

OUR LONDON LETTER.

LAW FOR SUPPRESSION OF IMMORALITY NOT ENFORCED.

The Female Reformation Society and Other Efforts—Mission Work for Saving the Fallen, and the Results.

LONDON, November 24, 1883.

Previous allusions in my letters to the enormous proportions assumed by the social evil in this metropolis will no doubt have whetted the appetite of your readers for a little information in regard to what is being done for the suppression of this evil. The authorities are, apparently, doing nothing. Wholesome laws exist, but no attempt seems to be made to enforce them. There are penalties prescribed for enticing girls to an immoral life, yet this abominable traffic goes on unmolested, and thousands annually fall victims to it. It is a misdemeanor for women to importune men on the streets, but there are no prosecutions, though this is done openly by a vast army of depraved females, both at night and in the glare of day. Publicans, too, are liable to a heavy fine for allowing such women to remain any longer than is necessary for them to obtain reasonable refreshments on premises licensed for the sale of liquor; but few close their doors against them, or restrict them as to the time they shall stay or the quantity of drink they may have, while in very many cases such women and the following who bring, make up the bulk of the trade, the police looking on, meanwhile, as though they had no interest in the matter. So in regard to houses of prostitution. There are laws to close every one of these, but if there have been as many as half a dozen trials under these laws in the present year, a careful scrutiny of the daily press has failed to disclose a single case. We have the best grounds for saying that the policy of the authorities, at this point as at every other, appears to be to let this evil alone.

But is nothing being done? Are there none to protest against the fearful havoc that is being wrought upon society—none to stretch out merciful hands for the rescue of the perishing? Does the Christian nation, that is going to the aid of the wretched outcasts, most of whom continue bad because they see no chance to do better, elicit no response? Does Christian London, the capital of the foremost Christian nation, turn a deaf ear to the cries of anguish, and leave her straying children with no place of refuge and no hope of redemption but in the grave? It would be awfully indeed if she did, but the situation is not quite that bad. Not so happily, are as indifferent as the authorities. The law is silent, but moral suasion raises her pleading voice and Christian philanthropy is at work. Quite out of proportion to the needs of the field are the efforts that are being put forth, but it is pleasing to know that if all is not being done that might be, or that demands doing, at least something is being done, and the hope of the writer is that the diffusion of information on this subject may act as a stimulus to similar and even larger efforts in other communities where the social evil, though existing on a much smaller scale, is equally blighting in its effects and just as difficult to grapple with.

The principal institutions in this metropolis whose object is to lessen the cause of prostitution and lift the victims to a better life are the Female Reformation Society, the Female Mission to the Fallen, and the Midnight Meeting Movement. All three have an identical aim, though the first, as its title indicates, makes a specialty of cases in which the evil course has not been fully adopted, but seems imminent owing to the poor girl's destitute condition or vicious surroundings. The large number of girls who come from the country to seek work in London and fail to find it, makes the efforts of such a society as this peculiarly necessary and beneficial. Far removed from friends, out of employment, with no one to help, and with every turn those who appear to have made the sale of their virtue profitable, the temptation that comes to the forlorn creature is very strong. Moreover, there are many a petty man who is ready to put the tempter's suggestion into words and to point before the susceptible minds of this class of girls flattering and deceitful pictures of the pleasure of a life of sin, are saved. Another class which it seeks to reach are those who have been betrayed and deserted, and whose delicate needs drive them for a time into infirmaries and hospitals. Their illness over, they return to the world, and find themselves in a position to do good work, and if they could do it, too much disgraced in the eyes of society to obtain it, what is left for such creatures but to seek to maintain themselves and their offspring by ministering to the passions that have ruined them. Often in such cases that have sinned the most, a mother's love for her babe, is the strongest incentive to such a course. But the agents of this society step in, and a few, though only a few, are cared for and given a new start in life. In all twenty thousand young women and girls of tender years have been helped by this institution, and demands for aid come in at the present time at the rate of 1,400 annually.

