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LVI.—STONES OF THE TEMPLE.

THE subordination of parts to the whole is universally acknowledged to be a principle which must never be lost sight of in the construction of any work, or only disorder and confusion are likely to result instead of harmony and beauty; and the great artist, though he may stoop to elaborate the minutest accessory, yet will not add a touch to his remotest background without calculating its effect upon the entire picture. When one hand alone works out what one hand conceived, it is comparatively easy thus to keep the balance; but where many unite to labour at different portions of a common task, it becomes much more difficult to preserve the due relation of the particular sections committed to their care; and if it be but a band of handicraftsmen who have come together to rear a material edifice, it is only the ceaseless supervision of the architect that can ensure each pillar and cornice being in its place, and that needless care and decoration shall not be lavished on obscure recesses which will never be seen, while conspicuous corner stones are rough-hewn in slovenly haste, or left in unsightly bareness. But when the fabric to be erected is not material, so that any error is at once palpable to the mere eye; and when, too, the Great Architect, whose plans are being carried out, leaves His workmen and workwomen at liberty to choose how far they will obey the rules according to which alone can success be obtained, it often becomes hard indeed to determine the relative importance of each contribution, and to secure that the work of one shall never interfere with that which ought to be the department of another.

It is natural, it is perhaps necessary, that each should look upon that which he has to do as for him the "one thing needful," for without this feeling no one could throw all his heart into his work, and thus comply with the very first condition of success; but there cannot be just room for it if the work have either been undertaken at first, or be afterwards carried on, without any reference to the undertakings of others, or without a continuous endeavour so to harmonise it with others' efforts as that all shall form parts of one great whole. It is indeed a grievous mistake for any one to think that in order to be recognised as a faithful worker at the great

plan of making this world a Temple meet for the dwelling-place of the Most High, he has but to round his shaft, or carve his corbel, and then place it where he will, irrespective of what his neighbour has done or is doing; that he may rudely seize and appropriate the pedestal another had prepared as a base whereon to rear his own column; or coldly isolate himself or his little band of immediate assistants from all the rest of his comrades because they are devoting part of their labour to a pinnacle which is not to his taste, or a tower of which he does not see the use. When artificers are animated by such a spirit as this, each fellow-labourer is soon looked on as a rival; from rivalry springs jealousy, from jealousy, enmity, until at last, instead of cheerfully co-operating for mutual benefit, the grand result for which all should be striving becomes almost forgotten, and the Temple is left unfinished, while each hews his block into self-supporting shape, and sets up a solitary stone. And are such stones even sublime in their solitariness? Nay, for a monolith, to be grand, must be of gigantic dimensions, and if it fail to attain grandeur it is at once ridiculous. We see what it would be and is not, and call it, not small, but puny. It is not so with the unpretending stones, however minute, the sole design of which is to be used in combination with others, and which may thus form together an erection far surpassing in beauty and utility anything that could be afforded by a single mass, however great. Changelessly monotonous in form, the obelisk towers in vain majesty, offering not even a shelter from noon-tide glare, or covert from midnight blast; while the Temple, with its many stones piled in infinite variety, displays every charm that can please the eye, and serves every purpose that humanity can need. Is it better, then, that we individually—is it better that the Society, or Association, or Institution, with which we have especially identified ourselves—should chiefly aim to rear an obelisk, or to add a stone to the Temple?

Independence of thought, happily a growing feature of the age, leading to independence of action, in conjunction with another characteristic of our day, the tendency to subdivision of labour, prompts most who become impressed with some special want of humanity to seek to minister to it by means of forming a new organization peculiarly devoted to that one purpose; and within due limits this may often be the most judicious plan, as securing fresh zeal and undivided interest in the task; but it is a question whether it may not be carried too far, and whether adaptations of existing organizations which have gathered strength and experience from Time, might not sometimes more effectually promote what is desired than the calling into being of entirely new ones. Is there no fear that the very principle to which they owed their birth, allowed still to work on, may become a principle of dissolution? Those who began by setting up separately from others continuing to separate

more and more from each other, till power, which in conjunction might have been irresistible, frittered away in futile individual efforts, becomes utter impotence, and ends in disgraceful failure. The massy pillars of God's Temple must then be left unreared, because nowhere can a large enough party of workers be found to bring sufficient strength to bear upon their weight to lift them to their proper places.

The rock on which the Church has so often split, becomes a peril threatening our Philanthropic Associations, when not content with *union* for one purpose, *unity* on every point which regards that purpose, is required among those concerned. It is true, that beyond agreeing in the desirableness of a certain end, some general agreement as to the means by which it is most likely to be attained is absolutely necessary among those who are to work together to seek it; for though both might have the reformation of the criminal equally at heart, the advocate of solitary confinement could, for instance, hardly combine in association with the upholder of the Irish gang system, any more than a party of masons intent on raising a group of detached buildings, could work with another party who were bent on bringing all under one roof; but where there is no absolute antagonism of plan, is it not desirable that every possible scope should be allowed for diversity of action in the carrying out of various branches of the main design? Concentration, it is true, is an element of strength, and to limit would perhaps be to concentrate, if greater force were invariably put forth when there was no room for any deduction on the ground of partial disapproval: but this is not always the case, for the energetic will often do their utmost in spite of possible objections, while the poor-spirited or captious, though they may make them the pretext for half-heartedness, might do just as little were all arranged exactly as they would prefer. And were something gained on the one hand, it would probably be more than counterbalanced by loss on the other; for extent of interest must diminish as a plan is narrowed, and the very largeness of a scheme may cause its success: because, though none may approve all the details, each finds in it something to approve, and while seeking to advance that particular part, involuntarily aids the advancement of all the rest. He who sees no necessity for building more than a simple wall, need surely never reject the assistance of him who is willing to aid in its erection if only he may be allowed to add the buttresses deemed needless by the other, but without which he could not consider it secure.

Let then, all who are working in the cause of humanity, combine as much as possible in united efforts, assured that He who laid the plan, and watches its carrying out, intended each part to fit to the other to form a perfect whole. Let those who would feed the hungry keep up intimate relations with those who would wash the unclean, and those who seek to provide work for the hands not

separate from those who would facilitate working with the brain ; for the bath and the booking dépôt may be found to help each other to success where either alone might have failed ; and the highly educated lady gaining her degree at the University to have a direct influence on her humbler sister obtaining a remunerative situation in a shop or a work-room.

A SISTER OF THE CRAFT.

LVII.—MEUDON, AND ITS PAST AND PRESENT OCCUPANTS.

EVERY Sunday from the beginning of spring till the close of autumn, the inhabitants of the district of the Luxembourg, Mount Parnassus, and St. Marcel, make a health-seeking pilgrimage to Meudon and its woods. So early as six o'clock in the morning, troops of men, women, and children, may be seen in holiday attire, hurrying to the terminus of the Barriere de Maine for the purpose of securing places, while places are to be had in the Versailles trains which stop at the grand avenue of the Château twenty minutes after they leave Paris.

To the Parisian living on the left side of the Seine, Meudon is what Hampstead Heath and Richmond are to the Londoner. The Imperial burgh bearing that ancient name, and the crooked streets of which abound in gable-fronted houses, which seem almost as old as the terraced hills overhanging them, is situate in a picturesque valley, where the Seine assumes her most graceful aspect, as she winds through the fields which stretch away from the foot of the new town, and beyond which Val Fleury smiles. To the right are richly wooded uplands ; to the left, steep hills covered with chalets, or villas, built in that fantastic style now so fashionable in the environs of Paris ; and behind the old town, the hillside is flanked with a vine-covered wall of gigantic proportions, along the top of which runs the terrace, terminating in the park of General Jacquemont. On leaving the railway station of Fleury-Meudon, we first pass the church, constructed in 1572—a period when France was being desolated by religious wars, but were the architecture of this edifice to be taken as a criterion of the spirit of the age in which it was built, we should say that all the blood then shed was not the result of either religious zeal or fanaticism, but of narrow policy and party ambition. The style is of a very mixed kind, without unity or distinctive character, and the pictures displayed within—one of them representing an episode in the life of St. Blaise, and another of St. Martin, both patron saints of

Meudon and its forests—do not even reach mediocrity. But this insignificant church, so poor in religious monuments, is yet invested with peculiar interest from being intimately associated with Rabelais, the Swift of the 16th century; and the most facetious and foul-tongued satirist of whom French literature can boast or be ashamed. But like Swift, Rabelais did not utter his foulness for the purpose of corrupting; and resembling him too in another respect, he never derived much benefit from Court patronage, the first and only promotion he ever received having been when in his forty-fifth year Cardinal Bellay raised him from the office of deacon to the unimportant post of *curé* of Meudon. He there led a very exemplary life, attending equally to the souls and bodies of his flock—teaching the children how to sing in chorus; amusing his friends with his frequent displays of humour in and out of print, and making chemical experiments, which gained for him among his parishioners the reputation of being “able to raise the devil in blue blazes.” But the Parisians then, notwithstanding the Sorbonne, as now in spite of the Censor of the press, were a sceptical set of people, and as ready to laugh at public abuses as to rise in arms against them, and though they would not allow that Rabelais performed that piece of necromancy in a literal sense, yet expressed the opinion that he did something equivalent to it by exposing with an unsparing pen the corruptions of the age in which he lived. The most illustrious inhabitants of the capital were never deterred, by the accusation brought against him of being tainted with heresy, from crowding to his modest mansion, where his wit and joviality nightly kept them in a roar. Nor is the spell yet broken which three centuries ago attracted so much brilliant company to what was then a remote village; but on the contrary, it has increased in power, for though, doubtless, the majority of the thousands which the trains transport each Sunday to Meudon, go there to breathe the pure air on the wooded hills around it, and to enjoy the unrivalled prospect from the terrace, yet a host of attenuated Americans, slovenly Germans, fresh-faced, well-shaved, or big-whiskered Englishmen, with ladies in straw hats and crinolines, go for no other reason than because Rabelais lived there. When the art of printing was still in its infancy, some disagreeable antiquarians would indeed destroy all belief in the pleasing traditions which have been handed down about this great satirist, by asserting that some musty manuscript, or register, in the chapter house of Notre Dame de Paris, proves that Rabelais never exercised at Meudon the function of curate. Be that as it may, he not only died, but lived here many years; and in any case, the traditions still extant about him, will hold greater sway over the popular mind than any contrary assertion; so that one might as well attempt to prove to the multitude that Richard III. was an amiable monarch, as to disprove Rabelais’ connexion with Meudon. St.

Blaise and St. Martin have indeed long since virtually ceased to be the patrons of the church there nominally dedicated to them, for it is Rabelais who really enjoys that honourable distinction, and long may he keep it ! for his goodness and joviality were all his own, and his coarseness but the reflection of the age in which he lived !

On passing from the church, the Château is reached by flights of stone steps built along a deep section of the hill which is surmounted by the terrace, and down which, on fête days, it is a favourite pastime for young students to rush, hand in hand with some Toinette or Fifine. On reaching the summit, it is ordinarily found occupied by shoals of fresh-complexioned and ill-dressed Englishwomen, who with the characteristic pride of free-born Britons, carry their heads rather loftily whenever their eyes are not riveted on the eternal red-covered Murray, which, however, gives but little information about the locality in question.

These pages are not written for the special benefit of the continental tourist. Nevertheless, dear reader, peruse them attentively if you some day intend to visit Paris and its environs ; so that when you go to Meudon you will not be under the necessity, at the opening of every vista, or the winding of every avenue and forest path, of diving into the aforesaid guide-book, for by acting on this hint you may avoid being subjected to the whispered satires of native bystanders, inhabitants of the Imperial burg, upon whose shoulders most assuredly the mantle of Rabelais has fallen ; for their *espièglerie* is unequalled in any other part of France.

Remember then that the name of Meudon is derived from two Celtic words which signified the *sandy hills of the birch trees*. When the Romans conquered Gaul it was tenanted, in common with wild beasts, such as the wolf, boar and fox, by warlike savages who made frequent incursions on the southern occupants of the islands of the Parisii. Its celebrated druidesses were sought by those who wished to be enlightened as to what the future had in store for them ; and from it, a Gallic ancestress of the *Poissardes* of 93, incited her countrymen to a furious onslaught on the Roman legions who guarded the palace in which the Emperor Julian held his Court, and the ruins of which are now a portion of the Cluny Museum. The Frankish conquerors of Gaul allotted it to a soldier, some of whose posterity, in the course of a few centuries, became feudal barons. In 1527, the lordship of Meudon, including all the parks, woods, chases, castle, *couvées*, and other seigneurial privileges, were let to Anne Pisseleu, the celebrated Duchess d'Etampes for 1,200 livres yearly, by her uncle, the Cardinal d'Etampes, who subsequently sold it to his gay and avaricious tenant, while, at the same time, Frances I. presented her all the forest covering the heights of Bellevue. Some years after the death of her royal lover, the Duchess in turn rented her newly acquired domain for the sum of 3,000 livres a year to the Cardinal of Lorraine, who

being then one of the wealthiest subjects in France, could afford to have the old castellated and moated castle, with its drawbridge barbican, to be pulled down, and a new one erected on its site, after plans by Philibert de Lorme. When in possession of the Cardinal, Mary Queen of Scots passed much of her time at Meudon, the Guises frequently bringing her here to free her from the irksome ceremonial with which, when a child, she was surrounded at St. Germain en Laye. Whilst staying here she was also emancipated from the surveillance of Catherine de Medicis, and spent her mornings in hunting and hawking. On the brow of the hill facing the Château there is still a heathery opening in the forest, in the centre of which stands a very ancient oak called *le chêne de la Reine d'Ecosse*, and whence a view is obtained of the heights of Bellevue and Val Fleury, with their ponds and streamlets sparkling on sunny days with more than diamond brightness. From this hill-side glade, a precipitous path, formed by the violent winter rains, and crossed continually by the bared roots of elms, beeches, and other trees, descends into a gorge where there is a well dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, the patroness of Mary Guise, the Regent of Scotland, and which tradition still asserts, that the Queen of Scotland, during her girlhood, was in the habit of visiting, to implore, at its brink, the saint supposed to watch over it, to protect her mother, then at open war with the lords of her congregation.

Anne of Esté spent her widowhood at Meudon, and the leaguers assembled there to plot against Henry III. and Henry IV. After the death of the Prince of Lorraine, it passed from the hands of the Guise family into those of St. Servien the Minister of Finance during the Regency. As the saying is, he bought it "for a song" from the grand nephew of the Cardinal, who falling in love with Madame de Servien for her fine voice, and being also in want of money, felt less reluctance than he might otherwise have done in selling it for an insignificant sum. But St. Servien, if not a liberal bidder, was lavish in the sums spent to beautify his new domain, for it was he who built the magnificent terrace which commands a still finer prospect than the far-famed one seen from the terrace of St Germain en Laye. Even Fouquet in later times did not appropriate to the embellishment of his parks and gardens at Vaux, so much money from the public treasury as did St. Servien to the building of the terrace, and the acquisition of the adjoining lands of the Abbey of St. Germaine de Prés, which cost 36,000 livres. The courtiers of Mary de Medicis naturally began to wonder where the Minister of Finance could have discovered such a treasure as he evidently possessed; and after he enclosed with a wall the estate of Meudon, they could not help making guesses which went very near the truth, while they strove to urge the Prince Regent to inquire into the

causes which could produce such effects, by saying that M. St. Servien had found a mine of gold and determined to out-rival the magnificence of the Château of the Luxembourg by building for himself a finer one. But these whispers soon died away when M. St. Servien gave his detractors to understand that he was as rich in blank *lettres de cachet* as he was in land and money. The much envied, and, it must be said, ill-gotten wealth of St. Servien did not long continue in the hands of his family, for his son was a spendthrift who strove to emulate the reputation acquired at the French Court by the Duke of Buckingham. His expenses therefore far exceeded his receipts; and as he was a soldier in a time of peace, and a man of pleasure, he had neither foreign towns to plunder, nor the French treasury at his disposal. When therefore Louvois offered to purchase the Lordship of Meudon, he gladly sold it for a sum much below its nominal value. This statesman greatly increased its boundaries, and made it so magnificent that, with all its natural advantages, it out-rivalled Versailles, then freshly issued from a marsh. Louis XIV., who was not only the despot of his people and his courtiers, but of his family as well, was piqued at seeing Louvois so magnificently lodged, and as he also disliked to see his only son separating himself from Court, for which the Dauphin's excuse was, that he had no residence nearer to it than Choisy le Roi, "the Sun king" therefore did all he could to possess himself of his Château; but to his honour be it said, Louvois stoutly resisted all the attempts of his despotic sovereign, so that it was not till he died that Louis could obtain Meudon.

The king then exchanged it with Madame Louvois for Choisy le Roi, and gave in addition the sum of 90,000 louis-d'or. Both the Dauphin and his Bavarian wife reluctantly consented to the change of residence thus brought about, since it obliged them to live near the Court, under the depressing influence of which, the Dauphiness, from being the most animated woman of her day, became the most low-spirited. One of her complaints was that she was incessantly tormented with the sight of workmen around her, and hearing of their deaths from the effects of fatigue, brought on by labouring night and day in excavating ponds and converting hills into hollows, while she could never escape from the monotonous din of the hammer, as masons, carpenters, and gardeners were continually at work at Meudon; for Louis XIV. was determined to do all in his power to embellish it, which is tantamount to saying that he did his best to spoil it, and undo all that Nature and the good taste of its former possessors had done to make it one of the most beautiful spots in France. Le Notre replanted the park and gardens in his stiff triangular style; Mansard built the orangery, which it must be confessed was an improvement, as were also the rich furniture with which the interior was decorated, and the

ceilings and panels painted by Jouvenet, De la Fosse, Andrea, and Coypel.

In 1795 the Dauphin, finding the Château inconveniently small, had another constructed, which is the one that was inhabited by the late Prince Jerome Bonaparte. An ancient engraving of the former is still preserved at Versailles. It must have been a noble-looking edifice, in the Italian style, symmetrical in its proportions, and ornate, without anything of meretricious display. Shortly after the existing one was finished, Louis Quatorze paid it a visit, but could not be prevailed on to enter it, because it looked too like the hotel of a wealthy *bourgeois* to be worthy of so great an honour. This marked disapproval of the architectural taste of the Dauphin was not offensive to him; he was, indeed, so pleased at the aversion with which his new château inspired his august father, that a smile was actually seen to pass over his stolid countenance; and he afterwards expressed his satisfaction at the effect it produced, because it would free him from the prospect of visits from the king or De Maintenon. On that account the dislike which Monsigneur had conceived for the palace, which had been forced upon him, gave way to a contrary sentiment, though its contiguity to Versailles and Marly did not enable him to entirely absent himself from Court as he had done when residing at the more distant Choisy le Roi. The duties of being present at the grand *souper* and the *coucher* of the king were gone through by the heir apparent, if not with a good grace, at least with scrupulous and unvarying exactness. But the instant they were accomplished, he drove back to Meudon, where it even so late as midnight, and there, abandoned himself to his natural indolence and the enjoyment of personal freedom, which was all the greater because of the contrast it afforded to the constraint under which he felt himself placed at Versailles.

