CHARLES READE IN SELF-DEFENSE.

Under the heading "Facts Must be Faced," *The London Times* of the 31st ult. publishes the following letter from Charles Reade, in reply to its recent review of that work:

SIR: *The Times* of the 24th of August contains a notice of "A Terrible Temptation" done upon a new plan. It is a careful synopsis of all the main incidents in my story, only my abridger has divested them of every charm. It is rather hard my name should be attached to a bad story told by another man, when I have told a goodish one with the same materials; but I console myself by reflecting that the same ingenious process applied to Homer's "Iliad" would prove it a contemptible work. There is something more serious, reflecting on me both as a writer and a man, which I cannot leave uncontradicted in columns so powerful as yours. My abridger has said that I have written about things which I should not be spoken of, much less written about—alluding to my sketch of Rhoda Somerset and that innocent girls cannot be to be informed on such subjects. He even thinks that mothers would do well to forbid my first volume to their unmarried daughters. You must admit, Sir, this is a very serious thing to say in print, and very cruel to a writer of my age; then do, please, give me fair play for once, and let me be heard in reply. The character of Rhoda Somerset was not invented by me, but copied from a master hand. It was you who first introduced her, ponies and all, to the public, on the 1st day of July, 1862, in an admirable letter, headed "Anonyma." On another occasion you discussed the whole subject, day after day, in leaders and a vast correspondence, so that for one lady who knows about the *dessous monde* from my pages, 20 know a great deal more from yours. Should this lose you the esteem of my abridger, permit me to offer you, as a small substitute, the thanks of a better judge.

You did your duty to the public in 1862, as you had often done it before, and were true to your own indisputable maxim, "Facts must be faced." For 18 years, at least, the journal you conduct so ably has been my preceptor, and the main source of my works—at all events, of the most approved. A noble passage in *The Times* of Sept. 7 or 8, 185., touched my heart, inflamed my imagination, and was the seed of my first important work, "It is Never Too Late to Mend." That edition, a monument of head, heart, and English, stands now dramatized in my pages, and embellishes the work it had inspired. Some years later you put forth an able and eloquent leader on private asylums, and detailed the sufferings there inflicted on persons known to you. This took root in me, and brought forth its fruit in the second volume of "Hard Cash." Later still, your hearty and able, but temperate, leaders upon trades unions and trade outrages incited me to an ample study of that great subject, so fit for fiction of the higher order, though not adapted to the narrow minds of bread-and-butter russes, nor of the extinctors who echo those young ladies' idea of fiction and its limits, and thus "Put Yourself in His Place" was written. Of "A Terrible Temptation," the leading idea came to me from *The Times*—viz.: from the report of a certain trial, with the comments of counsel, and the remarkable judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Byles. The character of Rhoda Somerset I culled from your pages, and having observed with what firmness, yet coldness, you treated that character and topic, I have kept your method in view, and, at all events, *tried* to imitate it. Whatever warmth I have shown is in the scenes of virtuous love; in the Somerset's scenes I am cold and sarcastic. Up to the period of her repentance now do I treat this character? Do I whitewash the hussy, or make her a well-bred, delicate maiden woman, as your refined and immoral writers would? I present her illiterate, coarse, vain, with good impulses, a bad temper, and a Billingsgate tongue. In close contrast to this unattractive photograph I am careful to place my portrait of an English virgin, drawn in the sweetest colors my rude art can command, that every honest reader may see on which side my sympathies lie, and be attracted to virtue by the force of comparison. Believe me, Sir, a thousand innocent girls are at this moment being corrupted by writers of their own sex, with novels instinctively adapted to the female reader, to her excessive sexuality, and her sense of propriety. These writers, being women, know how to work on the former without alarming the latter, and so, by the express and with such assiduous perfidiousness, they ensnare their female readers to illicit love, and shield a male libertine over adultery itself. Yet so destitute of the true critical faculty are the criticasters of the day, that these canny corrupters of female youth escape censure; it has gone astray after a writer in whose hands vice startles and offends, not captivates. My pen has never corrupted a soul; it never will, it never can, till water shall run up hill.

