pankhurst, he said there was nothing in Ireland at the present moment but the most heartfelt desire amongst the people of Ireland to be on the most friendly terms with the people of England, Scotland, and Wales. If they did not obtain freedom for women coincident with getting the management of their local affairs they would only have half won the fight, and the victory would be only half worth taking. Mrs. Fawcett, in proposing the toast of "The Conciliation Committee," said it was not the first time in the history of the feminist movement that Ireland had come to their side by a quick, generous, decisive, courageous action at the psychological moment, and this was especially true of the demands for University education for women, and in placing women on the British medical register. Mr. W. S. Maclaren, M.P., responded, and said that the opposition to the Bill had collapsed, and was only based on the assertion of some mystical right of men to govern.

The Empress Dowager of China has held her first reception in the Forbidden City at Peking of the ladies of the Legations. The *Globe* gives an interesting account of the function. Headed by Lady Jordan, of the British Legation, the party were conducted to one of the inner halls of the Palace by a group of magnificently-attired Princesses, who stood in a semi-circle, and, as the foreign ladies approached, formed two lines and led the way to the Throne. The audience chamber was draped in exquisite yellow silk, and the Empress Dowager was seated on a throne of beautifully-embossed blackwood. On a table in front of Her Majesty lay a richly jewelled sceptre, which was at once lifted carefully

and carried away by a group of attendant eunuchs. The Dowager then rose and shook hands with the foreign ladies in turn as they came before the throne. Her Majesty was richly dressed, but not clothed in official robes.

The little Emperor, who is five, was present, the personification of youthful dignity, as he bowed gravely to each lady as she passed before him. On the top of the Emperor's hat was seen the famous Emperor's pearl, a jewel of wondrous size and lustre. The Chinese are superstitious about this pearl. It is the common belief that when that pearl is lost the dynasty will end, and not before.

Luncheon was served to the visitors, and they were afterwards permitted to inspect the Dowager's gorgeous apartments, a privilege never given before.

Book of the Week.

THE ROGUE OF RYE.*

This is a story of events that happened in the beginning of the 19th century, just after the breaking of the Peace of Amiens. The Rogue of Rye, though ostensibly a buyer for a London fish-monger, was suspected to be engaged in a more lucrative, if less lawful, trade than the selling and catching of fish.

At this time "no one talked or thought of anything else but the coming of the French. When would they come? How would they come? What would happen if they did come? The Rogue, alias Gabriel Sevier, by right of birth possessed the privileges of a French citizen, and had, moreover, some mysterious relations with the French Government, which enabled him to visit France unchallenged. . . . Napoleon never did a meaner thing than when, on the sudden rupture of the Peace, without the slightest warning, he arrested and imprisoned all the inoffensive English folk who were enjoying themselves in France. In every town ladies and gentlemen were hauled out of the theatres and hotels, even dragged from their beds, and compelled to sign papers declaring themselves prisoners of war. Among these unfortunate captives was the young Countess of Ullswater." It was to procure her escape that Gabriel Sevier was commissioned. "The Earl is willing to spend any sum in reason. He has left the matter in my hands, and I've sent for you. If the thing is to be done, you're the man to do it."

Lionel Colebrooke, a lieutenant in the Militia, flouted by pretty Nancy Eldridge at the inn, had thrown himself down among the bracken and looked out on the sea. He is presently surprised by the crew of a French privateer, who, taking him for a spy, make him prisoner, carry him off, and place him with the other prisoners of war on parole at Verdun, amongst whom was the Countess of Ullswater.

"There were two coteries among the English society at Verdun—one aristocratic and exclusive,

* By W. Willmott Dixon. (Chatto and Windus, London.)

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