A *coterie*, rather than a court, surrounded the Dauphin; for he possessed neither the talent nor the requisite strength of will to form a more extensive circle. Such as it was, it congregated round him for the simple reason that he was the heir apparent to the throne, and would in all probability one day be the disposer of the destinies of France. But Meudon resembled Versailles in having a reigning favourite, for it still had its Dauphiness in all but title. After the death of the legitimate one, that influential position was occupied by Madlle. de Chouin, who, neither accomplished nor beautiful like the Sultanas of "The Great King," was nothing more than a fat, dumpy, middle-aged woman, with brown complexion, flat nose and wide mouth, without its full complement of teeth. A pair of merry, intelligent eyes, were the only redeeming feature in her face, and they were of unequal size. She ruled the Dauphin more absolutely than De Maintenon ruled his father; and managed to make the Duke and Duchess of Burgundy treat her as

deferentially as though she were their legitimate mother-in-law. The Duchess never showed any inclination to do otherwise, and tenderly caressed this virtual Dauphiness whenever she met her, although she used to say that she never saw her without thinking of a farmhouse servant, and fancying she smelt of garlick. If Madlle. Chouin set up to rule princes, she was in other respects a very unpretending person. She dressed like a housekeeper, always refused to wear jewelry, or to appear outside of her room on *gala* days. She addressed every one in the second person singular; and allowed the servants of the Château to take the same liberty when speaking to her. The Dauphin, who was stingy as his father was prodigal, allowed her for all her personal expenses 1,600 livres, which he counted down to her with his own hand—never by a single *dénier* exceeding or falling short of it; and when he died in 1711, she retired to live in a small apartment in Paris on her slight savings, and a pension of 2,000 livres which she was with great difficulty prevailed on by the king to accept.

St. Simon draws a very animated picture of the last illness of the "Grand Dauphin," and the aspect of his Court when a gentleman of his bedchamber announced his death to a crowd of *seigneurs* and ladies in the antichamber. He describes in his peculiarly graphic manner the confusion of some; the hypocrisy of others; the selfish calculations, the plots, plans, and intrigues improvised by nearly all, and communicated in whispers to one and another, as well as the effect produced by the great Swiss guardsman, whom nobody suspected was there, awakening up among them, and too embarrassed by finding himself in the presence of princes and princesses to walk through the room to get out, plunging in desperation beneath the covering of the bed upon which he had happened to fall asleep.

The suite of apartments to the left on ascending the first flight of the grand staircase was the stage on which this farce was acted; Madame de Maintenon was, however, not among the performers. Hypocrite as she was, she was not able to feign sorrow at the decease of the Dauphin, and Louis XIV. often reproached her for being absent from the death-bed of his only son, while the Duchess de Berri never ascribed it to any incapacity to go to the greatest lengths of dissimulation, but only to the fear of taking the small-pox from the dying prince, and losing her smooth complexion.

When the Dauphin died, Meudon was valued at 400,000 livres a year, and the furniture and jewelry of that prince at 1,500,000. They were not Crown property, and money being very scarce in 1711, it was decided that they should be sold by public auction. The *cicerones* who point out divers *fauteuils*, *tabourets* or time-pieces to the tourists visiting the Château as relics of *le grand siècle*, or of those who then inhabited Meudon, are not therefore to obtain

any credence, and any who are inclined to believe in the traditions attached to certain pieces of furniture will be undeceived by referring to St. Simon, who tells about the unseemly way in which they were set up to auction, calling the sale of the Dauphin's furniture and jewelry the most indecent exhibition that he ever witnessed. It took place at Marly, in the apartments of the Duchess of Burgundy, the doors of which were open to all who chose to present themselves as bidders.

From 1711 till 1719 the hill-side castle which had passed through so many hands was entirely deserted. But in that year the Regent presented it to his notorious daughter, the Duchess de Berri, in exchange for the remote and gloomy castle of Amboise. That dissipated princess nominated as its constable a son of Lauzun, Count de Riom, to whom she was privately married. The old road surrounding it there rung with the uproarious mirth of revels and marquerades, the details of which the most scandalous chronicler would blush to record, although several princes and princesses of the blood royal took leading parts in them.

In 1736 Meudon passed into the possession of a woman whose piety was of a severe monastic character, Marie Leczinska having that year bought it for the purpose of establishing there a Benedictine community, but, owing to the interference of the Duc de Richelieu and the Duchess de Maille, the king opposed the religious scheme of his wife, who finally gave it to her father, the exiled King Stanislaus of Poland.

The Revolution accomplished a still greater change. The old Château was transformed into a fortress, and the green sward in front of it, where formerly *bals champêtres* were held, was dug up, and a ditch and breastwork substituted for it. Carnot then pronounced it to be impregnable; and the Committee of Public Safety, on reading his report, decreed that the newer edifice, built by the Dauphin, should be converted into a manufactory of munitions of war, in which gun-makers and bullet-runners worked both night and day, till Bonaparte returned from the Italian campaign. The great balloon, made use of at the battle of Fleurus to reconnoitre the position of the allies, was constructed in the orangery. All the powder which Bonaparte's first army left in Paris, was stored in the vaults beneath the Château, lest the Duke of Brunswick or the Prince of Coburg might march into the comparatively defenceless capital and appropriate it to themselves. During four years, all the spare ammunition in France was sent there, and it was to the carelessness of the commandant, who let a lighted match fall among some powder near a door of the magazine, that the destruction of the Château should be attributed, not to the violence of a revolutionary mob, which it is commonly supposed sacked and set fire to it. The honour of first throwing the woods and parks of Meudon open to the public, belongs to the Revolutionary Government. During the

ancient monarchy, the privilege of walking in them was restricted to the friends of the Governor. Madame Roland, when a child, was among the privileged few, and the description she gives in her memoirs of days spent in the forest, is perhaps the most poetic piece of prose that ever proceeded from a Frenchwoman's pen. In eloquence it is not surpassed by any passage in "Corrine," nor was Madame de Staël, gifted as she unquestionably was, ever capable of the exquisite delicacy which is displayed in it.

When Napoleon assumed the Imperial crown, he meditated the reconstruction of the blown-up buildings, but finding the expense of doing so would be very great, he accordingly decreed its demolition. The stones of which it was constructed were sold, and the marble pillars of its colonnade employed in constructing the triumphal arch in the Place du Carrousel. The Dauphin's Château was, however, repaired, decorated, and furnished as we now see it; and the Corsican dictator who pulled down thrones as easily as he built them up, conceived the original idea of converting Meudon into "a nursery for crowned heads," and "an academy for furnishing the education of the heirs apparent of continental thrones." It is needless to say that this Bonapartian scheme was never carried out beyond sending the King of Rome to Meudon during the Russian campaign, where he was subsequently joined by the Empress Maria Louisa, whom Tallyrand advised to stay here, when the allies were marching upon Paris.

It was afterwards successively inhabited by Don Pedro of Portugal and his daughter Maria da Gloria, whom the old peasantry still describe as *une bonne petite fille qui aimait beaucoup manger des gâteaux*. The late Duc and Duchesse d'Orleans also passed a great deal of their time in this charming place, which, after the death of that amiable prince, was handed over by Louis Phillippe to Marshal Soult. His fellow soldier, the Prince Jerome Bonaparte, next occupied it, and every one who reads the Paris correspondence of the London newspapers, is doubtless aware that the lazy Imperial Republican, and highly-gifted *Plon Plon*, lives in Meudon when he is not smoking in the Palais Royale or making summer voyages.

The Château derives its supply of water from an artificial pond at Fouceau, and in rambling through the forest several others are also seen, which serve as frog nurseries. The pond of Villebon supplies annually to the Paris markets £900 worth of frogs, although it does not cover many roods of ground, while those of Chalais and Triveux, though smaller, are nearly as productive in gastronomic treasures. They also supply Prince Napoleon's stables with water. At the entry of the forest there is another pond surrounded by gigantic reeds, whence issues a brook called La Ruisseau, which supplies about fifty *lavoirs* with water, for the staple industry of Meudon consists in bleaching clothes which have grown too yellow for the Paris washerwomen to restore to their

original whiteness. The water of La Ruisseau is the best in France for the use to which it is applied, and its efficacy is acknowledged by the proverb, which says "Go to Meudon to get your shirt bleached or your reputation blackened;" for the inhabitants of that village are argus-eyed in detecting the faults of those who come within their ken; and the secret police of Paris is largely reinforced from that neighbourhood. Blanc d'Espagne or whiting is procured there in abundance, as well as the soft white stone of which Paris is chiefly built. The latter is found in beds of about 24 mètres thick, immediately below strata which produce several thousand millstones annually, as well as large quantities of the stone used in France for lining sewers and quays. The fortifications of Paris have consumed such an enormous quantity of it, that the woods covering the highest plateau of Meudon grow over a series of excavations resembling the catacombs, but on a much larger scale.

The terrace of St. Germain en Laye, is said by Macaulay to command the finest prospect in France, but those who spend their Sundays during the fine weather at Meudon enjoy a much finer one. From the summit of the hill, facing Queen Mary's Oak, rise the woods of Fleury, from among which peeps forth a picturesque old village of the same name. The railway viaduct, with its triple tier of arches, wears the enchanted air lent by distance, as it shows itself at the opening of the valley, beyond which the Seine winds round poplar covered isles; or the Bois de Boulogne displays its rich verdure, none the less beautiful because the result of art. Farther on, the capital of France is spread out beneath the eye, and on fine days, its triumphal arches, domes, palaces, steeples, and gilded houses stand out boldly, yet with a certain coquetry peculiar to Paris, against a clear blue sky. Towering above it Montmartre lies to the north. To the north-west is the plain of Monceau, which is bounded by the hill of Montmorency and Argenteuil.

EMILY JOHNSTONE.

LVIII.—LINES SUGGESTED BY THE UNCOVER-
ING OF THE MEMORIAL OF THE PRINCE
CONSORT.

BY THE AUTHOR OF QUEEN ISABEL.

OUT of a tomb the world's Hope went of old,
While Angels shone around, Force shrank away,
And weeping Love, eternally consoled,
Went back to labour in the light of day.
And still about our graves our hopes are rife,
Thence the remembrance of a noble life
Starts like a resurrection. Seal and crown
Are set on Honour there. We trust the dead ;
But living hands tear their own banners down,
And leave us kingless, sighing to be led ;
And oft, when living tongues but mourn or rave,
Unanswerable accents from the grave
Utter decrees of patience. Let us hear
Such accents now ; softer they could not be,
Calming both joy and grief, for both are near,
And in this placid lake of memory
Both gaze, and grow more pure by what they see,
Then not forgetting, to their toils depart,
Each with a gathered flower upon the heart.

Well may those weeping eyes, which once have seen
A perfect thought fulfil itself in deeds,
Dwell only on the days that might have been,
And watch the form, more bright as it recedes ;
She asks no painter's skill ; the sun may strike
His sternest image, let it but be like ;
Nothing was there to soften or to hide,
And nothing to regret—save that he died :
No gain can match the glory of Her loss,
It lights the Future, where She walks alone,
Not pausing, not afraid to bear Her cross,
Borne by a thousand hands, yet still Her own.

LIX.—MAN'S DEBT TO WOMAN.

WHEN Man, a frail and helpless babe, is ushered into light,
 And little in his tiny frame betokens future might;
 When he hath not sufficient strength to cope with mortal ills,
 To brave the strife for human wants—the malady that kills;
 There is a breast, from which into his lips nutrition flows,
 A bosom soft, whereon his head is laid in sweet repose,—
 There is a hand, an arm, prepared to guard his outward peace,
 An anxious eye to mark the faintest symptoms of disease!
 There is an ever-watchful love—a love that ne'er can tire,
 To eagerly anticipate each unexpressed desire:—
 A love, which deeply sorrows when he feels an anguish-throe,
 And strives, oh, how devotedly! to soothe each infant woe.
 Woman, 'tis thine! while Memory tells 'twas lavished thus on me,
 My soul is grateful to its God for infancy, and thee!
 Mother! that name's a treasure which the vilest dare not rob;
 Mother! the demons only hear that name without a throb!
 Not to unconscious childhood are her sympathies confined;
 But when the busy, prattling boy gives evidence of mind,
 To all his questionings does she not patiently reply?
 Rejoiced to read th' expanding thought that flashes from his eye!
 Does she not speak of lofty deeds performed in days of yore,
 And teach how heroes nobly bled, and martyrs proudly bore?
 Till his young pulse beats rapidly responsive to her tales.
 Now he is Wallace, striking for his native hills and dales,
 Or Hampden, fighting to o'erthrow a royal despot's sway,
 And sealing with his priceless blood the justice of the fray!
 Anon, he is the brave John Huss, enthusiast in faith,
 All fearless, suffering for his Lord, yea, even unto death!
 High-hopes, and generous aspirations fill the dreamer's brain,
 Beneath a parent's fostering care, not all awoke in vain:—
 Nay, many a germ of excellence is sown in such an hour;
 And many a bud, which peepeth then, matures into a flower!
 And thus the patriot, hero, sage, the bard, heav'n's fav'rite son,—
 The great, wise, good, the children who in older years have won
 Earth's best rewards, and highest honours—touched with filial pride,
 May each, amidst success, unto that dear maternal guide
 With reverence turn, and thankfully acknowledge that he owes
 To her blest inculcations, ev'ry happiness he knows.
 When in the ripeness of his age, experience has come,
 Still he applies for counsel in the old familiar home:—
 And still at every call of need, if here he doth but wend,
 Is she to succour, and advise, till life's career shall end.
 Mother! like sacred music be that sound unto the ear,—
 To stimulate affection while her presence yet is near;
 And when she's gone, sweet memories wake, and the grateful filial tear!

Lo ! there a form of sylphide grace
 Bounding playfully from sight ;
 One with a smiling, angel-face,
 And a neck of purest white,
 Veiled in ringlets golden bright,
 Airy, gleesome as a fawn :—
 Casting light upon our dawn,
 Like a sunbeam, flits the sprite !
 Companion in our sports and books,
 Sister ! thou art always near ;—
 Romping now in fairy nooks,
 Hark ! thy ringing laugh we hear,
 Merry, musical, and clear,
 Echoing gaily through the air.
 Hide, whoop ! hide, whoop ! floats the cry
 O'er the green sward mockingly !
 Saucy, taunting girl, beware !
 We will seek and catch you there !
 See ! with serious gait and looks,
 Next to study we repair :—
 Whether on lessons bent, or jokes,
 Glide we down youth's placid brooks,—
 Zealous partners everywhere !

Should some vulgar boor attack
 With coward-blows her darling friend ;
 Or with language harsh offend
 His gallant temper, and disturb
 The even tenor of his track—
 'Tis a sister tries to curb,
 With her mild, melodious voice,
 The insolence which so annoys,
 Or drives the base assailant back,—
 And twining round her brother's waist,
 With words appropriately placed,
 Affords his wounded feelings balm,
 And soon restores their wonted calm !

Sitting by, when pallid lies
 Sickness in its fitful sleep—
 Lightly at his call she flies,
 If he should essay to rise ;
 And avoids his gaze to weep
 That such vigils she must keep !
 Not that in her work of love,
 She can weary grow, and faint :—
 No, her moistened eyelids prove
 There will issue no complaint
 From those lips, which quivering move
 In prayer for help from One above !

She laments to view that frame
 Feeble, prostrate, worn with pain—
 Drooping since the spoiler came!
 With how devout a fervour she
 Her glad thanksgiving pays when he
 Recovers from his agony;—
 When, health returning to its reign,
 He waxes well and strong again.
 Then is he remindful how
 Carefully she'd lift him up,
 Weak, from his uneasy couch,
 That his parched mouth she might touch
 With the cooling cordial-cup;—
 And, condolence whisp'ring low,
 Stoop to kiss his fevered brow!

And now comes the obligation
 For an independent station;
 To accomplish self-earned means,
 He removes to far-off scenes.
 Ere they part, what preparation
 For his comfort she will make;
 And, with cheering conversation,
 Smothers her own inward ache
 For that dear adventurer's sake:
 He is rendered more content,
 By her kind encouragement!
 He proceeds. Months, years, have gone,
 In time's circle whirling on.

She has grown a lovely woman,
 In those orbs so brightly blue
 Mounts the spirit, kind and true;
 Pleasing expectations summon
 To her cheek a rosy hue.
 There are well-known accents nigh,
 Naming her inquiringly;
 A hasty, manly footstep nears,
 A handsome countenance appears:
 "Brother!"—in her arms she folds him,
 And with holy passion, holds him
 In a long and sweet caress,
 Mute from very happiness!
 When he mentions his success,
 How her ardent praises bless;
 For his toils, however hard,
 These he deems a full reward!
 God save thee, dearest sister! may'st thou find
 Joy in thy future lot as one of womankind.

Though we may of manifold gifts be possessed,
 That might almost content the most covetous breast ;
 If fortune, inconstant, blind deity pour
 Her riches upon us, in plentiful store ;
 Though physical vigour be happily ours,
 United with high intellectual powers ;—
 Tho' every bright and felicitous thing
 O'er existence the halo of pleasure may fling :—
 There still is a crowning endowment required,
 One temporal boon to be still more desired :
 The communion of souls that can mutually glow ;—
 Th' exchange of sweet sentiment made between two !

'Neath the old abbey walls where by ages decayed,
 The labours of genius in ruins are laid ;
 By the soft gurgling rill, and the foaming cascade ;
 In the green, shady forest, alive with the song
 Of birds, which amid the dark foliage throng ;
 And on the expanse of majestic old ocean,
 As heaving with scarcely perceptible motion ;
 He sparkles his mirror drops 'neath the noon rays,
 While the mermaids come forth to disport in the blaze :
 Or, rambling at morn through the cultured parterre,
 Radiant with blossom-gems, dazzling and rare,
 Where each zephyr that playfully shaketh the bloom
 Sweeps on to the sense with delicious perfume !
 In the maze of the charming, luxurious dance,
 Or deep in the pages of ancient romance,
 Or where music is weaving its marvellous spells,
 Now bidding us soar, while it triumphs and swells,
 And making us feel to fraternity stirred,
 When in plaintive vibrations its murmurs are heard !
 Exulting, imbibing its hatred of wrong,
 Its contempt for the meanness that crawls in the dust,
 Its esteem for the loving, the valiant, and just !
 Or, contemplating art in the fanciful thought
 On the eloquent canvas-sheet glowingly wrought !
 When we list with delight to the Thalian Muse,
 And our lost animation her humour renews ;
 Or when tragedy shows us the great and the good,
 And we burn more sublimely, akin to her mood !
 'Tis sweet then to be with that one who can drink
 At the fount of our feelings, and think as we think.

