

proud in all parts of the world to call himself a "successful farmer," and to claim, that even as a business, he made Rockliffe pay seven per cent. regularly on his outlays. At his death a few years ago, it was divided, the American portion going to his daughter, wife of Prof. Burr, of Williams University; while the Canadian part, with the manor-house, is owned by his son, Mr. Henry Hoyle. The name Hoyleville, used in the old letters, has disappeared. *ALCHEMIST.*

WOMEN AND WOMEN'S WORK IN FINLAND.—I.

The main element of a Congress is, and is intended to be, opportunity:—opportunity of statement, opportunity of comparison, opportunity of deduction, and last but not least, opportunity of acquaintanceship. And perhaps the last is, after all, the most valuable; to see one's superior, one's equal, one's opponent, one's co-worker, face to face, to listen to the tones of their voices, to see their meaning glowing in their eyes; to measure one's self and one's cause, with them and theirs, is to grow, and that is what Congresses are for. Whoever attends a Congress, no matter what the subject, or whom the people he meets, and comes back no larger mentally and spiritually than he went, is not a man but a machine.

If the writer is not far out, this was the ground on which the series of Congresses arranged for the period of the World's Fair was based; and it certainly did not fail of its intention in the first of the series held, namely, the World's Congress of Representative Women. There were gathered representative women, indeed, workers of high and long standing in every department of the world's progress: women who could speak authoritatively, of their own knowledge and experience, on every question they were there to represent, and were backed by powerful organizations in the countries from which they came. Take for instance names probably but little known as yet in Canada, but well known to that large body, having its inception in the "National Council of Women of the United States," and called *The International Council of Women*, composed as it is of the National Councils that exist in most of the civilized countries of the world; such councils being composed in their turn of the officers—as representatives—of every woman's organization in that country, both in and out of the Church. Take names of such women—a few of them: Jane Cobden Unwin, Florence Fenwick Miller, Laura Ormiston Chant, the Countess of Aberdeen, Marie Fischer Lette, from *England*; Hanna Bieber Bohm, Augusta Furster, Käthe Schirmacher, from *Germany*; Kirstine Frederiksen, Nico Beck Meyer, from *Denmark*; the Baroness Thorberg Rappe, Sigrid Storkenfeldt, from *Sweden*; Isabel Bogelot, Cecile Rancz, from *France*; Tauthe Vignier, from *Switzerland*; Meri Toppelius, Ebba Nordquist, from *Finland*; Callirhoe Parrhen, from *Greece*; Signorita C. de Alcalá, from *Spain*; Josefa Humpal-Zeman, Sleona Karla Machova, from *Bohemia*; Sigrid Magnussen, from *Iceland*; Marie Stromberg, from *Russia*, and consider the necessary quality of the Congress of which these ladies only formed a small part, and it will easily be seen that a great impulse to the onward march of the world towards the Millennium—which will be its highest point—must have been given on those few May days of 1893 in Chicago.

Thus much in apologetics brings us to the subject of the present paper, *Women and Women's Work in Finland.*

A young lady—to whose husband we were afterwards introduced—laden with a couple of hundred pamphlets bound in white paper, hurrying into the writing-room of the Palmer House, Chicago, where several large heaps of the same white books lay on the window shelf, led to an enquiry as to their subject which procured several copies for various libraries in Canada, besides a little private present to ourselves.

That Finland, that far-away, sparsely populated and little-heard-of land, should have sent two ladies of high social standing, and evident education and experience, to the Chicago Congress struck one—with the utmost respect we say it—with a degree of astonishment. That its "Women and Women's Work" could furnish such a record as is contained in the pamphlet of seventy-four pages—still said with the highest respect—seemed more remarkable still. And when, on examining the record, we discovered what the women of Finland have done in less than half a century in raising the status not only of their own sex, but of the people at large, we were more than astonished, in reality, were humbled, lest comparison, our advantages in Canada being so great, might leave us far behind.