The Female Mission to the Fallen is an organization whose object is to reclaim women by the agency of women. Considering how cold and hard ladies of respectability usually are toward their less fortunate sisters, such an organization cannot be too highly commended, and, possibly, the growing power of this society may mark the dawning of a new and better era. As regards the past, if man's baseness has been the most potent factor in bringing young girls to shame, surely woman's cruelty and withholding help is much to answer for in keeping them in that condition. Woman's responsibility is greater than that of the opposite sex by reason of her greater influence in shaping the rates of society, and in view, also, of the peculiar advantages she has over man in approaching this class and entering into their feelings and wants. Happily, the Female Mission recognizes this fact, and makes women its chosen agents in carrying on a great work of reform. Ladies of the noblest character and highest station in life are devoting themselves to this cause, though the active work is mostly done by female missionaries. The latter are each allotted to different districts, and the work of each is superintended by a committee. Thus the whole city is covered by the society's efforts, in which time it has disposed of those accepting its ministrations as follows: Placed in homes, 4,997; provided with situations, 4,730; read, workhouses, etc., 1,294; sent to hospitals, 2,500; assisted, 1,466; assisted to emigrate, 47; assisted to marry, 66; total, 12,596. This work has been done at a cost of a little less than \$250,000, of which sum the recipients of help have paid back \$2,500. Last year 239 women were placed in institutions, of whom 26 were returned to their friends, and 42 who were provided with employment are known to be doing well, the homes, or houses of refuge, at the disposal of the Society number about 40, the largest being that of the London Preventive and Reformatory Institution, to which nearly one-third of the 398 cases were sent. One of the most striking of this Society's given for whole time to cases of attempted suicide which come before the Police Court. A

remand is invariably ordered in such cases, and the subsequent interview with this devoted woman works a change for the better in the career of many poor girls who previously had seen no escape from their miserable life of death.

Deeply interesting reading. I give a few facts out of many. M. B., a respectable girl, from Yarmouth, came here to earn her living, and after a year of honest toil, was led into sin and shame by a male acquaintance. When found, she had taken up her abode with women of questionable character, and was just on the verge of ruin. The Female Mission sent her back to her mother, who she is now leading a proper life. S. J., of the same age, was sent to one of the missionaries by a married man, who had led her into misery and forsaken her. After the birth of a child, she was found with a dangerous illness, and for many weeks was an inmate of the infirmary. While there her child died. As soon as she was able to be removed she was sent to her home in Norfolk, where she is now happily married and still lives in her native town. In February, 1876, B. K., a bright, intelligent girl, was brought out of the lowest parts of Westminster, and kept at one of the homes for a considerable time, and was then sent to service, being still at the same place. R. N., aged 15, was brought to the notice of the society by a young woman who had been formerly assisted. She said: "I have been bad myself, but I know she is not as bad as I was." The girl lost her mother at an early age, and two years ago her father nearly lost his sight, and had to go to the poor-house. She was then taken in by a married sister and put to factory work. During the winter she and her brother-in-law were out of employment, and as they could not pay their rent the home was broken up. She pawned her clothes to buy food and being homeless, was taken by a bad woman to a court in Shore-ditch to lodge. Here she was when the missionary found her. She was willing to be placed in the home, and has since been doing well. The simple case, in the helplessness and hopeless poverty of which it speaks, reveals the sad cause why many a young girl in London plunges into sin, and shows at the same time how by timely interposition and help she may be saved.

SUNDAY EAST-CHAIR.

The Wrong Pew.

There's one who wrote in years gone by in clear and ringing rhyme—

A poet of an elder day and of a distant clime—

Who sang of most mysterious affections lone and

Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thou-

sands mourn."

The hand that held that golden pen that golden

pen that held that golden pen that golden

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

A piece of matting neatly tacked down

by an outside door will protect the carpet, and will require less care than a piece of oilcloth.

A handsome handkerchief case is made

of crimson plush with satin lining of the same color. It is made in the shape of a spray of rosebuds and leaves in ribbon embroidery. The case should be in shape like the two covers of a book, and should tie with a ribbon of the same color as the case.

"J. S." asks: "What is a whipped syllabus?"

It is one part of sweet cream, half a cup of powdered sugar, with a large spoonful of vanilla or other flavoring extract. Mix the ingredients, and then beat to a stiff froth. It is a delicious and healthy appetite sometimes demands a spoonful of wine to each glass of cream, but really the dainty dish is not much improved by its use.

For a common wrap for the baby carriage

a little comforter made of the prettiest blue velvet is the best. It is both serviceable and tasteful. Put one thickness of wadding between the outside and the lining, and catch it in place with bright embroidery—silk or crewel or even gold thread. The pattern should be a simple cross-stitch, which may be done with single cross-stitch, or in the form of small stars.

A pin-cushion which is very handsome

and delicate is of blue satin with a bunch of sweet-peas painted on it; around the edge of the cushion is a plating of heavy blue satin ribbon. It is plated in double box-pleats, very close together, then around the cushion white lace is laid with the plain edge tucked down between the plating and the ribbon. As the corners are simply folded nicely, the effect is lovely.