But when the fair moon her soft radiance pours,
 Adown on the landscape in mellowest showers ;
 Still more sweet to commune with the maid we adore,
 Where the oak branches gracefully form us a bower ;

And 'tis far sweeter still when in deep, earnest tone,
 We express our impatience to call her our own :
 And plead for permission to take her for life,
 And cherish her under the dear name of wife !
 It is rapture, while coyly she grants that request,
 To clasp her with ardent delight to our breast !
 And when the deep vows have been uttered that tie
 The knot which unites us in sorrow and joy :
 When hushed are the bridal festivities,—ceased
 Have the flattering words, and farewell of the guest,
 More rapturous our compact to seal with a kiss :
 Thus loves that are chaste,
 In fulfilment shall taste
 The heaven of unalloyed bliss.

Thenceforth, the blessings of a happy home
 Daily more manifest and dear become.
 It were in vain to hope in this poor lay,
 A virtuous wife's perfections to portray,
 Yet it may seem but duty to subscribe,
 Despite the boor's rude scoff and critic's gibe,
 An humble tribute to her matchless worth,
 Who draws the magic ring around our hearth ;
 Who prays God speed us when the urgent call
 For prompt exertion, hurries us from all ;
 Who passionately hails our safe return ;
 Who offers solace when we've cause to mourn ;
 And who is mirthful to observe our glee
 Raising it thus in hundred-fold degree !
 Who mitigateth with assiduous care,
 Whate'er afflictions we are doomed to bear ;
 Who in prosperity, with sunny smiles,
 And amorous speech, the fleeting hours beguiles ;
 And in adversity, our leaning staff,
 Supports us while the bitter draught we quaff !
 Who wisely rears the pledges of our love,
 And teaches them the prop of age to prove !
 Who smoothes our devious road in its decline,
 And, if God wills it, until we resign
 The vital spark into His hands divine !

Yes, from the cradle to the grave, do we
 Owe, Woman, under Him these things to thee—
 As mother, nurse, as sister, playmate, then—
 The heart's dear choice,—Wife, helpmeet, nurse again—
 We may almost ourselves congratulate
 On losing Eden and our primal state,
 Since to discharge the forfeit of that fault,
 Thyself remain'st to cherish, and exalt !

Who would not thy devotion to repay,
 Love thee most truly, honour thee alway?
 To gratitude, to justice, oh! who could be so dead
 As wantonly to wound thy heart, or bring shame upon thy head?

God grant that man this gracious gift may not receive in vain,
 But make with her thro' mutual love their lives as one, tho' twain,
 And thus the race of Adam, Eden's peace and joy regain!

FRIEND RICHARD.

LX.—THE INFLUENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE.

OF all the various kinds of books that have ever been written, none, probably, have exercised more influence upon mankind than Biographies. Fiction, with its highly wrought instances, may produce a stronger impression at first; the Drama, with all its stimulating accessories perhaps a yet stronger; but the *knowledge* of their unreality, however excitement may temporarily banish the *feeling* of it, goes far to counteract any permanent effect from such exhibitions of ideal character. Even the child's often-heard inquiry, "But is it really true?" and the look of disappointment which usually follows when this assurance cannot be given, shows how natural is the instinct which makes actuality an element of impressiveness.

Nor is it only on account of the outward incidents of his career that the record of an individual may claim the attention of his fellows; for, apart from anything of this kind, it may possess no less interest, merely as a revelation of his inner nature; and there is indeed a tacit acknowledgment of incident being something almost extraneous, in the common form by which we speak of a person's life *and* adventures. Biography may in some instances almost identify itself with other branches of literature, and closely trench on the departments of history, travels, or other subjects, but in its purest and most essential form, it has to do rather with the life than with the adventures, or discoveries, or extraordinary circumstantial surroundings of the liver; and when these form necessarily a great part of the record, it is admitted that the highest aim, never to be lost sight of, should still be to show their connexion with the internal development in the relation either of cause or effect. But when the former are almost entirely absent, and the latter alone is brought prominently forward, biographies are often as deeply interesting and even more widely influential, because appealing to more general sympathies than any records of

stirring events or surprising actions. In what strong terms does Bulwer, in his "Caxtons," comment on a work of this kind. "Are there any of you, my readers," he inquires, "who have not read the life of Robert Hall? if so, in the words of the great Captain Cuttle, 'When found, make a note of it.' Never mind what your theological opinion is—Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist, Quaker, Unitarian, Philosopher, Free-thinker—send for Robert Hall! Whatever thou art, orthodox or heterodox, send for the life of Robert Hall; it is the life of a man that it does good to manhood itself to contemplate." And naturally as beautifully, does the novelist develop in his story the effect of such contemplation on the characters he has introduced. Yet Robert Hall's was eminently an unadventurous life, and his memoir, having little to say of doings, is chiefly an unfolding of his being; indeed in that one sentence quoted, "I have not complained and I won't complain," Bulwer gives us, as it were, the essence of the whole existence set forth at length in the memoir. The Life of Channing is another of these uneventful biographies, which consist chiefly of the portrayal of a beautiful character, and a tracing of its growth and development, yet which are calculated to have a life-long influence upon the reader. Where would bigotry be more likely to learn tolerance for another's creed, and acknowledgment that the most differing opinions may be equally compatible with moral excellence, than from this exhibition of what the "Unitarian Saint," as he has been called, became in the earnest carrying out of the principles of a sect not unfrequently looked on with utter aversion? How great was the effect of his life in this respect, is significantly shown in the fact that on the day of his funeral even the Roman Catholics had the bell of their cathedral tolled, as a mark of respect for his memory.

But even when notable exploits have been achieved, and we are amused or instructed by being made acquainted with the means employed or the results attained, a deeper interest is usually felt in ascertaining, if possible, how they re-acted on the doer; and thus the "adventures" may, after all, derive their value from their effect upon the "life." The bare recital of occurrences, however extraordinary, does not affect us so much as the narrative of very common events, when their influence on those concerned can be fully traced, and the inward workings of the minds of the actors laid bare to us: and therefore is it that the creations of fiction often (though, as was before remarked, only just so long as we forget that they are but creations) exercise a stronger fascination than real history: because in the latter, where truth absolute is required, the power of penetrating thoughts and assigning motives is necessarily so limited: whereas, in the former, this field is only bounded by that probability which may be called the truth of fiction. The long sought desideratum of "a history that should be as attrac-

tive as a novel," has indeed in our day at last presented itself to our admiring study, but it undoubtedly owes much of its attractiveness to the boldness of the author in venturing in this particular further than had previously been looked on as allowable, and to its thus taking unto itself something of the nature of the novel. Where no licence of this kind has been taken by the historian, and the only information afforded us is a recital of bare facts, the events of the past—even if they draw attention—rarely excite much emotion, unless imagination have stepped in to supply the lacking charm, and in the exercise of her powerful authority used such facts as the mere foundation for her erections. We should have known, for instance, that the Macbeth of Scottish annals murdered the royal Duncan and usurped his throne, being himself afterwards defeated and slain by Macduff. We should, moreover, have been aware that while he did hold the kingdom he ruled it well and wisely; yet would either the red-handed murderer or the wise-headed monarch of mere history have had a second thought, or aroused a single feeling, after this account of him had been perused, had he offered no further claim on our attention? But when the great dramatist unfolds to us how the fell purpose arose in his mind, and reveals the working of the temptation and the results of the crime upon the spirits of the perpetrators, the Macbeth of Shakespeare becomes one who can rouse our deepest emotions, and of the recital of whose life we never tire. And the interest extends itself to all connected with the tale, so that he who should stand on the spot, where, according to the Bard of Avon, Birnam wood once came to Dunsinane, might vainly be told that in stern truth it was not there that the fatal spell was broke by one "not of woman born;" and the actual scene of historical conflict with Macduff, which took place in a valley in Aberdeenshire, would be viewed with cold feelings compared to what must waken on the spot where, under the poet's guidance, imagination can realize the fearless daring of the beguiled witch-believer, and his sudden despair when the infatuation of his credulity is revealed: for the one only speaks to us of what he did, the other tells us what he was, and thus truly reveals his life.

The taste for delineations of this kind in preference to the other, is, too, assuredly a mental advance, for we find that children delight in the narration of incidents long before they are capable of appreciating the tracing of character: and, among readers of larger growth, how thoroughly, with the spread of knowledge and refinement, have portrayals of character in works of amusement superseded the old romances of adventure, where every hero performed the most marvellous achievements, but a Sir Lancelot differed from a Sir Amadis in little save the colour of his armour or the bearings on his shield! And as regards the memoirs of real personages,

how general has become the desire to know as much as possible of the private life of those who have attained any degree of celebrity ! There has been but one Boswell, and even a moderately good biographer is one of the rarest forms of literary excellence. Yet, however ill-told, with what avidity are the *Ana* of noted individuals sought after and perused ; and when little can be discovered, and invention, as is mostly then the case, proffers its aid, how readily are the most apocryphal stories welcomed and entertained ! The merest temporary notoriety, even of the most repulsive kind, as in the case of great criminals, suffices to arouse this desire ; and though the French system of introducing a full account of his past career into the evidence concerning a prisoner, does not quite suit our English notions of legal justice, yet however such information may be officially excluded, it is not the less eagerly sought for by the world beyond the court, and a judgment for or against, grounded in great measure upon it ; for however the desire for such details may sometimes degenerate into mere idle curiosity, within due limits it is undoubtedly the exercise of a healthy instinct, without which we should both be less capable of arriving at a true knowledge of our fellow-creatures and derive less benefit from their influence either as examples or warnings.

There is in most minds such an amount of involuntary imitativeness as necessarily causes a tendency to assimilate to what is around them, a constant action of each upon others, and of others upon each, which it seems impossible for any one wholly to escape ; and which causes the mere manifestation of disposition, even in a course of action offering nothing very striking or remarkable, to have often great effect. Nor is it by any means the mind that is greatest or strongest in other respects, that produces always the greatest result in this mutual conflict ; for we see continually Iagos working upon Othellos for evil, and working but too successfully ; while, on the other hand, we happily often see a contrary effect produced in like manner, when the old fable of the lion and mouse seems realized, and the feeble are made the means of calling into action a might far beyond their own. An illustration of how little the doing of great deeds is essential to the exertion of great influence, is shown in the large amount exercised by children, whose powers of action are necessarily so limited, yet who, by the mere manifestation of purity, though it is in them rather an absence of evil than a presence of positive excellence, will often operate as a rebuke to sin, and an effectual restraint even upon hardened guilt. Not more beautifully than truthfully does Moore, in his "Paradise and the Peri," depict the effect produced on the man of crime by beholding the innocent child pouring forth its simple prayer ; and among our own lower classes many a once vicious parent reclaimed by witnessing the working out of Sunday-school lessons in the

humble life of his own little one, could testify to the potency of such manifestations.

And again, is it man who prompts man to undertake, and inspirits him to execute, his mightiest achievements, or is it not rather most ordinarily woman who incites him to dare and to do, and from the unseen, often unsuspected power of her hidden life, that the impetus comes, whose outworking of result is seen and admired of all? The feebler sex, indeed! if the estimate be formed with regard only to their capability of direct action, but compensatorily endowed with incalculable might of acting *through* others. The hand that cannot wield a sword, may yet broider a banner that shall lead on hosts to victory, and send forth or hold back the one mighty arm whose lifting can determine the triumph. The voice that cannot preach, may yet prompt the preacher's best eloquence, and the eye that rolls not itself in poetic frenzy, yet smile inspiration upon the poet. We know that had Volumnia been an unkind parent, Rome might have become a city of Volscii; that the tenour of his mother's life gave the first impulse to that of Alfred, and moulded her son to be the glory of his people down to their latest generation; and, on the other hand, that had Lady Hamilton lived virtuously, Nelson, with his many excellences, might have been an all-bright example—no home-profaner in private, and with no Carraciolo stain on his public life. We know, too, that when the French Princess Adelaide passed from existence, her brother, Louis Phillippe, could not much longer maintain the throne of which she had been so long the firm, though invisible support, and which, indeed, he might probably never have filled, had he not been moulded for it by Madame de Genlis, another woman, to whose formation of his youth he owed the best qualities that adorned him. Here and there such instances become patent, but how numerous are the cases where the world remains unaware of the influence a life, of little mark in itself, may have in producing the eminent good or evil apparent in those whose larger sphere of action renders them conspicuously observable! That the state of mind of one individual may, even in a moment, communicate itself to many, and produce a like state in all around, has continually been proved in panics of various kinds, where the well or ill-founded alarm of a single person has spread terror through the hearts of multitudes; and in more pleasing instances too, where the coolness and courage of one has imparted strength to many: as, in cases of shipwreck, the mere sight of the captain's calmness will often enable the most timid of his passengers to retain or resume self-control in the midst of greatest danger. The life, in the sense the word is here used, may be defined as the continuous mental state, and this is always exerting a tendency to assimilate, as it is always susceptible of being assimilated.

Great power, too, may be put forth in comparatively trifling

actions, and as surely as the angle of reflection equals the angle of incidence, so certainly will great power produce, in some way, great effects, if not directly, in the attainment of a mighty object, yet indirectly, in the influence it will exert upon others. What did Bernard Palissy achieve? The production of a few plates and dishes of peculiar lustre! It was not even "something new under the sun," for he aimed but to recover a lost art; and, when he succeeded, so circumscribed were the effects of the discovery, that it is believed not even to have survived him, and that nearly all the Palissy ware of any value was made during his life, while the comparatively few specimens that remain, of objects not so very striking in beauty after all, are to be found only in museums and curious collections of rarities. Viewed in its mere tangible results, what claim has he upon us as compared with the accidental discoverer of the process of glass-making, if the tale be true of the fused sand and soda remaining after the desert-cooked dinner of the Phœnician merchant? But are these insignificant vessels of earthenware, with their grotesque reptile decorations, shining in brown and purple, all that the world owes to the potter of Paris? With far more lustre than even his cunning skill could produce, on pot or pan, does he himself shine as one of the brightest examples that have ever been given of continually renewed energy and unconquerable perseverance. Undeterred by the frequency of his disappointments, the failure of his resources, the ridicule of his acquaintances, the remonstrances and entreaties of his family, he tried and tried again, until—he succeeded: and what then said his neighbours? What said his countrymen when the fame of his discovery spread, as it did, far and wide? Did it matter whether the success was the winning of a kingdom, or the glazing of a pitcher? The lesson inculcated was not the less valuable or the less forcibly impressed because of the comparatively trifling value of the object gained. The influence it exerted could not have been small, even had it never spread beyond his contemporaries; but a modern writer has made the record of what he did, and what he was, familiar to thousands in the present day, and few perhaps who have read it, have not had the poor French clay-worker's name recur to them afterwards, more or less frequently, as a living embodiment of *nil desperandum*, an incentive in moments of despondency to yet once more "Try again."

Or, going back to the ancient world, we may take as an illustration him who may almost be called the Messiah of the Gentiles, inasmuch as the Almighty empowered him to "bring life and immortality to" at least that twilight on the subject which they were permitted to enjoy. He won no battle, he founded no state, made no discovery in science or art; was neither poet, painter, nor inventor. Strangest of all, he even wrote no book; but he did more than either, or than all. He thought—and lived out his thoughts

in a life that was the most eloquent of all his arguments, and that gave all value to them by proving that they were not mere theory. The last day of that life, as recorded in Plato's glorious *Phædo*, must have done more to light the dying sons of heathendom after him through the dark valley of the shadow of death, than any luminary that had ever shone, till the Sun of Righteousness himself arose. And of those who sat at his feet, one at least was a man of action ; and who shall say what share the calm meditations of the sage in Athens may not have had in the daring deeds of the general in Media, or how far it was the influence of Socrates' life that was wrought out in Xenophon's "*Retreat of the Ten Thousand*" ?

And higher still may we ascend for an instance, aye, even up to the right hand of God, for there sitteth one whose life was given to the world, as the best gift that world ever received from the All-bounteous Bestower of good, and the chronicle of whose biography has been ever since a gospel of salvation to mankind. When the Creator desired to send forth an influence that should make itself felt among all the human race and through all time, it was not by deeds of power and might that it was manifested, but in the development of an unobtrusive existence. Some marvellous works, indeed, did Jesus of Nazareth, but very limited was their effect ; so limited at the time, that though they might relieve individual suffering, beyond this they did not suffice to establish His Divine authority, or gain general credence for His message, even from those who witnessed them, while in after days the record of them affects even believers comparatively little : by many they have been denied, by some even ridiculed. But who can deny His life, that greatest miracle of all, which awes even the veriest scoffer into something like reverence, and which, had He never wrought any works beyond those of the most ordinary mortal, would still have remained in its unique perfection the greatest moral fact, and the strongest influence in the whole world ?

Nor is it necessary that a life should become the theme of a biographer in order to give it a wide-spread action, or even that it should be capable of furnishing such a theme ; for they who would scarcely strive to imitate a hero or a saint, may yet be unwilling to fall far below some admired associate, whose little superiority may thus have no small effect on its immediate witnesses, and through them, perhaps, on many beyond. The far-off star renders not so serviceable a light as is lent by the little taper close beside us : and so, a moderate degree of excellence immediately before our eyes, may affect us more than the most eminent example of former days, and the fruitage of a life-long sowing may too, sometimes be gathered in an hour ; for when we remember Wordsworth's determination to " think of the leech-gatherer on the lonely moor," whenever in trying times he might need to collect all his

strength, we see how the humble cultivator of but a single talent may thus be privileged to convey, without loss to himself, and in but once meeting, an additional one to him who already possessed ten. They who have no power at all to *do*, if any such there be, may yet by *enduring*, rival the greatest heroes; and the merest pauper cripple may thus from his lowly life radiate forth an influence that shall be able to affect the loftiest souls and mightiest intellect among his earth-born brethren.

ASTERISK.

LXI.—LOWELL AND ITS OPERATIVES.

(*Concluded.*)

BOARDING HOUSES.