Should this argument fall into abler hands than an abridger's, I expect to be told, not that it is the duty of *all* writers to ignore certain vices, and so do their best to perpetuate them, but that many subjects, open to the journalist, are closed to the novelist. This is true and reasonable. The answer is—Journals must, of necessity, report in their small type some crimes and vices quite unfit to be mentioned in a novel; not that a journalist has any right to put into his leaded type, and to amplify, discuss, and dwell upon any subject whatever, and that the poet or the novelist has not an equal right to deal with that subject in fiction, this is monstrous and the mere dogmatism of a rabid critic.

Since the days I have taken "Anonyma" from your hands and have put entire life into voluptuous series, and have made her a repulsive character until she repents, no mother need forbid my book to her daughter; at all events, until she has forbidden her daughters to enter Hyde Park, and *The Times* to enter her drawing-room, and has locked up every Bible on her premises. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant and pupil,

CHARLES READE.

No. 2, Albert terrace, Knightsbridge, Aug. 26.

The London Times says in reply:

We really did not know that Mr. Reade had been our pupil for 18 years, and we cannot help thinking that if he really had sheed in that pupil he would not only have written better novels but better letters. In nothing does he more really show that he is not our pupil than in his impertinence of well merited reproof. We thought we had done him a service in telling the story of "A Terrible Temptation" without extracting the reader in the interrupt-ins with which the book is filled. Had we chosen to be so, we might have been much more severe on the fundness of pages devoted to a lunatic asylum, and on the eccentric diagram which illustrates them. No writer of fiction has a right to throw a long list of lunatic cases at the heads of his readers, and then to call his novel a good story. But, as we considered lunatic asylums one of Mr. Reade's crotchets, we spared him criticism on that point. Had we been, to use his newfangled word, "criticasters," he would not have escaped so lightly. On another subject we were more severe; not his Mr. Reade, in this letter, induced us to alter our opinion. No writer of fiction is justified, in a work which he well knows will find its way into innocent family circles, in describing scenes and people such as pure minded young persons of either sex ought neither to imagine nor to know. When Mr. Reade admits that one of the principal characters in his book is "the incarnation of vice," and that she is "illiterate, coarse, vain, with good impulses, a bad temper, and a Billingsgate tongue," he gives up the point, even without meaning it, for no sane parent would, while he is careful to omit, to do no more than to let his daughter read a work of which Reade's critics admit that the writers are greater offenders in this respect. Their books can never make Rhoda Somerset admirable. We must altogether repudiate the notion that the original of that vicious woman ever existed in the columns of *The Times*; but were the imputation true, it would add nothing to Mr. Reade's case. Ours are public, his private, duties. The columns of a newspaper necessarily contain "facts" of every way to which our rule, "*La mere en disparaissant le laisse à un fils*," applies, but they do not contain pictures like Mr. Reade's. The public must have their facts, just as they must have their Bibles. They will, we hope, continue to read their newspapers in spite of the wickedness of the age, which is occasionally reflected in the columns of the Press; and we trust they will read their Bibles, which Mr. Reade is apprehensive may be locked up, and they will not continue to read our correspondent's works if they contain such unsavory stuff as is to be found in "A Terrible Temptation."

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FREEHOLD INSTITUTE.—For Catalogues apply to JAMES REDMOND, esq., corner of Broadway and Forty-second-st., and to ALEX. HUDNUT, esq., Herald Building.

FRIENDS' SEMINARY, corner East Sixteenth-st. and Rutherford-place.—The Fall Term commences on the 12th inst. Circulars are to be had at the Seminary.

GERMAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, 179 Second-ave., near Twelfth-st.—The School year will commence TUESDAY, September 12. For circulars, apply to Dr. THEO. E. HEIDENFELD, Principal.