The interest awakened by this record is, however, so great to ourselves that it seems impossible it should not be shared wherever known, and thus as rapid a *resumé* of the whole as the space at our command admits, will perhaps not be found tedious or untimely.

The compiler of the excellent pamphlet—itsself a model, of compilation—is "Mrs. Ebba Nordquist (ne Baroness Alftan) of Helsingfors, Finland, delegate from 'The Unionen Alliance for the Cause of Women in Finland,' to the World's Congress of Representative Women in Chicago, 1893," as her cards introduce her, and who will pardon a fuller introduction for the sake of the friendly interest she awakened for herself and her country in the present writer. Mrs. Nordquist is a charming young lady of twenty-eight or thirty, the very picture of happy youth and health, whose dark curly hair, hale complexion, and elegant simplicity of apparel and manners carried one, in spite of surroundings, to the shores of the salt sea whose wholesome breezes and wide horizons can alone bestow the fearless glance, the grace, freedom, and elasticity of carriage, we found so sweet and attractive in our new friend and fellow-worker in the cause of women.

The pamphlet "Women and Women's Work in Finland," formed the supplement to a paper on the same subject read before the Women's Congress in Chicago, and is divided under various heads and sub-heads. These are:

The Position of Finnish Women according to the Laws.

Some Features of the Position of Finnish Women according to Custom.

The Education of Women, and Women as Teachers.

A The Education of Girls at Home.

B The Education of Girls in Elementary Schools (in six divisions from the Infant school to Normal Institutes and schools for the Blind, etc.

C The Education of Girls in Schools

for Higher Education (in five divisions and three branches under the head of Co-education.)

D Women at the University.

Women in Literature and Art.

A Literature.

B The Fine Arts.

C Music and the Theatre.

Women in Municipal Service.

" " Legal Poor-relief work.

" " Schools for Technical Instru-

tion.

Women in Business and Trade.

" " Agriculture.

" " Hygiene.

" " Philanthropic Work.

" " Temperance.

Work for Social Purity.

The Position of Female Servants.

Women in Associations.

" " Government Service.

A glance at this index shows, at any rate to those acquainted with the subject that the Finnish ladies are not a whit behind English and American ladies in the wideness of the area over which their influence and work is spread; indeed it is pleasant to find that in connection with more than one branch or subject our pamphlet cites both England and the United States as sources of encouragement and enthusiasm.

Before proceeding to our subject properly will, however, be as well to follow the example of the compiler of "Women's Work," and take a glance at the country of Finland geographically and politically.

"The Grand Duchy of Finland," says the introductory chapter, "is situated between 60° and 70° north latitude and between 20° and 32° east longitude from Greenwich." That it lies in the same latitude as Iceland, Sweden, Greenland, North Rupert's Land, and Hudson's Strait (not Bay) and Alaska, but as there is, speaking roughly, a difference of 20° Fahrenheit in temperature between Europe and America, and in favour of the former, the climate of Finland is not so severe as in western latitudes.

The capital of the country is Helsingfors, a beautiful town of 70,000 inhabitants, situated on the Gulf of Finland. It has, moreover, thirty-five other towns of smaller size.

The greater part of the country forms a peninsula, surrounded on the west, north, west and south by the Gulf of Bothnia, the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland. To the north-west it is bounded by Sweden, to the north by Norway, and on the east by Russia. The character of the surface may be judged from the fact that Finland has been called "The land of a thousand lakes;" there are in fact 30,000. The area of the country is "about the same as that of Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands and Belgium put together. The population is only 2,400,000. There are 36,000 more women than men. Six-sevenths of the inhabitants speak the Finnish language; the rest, settled chiefly on the coasts, are Teutonic and speak Swedish.

For more than five centuries after St. Olaf, the Swedish king, conquered Finland in 1157, the country "belonged to the Kingdom of Sweden, and shared its destinies, its development and culture. After many bloody wars, however, Finland was at last, in 1809, ceded to the Russian Empire as the Grand Duchy of Finland, organized as a state and possessing autonomy in the management of its internal