

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

The Unveiling by the King on June 8th of the Memorial to the greatly beloved Queen Alexandra, of honoured memory, was a touching ceremony owing to the break in the voice of the son when he spoke of the Empire's love for his mother.

In his short speech the King said:

"We are gathered here to-day to celebrate the completion of the memorial to my dear mother. It is most fitting that this ceremony should take place on the 21st anniversary of Rose Day, a day so closely connected with Queen Alexandra.

To you, the committee, and the many generous subscribers throughout the Empire, I express my grateful thanks for thus enshrining her memory, and for the liberal endowment of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, whose welfare was so dear to Queen Alexandra.

I am also glad to have this opportunity of thanking those who have opened their gardens to the public for the benefit of the Institute.

This noble memorial, so happily symbolic of those virtues which inspired my mother's life, stands within the precincts of her beloved homewhere she spent many happy years. Here she watched the eager stir of life associated with the Changing of the Guard, and nearby is the little chapel where she often worshipped. No site, therefore, could be more appropriate.

I unveil this memorial with pride, and rejoice to feel that it is, indeed, "a tribute of the Empire's love," and that my dear mother will ever remain a beautiful and gracious memory in the hearts of my people."

The Memorial stands on the edge of the garden of Marlborough House, Queen Alexandra's beloved home for the greater part of her life, and faces St. James's Palace.

How fortunate that after all his years of exile, Sir Alfred Gilbert, the greatest of sculptors, designer in enamel, gold and precious stones, was entrusted with the execution of the Memorial, and thus London enriched with an exquisite work of art, a thing of superlative beauty, the precious character of its jewel-like details to be realised only after worshipful study.

The Memorial is in bronze, on either side are female

figures symbolic of Faith and Hope, between them Charity, the figure of a beautiful woman, her hand outstretched in blessing over the head of a youth who stands on the brink of the waters of life, which gush from the base of the group.

It has been realised that Gilbert's work has more in common with the master goldsmiths of the Renaissance than with the later sculptors and indeed the Alexandra Memorial appears to have a glint of gold about it which is amazingly effective and beautiful.

Let us thank God for it.

A letter from Burns to Clarinda (Mrs. M'Lehose) and signed "Sylvander," with one from Mrs. M'Lehose to the poet, signed "Clarinda," recently realised £1,360 at Sotheby's Sale Rooms.



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On the Wall at Marlborough House.

Alas! it was secured by Messrs. Stevens and Brown, the American book agents, so is lost to its native land probably for ever.

Not so long ago Mr. Johnson, an American collector, gave £30,000 for the original script written in Lewis Carroll's own hand, covering ninety-two pages of "Alice in Wonderland," and the two first printed editions of the book. These irreparable losses make us realise the demoralising power of filthy lucre.

Sir James Barrie has joined in paying tribute to Dr. Joseph Sillars, who is retiring to his native Isle of Arran after thirty years' practice in Kirriemuir, the Thrums of the novel.

"I should like to be associated, and warmly, with the presentation to Dr. Sillars," Sir James writes. "He is as

good a man as ever overworked himself in the cause of humanity.

"He has been a crack man at his job and a grand friend of Kirriemuir."

The Governor-General of South Africa, Lord Clarendon, has written to the Prime Minister to express his wish to contribute towards national economy by a reduction of his salary by one-tenth. His Excellency's staff is also anxious to take a similar course.

General Hertzog has replied thanking Lord Clarendon very sincerely for his offer, "which will not only be highly appreciated but will contribute greatly to softening the feeling of burden with the rest."

A good example by persons in high places is eagerly followed.

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