GOTHIC HALL, Young Ladies' School, Stamford, Conn.—Misses AIKEN & CHASE will be at home to receive applications after the 5th. School opens on the 20th. For circulars, address the Principals.

GARDNER INSTITUTE, No. 620 Fifth-ave., ENGLISH and FRENCH BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL for Young Ladies and Children, reopens WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20. Rev. Dr. and Mrs. C. H. GARDNER, Principals.

GOLDEN HILL SEMINARY for Young Ladies, Bridgeport, Conn. Miss EMILY NELSON, Principal.

HASTINGS INSTITUTE. HASTINGS ON HUDSON. A BOARDING-SCHOOL FOR TWELVE BOYS. Opens Sept. 12. Terms, $400 per year. O. WINTHROP STARR, Principal. Circulars and information can be had of THOMAS H. WAGSTAFF, esq., 71 Broadway.

HUNT'S SCHOOL will be reopened on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 931 Broadway, corner Twenty-second-st. Primary, Intermediate, Junior, and Senior Departments. Prepares for Harvard, Yale, Cornell, or Columbia; for the School of Mines or for Business. Thorough Instruction. Send for Circular. J. L. N. HUNT, A. M., Principal.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.—The preparatory class of Mr. NEWELL, lately an instructor in Harvard, is limited to ten boys. Rooms and address, 129 East Twenty-fourth-st. (opposite Charlier's French Institute). Commences from Sept. 18. References sent with circulars.

HARLEM COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, for young ladies and children, opens THURSDAY, Sept. 14, 1871, corner One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st. and Second-ave. Please call or send your address for a circular. D. F. DIMON, A. M., Principal.

HOME SCHOOL for six GIRLS.—Terms moderate. Delightful location. Prep. College Course. Address Miss J. SNYDER, Rhinebeck, N. Y.

IRVING INSTITUTE, Tarrytown, N. Y.—A Boarding School for Boys. The School year will commence Sept. 14. For circulars apply to D. S. ROWE, M. A., Principal.

JOHN MACMULLEN'S SCHOOL will be reopened on FRIDAY, Sept. 15, at 1,214 Broadway, near Thirtieth-st. Limited to 43 boys. Room for three boarders. Circulars at G. P. Putnam & Sons', and at the above address.

J. H. MORSE'S ENGLISH, CLASSICAL, and MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL reopens WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20, at 1,267 Broadway. For circulars, apply to J. H. MORSE, 737 Seventh-ave.

JACKSON MILITARY INSTITUTE, Tarrytown, N. Y. Established 1857. Address Rev. P. J. JACKSON, M. A., President.

Instruction.

J. HARRIS PATTON'S CLASSICAL SCHOOL for Boys REOPENS SEPT. 20, at No. 14 Irving-place. Circulars at school room, Thomson Bros., 1,107 Broadway, and Carter's bookstore.

"KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL" for Children and PRIVATE RECITATION ROOMS for LADIES, REOPEN THURS., Sept. 21st. Object: The physical, mental, and moral culture of children; also to furnish special advantages to ladies not desiring the time of school. Call on or address Miss E. M. COE, Prin. 15 W. 45th-st.

"KINDERGARTEN AND CLASSICAL SCHOOL," 129 West 45th-st., comprising three departments, will reopen Sept. 20, 1871. Boys and girls in separate schools. Rapid improvement or no charge. Mrs. M. A. & Miss M. L. FROST, Principals.

M. W. LYON'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, No. 161 FIFTH-AVE. and No. 957 BROADWAY (corner Twenty-second-st.), opens Sept. 14. Sixteenth year. Rooms spacious, light, airy, and steam heated; young pupils with Mrs. Lyon, the others with Mr. Lyon. A Yale graduate, he wholly instructs the college class, and means that all from this school shall have single fitness. In five years 22 have entered college—10 C. Dunbar, 6 Yale, 2 Harvard, 2 Williams, 1 Princeton, 1 Troy Polytechnic. Only 3 were conditioned. Other classes follow yearly. Light gymnastics. Only good boys desired. This year's patrons of from 3 to 15 years' connection:

John Auchincloss,	Henry Dow,	Henry Nicoll,
James B. Adriance,	Thomas Goodhy,	Julius M. Suzzo,
John Adriance,	William A. Hayden,	James W. Pryer,
Dr. Ed. G. Bartlett,	James C. Holden,	Charles M. Kendall,
John Benjamin,	William Jackson,	Samuel Sloan,
John S. Boyd,	Thomas F. Jermiah,	James Somerville,
John Brooks,	Edward Kirkland,	Homer H. Stuart,
William E. Bunker,	Joseph W. Lester,	James Symington,
Josiah H. Burton,	Leonard Lockwood,	George P. Tripp,
Nathaniel W. Chater,	John L. Melcher,	Judge H. C. Van Vorst,
Robert Colby,	James Moir,	Albert Weber,
Benjamin Curtis,	William Morrison,	Ralph Wells.

MLLE. ROSTAN'S FRENCH AND ENGLISH SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES, No. 111 East Thirty-sixth-st., third door from Park-ave., will reopen on THURSDAY, Sept. 21. The course of instruction is designed to combine a thorough English education, with the practical knowledge of the French and other modern languages.

Special attention is given to Drawing and Painting, and the Musical Department under the care of Profs. S. S. MILLS and F. L. RITTER, offers peculiar advantages to those who wish to make music a special study.

A very limited number of young ladies will be received in the family, and welcomed to share all the comforts and privileges of a pleasant home. Application can be made at the above address.

MISS COMSTOCK'S ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND GERMAN BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN, 32 West Fortieth-st., Opposite Reservoir Park. Fall Term will commence WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20, 1871. For circulars address as above.

MRS. GARRETSON'S ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND GERMAN BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN, NO. 58 WEST FORTY-SEVENTH-ST., Between Fifth and Sixth-aves., will REOPEN on WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20, 1871. Address by letter until Sept. 1.

MME. C. MEARS, No. 222 Madison-ave., Three doors above Thirty-sixth-st. ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND GERMAN BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN, Will reopen WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20, 1871. For circulars address as above.

MISS HINSDALE and MRS. CHAS. KEITH Will reopen their ENGLISH AND FRENCH BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL For Young Ladies and Children, Nos. 275 and 277, Madison-avenue, on THURSDAY, September 21, 1871. Address by letter until September 5.

MISS E. E. DANA, during the past year one of the Principals of "Ossining Institute," Sing Sing, will open an ENGLISH and FRENCH SCHOOL for young ladies and children, at Dobbs' Ferry, Westchester Co., N. Y., on WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20. For information apply to Rev. S. I. Prime, D. D., Office of New-York Observer, and to Rev. George B. Rose and Rev. T. M. Niven, Dobbs Ferry.

MRS. SYLVANUS REED'S French and English BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL for young Ladies and Children, 101 East Thirty-eighth-st., corner Park-ave., Murray Hill, New-York. Fall term will commence Sept. 20, 1871. Circulars and catalogues sent on request.

MISSES PORTER & CHAMPNEY, FAMILY BOARDING SCHOOL, OLD HADLEY, MASS. The Fall Term will commence on WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13, 1871. For Circulars and particulars address the Principals.

MISS POST'S SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN, 151 East One-hundred-and-fourteenth-st. (between Third and Fourth-aves.), Harlem. FALL TERM COMMENCES TUESDAY, Sept. 19, 1871. Miss Post will be at home from Sept. 1. Circulars on application.

MISS ARMSTRONG'S ENGLISH and FRENCH BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL, FOR YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN, will reopen at 48 MADISON-AVE., on WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20. Address as above.

MLLE. TARDIVEL'S French and English BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL for young Ladies and Children, 240 West Twenty-third-st., will REOPEN Sept. 14. Unsurpassed advantages for boarders. Circulars on application. Until after removal, carriages will call for and return pupils each day.

MISS MARY J. BEAN'S ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND GERM