

reserves to the Imperial authorities the right of submitting to Her Majesty any local act prohibiting the immigration of British subjects. Provision is also made for the well-being of the aboriginal races by a direct grant from the colonial revenue payable to Her Majesty. In urging the advisability of granting responsible government to Western Australia, small though its population is, Baron de Worms reminded his hearers that in twenty years the population of Queensland had grown from 25,000 to nearly 375,000, besides developing its resources at a corresponding rate. The progress of Australia, as a whole, had, indeed, been extraordinary, and this progress had been mainly attained under the system of self-government. He asked the House, therefore, to sanction the decision already made by the Legislature of Western Australia, and to grant the colony those powers of self-government which would place it on a par with the rest of Australia. At the same time he proposed to refer the clauses relating to the administration of Crown Lands to a largely representative Select Committee. The discussion that followed touched on every phase of the question, and on almost every interest involved. All the speakers but one accepted the principle of the bill, though on various grounds. Mr. G. O. Morgan thought that if the Colonial Office was satisfied, the colony should be granted the change that it asked for. Mr. Leighton had entire confidence in the colonists and would hand the territory to them. Mr. W. McArthur maintained that the colonists had made Western Australia what it is—with its prosperous, handsome towns, its 412 miles of railway, and nearly 3,000 miles of telegraph, and to them should be entrusted the entire responsibility of its future development. Most of the other speakers, while favouring the plea for responsible government, felt apprehensive on the land question and counselled safeguards. Mr. Munro Ferguson thought such an area far too vast to put in control of so few. Mr. Bryce cited the waste of land in the Western States and advised caution. Mr. Chamberlain would not impose immigration on the colonists against their will, but he objected to the exceptional restrictions that had been imposed on British vessels bringing goods to the pearl fishery. Sir George Campbell opposed the bill *in toto*, on the ground that there had been insufficient notice, that a Select Committee could not give it adequate consideration, and deprecated the sanction of the bill by the House without fuller information. He severely criticized the action of the late Governor, Sir Napier Broome, in supporting the measure in the press, and held that it was a Governor's duty to stand up for British interests—a view which, with Sir George's other theories, Mr. W. A. McArthur condemned. As one of the few members who had any practical experience of colonial life, Mr. McArthur valiantly defended the right of Western Australia to complete self-government and full control of its territory, not for its own sake merely, but as a portion of what is destined to be a great federation, whose growth and progress could not be checked. Finally the bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

The fact that such a handful of people should have laid the foundations of such a self-governing community, built two handsome cities and several thriving towns, constructed railways and developed various resources and a trade of over \$7,000,000, is evidence of the superiority of the present to the old colonial system. That the other colonies make

common cause with Western Australia shows that, however they may delay taking the final step, Australians look upon their island-continent as their own, and will dispute any limitations to their control of it. The controversy on the land question may recall to some of our older readers the years when Canada was still subject to the dictation of Downing street, and, though the reluctance of some of the speakers in the debate to surrender so vast a tract to the keeping of 45,000 people is not surprising, the almost unanimous recognition of the colony's right to self-government marks a generosity in British colonial statesmanship which was once deplorably exceptional.

DISTINGUISHED WOMEN.

[From an unpublished paper read by Prof P. Denys before the St. Thomas Literary Society, Belleville.]

"Ye fair, heaven's kindest, noblest gift to man,
Adorned with every charm and every grace;
The flame your forms inspire let virtue fan,
And let the mind be lovelier than the face."

It is with feelings not unmingled with diffidence I have set to myself the task of discoursing for a few moments upon woman. I feel the responsibility I assume. Woman is a being we revere. She is a deity before which all mankind bows. She watches over our cradle, sustains our manhood, and imparts the last kiss on our dying brow. Bonaparte, Hannibal, Cæsar, Wellington, have filled the world with their names, yet their exploits are written in letters of tears, of blood, of desolation. We vaunt their courage, bravery and skill, although these qualities meant death to thousands. Not so with thee, kind, tender, affectionate woman. Thy sway is in gentleness; thy force in virtue; thy power in love. I bow before thy courage in adversity, thy faithfulness in attachment, thy excellence in domestic worth. In whatever sphere thou art placed, from the throne to the humblest abode, in the mansion of the rich or the asylum of the poor, whether swaying the sceptre of power or ministering to the needy, we find thee just, true, laborious, patient, trusty, devoted, loving. These virtues are thy crown. They are thy glory!

I see woman in the home. I see her in literature and in arts. I see her on the battle field and in the rescuing lifeboat. I see her on the throne, and here permit me to thank God that so good, so noble, so gracious a sovereign as 300,000,000 of loyal subjects or more can boast, was reserved for our day, and pray that Her Majesty be long spared to our respect, our fidelity, our affection.