BRICK walks lead from the yards to the houses; shady trees ornament the streets and margins of the canals, and little flower gardens in front of the houses, add to the general appearance of beauty and refinement. The buildings are of brick, two and a half and three stories high, and form "blocks," or lines of connected walls; each block containing a dozen or more tenements of uniform construction. For exterior neatness and elegance, and interior convenience and cleanliness, these will compare with the "first-class" houses of other cities, and surpass many of the residences of Government officials in the capital. These dwellings are subjected to the following:—

"REGULATIONS."

"Persons occupying the boarding-houses must not board any persons not employed by the company, unless by special permission.

"No disorderly or improper conduct must be allowed in the houses.

"The doors must be closed at 10 P.M.; and no person admitted after that time, unless a sufficient excuse can be given.

"Those who keep the houses, when required, must give an account of the number, names, and employment of their boarders; also with regard to their general conduct, and whether they are in the habit of attending public worship.

"The buildings, both inside and out, and the yards about them, must be kept clean, and in good order. If the buildings or fences are injured, they will be repaired and charged to the occupant.

"No one will be allowed to keep swine."

All needed repairs, not the result of reckless abuse, are made at the expense of the companies.

The tenements are calculated to accommodate from 25 to 60 boarders. The rents—often less than half what are paid for similar houses in other parts of the city—are charged at a ratio of not over 100 dollars for a house accommodating 25 boarders, and so on, which is less than 3 per cent. interest on the capital invested. Deducting from this the annual repairs, the buildings do not, and were not intended to yield any pecuniary profit to the companies.

Before commencing this article, the writer called at the “Mer-rimack” counting-room, expressing to the superintendent a wish to see the interior of the boarding-houses: he replied,—“Step into any one of them, and you will find an intelligent woman who will show you the house, and tell you what you wish to know.” The first house visited had accommodation for 40 boarders. There was a commodious kitchen, with a cooking range, a tank, containing 40 gallons of hot water, and an abundance of cold water. In the wash-room were fixed tubs, with apparatus for letting the water on or off. There was a spacious dining-room, two parlours, one for the family and one for the boarders, and 12 sleeping-rooms of different sizes. The clean white cloths were being laid for dinner, and everything looked nice, convenient, and comfortable.

In another house, for 60 boarders, which was heated throughout by a furnace, there were on the first floor large and commodious work-rooms, with apparently every possible convenience; a room with a row of wash basins arranged with all modern improvements; mirrors, towels, and the *etceteras* of a bath-room; a dining-room in which 80 persons could be seated at the rows of long tables, and two parlours for the boarders. In the next story was the family parlour, and sleeping rooms, which, with those above, numbered 15, the different sizes occupied by 2, 4, or 6 persons; each room having locked closets, sufficient for the wardrobes of the occupants, there were no boots, shoes, or apparel lying around, but an appearance of a place for everything, and everything in its place. The unpapered walls are kept purely white at the expense of the corporation, and the wood-work handsomely grained. The parlours were furnished with carpets, sofas, and other adornments of simple elegance and luxury. I think there was a piano, not an unusual thing, judging from the sounds heard in passing by the boarding-houses. Noticing the comfortable mattresses in the neatly furnished sleeping rooms, I was told that the matron of this house, ten years ago, had purchased a quantity of cotton of one of the companies and had it manufactured into mattresses, which cotton she sold last year, to the same company, and cleared 600 dollars by the transaction.

These houses are far more luxurious than those to which most of the operatives have been accustomed in their rural homes, and the tendency must be as elevating as the reverse would be degrading. Males and females are not allowed to board in the same

houses. Each matron has her own particular rules respecting the deportment and habits of her boarders, but the fare supplied to them is invariably good and wholesome, for as the operatives are allowed to change from one house to another, no housekeeper would have full rooms who should not present a sufficiency and variety of wholesome meats, and vegetables, and pastry. The writer once accepted an invitation to breakfast in one of these houses, and as the matron was not aware of a stranger's presence, the fare, therefore, was not superior to the usual quality. It consisted of tea and coffee; wheaten bread; fresh butter, toast, and apple pie; all of a quality of which even the fastidious could not complain, and superabundant in quantity. For such board, including lights and the washing of all clothes worn in the mills, 1 dollar 50 cents. per week is paid by females; 2 dollars 12 cents. by males. It may seem incredible that, at these prices, the matron, who is generally a widow with children, is able to support her family, educate her daughters, and perhaps give her son a collegiate course: but the writer knows of many who have gained a competency, and knew intimately one who educated two sons, and accumulated sufficient property for future support. When contemplating retirement, she was induced to enter on a new enterprise, where, it was said, vast sums of money could be rapidly gained, and exchanging the Lowell boarding-house for a New York restaurant, lost her all, and returned to a factory boarding-house to regain something for declining years. Some, it is true, instead of gaining, fail, and become involved in debt, but these are extreme cases, and Lowell Boarding-house women, in general, succeed or fail in proportion as they have the qualities for good or bad management in this particular sphere. There are always many applicants for the houses, and in nothing pertaining to the mills are the superintendents more careful, than in the selection of matrons, who must be of known good character—like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion; for they are to be friends, advisers, and, for the time, mothers to the young women in their families. This phase of the system is a bulwark of safety to many. The first erratic step of a boarder reaches the ear of the matron, who exercises her influence and increases her vigilance, and by the timely admonition and protecting care many are saved who would otherwise go astray amid the temptations of a city. If any one persists in choosing evil, she is reported and dismissed from the corporation, and consequently cannot obtain work or board on any other in the city, and thus the chaff is separated from the wheat.

CARE FOR HEALTH.

From the commencement to the present time the manufacturing companies have shown a proper regard, not only for the preservation of the health of the operatives, but also for their comfort and

restoration when sick. In 1839, they purchased a fine edifice and its beautiful grounds, at a cost of 20,000 dollars, and converted it into a hospital for sick operatives, and persons connected with the mills. It is pleasantly located on high land, apart from the noise and dust of the city; and from the first has been under the charge of Dr. Gilman Kimball, who has earned the reputation of being one of the most scientific practitioners and skilful surgeons in the country. He resides at the hospital, and receives his salary from the corporations. Boarding-house keepers are required to report to the superintendent any case of illness the morning after it occurs, when it is at once examined by the hospital physician, and, if pronounced contagious or infectious, the patient must be removed to the hospital, where the attendance of professional nurses, the best medical advice, and every possible comfort are provided. For all this a female is charged three dollars a week; a male four; while the actual cost is fourteen for each patient. On recovery, the person, if able, pays the superintendent; if not able, it is paid by the corporation. The annual expense of the establishment is 4,500 dollars. There is no better institution in the country, and it is probably the only one of the kind in the world. Many cases reflecting the highest credit upon all connected with it have come within the personal knowledge of the writer; a notice of one of these will illustrate the generous humanity of the institution, and show that the old adage, "Corporations have no souls," is not always true.

A young woman who worked in the Lowell factories at the time when the "Offering" was published, and whose contributions to its pages may perhaps have been read with interest even on your side of the water, as they certainly were here, went afterwards for a time as missionary to the Indians in Arkansas. Soon after her return to Lowell, while out in search of employment, she slipped upon the icy pavement, and so seriously injured her hip that it was a long time thought she would be disabled for life. She had been an operative, was poor, and that was enough. She was taken to the hospital, and during six months or more of confinement to her bed, was nursed and tended with the kindest care. After her restoration and departure from the hospital, the writer often met her going thither with a bunch of flowers for "good Doctor Kimball," as she termed him, whose unremitting care and skill had saved her from being a cripple, and whom she was never weary of praising. Indeed, too much commendation cannot be bestowed upon the generous supporters and the faithful physician of the Operatives' Hospital.

One of the most important questions relative to factory labour is: "Does it injure health?" The result of investigations can be but conjectural, owing to the difficulty of obtaining correct statistics of the health of operatives after leaving the mills; and

the only methods of forming an opinion are a comparison of mortality in different places, the testimony of the operatives, and the opinions of physicians.

Rev. Henry A. Miles, a former clergyman in Lowell, published a work in 1845, in which, as the result of a comparison of the bills of mortality in three cities with that of Lowell—all the places presenting nearly the same number and variety of city and rural population—he shows a difference of in one case 15, in another 5, in another 3 per cent. in favour of Lowell. The testimony of the operatives was, that their health was as good, or better, than before coming to the mills, and the Doctor cites it as the opinion of the most eminent physicians, that—"The manufacturing population of this city is the healthiest portion of the population."

From the increased attention given to similar measures since that time, throughout the city, it is probable that a similar test now applied, would show a result even yet more favourable to Lowell.

Dr. Kimball, too, recently stated to the writer, that the operatives are a remarkably healthy class; that he did not consider their employment injurious to health, but on the contrary more favourable to it than most occupations pursued by women, since the exercise of different muscles by light labour, ventilated rooms, simple diet, and regular habits, render them comparatively free from many of the causes of disease.

MORAL INFLUENCES.

So intimately are these interwoven with everything pertaining to the factories, that little remains to be said under this head apart from others, save some evidence to show the result of the salutary regulations of the boarding-houses and of the mills.

Rev. H. A. Miles submitted a series of questions to two or three matrons on each corporation, making no selection save a preference for those persons who had kept a boarding-house for several years, and the 21 matrons, who made returns, reported having had 6,786 girls as boarders in their houses. Out of this number, 46 only had been dismissed for bad conduct.

Opening at random one of the Corporation Record books of honourable and dishonourable discharges, he transcribes 16 of the former in 16 consecutive days; while the record of the latter, as impartially opened, showed but 14 dishonourable discharges given in 3 months, and of the offences specified, 5 of them indicate no deep moral delinquency, but only such breaches of rule as "reading in the mill," "altering her loom," or having "left irregularly." The same regulations are still enforced, the same watchful care exercised, and the moral character of Lowell factory operatives is as creditable now as then.

The large number of idle and vicious hangers-on, waiting for

something to turn up ; the great liability to immoral associates ; the multiplied temptations to evil, and the superior facilities for concealing crime which cities afford, doubtless lead strangers to consider a manufacturing city a hot-bed of evil. That Lowell is not so, but quite the reverse ; that with a population of over 37,000, one-third of whom are mill operatives, and one-fifth female operatives, the majority of the whole, between the ages of 15 and 40, and a large proportion separated from home and parental oversight, yet retaining the home-bred virtues, and giving to the city a character of world-wide celebrity for morality and intelligence, is one of the wonders of the age. In comparison, the wonderful mechanism of its varied machines sink into insignificance, and the social problem solved at Lowell surpasses in importance to humanity all the inventions employed to facilitate its numerous manufacturing operations.

CHURCHES.

The various forms of religious worship in the churches of Lowell afford an opportunity to all to enjoy whichever may be most consonant with their feelings. There are at present 18 Protestant churches of different sects, Episcopal, Baptist, Unitarian, &c., each connected with a Sunday school, besides 3 Catholic places of worship.

The factory operatives compose a large portion of the worshippers in the several churches, and of the teachers and pupils in the Sabbath schools. Each girl finds in her pastor a true friend, whose kind interest and good advice when all is well, and faithful ministration in sickness and trouble, can be relied upon. This is characteristic of the Lowell clergy, who strive for the elevation of the people rather by a Christian than by a sectarian ministry.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

Money expended for education is capital put out at compound interest for eternity, and Lowell has invested largely in this stock, by its support of libraries, lectures, and schools.

In 1835, a building was erected at a cost of 20,000 dollars for the use of a Mechanics' Association, nearly the whole sum being paid by contributions from the manufacturing companies. It contains a large lecture-hall, the walls of which are ornamented with full-length portraits, five of them representing founders of Lowell, painted by first-class artists ; and there is also a spacious reading-room, with numerous papers and magazines, both native and foreign ; a mineralogical department ; and a library of over 8,000 volumes. It now numbers 1,000 life members, the terms being 6 dollars, with an annual assessment of 1 dollar for males, and 50 cents for females, who have only during the last few years been admitted to membership. Courses of lectures are given under the

auspices of the Association, and the best talent in the country employed as lecturers. For attendance at a course of twelve lectures, 60 cents is charged for males, and 40 cents for females.

Other courses are given each season at other halls in the city, and the audiences are mostly operatives. It is understood that the lecturer will not detain his hearers after nine o'clock, and if he is not closing his remarks by the time that bell rings, the greater part of them leave him to talk to empty seats. This is sometimes a little annoying to the few who can remain longer, but it shows how faithful the operatives are to corporation rules.

In 1844, a city library was opened, which now contains nearly 12,000 volumes. The cost of taking books is 50 cents per annum, and the list shows that one-third of the subscribers are operatives.

In addition to these, a parish library is connected with the Sabbath school of each religious society, and the use of the books is free to any member of the society or school.

In 1861, there were in the city, besides private and parochial establishments, 60 public schools, employing 104 teachers, 90 of whom were females. The city supports three Free Evening Schools for persons of all ages who are employed in the day; and there is also an evening school for adults over 16 years of age, at the Free Chapel of the "Minister at Large," supported by the Unitarians. The average attendance at these schools is from 60 to 65, but a much larger number is on the books. Services are rendered gratuitously by the public school teachers and others, and are productive of much benefit to many adults to whom book knowledge would be unattainable.

No city in New England pays a larger school tax, in proportion to the number of its tax-payers, than Lowell, which within 26 years has paid over 1,000,000 dollars for the support of schools. It not only affords every facility for education, but children, not at work, are under obligation to improve them. It would be rare to find a native born operative who does not read, and possess some acquaintance with at least arithmetic, grammar, and geography. As to the papers and periodicals taken by the operatives, "their name is legion."

LOWELL OFFERING.

The fame of this magazine, which was written, edited and published by factory girls, has reached England, and little if anything can be said of it which may not already be familiar to English readers.

Miss Harriet Farley, the editress, wrote of its origin as follows:—"The first publisher of the 'Offering' came from a distant city. He had there heard of factory girls, and listened to opinions of them. He came, saw, and *questioned* for himself.

The result of this investigation was surprise and pleasure. 'I saw,' said he, 'intelligence in their countenances,' and he heard it in their conversation. To bring it forth in a more tangible manner, he established the 'Improvement circle.' It was then a meeting in a vestry, to which anybody and everybody was invited, and for which any one might write unknown, and drop their communications into a 'sort o' post office box, outside the door.' This method was happily adapted to gain the desired result. Much was written, and much that was very good. Some articles evinced cultivated taste and careful education; others, native but uncultured talent and genius. The most interesting writers were sought out, and almost invariably found to be *factory girls*. The females wrote more readily than the males, and the factory operatives were in advance of those engaged in other employments. It was ascertained that mill-labour was favourable, rather than otherwise, to reflection and composition. We do not state this as an argument *per se* in favour of factory life, nor would we induce girls to go into a factory to reflect and write, any more than we would suggest to men to go to prison for the same purpose, though 'The Pilgrim's Progress' and 'Don Quixote' are proofs that imprisonment is not always unfavourable to the intellect.

"Some of the contributions to the 'circle' interested its originator so much that he wished all to see them, and banish whatever of prejudice they might have against the factory girl. He thought first of some established paper, then of a little book, and lastly the plan was matured to a *magazine*."

It was at first edited by this professional gentleman, but when fairly started, was transferred entirely to the supervision of mill girls, and was edited and published by Misses Harriet Farley and Harriet Curtis. It was a new thing; and the merit of its contents led some, at first, to doubt its being the work of factory girls, and it was even confidently affirmed that it was written by Lowell lawyers, an assertion more complimentary to the ability of its contributors, than to the honesty of its managers. Relative to this Miss Farley says:—"We will state for the satisfaction of any who may feel interested, that no articles have appeared in the 'Offering' which were not written by *factory operatives*—that no 'lawyer,' minister, doctor, or any man whatever, is allowed for an instant to occupy our editorial chair—that there is hardly a possibility that we are ourselves ever imposed upon; for no contributions are accepted, excepting from those in whom we have perfect confidence: and we do not believe that a more sincere, truthful, ingenuous set of girls are anywhere to be found than those comprising the two improvement circles of Lowell."

The writer of this article, who has for many years enjoyed an intimate acquaintance and frequent correspondence with both editresses of the "Offering," as also with several of its writers,

can attest to their truthfulness of character, and to their ability to have written what they claimed to have done.

It continued to grow in public favour, and appeared regularly every month for five years, not having been stopped then as a failure, but entirely for reasons of a private character.

The "Lowell Offering" made no pretensions to great literary merit, but contained enough to be regarded as a wonder, and to elicit the praise of scholars on both continents. While intending to present specimens of the different tastes, opinions, and feelings of factory girls, it proved there was "mind among the spindles,"—mind that has done much to remove prejudices, and to elevate factory girls in public estimation.

The writer could fill a volume with interesting letters addressed to her by those who have been factory operatives. She offers a few specimens, from those who were among the contributors to the "Offering," which are extracts from friendly correspondence never intended by the writers for publication. They are presented as better proof than mere assertion of the qualities of mind and character sometimes found in factory girls.

One writes as follows:—"I have never read the lines of Byron to which you referred, indeed I have but little acquaintance with the misanthropic bard. I was brought up in a very small country village, where a carpet denoted aristocracy, and a knocker was for the nobility itself. I do not think there was a copy of Byron in the place. The physician owned a set of Shakespeare, but when my mother sent, at my request, to borrow it, the old curmudgeon sent back word that 'Shakespeare was not fit for women to read.' I had heard of *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *Cymbeline*, &c., and my head was full of vague pictures of tragic and fanciful ideal, and you may perhaps imagine my disappointment at not being allowed a peep into the magical creation. Such books as 'Baxter's Saints' Rest,' and the 'Call to the Unconverted,' 'Mason on Self-Knowledge,' and the great standard writings of Milton, Bunyan and Cowper, were read and appreciated, but I was told to look upon Byron as a sour-tempered heathen whose wonderful powers, like those of Lucifer, had caused his own destruction. Since then my opinions have been much modified; but though I have met in collections and books of extracts with the choice *morceaux* of the unhappy poet, I have retained such a dread of his dark fascinations, that I have never procured a complete edition of his works."

It was this lady who published the following little sketch of her own life in the "Offering."