A new and striking design for a square

cover for a table is to make the center of plain satin, then put on a deep border of the crazy patchwork, and finish with a wide strip of blue velvet. This will not have many plain pieces in it; those of embossed or figured velvet or brocade are much more effective, though the plain pieces may be ornamented with embroidery, which adds greatly to the beauty of the whole.

To cook Lima beans in perfection they

should boil or simmer gently in a covered vessel for half an hour, then remove the cover, and let the water boil and evaporate until it is reduced to one-half. Add cream or milk with plenty of butter in it for the gravy. The old-time notion that it could not be cooked without pork is not a true one, though if one does not dislike the pork, it is better to cook a small slice with a quart of beans.

An appetizing entree is made by taking

cold boiled cabbage and chop it fine; for a medium-sized pudding-dish full add two well-beaten eggs, a tablespoonful of butter, three tablespoonfuls of cream, with pepper and salt to taste. Either the pudding-dish, put the cabbage in and bake until brown. This may be eaten cold, but it is much better if served hot. It is especially good with roast pork, or pork chops.

A delicious chicken soup is made by

cutting up one chicken and putting it into your kettle with nearly two quarts of water, a teaspoonful of salt, and a little pepper. When about half done add two tablespoonfuls of barley or rice. When this is done, remove the chicken from the soup, heat or cut part of the breast into small pieces, and add to the soup with a cup of cream. The rest of the chicken may be reserved for salad, or for chicken croquettes.

Spiced peaches are delicious; first pare

the peaches; this should be done with a very sharp knife so that just as little as possible will be wasted; then prepare a syrup of sugar, water, and spices, and pour this very little clove is the best liked for this purpose; let this come to a boil, and pour over the fruit. This should be repeated for two mornings, unless the peaches are hard. If they are hard, it is better to let them stand in the syrup over the duck and send to the table smoking hot. Put on the platter also either currant jelly, spiced currants, or cranberry jelly in little heaps at each side of the dish.

Potato pancakes make a most excellent

food for supper. Serve with the same embellishments in the way of pickles, sauces, or as you would do were the dish you are offering fried potatoes. Grate a dozen medium-sized potatoes, after peeling them, and grate thoroughly. Add the yolks of three eggs, a heaping tablespoonful of flour, and if they seem too dry a little milk will do it. Mix with a large teaspoonful of salt, and add the whites of the three eggs, beaten stiff, and thoroughly beaten in with the potatoes. Heat your griddle and put butter and lard in equal proportions on it, and fry the cakes in it until they are brown. Make them a third larger than the ordinary size of the pancake.

THE NEW STANDARD WATCHES.—The

new time standard adopted on November 15th is being followed by the introduction of twenty-four hour watch dials. The American Watch Company, of Waltham, has issued a notice that it is manufacturing watches which they will put upon the dial of their being substituted for any of the ordinary-divided watch dials on their watches. The hours from 12 to 24 are placed close to the outer circumference of the dial, and the numbers from 1 to 12 are placed in a smaller circumference. Thus, above the figure 1 is the figure 13; above the figure 2 is the figure 14, and so on. The ordinary distinction between day and night is thereby completely obliterated, unless use has been on a prolonged spree, whether the time indicated is 1 o'clock in the morning or 13 o'clock, which would be equivalent to 1 P. M., according to the dial, but always the same. Most of the orders for these new style watches have thus far come from the railroads. We shall soon have in general use watches with the hours marked from 1 to 24, in which the hour hand will on the complete revolution in twenty-four hours. In most watches the only change necessary to effect this will be a new dial and alteration in the minute dial and the hour wheel. As a result, these "continuous" dials serve to make the change gradual and easy.—[New York Tribune.]

POLITICIAN'S WIVES.—Talking of

generals and flowers, we met the pretty wife of a prominent politician at the funeral of a woman of a rich old man, who employs 200 or 300 laborers. She seemed to be quite well, and I believe she was one of the people who assembled to do honor to their dead countrywoman. On expressing our surprise at meeting her she said: "Oh, I didn't think the dead woman. I never saw her in my life; but I do the funeral for her." Most of the orders for these new style watches have thus far come from the railroads. We shall soon have in general use watches with the hours marked from 1 to 24, in which the hour hand will on the complete revolution in twenty-four hours. In most watches the only change necessary to effect this will be a new dial and alteration in the minute dial and the hour wheel. As a result, these "continuous" dials serve to make the change gradual and easy.—[New York Tribune.]

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