GIRL SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD FREQUENTS SALOONS

Men of All Kinds and Classes, Drunk and Sober, Treat Her With Respect.

BY HARRIET HAWLEY.

"Buy a War Cry?"

A pair of dark brown eyes looked shyly into mine from beneath the shadowy brim of a Salvation Army bonnet.

"I think you," I replied, for I take a one sect or charitable institution to whom I cheerfully give of my spare change, it is a band of workers, who know how the other half live.

It was only a slip of a girl, this little Army lassie, not more than 17, yet I knew day after day, into the late hours of the night she followed the pathways of sin. And her name—well you know her smiling face here and there, and it is sufficient to know that as Jessie, the Salvation Army girl.

I wondered as I looked into the innocent face, remembering the dangers that might befall her.

"Are you never afraid?" I asked her.

"What?" she looked puzzled.

In Vice Ridden Places.

"Going where you do—into dives, through the narrow, dark alleys, where you know vice, even crime is hidden, among the outcasts of society!"

"Why? No, never." She shook her head. "My uniform protects me always, besides they all know who and why I am there. No one would hurt a Salvation Army girl."

"Do you go into saloons where men are drinking."

"Yes, to sell our War Crys, and Saturday nights we often take collections."

"It must be a noisy, rough place for a young girl like you to be in."

"Sometimes they are pretty bad but the moment I open the door they quiet down, and though they may or may not buy a War Cry I am treated with all the respect that a father would show his child."

Never Insulted.

"Have you never been insulted by low men, who are under the influence of liquor?"

A flush rushed to her cheeks, and the brown eyes flashed, "Oh, the other men wouldn't let them. Besides, you don't know what tender hearts those rough men have. They all seem to think they must have a hand in protecting me."

"Do not the young men with plenty of money in their pockets and good clothes—the ones who are for a good time, and think every young girl is to be caught by their money, vex you?"

"Yes, I have noticed them, and I realized that was one of the difficult places to pass over and be avoided in her work.

"I don't like to talk, and I know my a lot of foolish talk, but I never pay any attention to it, and, by training, we learn to look ahead and pay no attention.

Prepared for the Work.

"Training—what do you mean? I had no idea there was a

JESSIE.

school where they turned out Salvation Army lasses."

"Oh, yes, we have training schools where we go for a six months' course. Then we are sent into field work on probation for 12 months. During that time we have the rank of sergeant. At the end we are commissioned lieutenants."

"And then?"

"Well, then our real work begins. We have six indoor services a week and six street services. On Sunday we have three indoor services and three street services. During the week we must report 18 hours of visiting, with not over 15 minutes' stop at each place, and Friday and Saturday afternoon and evenings, between services, we sell our War Crys."

"Is that all?" I asked helplessly.

She Is Bright and Happy.

"Oh, of course there are cases of sickness and distress coming up all the time. They are extra."

And she looked as bright and happy as any other girl of her age would, in telling of her week's doings—the matinee, a dance or two, a luncheon or two, Jack and his canoe, etc., etc.

"Just one more question about your experience in the saloons. Do you think your going in ever does any real good? At such times aren't men too busy having what they call a good time to be influenced?"

The brown eyes seemed to be looking back over a long road. "Once, it was Christmas eve, and the saloon was crowded, as I came up to the bar with my tambourine, a young man, why he didn't seem more than a boy, was just putting a glass of beer to his mouth, and when he saw me, he set it down and looked so frightened. 'I thought you were my sister,' he said, and he paid for the beer and went right out of the room."

Tell Her Their Troubles.

"And girls—young girls—do you find them in such places in need of your help?"

There was a pained expression in the brown eyes.

"Oh, yes, in need of help, and they are glad to see me. They are kind, and sometimes I can do something to help them. They are not always happy and they seem to like to tell me of their troubles. I am afraid I must be going," she said, smiling demurely. "You know we are only allowed 15-minute visits. Come to our open air meeting tonight and see our work."

I watched her as she went down the street offering the War Cry here and there in the busy, rushing crowd, and I wondered how many stopped to think of what the life of a Salvation Army girl really means.

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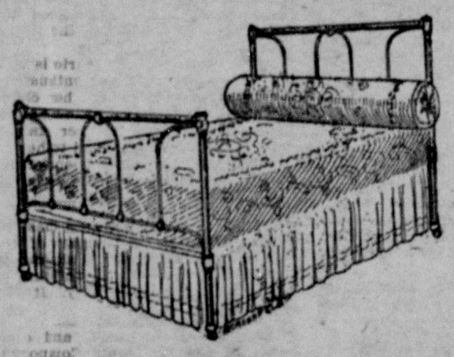

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