When fifteen years of age, she was told that she must henceforth earn her own living, and not depend upon her father for a subsistence. Though in manner and appearance but a child, she was obliged to teach school, and there was some dissatisfaction caused

by the youth of the "school-marm." After this she taught one summer in another place, to the satisfaction of all, and then continued her school by a private subscription. But many of her patrons neglected to pay her for their children's tuition. This discouraged her, and she thought of the factory as the best alternative. She has never regretted this step, and those who think and speak of a factory life as the darkest lot, view it in a different light from that in which it has appeared to her. She could have earned a livelihood by her needle; but to do that she must sit at work as many hours as she would be confined in the mill. To teach a country school was to have a paltry pittance a few months in the year, and be destitute of employment for the remainder of it. To write silly stories for a living was what she never dreamed of, though she possibly might have done it. For several years she laboured at the loom unnoticed and unknown.

When the Improvement circle was formed, she became one of its members.

Another writes:—

"How strangely commendation sounds, when we know the contrast between the opinions formed of us from without, and our own inner realities. Is it not like children looking upon the windows of a prison glittering in the setting sunbeams, and innocently believing the light comes from within? But the most glowing ideal which the warmest fancy of a friend may form, is not perhaps equal to what we might and should possess of inward beauty and worth.

"I have been reading the life of Jean Paul Richter and his Flower, Fruit, and Thorn pieces. Where he is *human*, he is deep and tender, and a true poet without rhymes. Where he is *German*, and he is extremely so, I don't see through him. I wonder if they all so twist and braid their style; it takes one a good while to chase an idea through so many folds.

"I love St. Pierre more and more as I read him. He never was a poor man. What mines of wealth were open to him! What an empire of splendour widened about him, outshining the 'wealth of Ormus and of Ind.' What could be more exquisite than his description of an insect's life in the heart of a flower? It is fairy-land more than realized. When I read such a book as '*Etudes*,' which maintains the side of Nature and Nature's God ingeniously and piously, yes, and naturally too, I feel assured that I have begun a friendship with the author for eternity.

"Did you ever read the 'Chapel of the Hermit,' by J. G. Whittier? He gives a sketch of St. Pierre and of Rousseau that I greatly admire; and indeed, the whole poem, founded upon a note to the '*Etudes*,' is an epitome of pure and humanizing philosophy. I like to read it when my mind is crazed, and my heart is crushed by the 'harsh noises of our day,' and 'the report of

wrong and outrage with which earth is filled.' It soothes me like the voice of earth's maternal angel, singing to her child out of sunshine that never grows dim. . . .

"Sometimes I think I will go somewhere South; but I am afraid I should die for a want of a circulation of *free* air. What is it if one little puff blows into our window, while the whole atmosphere is one miasma for others? Our pet breeze is soon poisoned; one cannot be free (and I hardly want to be) unless the whole may. But I will not conjure up that Gorgon head with all its horrors, that demon, Slavery—it has turned men enough to stone in its day. . . ."

CHARITIES.

Attention to this subject will show a prominent feature in the character of Lowell people; how a portion of the money paid to operatives is appropriated; and, also, how the poor—for we have them always with us—are provided for.

The Government system of alms-houses provides a home for all who ask it; but there are many who shrink from becoming paupers, and with a little help can help themselves. Timely and judicious aid afforded to such, decreases public expense, and promotes independence of character.

Each religious society looks after the poor connected with it, and no worthy claimant is refused necessary assistance. In addition to local and immediate charities, various religious and benevolent societies raise annually, besides the amount necessary for ordinary expenses, from 10,000 to 20,000 dollars; the operatives freely contributing their part. Contributions are yearly made by the several Protestant churches to the city mission, which is superintended by the before-mentioned "Minister at Large," who preaches at the Free Chapel on Sunday, and devotes much of the other six days to investigating applications for aid, and dispensing it in proportion to the worth and necessity found to exist. No money is given to the applicants, but only such articles of food, clothing, &c., as are needed, and individuals and families contribute not only money to be expended for the poor, but articles from their larders and wardrobes. The citizens are gradually learning that this systematic and enlightened charity is productive of more beneficial results than indiscriminate alms-giving in the street, which oftener encourages idleness, vagrancy, and intemperance, than it relieves virtuous poverty.

In the year 1860-61, 312 applicants were supplied by the mission with food, wood, clothing, lodging, medical attendance, railroad tickets, employment, &c. In 1861-62, a year of unusual circumstances, 606 applicants were supplied.

The intent of the mission is to meet the wants of the poor of all nationalities, who have no connexion with the other religious

societies, and to gather them within the spiritual influence and instruction of the Free Chapel and its Sabbath school. The last report of the mission says the work at the chapel on six days has been this:—

“The office has been open every day in summer from 4 to 5 P. M.; in winter, from 2 to 5 o'clock; for relief, advice, employment, information, and the hearing of every tale of want and woe. In the winter, female assistance has been in attendance every afternoon, at work in the extensive clothing department, or visiting the sick, and looking after children at their homes. On Wednesday afternoons, the sewing school has been open to any one who wished to come, and attended by 108 girls.” All services required for this mission (except the pastor's) are gratuitously rendered.

In the year 1861-62 almost all manufacturing in the cotton factories was stopped for want of the raw material. Thousands found themselves out of employment. Many fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers were in the army; for, from the first call to the last, Lowell has been one of the first places to furnish her quota. It was predicted by our Southern people that when this time should arrive, the starving operatives would rise in mobs and excite a civil war in the North. Instead of such a result, many of the operatives went to their homes in the country, while the State granted a bounty of from 4 to 12 dollars per week to each person whose support was even partially dependent upon one who had enlisted. The soldiers allotted a part of their income to be paid to their families, and the first year of the war Lowell received in this way nearly 100,000 dollars, and probably a much larger sum the second year, as more troops had gone from the city. Upon the corporations, rents were reduced to almost nothing, and wholly given in some cases, and fuel furnished to such wives and mothers of the soldiers as needed the aid. The city government, the city mission, and the benevolent institutions, have quietly met all wants of the unemployed and destitute. And besides this, thousands of dollars have been raised for the benefit of sick and disabled soldiers, and busy hands have worked in numerous Aid Societies in preparing comforts for both sick and well in the army. A fair was held by the ladies for three days in February last, and the receipts (amounting, after paying the expenses, to 4,884 dollars,) tendered to the Sanitary Commission of the army. And indeed, Lowell, for its generous contributions to the soldiers, has been termed the “banner town” of New England, a section of the Union that has poured out money and blood liberally in the great war.

The dreaded time for Lowell has come, and there are no unusual indications of destitution. Whatever bread riots have taken place have been raised by *white women in Slave States*, and “*all is quiet*” on the *Merrimack*.

SAVINGS BANKS.

A few figures under this head may be added, as they have an intimate relation to the factory operatives.

The Lowell Savings Bank was incorporated in 1829. It had on deposit, at the close of the year 1859, from 5,435 depositors, 1,141,973 dollars. Two per cent. in interest is paid for every six months, which, if not withdrawn in three months is added to the principal, thus compounding interest twice a year. At the end of every 5 years all extra income is divided, and the interest on long deposits has generally been 7 per cent. In 1845 the factory girls had 100,000 dollars in this bank.

The City Savings Bank, more recently incorporated, and giving equally good interest, had at the close of 1860, a still larger amount of deposits. Good authority states that the factory operatives are the principal depositors in these banks; one half being females.

A Five Cent Savings Bank went into operation in 1854, and at the close of 1860, had on deposit more than 500,000 dollars. The little girl who made the first deposit in this bank, one of *five cents*, in 1861, had there 55 dollars. These figures may be uninteresting to the general reader, but they were not so to the depositors when the factories stopped work.

CONCLUSION.

To understand fully the Lowell factory system, and the condition of the operatives, it should be known that they do not remain in this employment for life, or generally for a great number of years. It is found, from the most reliable statistics, that the female operatives do not work on an average more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. Consequently, the system here does not present the unfavourable phases that would be seen were they life-operatives, through successive generations.

Many of them are non-residents. It was the original intention of the founders of the city that all should be so, in order that if, at any time, there should be a partial or entire suspension of the works, the surplus operatives, instead of remaining here to suffer and be tempted or driven to crime, would return to the homes whence they came, and which, not depending upon manufacturing prosperity, would afford a secure asylum until other honest employment could be found. This plan was continued for many years, perhaps as long as it could be strictly enforced without infringing upon other principles of humanity. One member after another of poor families in this country, and from other lands, came and at length settled here.

The number of foreign operatives, varies at different times and in the different mills. While at some times there is not above 10 per cent. of foreigners in the "Merrimack," at others there have been

thrice as many; but in the factories throughout the city the average of foreign birth and parentage is from 25 to 33 per cent. Not far from two-thirds of the operatives in 1861 were non-residents, and mainly the daughters of farmers; they have been morally reared, taught in household duties by their mothers, and received the benefits of the New England system of public schools. In truth, there is no such person as a "factory girl" as the representative of a distinct class of beings.

To those who must labour for their own support and that of others, the factories present these inducements:—constant employment, stipulated hours of labour, sure pay, good board at a fixed price, care when sick, and opportunities for books and lectures not found in their rural homes.

Cases frequently occur that a young woman, by steady application to her work (perhaps occasional extra work), and habits of economy, accumulates sufficient to educate herself for a teacher, or to remove a small mortgage from the homestead, or to assist a brother in his collegiate course, or to help a widowed mother in the support of younger members of the family until they are old enough to take their places in the mills, or to deposit a few hundred dollars in the savings bank for the future.

The girls while at work in the factories can obtain an occasional leave of absence to visit their homes. The tasty bonnet and stylish appearance of one of these girls is quite likely to attract the attention, and her beauty, worth, intelligence, or all combined, to captivate the heart of some young farmer or trader. The probability is that, if her affections have not been previously engaged elsewhere, she returns, after accomplishing the purpose for which she came to Lowell, and becomes a thrifty housekeeper and one of the most respected matrons in the town. If she marries a mechanic or other working man of Lowell, or elsewhere, of good habits, her future position is not inferior. This is not fancy, but fact of general occurrence. Factory operatives are not a distinct class in the social organization; they are not separated by rules of caste from other society, either while in the mills or after leaving them.

There are social distinctions in New England, and even in Lowell, but they are gauged differently than in other countries, or in other sections of this land. With us, the interests of capital and labour are considered to be mutual. Labour is not degrading, and its influences in promoting the material interests of the country are sufficiently understood and respected to have its rights established. Operatives of different tastes, degrees of education, and talent, move in their appropriate social circles. Whatever that position may be, as long as one is reputable in character, she is respectfully treated; and, if by her efforts, or by some turn of fortune's wheel, she is elevated to a position of honour, it is no stain upon her escutcheon that she has been a factory girl.

When, several years ago, Hon. J. Clemens, of Alabama, in a speech in the United States Senate, termed Northern operatives "white slaves," the many and able replies addressed to him by the women, of whom he had so degradingly spoken, were considered sufficient refutation of the slander. The paper bullets of Northern factory girls put the chivalric Southron *hors de combat*.

The writer might name those known to have been factory operatives who are now teachers in public schools, proprietors and principals of ladies' seminaries, popular magazine writers, authors of books, and professional M.D.'s; those also, who are the wives of manufacturing agents, wealthy merchants, doctors, lawyers, ministers and distinguished statesmen. She has heard of many cases where Yankee teachers in Southern states, once factory girls, have married aristocratic planters. In one instance, publicly known, a mill girl was thus chosen even as an operative:—"A rich Southern man on a visit to this city, happened to find at work in one of the factories, a beautiful girl, the perfection of his ideal, to whom he at length was introduced, and finding her all he desired, by the consent of her friends, and amid the congratulations of many, she became his blushing bride, and has gone to preside over his home at the sunny South. The realities and romances of the factories are many and interesting."—*Lowell Vox Populi*, 1845.

Another factory girl has been the bright particular star in the "halls of the Montezumas." Miss Irene Nichols of Monmouth, Maine, went from a factory in Massachusetts, to work in one started in Mexico. She then became engaged to General Herrera, was married to him in New York, U.S., and he was soon after elected President of Mexico.

These are presented as exceptional cases; the mill girls generally become the wives of intelligent, honest workmen, and to-day are scattered all over the Northern states, and are creditably performing their duties as the wives of mechanics, traders, and farmers from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores. These girls, before going to the factories, during their periods of visiting their homes, and after returning to them, are accustomed to assist their mothers at household work, and are entirely fitted to perform it for themselves in the future, or to superintend their help if able to employ it.

It is asserted, without fear of contradiction, that no class of women in the United States make better wives and mothers than the factory girls. Exemplary in character, and energetic in purpose, they are true helpmates to man. There are probably as many common-place men elevated to wealth and high social position by the energies and influences of their factory-girl wives, as mill girls who owe their elevation to superior men.

It is a deep disgrace for a healthy man to allow his wife to work in a factory and sustain the marriage relation. To fully understand what kind of wives these women make, one should visit

their tidy, comfortable, and often luxurious homes, all over the East and West. Their husbands, although labourers, are in very many cases the owners of their pretty homes, and surrounding gardens or farms. They are considered really poor who do not have their houses furnished with carpets, sofas, and numerous elegancies of life. Parents and children are clad in neat, and even fashionable attire. The children have ample opportunities for extensive education, and if they have brains in proportion, leave their

“Foot-prints on the sands of time.”

Intemperance, and idleness of husbands, cause almost the only exceptions to this general condition of the factory-girl wives.

That some factory girls go down to moral death is doubtless too true; but the writer believes cases of this kind are of less frequent occurrence with factory operatives than with poor seamstresses and shop-girls, whose small remuneration, false ideas of labour, and love of dress, drive, and draw them into sin. To the friend of humanity, the mill-girl, in her plain attire, is a far more refreshing sight than is she who makes shirts for *five cents apiece*, and flaunts in finery purchased at a terrible price.

There is no department of labour, not excepting teaching, where the difference in the compensation of males and females is not greater than with factory operatives; and this is still more equalized in large manufacturing places, by a reduction in the prices of many things in favour of female operatives.

The writer does not contend that they are sufficiently paid, or that their hours of labour are not too many. She has attempted in this article but to show what is their actual condition, and has based her opinions upon reliable statistics; the opinions of those long and intimately familiar with the subject; the testimony of the operatives themselves; and her observations while a resident for six years in the city of Lowell, in which time she became personally acquainted with many in various departments connected with the factories. As a class she found the operatives intelligent and well informed upon general subjects; many of them possessed education fitting them for other employment than tending machines; some with talents and accomplishments that would have graced any position. She could not find, even from the testimony of those who have tried different kinds of labour, that factory life has hardships or disagreeables surpassing those in other employments, while it has advantages not found in every occupation. A mill girl writes:—“There is little difference between an operative’s life and any other life of labour. It lies—”

‘Half in sunshine—half in shade.’

Few could wish to spend a whole life in a factory, and few are discontented who do thus seek a subsistence for a term of months or years.” It is surely not the worst of the few occupations open to

woman, though it may be regretted that many with gifted minds must labour there, because of the contracted lines which circumscribe the talents and genius of woman, not only here but everywhere. It is cheering, however, that there are gleams of light, salutary influences, and deserved respect, favouring the life of New England factory operatives.

The gigantic war, now gathering its crimson harvest from the young and brave of both sections of this country, is the struggle to decide if labour, which is enfranchised and ennobled on one side, and enslaved and degraded on the other, shall hereafter receive its God-given rights all over the United States of America. LORA.

LXII.—LADIES IN THE ORCHESTRA.— M. ALPHONSE SAX'S NEW SCHOOL.

Two problems, the importance of which cannot long fail to be recognised, have lately been proposed to the world by a gentleman whose name is well known in all musical circles, and who, not content with having acquired much fame as a maker and inventor of those brass instruments which are known by the names of Sax-horns, Saxophones, &c.,* seems positively bent on acquiring for himself the renown of a social reformer. This gentleman, M. Alphonse Sax, Jun., started in Paris, five or six months ago, a school of instrumental music for ladies. This does not sound at first so very extraordinary; and perhaps there is nothing extraordinary in it, except that it had never been done before. One may say, it is true, that ladies were never prevented from playing on any instrument they liked; and one might mention numberless cases of lady organists, pianists, harpists, guitarists, and even violinists; yet we contend that, as far as instrumental music goes, ladies are actually kept out of the pale of the musical world. Look, for instance, at an opera house, or a concert room, and see what a sort of *sanctum sanctorum* the orchestra constitutes. There the exclusion of the female sex is formal, complete. Outside the orchestra, woman may do anything she pleases; she may join the chorus or undertake the solo, and in the latter may even play as well as sing; but in the musical world, as in the social, she must be a slave or a queen, she cannot be a citizen. Well, Alphonse Sax is the audacious leader, who has boasted that he would force open the doors of the orchestra, and let the ladies in. He has been for some time organizing a phalanx of female trumpeters, at

* At the last Universal Exhibition in London, M. Sax obtained a medal with this mention, the only one of its kind:—"For excellence of brass instruments of all kinds."

the sound of whose bugles the walls of the new Jericho are to fall down flat, and the people inside throw themselves on their knees, and implore a mercy, which we hope the fair conquerors will grant. Why, after all, should M. Sax not succeed? The musical aptitudes of the female sex have never been questioned, and there is not the shadow of a reason why women who have no better prospect should not learn to blow some of the charming instruments which M. Sax has endowed with every contrivance that can render their use easy and effective. Let nobody tell us that people do not want to have their wives taken away from their children and their homes, to go and blow trombones and saxophones in orchestras. We know that; we do not wish for anything of the kind, and M. Sax least of all. Besides, the attraction is not such as to easily entice ladies away from cheerful homes, or congenial occupations already adopted. Ladies who have every comfort at home are not those to whom M. Sax offers, at the end of a course of instrumental music, an engagement to play in an orchestra, at a salary of from six to twelve pounds a month. He offers this, a good, a rare prospect indeed, to young women who, having nothing better to do, may be, every day of their lives, tempted into doing a great deal worse. To such M. Sax can be nothing else than a benefactor.

But there is another point of view from which M. Sax's innovation is to be examined, the hygienic. Not only does M. Sax contradict the generally received opinion that the playing of brass instruments predisposes to consumption, but he contends that a moderate use of wind instruments is one of the best prophylactic means of combating pulmonary phthisis. M. Sax's experience on this point is so personal and conclusive that we cannot do better than give our readers the letter this gentleman addressed some time ago to the *Courrier Medical*, from which we take it.

“Mr. Editor,

“I hear it every day repeated—and it seems that medical men agree on this point with the popular belief—that playing on wind instruments, and especially brass instruments, predisposes to pulmonary phthisis.

“That question, though its importance be a great one, has never, as far as I know, undergone any serious examination; and in this, as in many other things, authors have contented themselves with repeating what they learnt by reading or hearsay. It, however, deserves well to be examined, at a time especially when music is, and happily so, cultivated by all classes of society.

