THE STRIDES OF WOMEN.

BY NORMA LORMER.

The women of Queen Victoria's reign will stand out in the history of our country as the pioneers of women's rights. It is mainly owing to the fact that, in the history of our own time, we have been blessed with a sovereign who has had the self-respect and good name of her women-subjects so strongly at heart, that the women of that generation have been foremost in the fight for the advancement of self-reliance and independence among the women of England, have been able to accomplish the astonishing work which they have achieved during the last twenty years.

If we look at the way in which our Queen has educated her daughters to be in every way intellectual and capable—sisters of twenty to their husbands, as well as loving wives and tender mothers, we have the proof very clearly before us that that woman who are, as far as possible, men's intellectual equals, and have their natural talents for art or literature cultivated beyond the conventional parlour-trick accomplishments, do in every way fill the capacity of mothers and wives more completely and happily than the women of the past, who were considered blue-stocks if they had the independence to insist on having an education in proportion to that bestowed upon their brothers. The old-fashioned idea that it was necessary to give the male portion of the family (the fathers) a more complete and practical education is, we are thankful to say, dying out. Even without ill-health or force of adverse circumstances, the painful fact that educated women are not considered of equal with uneducated men very often failed to make a sufficient income to provide for the future of their wives and children, has proved to the more intelligent parents of our own day that their daughters must be qualified as well as their sons to take their places in the daily struggle for existence.

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training. When she was barely fourteen years old, she began to write an elaborate opera entitled Ginevra di Siena. She also wrote two songs, My Sweetest and Romeo's Good Night. Her first attempt at literature was a novel—only sixteen sheets—which she addressed to her mother, and sent when she was studying for her musical career. In her autobiography she tells us that it was a curious physical experience which occasioned her, in her personal history, the suddenness, suddenness, to her of A Romance of Two Worlds, which was published in 1886, and proved such an instant success that she abandoned her literary career instead of music. She is still, however, an excellent musician. Her very vivid imagination and her wonderful flowing language may be partly accounted for by the fact that she played in her veins there is Italian and Highland Scotch blood. She is unmarried and lives the greater part of the year in London. One of our older and simpler favourites, Helen Mathers, whose Coming Thro' the Rye was perhaps more widely read than any novel of its day, was born at Mittenm, Cirencester, Somerset, in 1873. Her maiden name was Mathews, and she is now the wife of the famous orthopedic surgeon, Henry Albert Reeves, who is a leading light in the new x-ray school. Miss Mathews was educated at Chantry School, Frome, and her favourite recreations are needlework and gardening. She also lives in London the greater part of the year.

Miss Bradson, whose literary fame in England has waned in the last ten years, has still, however, a prominent position in literature, for her work, and along with Miss Ouida's, are more widely translated into foreign languages than any of our living women writers.

In the Norwegian friend of mine, who is well qualified to know, who amongst our novelists or the present day were best known in Norway and Sweden, and she told me unless, unless... Miss Bradson, Edna Lyall, and Mrs. Humphrey Ward were certainly the most popular; she did not think that any of Mrs. Molesworth's were as well read or as well known.

This sounds a curious selection for a nation that has produced Ibsen and Bjornson.

Miss Bradson—her husband, the late Mr. John Maxwell, having been the publisher of her books. She was born in London, and was the daughter of a solicitor. She was educated, and now a very early age was devoted to literature; and when only twenty-three years old she published her first novel, The Trial of the Serpent, in serial form. Her name was then Lady Audley's Secret, which at once made her famous. This was an unusual piece of fortune, as it is very seldom that an early book brings the writer either great literary or great financial success.

If we look over the list of novels written by Miss Bradson, the novels, men, or women, in Who's Who, it is not likely that it is a third or fourth book which makes a mark; and, indeed, there are many instances amongst them of a writer's name not being acknowledged until many years after the publication of his first book.

Miss Bradson has published about fifty-two novels. A large part in the forms of amusement are riding, gardening, and music. She lives in a charming old house at Richmond-on-Thames.

Among our more modern writers Sarah Grand's name is very prominently before the public. She was born in Ireland of English parents; her father was a lieutenant in the English army, and she was educated at the late Major General's school. She wrote her first novel when she was twenty-six. As everyone knows, she has always interested herself in the woman's movement, and is an active member of the Federer Club and Vice-President of the Mowbray House Cycling Association. Her favourite pastimes are sociology, music, and country life. She is a great walker. According to Church, in the Literary World, she adopted the pseudonym of Sarah Grand because Dr. McFall objected to her using his name for publications, and has since adopted it for her sole name.

Margaret Woods, whose delightful books are not as well known as her exquisite beauty and literary and social equal to society, is the wife of the Rev. H. E. Woods, D.D., late President of Trinity College, Oxford. She is the second wife of the late Mr. Braden, of Westminster, and was educated at home and at Miss Cawthorne's school at Leamington. Her two best-known books are A Village Tragedy and Esther Fankonrigh; the latter is the most exquisite account of Swift's romance with Stella that we have in fiction. Mrs. Woods' favourite amusements are skating and bicycling; she is also extremely fond of gardening.

Among our most famous artists we have Lady Butler, whose "Roll Call" and "Quatre Mains" are well known. Her maiden name, under which her most famous paintings were exhibited, was Miss Elizabeth Thompson. She was born at Lussanne in Switzerland, and married her first husband, the late Mr. Francis Butler, the well-known author of The Great Lone Land and other books of travel. She lived for some years in Italy, and studied art in Rome.

Ross Bouquet, whose famous picture "The Horse Fair" we are all familiar with, was born at Bordeaux in 1822. The Horse Fair was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition in 1853.

The list of lady artists who are English by birth is singularly small, and very few of them have achieved a position of great eminence. On the other hand the stage is represented.

Among the eminent women who are doing the best philanthropic work, we must mention Miss Octavia Hill. She was educated principally at home, and first undertook the management of homes for the people in London in the year 1854. She takes an active part in the Charity Organisation Society, Commons Preservation Society, Lycyrd and an Association for the University Settlement, etc. She has written and published a good deal of literature connected with her own work. Her principal recreation seems to be assisting in the distribution of the poor and in doing good generally.

Another lady who has made a great name for herself whom one might almost under the same heading is Mrs. Fawcett, widow of the late Right Honourable Henry Fawcett, Postmaster-General. She was born at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and her maiden name was Garrett. She has devoted herself entirely to the political and social economy, A Life of Queen Victoria, and Some Eminent Women of Our Time. Mrs. Fawcett is a good cyclist and is fond of music. She is the daughter of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson received her M.D. degree at the University of Paris in 1870. She was educated privately and began to study medicine in 1860. The Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians refused to admit her to their examinations; she was admitted to the examination of the Ladies' Theological Societies, and obtained a license to practice in 1862. In 1890 she was elected senior physician to the New Hospital for Women, and Lecturer on Diseases of the London School of Medicine for Women. Her principal amusements are travelling and gardening.

Three other very able and eminent women whom it would be well to mention before passing on to a few of our Society Leaders. The first is Miss Eleanor Ormerod, F.R. Met. Soc., F.E.S., whose works on Natural History are so well known, and whose position as a naturalist is so conspicuous, according to the Literary World, she adopted the pseudonym of Sarah Grand because Dr. McFall objected to her using his name for publications, and has since adopted it for her sole name.

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