

"O, go on, Mabel! You make it funnier. High Jinks and Low Jinks, I shall call them that."

"Mark"—she spoke the word severely and paused—"I do most earnestly hope you will do nothing of the kind."

He stared, puzzled. He had tried to explain the absurd thing and she simply could not see it.

A vague transient discomfort shot through him.

This was at the outset of their married life. This fundamental difference in character was, of course, bound to have more serious consequences later on. There is much powerful and imaginative writing in this volume, as, for example, when Sabre, in his odd, loyal way, elected to keep watch at the bedside of the dying old mother of his friend who was at the front.

"Profound and awful mystery."

Within that form the spirit was preparing to vacate the habitation it had so long occupied. It gave no sign.

Seventy years it had sojourned here; now it was bound away. Seventy years it had been known to passers-by through the doors and windows of this its habitation; now, deeply retired within the inner chambers, it set its house in order to be gone.

"A lifetime within this home; now passenger into an eternity. A lifetime settled; now preparing to be away on a journey inconceivably tremendous, unimaginably awful."

There are many and varied personalities, and with a pleasant sense of humour, drawn with the skill of a master hand. Mabel, with all her stupidity and ordinariness, is no exception to this rule.

Sabre's good-hearted eccentricities land him in the divorce court. In spite of ill-natured whispers he insisted on taking pretty Effie and her illegitimate child under the shelter of his roof. Mabel, after fruitless remonstrance, withdrew from the house, taking with her High and Low Jinks. This, we confess, is very disappointing on the part of the Jinkses, who professed to adore their erratic master.

The subsequent suicide and death of Effie and the child lead to a serious situation for Sabre.

After the inquest he discovers that the father of her child was the son of his old office enemy, Twining. His chivalrous nature, overcome with fury, impels him to force the ugly truth down his enemy's throat, but when he arrives at the office he finds a broken-hearted father grieving over the news that his adored son has been killed in action.

Sabre's action is a fine one, for he forbears to clear his own name at the expense of this broken man who had thought this son perfect.

But Sabre is broken in a more real sense, as only the noble hearted can be. It is Nona, Lady Tybar, the beautiful girl who was really destined for him, who alone believed in him and remained to comfort him, though we cannot agree that he was free to marry even if Mabel had had any real grounds for divorcing him.

But for this, it is a high-souled book that can only uplift those who read it.

H. H.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship recently organised a deputation to the Coalition Whips, Lt.-Col. Leslie Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P., and the Rt. Hon. C. A. McCurdy, K.C., M.P., on the Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill, which, when it becomes an Act, will have the effect of making a mother the parent of her own child, at present, the child having only one legal parent, the father.

The following Women's Societies were among those represented:—

The British Federation of University Women; the Professional Union of Trained Nurses; and the Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association.

The Deputation was introduced by Colonel Sir James Greig, C.B., K.C., M.P., and Miss Chrystal Macmillan put the case for the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Miss Green, of the National Council of Women, gave evidence as to the large measure of support given by women to this Bill.

In replying to the deputation, Colonel Wilson said that he appreciated the representative nature of the deputation, and also the troubles which had beset the Bill; that the deputation could be assured that its views would be fully represented to Mr. Chamberlain, and would receive his very sympathetic consideration.

We hope all the Nurses' Organisations will give a helping hand with this Bill next session.

"What right have we to the word 'civilisation' till we give mothers and children a proper chance."  
—John Galsworthy.

## TO ST. THOMAS'S "NIGHTINGALES."

Why paint the lily and adorn the rose?  
No element need testify for those  
Who, over all the world, may proudly claim  
The fine tradition of a noble name.

"What's in a name?" In *hers* there's magic found!

Charming the ear with the same perfect sound  
As when, in tones that but to him belong,  
Her namesake floods the summer's night with song.

C. B. M.

## COMING EVENTS.

December 9th.—Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund. Sale of Work to be opened by Her Royal Highness, Princess Christian. Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 12 noon.

December 10th.—League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses. General Meeting, Clinical Theatre, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 3 p.m. Social Gathering, Staff Nurses' Sitting Room. Music and Tea.

December 25th.—Christmas Day.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)