“I do not mean to dogmatise on subjects which do not fall within my province, and I leave to medical men the task of sifting that question; but I must, in the name of facts, the truth of which I know, object to an opinion which I think is ill grounded; and this is why I beg you to give these few lines the publicity of your columns.

“Son of a wind instrument maker, and myself a maker and player of such instruments, I have been, during the whole course of my life, in constant relation with thousands of artists, who play those instruments, so fatal, people say, to the health; and three only of the artists I have known, died from consumption. Besides, it must be added—for the fact was, in the different cases, proved—these unhappy men were not victims to their calling, but to excesses of all kinds in which they had constantly indulged.

“People who give themselves up to the practice of wind instruments are, in general, remarkable—every one can judge for themselves—by a fully developed chest and a great breadth of shoulders, unmistakeable signs of vigour. Who has not seen among strolling players women playing either the horn, the cornet, the trumpet, or even the trombone and ophicleid, and who has not noticed that female musicians enjoy a perfect health, and present a considerable development of the thorax?

“There is a curious remark to be made on this point: in an orchestra, corpulence and vigour are the privilege of those who play wind instruments, whilst debility and thinness are the lot of Paganini's followers. With equal reason can this be said of pianists. Let us mention Listz, Littolf, Flaller, Auguste Dupont, to speak only of a few among the celebrated ones.

“Moreover, if I may be allowed to allude to a personal instance, I will say that we, in my family—eleven children in number—were all condemned by the medical faculty to die from consumption. The dismal prophecy of the doctors has been fulfilled on eight of us, but the three others, those who from their tender years have blown brass instruments, are actually full of life and vigour, and have all the physical appearances which bode long days to come.

“Artists who play on wind instruments generally enjoy good appetites; their digestion is quick and easy, and they may often be seen, after a copious meal, playing without fatigue or giddiness for four or five consecutive hours. If by any cause they are forced to give up their playing for a certain length of time, they lose their appetite, their stomach grows languid, their digestion difficult, and they no longer enjoy that comfort which results from the regular play of all, and particularly the breathing, organs. This I can state from experience.

“In 1847, I had for three months to dispense with my flute and every other wind instrument. I soon, for want of the exercise of the lungs to which I was accustomed, fell ill. When, the acute period of my disease being over, I took again to my wind instrument, my recovery was so rapid that it astonished the learned Dr. Requin, who was then attending me.

“In order that wind instruments should produce the good effect that, in my opinion, is to be expected from them, it is necessary that the professor should teach his pupils how to breathe. Each breath ought to be taken at full lungs; first, because that great

quantity of air will allow of a good execution of the musical phrase, and then, because it is only by this sort of gymnastic that the breathing organs can acquire tone and vigour.

“The piano, organ, and violin compel the artist to be, so to speak, chest tight, and his nervous contraction when playing is very great. In any musical phrase that requires expression, the artist endeavours to animate with his own life the inanimate instrument he handles; he imparts to it sadness or gaiety, fills it with agitation or delight, identifies himself with it, so that they may be said to live the same life and be one. It is under that condition only that he is truly an artist. But what does it cost him to fulfil that condition? He endeavours to impart his life to his instrument, and you would think this life was really passing away from him, when you observe how uneasy and difficult is his breathing.

“These grave inconveniences for the health, do not and cannot exist with those who play wind instruments; for, with them, whatever expression of feeling the musical phrase may require, the action of the lungs is indispensable to produce sounds.

“So convinced am I of the happy results the practice of wind instruments produces on the health, that I should like to see women engage in it.

“The notion of women playing wind instruments, especially brass ones, may seem strange at first. It may be objected that no lady will hear of our system of instrumental hygiene because she will not consent to lose, even momentarily, the grace of her countenance by blowing into an instrument. I do not think the objection a serious one. Besides, since it is not at all necessary to swell one's cheeks as certain musicians do, under the influence of a bad artistic training, I see nothing very ugly in it. The greatest painters, who, by the bye, must have had somewhat pure esthetical notions, feared not in a great number of their immortal compositions to represent their angelic phalanxes with trumpets at their mouths, and those celestial countenances have been in no way spoiled by the manner of representation. Is not Fame pictured with a trumpet to her lips? Are not the maritime deities who surround Amphitrite's car blowing into conches? Are not the cupids who escort the Cytherean queen singing her praises through wind instruments? Do not the beautiful nymphs who follow in the train of the huntress Diana make the hills and vales re-echo the sounds of instruments almost similar to the new ones I have invented?

“The papers say that, in her peregrinations through the East, the Grand-Duchess Constantine visited the Sultan's harem, which at that time contained about two thousand ladies. After having passed through many richly furnished apartments, the princess entered the concert-room, one of truly fairy-like magnificence.

To her great astonishment, she perceived in the middle of that sanctuary, where men cannot even look, much less be admitted, a body of military musicians dressed in a lovely uniform consisting of a red tunique laced with gold, white trowsers, and a fez with a golden tuft. The surprise of the Grand Duchess ceased when she was informed that this military band was composed of young girls of the harem.

“ From the preceding remarks, we may, I think, conclude that, while the practice of string instruments is rather injurious to the health, especially with people who are predisposed to disease of the lungs, the practice of wind instruments is likely to prevent such diseases, or lessen their intensity. In fact, the practice of wind instruments is to the respiratory organs, what gymnastics are to the limbs. Why then not treat the first as we do the last, and with more care still, for one may live without arms or legs, but not without lungs ?

“ A. SAX, Junior.”

We have, so far, brought the whole case of Instrumental Music *v.* Consumption, and Lady Instrumentalists *v.* Male Orchestras to the knowledge of our readers. We leave them to judge of the merits of this two-fold case. As to M. Sax, whether he is on the way to success or failure will soon be known. We, for one, wish him success.

ALFRED TALANDIER.

LXIII.—A SEASON WITH THE DRESSMAKERS,

OR THE EXPERIENCE OF A FIRST HAND.

THERE is an old adage, and one probably familiar to us all, “ We know not what we may come to before we die.” Little I thought, when I was pursuing my studies for twelve years at the educational establishment of Madame Pommin, at Peckham, that it was a part of my future lot to leave the home of my dear parents, and ultimately find myself as “ first hand,” presiding over a dress-makers’ work-room, in a fashionable London house. It is an all-wise decree that we cannot look into futurity, yet how many are there in the world who would give half their possessions to be enabled for one short moment to draw aside the veil which hides from view their destiny ! Many will argue upon this point, “ that could they have foreseen ‘ so and so,’ they would have avoided it,” but such cannot hold good, because life from the cradle to the grave is one long chain of circumstances, connecting each other link by link ; circumstances, too, over many of which, perhaps, we personally have no control, and such must sufficiently account for the unlooked-for event of my becoming a dressmaker.

I shall not attempt to record the history of my early life, as that would be apart from my subject, and probably uninteresting to most of my readers. Suffice it, that I was placed in a superior boarding-school, at the early age of three years; studied (I hope diligently), till I was fifteen, the usual branches of an English education, with French, music, dancing, &c., and am to this day visited by my schoolmistress as a friend. If, therefore, I possess any advantages in scholarship over many of those with whom I have since become associated, I am indebted for it, under Providence, first to the kind and liberal views of my father and mother, and secondly, to the patient endurance of good instructors.

Bearing a French name, it is supposed by many that I must be a Frenchwoman, an error I correct with pride, being born in the City of London, in the year 1826, of English parents, my father, however, having been of French extraction.

It was with a heart full of sorrow that I first found myself launched upon the wide world. Long accustomed to all the comforts and indulgences of home, I was but little prepared to combat in the scene before me. I felt indeed *alone*. It was never my practice to give way to trouble, and I applied myself as cheerfully as I could to the discharge of my duties. That I acquitted myself satisfactorily, I had every reason to believe, as I soon discovered myself high in favour with the principal. I remained with her but a comparatively short period—a year and a half—when she retired from business; and as I felt I should not agree quite so well with her successor, I determined to change my situation. She was not, however, destined to be as successful as her predecessor, for in less than two years from the time when she paid down £800, as purchaser of that business, she was compelled to abandon it—or rather it abandoned her—she lost her all, and the establishment was broken up.

Had this house still been occupied for the purposes of millinery and dressmaking, I should have considered it a part of my duty to enter more particularly into the system upon which it was conducted, but as it is, I will merely say, that though there were certainly faults in many of the arrangements, they were infinitely less serious than those I have since experienced in other houses, with only one exception. This was, that the house itself being small, and incapable of providing sleeping accommodation for many of the young people, a house immediately at the back was rented, and used entirely as bedrooms, the servants of the chief residence going round each morning to attend to the necessary requirements. To the door of this sleeping house there were three keys distributed between the young people and servants; thus, if any one had asked permission during the “dull season,” to go out in the evening, though the authorized hour for

returning was eleven P.M., she could take the key, and let herself in at any hour she thought proper. I do not say that any improper or immoral advantage was taken of this self-appropriated privilege, but would merely hint how many evils might occur from such a faulty method of conducting an establishment.

There are many who conduct houses of business in London, besides the one I have already alluded to, who cannot—with all their packing so many in one bedroom—find sufficient accommodation for those in their employ. I admit then, there is no alternative, but to provide such in another house; but then a proper person of mature years should be appointed, also to sleep there, and see that all conduct themselves with steadiness and propriety.

What can be a more disgraceful scene, than to witness, at twelve o'clock at night, or perhaps even later, a number of young people, who from six in the morning have been till then, shut up in the close atmosphere of a workroom, and are now all turned into the street, and have perhaps a hundred yards or more to walk to their bedrooms, without any protection or supervision?

In the course of my papers I purpose showing the 'different ranks of those who become associates of the needle, which will, I hope, tend to remove an impression by far too general, "that they are almost exclusively an uneducated and illiterate class of people." I shall also detail the subordinate situations it is usually necessary to fill before arriving at the position of a "first hand," and the responsibility which attaches itself to such an engagement. The existing system of late hours and working all night, I shall endeavour to illustrate by cases which have come under my own observation and experience, and to this portion of my work I invite special attention, as the horrors attendant upon such a barbarous practice can never be too much exposed, or those who are the authors of them too severely punished. I hope, too, to be able to show, to the satisfaction of all, that the fault lies only with the principals of dressmaking houses, and not with those who give them their patronage. Hurried meals, and unwholesome, indigestible food, I shall notice in their proper course, as also ill-ventilated and but half-furnished bedrooms. Many other little incidents, too, I purpose touching upon, which may not prove uninteresting to many who will think it worth their while to peruse these pages, and shall probably frequently have occasion to allude to my public correspondence with the *Times*, and other leading journals, in the year 1853, and occasionally during the year 1854. But this must be deferred to another chapter.

JANE LE PLASTRIER [FIRST HAND].

(*To be continued.*)

LXIV.—NOTICES OF BOOKS.

Fish-Culture: A Practical Guide to the Modern System of Breeding and Rearing Fish. By Francis Francis. London: Routledge, Warne, and Routledge, 2, Farringdon Street.

THIS is a book which must possess an interest, not only for the especial lover of fish, but for every person who desires that provisions in general should be cheap and plentiful; since an abundance or deficiency of any one article must more or less influence the supply of the rest, and a larger consumption of salmon and cod thus tend to keep down the prices of beef and mutton. But beyond this the work appeals to all who have leisure, in offering them a new and most interesting occupation. Pisciculture is indeed rather a revival than a discovery, the art having been practised, it appears, from time immemorial by the Chinese; afterwards followed by the Romans; and subsequently by the monks in the Middle Ages; but having long fallen into disuse, was re-discovered in our own time by two poor but intelligent French fishermen, who, never having heard of the labours of their predecessors, may be said to have really invented the system now under consideration. The attention of the French Government having been called to the success of their operations, a grant was made and an establishment called into being at Huningue near the Rhine, less for the purpose of actually hatching fish, than to furnish a supply of ready fecundated ova, which are sent thence all over France, and even to other parts of Europe. Mr. Francis justly urges the importance of establishing a similar institution in this country, as a school of pisciculture where eggs in a proper state for hatching could be obtained on application, as well as information and advice to enable the applicants duly to carry out the process, which is much more simple than might be supposed. The author says on this point—

“People are apt to consider the hatching of fish-ova a very difficult, astonishing, and precarious operation. It is natural that they should do so, as the process is new to them. But there is no real difficulty in the matter; any one can compass it. The appliances are of the simplest kind. Indeed, I would undertake to hatch a hundred young salmon with the aid of a cheese-plate and a tumbler of water.”

We believe that since this was printed the author has almost literally accomplished the feat suggested, but of course except just to show what could be done, such very limited appliances would hardly be adopted. A full description, however, is given of a very simple apparatus, taking up but little room, needing but a comparatively small supply of water, and capable of being made as tasteful in appearance as the owner may desire, by means of which the ova of

salmon and trout may easily be hatched, even in a drawing-room; and it is affirmed that "rivers even might be stocked by the continuous use of a few of these apparatuses." We trust Mr. Francis may be correct in his belief, when he expresses confidence that "the day is not far distant when the present taste for aquariums will in this way be turned to a useful purpose;" since we quite believe with him that "many ladies as well as gentlemen would gladly enter upon so interesting and pretty a study," if only facilities were afforded for so doing by the creation of an egg-supplying establishment.

In other ways, however, any woman who possesses a microscope, or an aquarium, or who has opportunities for watching aquatic plants and animals in a state of nature, may do something to forward a very great result. The author, deprecating too narrow a view of the subject, remarks that the mere hatching and rearing of small fish appears to him to be but an integral part of pisciculture, and that if this science is to become as popular among us and as beneficial to us as it should be, we must take a far wider range.

"We should know what kind of food suits our various fish best, and what conditions best produce that food, and how those conditions are best to be cultivated, *so that such food may be self-producing*. Hence it will be seen that the habits of all the insects and plants found in water, and their correlative agreements and dependence upon each other must be studied. Going lower still, the conditions that suit these conditions, even to their chemical and microscopical analysis, peep out, and a grand scheme of a new science, a new phase of creation, is, as I have said, dimly foreshadowed, in which the food of man is the dependent consideration."

The final chapter, "On the Cooking of Fish," refers yet more specially to our sex, and some unfortunately but too true observations are made on the general ignorance of the English poor on a point so essential to their welfare as cookery, and their ordinary utter inability to produce simple, palatable, wholesome and inexpensive dishes.

"I think that there is no greater evidence of the decline of character in England than the state of cookery knowledge amongst the lower classes. A knowledge of economical cookery, and the practice of it constantly by the wives, sisters, and mothers of labouring men, argues domestic duties properly fulfilled, industry, intelligence, and home ties and relationships drawn closer and purified by the fulfilment of those duties. What a fine satire it is upon civilization, to hear a talk of plans for 'Moral Cottages,' and to find our Legislature actually busy with a 'Labourers' Cottages Bill,' as if legislation could be expected to supply the loss of habits of housewifery, cleanliness, order, sobriety, and morality,

as if character can be manufactured by Act of Parliament as easily as it can be unmanufactured."

We would here, however, remind Mr. Francis that properly arranged rooms, and convenient fire-places, are by no means altogether irrelevant to good cookery; while "habits of housewifery," must inevitably be most dependent upon the fact of whether the cottage be "moral" or the reverse. His censure is extended, in tones no less severe, to women in a higher position, as he continues:—

"But while we deplore the loss of this knowledge among the *labouring* class, we must not think that it does not affect the middle and even the upper classes. It must be remembered that it is from these lower classes that we draw our servants; and it is now so much the fashion to make such very fine ladies of the daughters of the middle and upper classes, that the slightest knowledge of domestic matters, particularly of anything so very low as cooking, is scouted indignantly. How can a lady who murders Mendelssohn and Beethoven five or six hours *per diem*, who destroys crayons by the fascies, or the nose upon Aunt Sally, or even long-suffering time, in the park, for sundry other hours, &c., &c., be expected to bestow a thought upon anything so utterly useless, degrading, and out of her sphere? And thus this most vital matter, which has so much to do with the health and peace of families in detail, and the well-being even of nations in the aggregate, is left to the ignorant stupidity of the modern English servant, whose habits in respect to cookery are, for the most part, of so wasteful a nature as to be almost criminal."

For those whose only fault is ignorance, and who are at least willing to acquire knowledge upon a point of so much importance, the author adds some practical information which may prove useful to our readers.

"There are many fish which inhabit both salt and fresh water, which we now reject as worthless; as if anything which an All-wise Providence has sent for our use could be worthless. The reason that we reject these fish is because we do not know how to cook them, or what particular use to put them to. The very worst fish that swims, the most bony and apparently inedible of fish, contains nourishing properties to a large extent; for example, they may be made into most excellent and palatable soup, if flavoured according to taste; with very, very little trouble or expense indeed. Having boiled a huge mass of cod's head, or a turbot, we, as soon as possible, throw the liquor down the sink; whereas, if that liquor were used again, when cool, for the second time, it would be a strong jelly. The skins and membranes of fish for the most part contain the strongest of gelatine. Isinglass, which produces even a stronger jelly and more nourishment than gelatine, is but a preparation of the sound of the sturgeon and other fish; and

isinglass is given much as cod-liver oil is, not only as a nourishing, but further as a strengthening food.

“ We do not throw away any portion of beef and mutton, because it is coarse, tough, and flavourless ; it is too expensive for that. We call it gravy or stockmeat, and we extract its juices by boiling ; and why should we condemn any fish, when the coarsest and most flavourless of them can be turned to the best account also, by being used in a similar manner ? A little pepper, a little salt, a dash of vinegar, and a sprig of herbs, is all that is required to turn barbel and chub into very good and enjoyable soup—not that barbel or chub are by any means inedible of themselves, as I have often experienced ; for well-cleaned, with the back bone cut out, with pepper, salt, butter, a slice of lemon, or a few drops of vinegar, they are palatable if they are properly grilled. These fish, and many others, are constantly and chiefly used by the Jews, who are infinitely better cooks than we are, but from whom we, nevertheless, make no attempt to learn the art of cooking the fresh-water fish which are so excellent on their tables.

“ With regard to fish-soups, these are not generally in favour in this country, for the reason that they are not generally known. If they were, there can be no question that people would prefer materials which cost but a tithe of the price of those they at present employ, and contain, at least, as much if not more nourishment, and which are also to the full as pleasant to the palate ; while it must always be borne in mind that the increased use of the one would tend to cheapen the other, and bring it more readily within reach.

“ There is another way of preparing fish common in Norway, whereby the worst and most bony of fish may be made most excellent food of. The flesh of the fish is partially boiled, and then taken from the bones, and the whole compressed, with some few common herbs and spices, into a cake, which is baked, and is by no means to be despised.”