Woman is, primarily, a being who loves. This sentiment springs from her goodness. Madame de Sévigné has said: "The true mark of a good heart is its capacity for loving." She can also hate, no doubt, but this only when she has been wronged. She can likewise listen. The eyes of a true, sincere woman, will brighten with pleasure or sadden with pity, according as what you relate is joyous or sorrowful. Man is never so confident as when conscious of her support. Donoso Cortis has said: "When God, full of love for man, wished to bestow upon him a first gift, He gave him woman to bestrew his path with flowers and illumine his horizon."

I have spoken of the home. What, indeed, would it be without the warm, loving presence of a mother, or wife, or sister? Woman is the angel of our fireside. She is the sun round which man revolves. Although accounted the weaker vessel, she is the great social force. Her kindly word of encouragement, her tender sympathy in trouble, her devotedness and affection is what keeps man up in the struggles of life. She is his help-mate. *Il n'y a pas de sot métier*. All honest work is noble. In the humblest recess of domestic life the daily labour well accomplished acquires infinite value.

"The path of duty is the way to glory."

And no other. Nor will the vexations incident upon everyday routine sensibly affect a true spirit of ambition. Genius is not bent by difficulties, but made more enduring and resplendent. You harden metal by beating; you polish it by rubbing. It was in prison Cervantes wrote Don Quixote.

Milton wrote his immortal work when totally blind. Mrs. Stowe composed the greatest American novel while engaged in active household duties.

In literature and arts, woman has won most enviable honours. Time will permit only a passing mention of a few of those who have cast lustre on their sex no less than on letters. With national pride, I may perhaps be permitted to put first on record the name of Madame de Sévigné. Her beauty, her wit, her social tact, her brilliant erudition give her, perhaps, a prior claim. These many traits were more than enough to make lovers and distinguished men flock and sigh around her. But her absolute devotion to her children, after her husband's death, was the one ruling passion of her affectionate heart. Upon her letters rests a fame that time will only serve in making more secure. Mme. de Staël, the "Rousseau in petticoats," may perhaps be given next place. She was brought up with great rigour. Her writings on the enormities of the revolution brought her Napoleon's disfavour. She was ordered to leave Paris, and subsequently France. To have inspired with fear even a Bonaparte reveals sufficiently this woman's genius and power. Her best production is probably her "Dix Années d'Exil." Charlotte Brontë, the immortal author of "Jane Eyre;" Hannah More, the friend of the great Garrick, of Reynolds and Burke; George Sand (Madame Dudevant), Mary Hutchinson, the poet's companion; Lady Jane Grey, the queenly scholar, are representative names in the galaxy of brilliant women. In going over some of the names of notable women, I cannot omit that of Rosa Bonheur, whose brush brought her undying renown. Another name which cannot be overlooked, and one which a Canadian can mention with particular pride, is that of Madame Albani. Ranking with Patti and the world's most distinguished vocalists, her name is synonymous with highest attainment in the art of song. The many marks of friendship bestowed on her by the Queen for her amiability of person no less than her charm of voice, reflect creditably on all Canada.

Among those famous in the annals of heroism rank prominently Joan of Arc and Grace Darling. Let us hope the initial steps now being taken by Mgr. Pagis for the glorification of the young maid of Orleans may be crowned with entire success.

Kingdoms have never been more prosperous than under woman's sway. Maria Theresa was the greatest ruler Austria ever had. Encouraging education and the arts and agriculture, and using her gifts and qualities for the greater welfare of her subjects, no monarch was ever more regretted. Small families were not fashionable in those days. She had sixteen children, all born in twenty years, whom she brought up with much care as to their health, but without caprice or pride. What shall we say of the noble queen to whom we owe, in a measure, the discovery of this continent? We all know that Columbus, after a fruitless appeal to King John II of Portugal, repaired to Spain to have his cause espoused and the means provided for his projected discovery. Here also he encountered much opposition from the nobles, and had no hopes till Isabel, becoming impressed with the feasibility of the scheme, furnished the great navigator with funds out of her own personal resources. She had already daunted the Moor and brought peace to Seville. Her reign was one of matchless splendour and wisdom, and, while some have blamed the severity of her government, the verdict of the nation and the world accords her a front place among the best and greatest rulers.

I cannot conclude without another brief reference to the most sovereign lady who, with so much grace, presides to-day over the greatest empire the world has seen. Faithful spouse, loving mother, accomplished woman, possessing every social and domestic virtue, we bow before her personal worth no less than her royal dignity. Having now sat on the throne longer than any other English monarch except two (George III. and Henry III.), we desire to wish Her Majesty, and all true women of whom she is such a perfect type, continued health, prosperity and happiness. Upon woman rests the nation. Long live woman! God save the Queen!