Worth her Weight in Gold. Wertheim, Macintosh, and Hunt, 24, Paternoster Row.

A story of servant life, admirably adapted for a present to a young domestic, or a prize for elder girls in a Sunday school, whether connected with orthodoxy or dissent ; since, while thoroughly religious in tone, it is very little tinged with doctrinal peculiarities. Radiant in gold and magenta, its appearance could not fail to recommend it as a treasure to any girl to whom it might be presented.

The Poet's Children. By Mary Howitt. A. W. Bennett, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without.

A collection of charming stories for children. The two longest tales could hardly fail to please any boy or girl, but the preceding

shorter ones are perhaps too fanciful for any but very thoughtful or imaginative children, though such, we believe, would delight in them.

"The Intellectual Observer," illustrated, 1s., monthly. Groombridge and Sons.

Though the enthusiasm about the aquarium has somewhat subsided, hermit-crabs and star-fish are left in peace, and "Glaucus" no longer reigns paramount, still the love of investigation has in no way decreased; but instead of the spasmodic zeal after a new crotchet, because it is the fashion, we find, among all classes, a steady and increasing desire for a better acquaintance with the phenomena of nature. Among the numerous handbooks upon the subject, we must notice "*The Intellectual Observer*," as one of the cheapest and the best. Published every month, this periodical keeps pace, as it were, with modern discovery, and furnishes its readers with the latest information. The subjects treated of are varied, and the contributors being all eminent in their several departments, know how to popularize their writings, and to divest them of all unnecessary technicalities. The illustrations are excellent. In the number for July, there is a beautifully coloured plate of the "*Micro-Lepidoptera*,"—those minute, yet gorgeously coloured butterflies, which, all but invisible, haunt the hedge-rows and flower-gardens. To the botanist, the paper upon "*Bristle Mosses*" will prove interesting; and to those whose rambles lead them to the sea-side, the articles on "*Sea Spiders*," and "*Beach Pebbles*," will be valuable companions. In the latter, the writer, Mr. Saxby, astonishes his readers by assuring them that "nearly every gem known to the lapidary, say about 500 specimens, has been found in the shingle at the back of the Isle of Wight, within a range of about four miles of coast-line."

He proceeds to give some plain and simple directions for detecting real from fictitious gems:—

"In searching a shingle-beach, it should be borne in remembrance that all real gems (the opal excepted) will scratch window-glass; also that (with the same exception) no gem fit for the purposes of the lapidary has a specific gravity less than that which forms the bulk of the shingle-beach; consequently hardness and specific gravity form the principal tests to be used in determining the quality and value of specimens.

"Every fragment of stone having transparency or translucency is worthy of examination. Every piece exhibiting colour differing from the ordinary stone which forms the bed, is worthy a place in the pocket until leisure at home determines its name and worth. The most brilliant gem owes its beauty either to repose after its formation as a crystal, or to the skill of the lapidary, who renews the surface after abrasion among other stones. Hence shining fragments among the rolled and rounded stones of the beach are not to be expected. Constant attrition renders even the choicest rock crystal apparently translucent. The same applies to other substances; as an example, I have in my collection one of the most handsome of "*moonstones*." I found it on the shore of Bonchurch, Isle of Wight. Doubtless many

precious stones are cast aside from want of this consideration, especially with young collectors. It was only when I dropped it into water in a test tube and used the pocket lens, that its peculiar *chatoyance* was detected. Of course, the lapidary's care soon revealed its great beauty, although the specimen is only one-sixth of an inch long."

But beyond the scarce gems, many varieties of quartz are well worthy of attention; such as cornelian, chalcedony, jasper and agate:—

"There is a beautiful stone which incloses minute fibres of asbestos, producing, when polished, a resemblance of flickering light, as seen in the cat's eye; this is only a fibrous variety of quartz, but is much prized. The difference between 'cat's eye' and moonstone is simply this—the cat's eye has fibres in quartz, but the moonstone has them in felspar, which is a composition of quartz, alumina, and potash.

"We often find the hollow flints lined with a pale bluish translucent substance, having what mineralogists call a 'botryoidal' surface, like that of an aggregation of soap bubbles (or the surface of a bunch of grapes); this is chalcedony, and very handsome pieces are met with in shingle. Sometimes, in cavities, the chalcedony has in form much the appearance of icicles or a 'stalactite.' Layers of coloured chalcedony occur in nature, and where such are straight or only slightly curved, the stone is called 'onyx;' and in this figures are carved out of one layer, leaving another of a different colour as a background. Such carvings are the well-known 'cameos.' Stones in which an opaque white alternates with a deep or orange brown which is tolerably translucent, are called the 'sarde onyx;' and in the estimation of the lapidary, the more translucency, the greater the value. 'Sarde,' itself, is a very beautiful and frequently met with variety of quartz, of an orange or amber yellow, or more commonly of a reddish yellow, and is only semi-translucent. Some specimens, when moved in certain directions, possess in a considerable degree that beautiful play of light already referred to as *chatoyance*, and much resemble opals of the same colour, but are both heavier and harder. The richest shore for variety in this species of stone is the back of the Isle of Wight, from Niton to Bonchurch, although larger and elegant specimens of some sorts are obtainable between Walmer Castle and Sandown Castle, at Deal."

The Victoria Magazine. No. III. Emily Faithfull.

The July number of this Magazine contains a thoughtful yet amusing article by Miss Cobbe, on "The Humour of Various Nations." Mr. Trollope's heroines in "Lindisfarn Chase" are still only developing their strongly contrasted characters amid quiet scenes. Mr. Thomas Hare has a well-reasoned argument in favour of the recently rejected proposition for "taxing charities," but is hardly fair in taking his illustrations from establishments such as the so-called Christ's Hospital, which assume the title of "charity-schools," when they can thereby evade legal obligations, while those who benefit by them would at any other time shrink most sensitively from the appellation. The funds of the Blue Coat School are indeed applied too often for the advantage of persons who could well afford to pay their full proportion for the maintenance of the State, but this is a ground for the reformation of that institution rather than for the taxation of establishments which are really hospitals or charity schools.

The series of articles on "The Great Actors of 1775," nominally by Mr. Tom Taylor, having consisted almost entirely of translations (not his own) from Lichtenberg, have had small claim to originality; and the one in the present number, with its voluptuous descriptions of actresses distinguished for the charms of their persons, is certainly not very edifying. An admirable paper on "The Influence of University Degrees on the Education of Women," sets forth with great clearness the arguments on both sides of that important question, and shows how little room there is for rational objection to women partaking more liberally of the educational advantages so freely conceded to the other sex.

For Ever ! or the Final State of the Redeemed Considered. John F. Shaw, and Co., Southampton Row.

This work advocates, from a Calvinistic Evangelical point of view, the doctrine of there being no gradations of bliss in heaven, but perfect equality among all the redeemed. Incidentally, the question of whether man be superior to woman is also discussed, and having first determined that "we, *as believers*, should admit as true *whatever* the Bible declares," proceeds to show, on these premises, "the absurdity of arguing woman's inferiority to man on any ground but the plain fact of God's decree as contained in Genesis as a punishment for sin." Undoubtedly the Colenso controversy is likely to have some bearing on the popular opinion on the latter subject.

Westminster Review, No. XLVII., July, 1863.

We would draw the attention of any whom it may concern to an important article in this Number, on "Marriages of Consanguinity." This is a subject which sometimes causes terrible doubts and aching forebodings in young hearts; while the great probability there usually exists of cousins forming attachments to each other, is yet oftener a source of great anxiety to parents. In any such cases there can be little doubt that a perusal of the arguments and evidence here adduced would prove reassuring.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

AMONG the books recently published, particular reference must be made to "The Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation," by Mrs. Kemble. In this remarkable work, the miseries resulting from slavery are powerfully brought before the reader. Though written upwards of twenty years ago, the narrative is full of freshness and vigour. Nothing but the earnest desire to do good in her generation, could have induced Mrs. Kemble to recur to scenes which, for her own sake, she must desire to forget. But with the pen of no common writer, she relates her own experience of slavery on her husband's plantation, and her fruitless efforts to mitigate its horrors. At this moment such a book is particularly valuable.

The courage of the Confederates has won the admiration of Europe, and we are apt to forget, that, while they fight for independence, they also fight to maintain that "*institution*" which has made them a by-word among nations. Mrs. Kemble has also added two letters upon the present crisis, in which the subject of slavery is discussed with much firmness and intelligence.

Several works have lately appeared bearing upon the condition of the poor. We subjoin the titles. "Better Days for Working People." By the Rev. W. G. Blaikie. 1s. 6d. (Strahan.)

"The Hovel and the Home, or Improved Dwellings for the Labouring Classes, and How to Obtain Them." By Ebenezer Clarke. 1s. (Tweedie.)

"Occasional Papers of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union." The first of a series. 1d. "Woman's Work in the Church." By W. R. Collet. 6d. (Bell and Daldy.)

Mr. Low has just published "A Shilling Guide to the Charities of London," being an epitome of his larger work. It gives the objects, dates, address, income, and expenditure, Treasurer and Secretary of above seven hundred Charities, corrected to April, 1863. This is an invaluable handbook to every one connected with Charitable Institutions.

The important work, "Christian Missions, their Agents, and their Results," by S. W. M. Marshall, has reached a second edition. 2 vols. 24s. (Longman.) The book has been corrected and completed to the present time.

Miss Maling's "Indoor Gardener," 5s. (Longman), is intended as a Guide to Room and Greenhouse Plant-growing, for the use of those who are not already gardeners, and therefore require to have the minutest points explained. A new edition of "Song Birds, and How to Keep Them," 1s. (Smith and Elder), by the same author, is now ready.

A kind of biographical outline of universal history, entitled "Mankind in Many Ages," by Madame Von Oldekop, 7s. 6d. (Virtue), and the first volume of Mr. J. G. Phillimore's "History of England during the Reign of George the Third," 18s. (Virtue), are the chief historical works of the month.

"Fifty Years' Biographical Reminiscences," by Lord William Lennox, 2 vols. (Hurst and Blackett), will prove an amusing work for the sea-side. "Yesterday and To-day," by Cyrus Redding, 3 vols. (Newby), is a sequel to his personal recollections.

Among new novels, "Romola," by George Eliot, and "The Rector and the Doctor's Family," forming a new volume of the "Chronicles of Carlingford," will sustain the reputation of their authors. As this is the season for light literature, we may mention the titles of some of the newest works of fiction. "Respectable Sinners," by Mrs. Brotherton. (Hurst and Blackett.) "Dragons' Teeth," by the Rev. J. Pycroft, the well-known author of "Twenty Years in the Church." (Booth.) "Denise," by the

author of "Mademoiselle Mori." (Bell and Daldy.) "At Odds," by the Baroness Tautphœus. (Bentley.) "Mary Lindsay," by Lady Emily Ponsonby, (Hurst and Blackett); and "False Positions, or Sketches of Character," by Mrs. Bernal Osborne. (Chapman and Hall.)

Messrs. Smith and Elder have also just ready a work in 2 vols. with six portraits, entitled "Queens of Song, or Memoirs of some of the most Celebrated Female Vocalists who have appeared on the Lyric Stage from the Earliest Days of the Opera to the Present Time, with a Chronological List of all the Operas that have been performed in Europe," by Ellen Greathorne Clayton.

Under the head of foreign literature, may be mentioned—"Rapport sur les Hôpitaux Civils de la Ville de Londres au point de vue de la comparaison de ces établissements avec les Hôpitaux de la Ville de Paris." 8s. 6d. Also, "Les Sectes et Sociétés Secrètes, Politiques et Religieuses, essai sur leur Histoire depuis les temps les plus reculés jusqu'à la Révolution Française." 8vo. 4 plates. (Paris.) 5s. 6d. Par J. H. E. "Le Conteuls de Canteleu," and "La Pologne Martyr, Russie, Danubé," par J. Michelet. Paris. 3s.

An authorised translation has been just published by Allen, in 2 vols., of Madame Hugo's life of her husband, Victor Hugo; entitled "A Life related by One who has Witnessed it," including the "Dream of Inez de Castro." The work extends only to the earlier years of the reign of Louis Philippe.

"The Memoirs of the Abbé Lacordaire," by the Count de Montalembert (Bentley), have been translated by permission of the author.

LXV.—MEETINGS OF THE MONTH.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

A MEETING was held on Monday June 28th (too late in the month for insertion in our last Number), at Willis's Rooms, under the presidency of Lord Shaftesbury, to discuss the subject of Domestic Service.

The proceedings opened by the reading of a paper written by a lady, which entered at great length into the question of improving the race of servants. The principal means suggested were the adoption of a system similar to that followed in the National Registry Offices of Prussia and other continental states, by which all institutions for the hiring of servants should be placed under Government supervision, and the observation of certain rules made compulsory on both employers and employed; any servant taking a situation, or person hiring a servant, without a certificate issued from such an office, and giving an account of the servant's antecedents, being made liable to a penalty. It was also desirable that dealers in "perquisites," whether shopkeepers or peripatetics, should be placed under greater restrictions; while, socially, much might be done by making more available such existing agencies for training as the "School of Cookery" and the "Children's Hospital," as a school for nursemaids.

Lord Shaftesbury then addressed the meeting, remarking that the subject was more suited to a friendly discussion than to a public meeting, since it required the minute experience and delicate judgment of ladies who could not rise up in succession in that room: and unless they did so, he could not see how the meeting could approximate to a practical conclusion. He feared that servants of the present day were inferior to those of sixty years ago; but improved means of postal and railway communication made it more easy to procure situations, and thus fostered love of change, while the system of education in many national schools so stimulated the pride of the scholars that they would no longer condescend to be domestic servants. Something must be said for servants, to whom employers sometimes showed very little kindness or sympathy; yet those who manifested the opposite disposition often met with only ingratitude. Still he thought it was a purely social question, and that legislative interference with domestic life, if possible, would be intolerable; therefore we could only return to the old principle—to do our duty according to our means. There must be servants as long as the world lasted, and we must bear with them in consideration of the benefits we derive from them.

The Rev. Prebendary Jackson said he should much like to see those excellent ladies who were endeavouring to improve servants, endeavour to improve masters and mistresses, commenting especially on the hardship inflicted by ladies on their maids in causing them to sit up till two or three in the morning to await their return from parties, yet expecting them to rise at the usual hour.

Lord Raynham, who took the chair when Lord Shaftesbury left, considered the paper which had been read a valuable contribution to the many good works now going on amongst us; strongly advising the lady who had so ably drawn it up, not to relax in her efforts; and suggesting that another paper on the subject should be read at the next meeting of the Social Science Association.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

THE Annual Meeting of this Society was held at Willis's Rooms, on Friday, July 3rd, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the Chair. Among those present were Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., Sir F. Goldsmid, M.P., the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Dr. Lankester, Mr. G. Hastings, &c., besides a very large number of ladies, including the Hon. Mrs. Locke King, Miss Bessie Parkes, Mrs. Bodichon, &c., &c.

The Rev. Francis Pigou read the following annual report:—

During the past year, the Society has had daily additions to the large amount of proof previously received, of the deplorable and widespread suffering brought on by defective education, and subsequent want of training in early life. The extent of this distress, in the case of women who have arrived at middle age, is out of all proportion to the Society's power to relieve it. On very many of these candidates, indeed, the Society's funds could not, however augmented, be rightly expended; for they have passed into cases for charity rather than for employment, having reached an age at which it is too late to take to any work for which there is other than an artificial demand. The following analysis, compiled from the Society's books, indicates the condition of the great majority of those from whom applications are received at the office.

1. Those who have been governesses, and at 30, 40, 50, or 60 years of age, wish to turn to something else.
2. Reduced in circumstances, suddenly or gradually, and totally untrained to anything.
3. Have "kept house" for relatives: otherwise totally untrained.

4. Young women from 17 to 25, badly educated; wanting "anything not menial," or "anything genteel."

5. Governesses, and those experienced in other kinds of work, who have become deaf; often from overstrain of the nervous system.

6. Widows of every class, wishing to become lady housekeepers, or matrons "in some light situation."

7. Wives with invalid husbands and young children.

All these and many others, ask for "writing," or "any work" which can be done at home. It will be seen from the above, that the demand for easy work, *i. e.*, work supposed to involve no previous training, is beyond all possibility of supplying it, and the Committee wish to press home this fact upon parents, that they may be induced, while their daughters are young, to give them, in addition to a more careful early education than they now usually receive, a special training which may serve them as a resource in the future.

The Committee have asked the aid of clergymen and ministers of various denominations, in bringing this matter before parents. A considerable number of special sermons on the subject have been promised, and the Committee hope that the friends of the Society will use their influence in farther carrying out this effort to bring its principles and aims under the consideration of the public throughout the country. A short statement has been prepared of the points to which it is especially desired to call attention; copies of which will be supplied on application at the office.

The attendance at the adult class at Miss Boucherett's school, averages about eight pupils. The total number of those who have joined the class since the close of the summer term of last year is thirty-two. These pupils are receiving good instruction in arithmetic, book-keeping, and clerk-like handwriting, with such other knowledge as may fit them for a business life. When examined and certificated, their names are placed on a register kept at the school, which may be consulted by employers. Besides those who go through the whole course, women sometimes come to learn to keep their husband's accounts, or for general improvement in the essentials of a plain English education.

The Committee have helped to establish a photographic printer in business, and have advanced the sum of 25*l.* (to be repaid in two years) towards fitting up her premises. Her four apprentices give good promise of future proficiency and success. Situations have been found for a considerable number of women in the lighter departments of photography; and in that of "mounting and touching" (or mending) employment has been obtained for several ladies who are hindered by deafness from re-engagement as governesses. Pattern-staining on furniture has supplied profitable occupation to several members of each of the three classes for whom the demand for work to be done at home is most urgent, *viz.*, widows with young families, invalid ladies, and those with invalids claiming their care all day. In wood engraving, lithographic tracing, music copying, plant preserving, and heraldic painting, various orders have been received and executed through the office; also one in animal modelling. Of two premiums advanced for law copying, the loan was paid back in a month after the expiration of apprenticeship.

Among employments about which inquiries have been made during the year, and which (with the exception of the first) are still under consideration, may be mentioned mosaic laying, print colouring, carving in wood, and watch engraving. Inquiries have also been made respecting the trade of designing for wall papers; and it has been ascertained that if women could once obtain the necessary instruction, there would be no prejudice against their work, as such, in this business. It is found, however, that the introduction of women into the workrooms would render necessary some

modification of the existing arrangements, which the masters are not at present prepared to make. In the meantime an offer has been made by Dr. Dresser, of the firm of Dresser and Lyon, to receive one lady pupil without premium, on certain conditions; and other pupils, on terms which may be known on application at the School of Art, 43, Queen Square, Bloomsbury.

The work of middle class emigration, undertaken by Miss Rye, with which a lower class emigration has since been combined, has been carried on on a somewhat larger scale than the previous year.* Funds contributed through this Society are advanced, as before, to emigrants of the more educated class only.

As the Committee become still better acquainted with the various homes for women, charitable institutions, and places where nursing, cooking, &c., may be learnt, they are able to be of greater use in advising and directing casual inquirers at the office. Caution is also given against certain schemes offering remunerative employment to ladies, which have been found to be deceptive.

The Committee would recommend to the notice of those who have the management of charitable and other institutions, the claims of some among the better educated class of governesses, who, though still capable of good work, are obliged after some years to withdraw from teaching. These have occasionally well filled such posts as those occupied by assistant secretaries, and, with some previous training, superintendents of charitable organizations of various kinds, and the Committee cannot but think there is room for many more in similar capacities.

The experience of the Society having proved the great need of some trustworthy test of the education and acquirements of women, the Committee have carefully considered the subject of the admission of women to University examinations, for which an effort is now being made, and they commend it to the serious consideration of the public, as bearing closely on the condition and prospects of the women of this country.

The Committee, while acknowledging the progress which has been already made, must earnestly remind the friends of the Society that much remains to be done: and that each individual influence is of value, both in removing such prejudices as are merely conventional, and in giving active support to plans for improving the education of women, and for giving them opportunities for special training. Sustained exertion is urgently needed to secure that the distress which has risen to so great a height at the present time, may be permanently diminished in the future.

Mr. M. Milnes then addressed the meeting, and with especial reference to the case of the unfortunate dressmaker, whose death has been lately brought before the public, said that he should be glad to see the provisions of the Common Lodging House Act made applicable to cases in which large numbers of young women were employed together.

Sir F. Goldsmid advocated the Extension of University Degrees to Women.

The Hon. A. Kinnaird differed from the preceding speaker on the latter point, because he thought ample field might be otherwise found for female energies. At the Victoria Press it had been shown how admirably women could carry on the processes of printing; and Miss Boucherett was anxious that the fact should be made known that the female clerks and book-keepers who had been trained in the Society's School, had invariably given great satisfaction to their employers. He believed that much good might be done by the clergy urging upon parents from the pulpit the duty of giving their

* For particulars see the report of the Female Middle Class Emigration Society.

daughters an education better calculated to fit them for future contingencies.

The Rev. J. E. Kempe, Rector of St. James's, Piccadilly, observed that the reason why he had felt it incumbent on him to be present, was, that he belonged to the Church Penitentiary Association, and therefore since it was admitted that prevention was always better than cure, he thought it would have been absolute inconsistency not to do all that he could for the present Society.

Mr. G. Hastings then moved a resolution: "That it is desirable that a test for the education and requirements of women be instituted;" and urged strongly that the local examinations which had been instituted by the Universities for middle-class youths should be extended to females, concluding by reading a letter from Mr. John Stuart Mill, in which that gentleman, while apologising for his unavoidable absence from the meeting, highly applauded its intention of proposing a test for female education, adding, that if examinations and degrees are "useful and necessary means of rendering education efficient in the case of men, they must be equally so in the case of women, and will certainly be adopted as soon as the latter object is as seriously desired as the former."

Dr. Lankester, in seconding the motion, advocated especially the conferring degrees on women for acquirements in botany, chemistry, and other natural sciences, observing that an acquaintance with those sciences would tend to prevent such fatal occurrences as that which had recently happened in Regent Street through ignorance of the operation of natural laws. That such subjects were not beyond female powers had been proved by the fact that at the examinations of the Society of Arts on an occasion when he was himself the examiner, the gold medal for botany had been gained by a lady, while another lady had also carried off the gold medal for proficiency in physiology, a science she was now engaged in teaching to others of her sex. An important field was thus open to women, for if they acquired a thorough knowledge of such subjects, they would become qualified in turn to impart it; and male professors would no longer be required for the tuition of young ladies.

The resolution having been put and carried, a vote of thanks to the noble chairman was unanimously adopted.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, after thanking the Meeting for the vote which it had just passed, said:—This Society can no longer be considered an experimental one. When it was first instituted it engaged in an experiment, and a hazardous experiment; and there was very great doubt indeed as to how far the services of young females and women would be found available for the kind of employments which were contemplated. The Society has, however, now been in operation for three or four years, and in a great many departments of industry the employment of females has been found very beneficial and perfectly adapted for the purpose. (Hear, hear.) We find that in copying, printing, and other occupations, women are fully equal to men. We have proved this completely; and if we have proved it in the case of two or three dozen women, we have proved it with regard to the whole female sex. (Hear, hear.) When we find that at Miss Faithfull's printing press twenty or thirty young women are capable of executing work with the minutest care and the greatest accuracy, we must recollect that twenty or thirty females fairly represent the twenty thousand or the two hundred thousand in this country, who require employment in suitable branches of industrial occupation. (Hear, hear.) So far, then, we have gained a very great deal. We have learned enough already to justify us in entreating the clergy and the ministers of different religious denominations to impress on the great mass of parents in their congregations, and especially middle-class parents, the wisdom and necessity of training their daughters for some specific profession or calling in which they may find employment at

once remunerative and honourable. (Cheers.) I cannot see any valid argument that can be used against this. I know it is very frequently said that women were intended for domestic life, and that whatever is done for them in the way of preparation should be suitable to the sphere for which they are destined by Providence. That may apply to the case of those who are to enter into the married state early; but it certainly cannot apply to those who have, as it were, a career to make for themselves, who have to qualify themselves for the position of wives and mothers, and who, in the period which may intervene before marriage—supposing they should ever be married at all—should be engaged, if possible, in some useful avocation, requiring that knowledge and skill which, if they should be left in a state of early widowhood, may enable them to obtain a subsistence for themselves and their children. (Hear, hear.) Observe, moreover, that females cannot possibly lose anything by what is recommended. If a young woman has been trained at the printing-press, or as a copying clerk, she will clearly not be the less fitted to be a good wife or mother (hear, hear); on the contrary, she will have acquired an amount of knowledge, and habits of method and discipline, which must prove an advantage to her in the whole of her future career. (Hear, hear.) And then, as regards domestic duties, let it be borne in mind that duties of that kind cannot be learnt theoretically; they must be learnt by practice. Girls may, no doubt, learn a little by early observation; but the duties of a wife and mother are best learnt when young women have become wives and mothers. (Hear, hear.) Such things are not learnt in the concrete—it is when women have to perform them that they learn how they may best discharge duties which are at once the strength and the ornament of the female sex. I think much may be done to raise the character of many employments, and to give them a dignity which they are not at present supposed to possess. And here I would remark that we have, in my opinion, been confining our attention rather too much to-day to the case of females of the middle class; whereas, looking at the state of the country, we ought, I think, to direct our attention very much to the condition of a poorer and inferior class. (Hear, hear.) A great deal has been said on the subject of University examinations and University tests. Now I am not going to express any opinion as to the expediency or inexpediency, of the propriety or impropriety of University tests. As limited by Mr. Hastings, I think there would be a great deal of wisdom in having University examinations; but I am not prepared to go so far as Dr. Lankester has done. We may indeed yet come to it, for Heaven only knows what may come to pass. I have seen so many changes, so many reversals of opinion, so many things accepted, which, when first mentioned, almost filled people with horror, that hardly anything would now surprise me. Again, I think that, in the case of the class of society to which I am now referring, we ought to be very careful with regard to the character of the education which we assist in giving. I am very glad to see women educated to such an extent that they will be enabled, according to their leisure and means, to make useful acquisitions of knowledge; but I think it is not well for girls in the poorest condition of life—who must for the most part fill the position of housemaids, cooks, and other similar positions in life—to be led to aspire to the stations of companions, lady's-maids, or governesses. The consequence of this is, that there is now a universal complaint of the deficiency of domestic servants, not only in number but also in quality; while there are other results of a more serious nature to which I will not allude. By the establishment of self-supporting cooking depôts in London and other large towns there had been provided the best schools that could possibly exist for learning domestic duties and for the training of scientific and economical female cooks. It is a very difficult thing, as many ladies present must be aware, to teach cooking as part of the educational system of a National school; but you have in these cooking

depôts an excellent means of training young females in a knowledge of cookery. And I am satisfied that an adequate knowledge of cooking and of the proper and economical management of food on the part of women generally of the humbler class of society, is one of the greatest blessings that could be conferred on the working man. (Hear, hear.) Every one who is at all conversant with their habits must know that there are no people who are so ignorant as to the best mode of turning scraps to account, so deficient in the knowledge of the most essential rules of domestic economy, as the mass of those who are placed under the greatest necessity for the constant exercise of frugality and economy in their households. (Hear, hear.) I believe that a large proportion of the difficulties which beset us arises from the numerical disproportion between the sexes. An immense proportion of the male population of the country are in the army and navy, and in other spheres which involve numerous casualties and great loss of life. It appeared from the last census that the number of females in this country exceeded the number of males by about 500,000. Can you wonder, then, that female labour is greatly in excess of the demand? Have we not here the real cause of the miserable condition of needlewomen—the most miserable and degraded condition, perhaps, in which women are to be found on the face of the earth? (Hear, hear.) It is, I think, our duty to direct our attention and zeal, to the correction, as far as possible, of this mischief. There are, in fact, a great many employments which are open to women. For example, the whole of the telegraphic establishments are open to them. I am sorry to say that one large telegraphic establishment, in which a great number of young women were employed, has been recently broken up. We must watch carefully for proper openings for employment of women. There is, I believe, a very great desire on the part of employers in all parts of the country, and especially in the manufacturing districts, to substitute female for male labour, not only because female labour is cheaper than male labour, but also because women are more docile than men. I believe there has hardly ever been a case known of a combination of women either to resist oppression or to raise wages. I learn from a communication which I have lately received, that a person having a large establishment in a manufacturing district has said that he would infinitely prefer filling it with women to employing men. He used this remarkable expression:—"It is a capital thing to have a woman in a mill, for if she happen to have a child or a sick husband, by Heaven, you may work her to death!" (Hear, hear.) The employments which we desire to find for women are such as will not be open to this kind of objection, and for which the patience and care, as well as the docility of women, who are prepared for them, render them well adapted. Let me add, that I think it is very important that we should be enabled to collect from all parts of the country evidence bearing on this question; and that by making that excellent little periodical called the *ENGLISH WOMAN'S JOURNAL*—a journal, the management of which is marked by great sagacity and penetration, and good feeling—a record of all our operations, and a medium for all the more important suggestions, with a view to an amelioration of the condition of those whom we seek to benefit, we shall do much towards bringing our system of operations into good working order. (Cheers.) I have no doubt that this Society will go on to greater and greater usefulness. I am sure it is very necessary that it should do so; for so long as so many women are in their present condition—so long as there are so many thousands of wretched needlewomen, so long as milliners and dressmakers are persecuted and trampled upon, and worked to death—and let me say, that I consider it a most providential circumstance that a case which has been recently brought before the public, occurred three or four weeks before the Parliamentary session, instead of after its termination, in which case it would probably have attracted far less

public attention—so long, I say, as persons of delicate frames, and tender constitutions, refined manners, and pure hearts are placed in such a position as many of our needlewomen are—and so long as the present state of things with regard to women generally continues, there cannot be in this great Protestant kingdom either social honour or public morality.

The Meeting then separated.

FEMALE SCHOOL OF ART.

THE distribution of prizes to the Students of the Female School of Art, Queen Square, took place on Thursday, July 9th, at University College; Viscount Strafford de Redcliffe in the chair.

The chairman, in opening the proceedings, alluded to the fact of the School being under the special patronage of Her Majesty, as showing that it was deserving of countenance. It was important and useful, not only to the young women who attended it, but to the nation at large, for wherever the fine arts were cultivated they were found to humanize and elevate the mind; besides which, the education there obtained, enabled the students afterwards to obtain employment by which they honourably maintained themselves.

The improvement of ornamental design in manufacture was also a matter of the greatest importance, and that result would be gained by the prosperity of the School. It was most desirable that it should be self-supporting, and this object would be attained if thirty or forty more pupils were added to the present number. He hoped that in the interval that must elapse between the withdrawal of Government assistance, and the time when the school might be expected to maintain itself, it would be well supported by public subscriptions.

The report was then read, and gave an encouraging account of the progress of the School. The number of pupils is 110, among whom, as many as thirty medals were to be distributed, the highest number allowed by the rules to be gained in any one school. It was then stated that Government had been asked for a grant to enable the Committee to make a necessary enlargement of the school premises; but even if obtained, it would be insufficient for the purpose, and therefore, subscriptions from the public were urgently needed.

After the reading of the report, the prizes were distributed, cards being presented to those who had passed the second-grade examination; medals to those whose works had been successful for the first time at the last competition; books to prize-holders who had already received medals; national medallions to those whose works had been pronounced most meritorious at the National competition; and certificates of Free Studentship to medal-holders, who had also passed an examination in all the four subjects of the second-grade examination. Besides these, extra-money prizes, offered by Miss Bell, of Alston, for the six best drawings from nature were distributed; and also prizes of books, given by the Superintendent of the School, Miss Gann, to the best students in the Wood engraving class.

Professor Westmacott then delivered an interesting speech upon Art, in the course of which he highly complimented Miss Gann for her constant and unwearied efforts to promote the prosperity of the School.

[As a means of obtaining the Funds required for the enlargement of the School premises, some ladies have kindly undertaken to collect subscriptions in small sums. Any who are willing to help in this way, are requested to apply for Purses for the purpose, and any further information, to the Superintendent, Miss Gann, at 43, Queen Square, Bloomsbury.]

WORK AND OVERWORK.

A MEETING was held on Monday, July 13th, at the College of the Ladies' Sanitary Association, No. 5, Hanover Square, to hear a Lecture by Dr. Richardson, on "Work and Overwork." Dr. Lankester occupied the chair on the occasion.

In the course of his preparatory remarks, Dr. Richardson observed that some trades were necessarily unhealthy; for instance, in making the india-rubber balls, used by children as playthings, the material, in order to be made supple, had to be dipped into a composition which was so deadly a poison that, though the process was but a momentary one, the minute portion inevitably inhaled by the workmen had so dreadful an effect upon them as to cause the most distressing diseases. These men seldom marry, or, if they do, they rarely have children; insanity is extremely common among them, and the painful disorders to which they are subject terminate in an early death. Again, in the making of sand-paper, the sifting of the pulverized glass or sand over the paper, though it might be effected quite innocuously by a very simple piece of machinery, is in fact always done by little boys, who, constantly inhaling the particles, thus become liable to fatal lung diseases. He had known three boys in one family, who all perished prematurely through engaging in this process. From occupations such as these, illness and death are inseparable; but it is not so with dressmaking, an employment perfectly innocent in itself, and which, however it may be found injurious, certainly need not be so. That it sometimes is so, we had unfortunately had lately only too forcible a proof, in the case of the poor girl, Mary Ann Walkley, whose sad fate had caused her to be recently almost as much spoken of as if she had died an actual martyr; and he trusted that the panic it had given rise to would not pass off as panics too often did, merely like fireworks—a flash and explosion—and then, nothing left behind; but that at least so much good would arise out of evil, that attention having been so painfully drawn to the subject, it would not be suffered again to drop until something at least had been done towards remedying such a state of things for the future.

He believed that one of the great evils of the age was the prevalence, in every occupation, of overwork. Among the very highest, competition for place and power was so great, that statesmanship involved the most excessive labour. As regarded authors, too, the very gentlemen of the press who had brought this subject so powerfully before the public, would they dare to compare what they said with what they were doing? To bring their own lives to the test of what was a fit amount of toil; they who, day by day, and often night by night, knew no peace of mind, no rest of body? Again, among medical men the average age at death was thirty-eight, a fact which speaks for itself. It was the same in trades. The blacksmith, he whose lot, according to the poets, is so happy a one, works ordinarily about one-fourth more than he ought to do, and his vigour in consequence declines prematurely. Dress-makers, in this respect, do but follow the common rule. They cannot commence at all a first-rate business, without a very large capital; and, consequently, if any one wishes to set up for herself, it is only by very great effort, and overwork for herself and those whom she employs, that she can hope to compete with the twenty-five or thirty great capitalists, who now divide among them all the first-class business that is done. But it is neither natural, safe, nor moral, to extract capital from overtaxed human lives, and though slavery, which is the purest and basest form of such economy, has lasted for ages and still lasts, that and every other less glaring form of this mistaken and evil policy is doomed to pass away as enlightenment progresses.

Less guilty, but even more baneful in its effects than the oppression of

employers, is the thoughtlessness of customers. Among the great, too, competition is rife, and in competing who shall be most luxurious, they are apt to forget others' weal. It is not difficult to make practical suggestions as to the means whereby ladies may do something to help the poor dress-maker. The season, for instance, might begin earlier and be protracted longer. Ladies of rank, too, might remember that there really are more than twenty-five dress-making houses in London. And again, the injurious system of requiring long credit might be altered; for it may be an absolute cause of failure to a person in business, when she has to give at least two years' credit to even the wealthiest customer; and, he had been informed, that this is ordinarily required of those who work for the higher classes.

Government had been strongly urged to take up this question, for there are some persons who think Government can and ought to do everything; but our statesmen are themselves overworked, and cannot therefore attend to all that claims their attention. Besides, legislation on social matters is extremely difficult, and, even were interference with such matters consistent with the spirit of the English nation, an ignorant people cannot be legislated into knowledge. When that is well distributed, Government need not interfere: when it is not, Government cannot. Legislation, however, might do something in the matter: in the first place, the House should itself break up and go to bed a little sooner, and thus set a good example; for it seemed almost absurd for it to declaim precepts against overwork while its practice continues to be what it now is. Secondly, it might issue a Commission to inquire into the evils of overwork; or, better still, a Board of Inquiry, like that which was appointed to inquire into the condition of our soldiers, after the war in the Crimea. And, though it was a delicate thing for legislation to interpose in the domestic arrangements of adults, yet perhaps municipal power might be extended, and some right to inspect conferred; while, though Ladies' Committees of Inquiry could perhaps effect but little, owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable evidence, individual exertion might produce some result. Soldiers die necessarily by war; doctors by disease; firemen by fire; but dressmakers need not die by dressmaking; and, if they did so, it was preventible, and ought to be prevented.

At the conclusion of this interesting discourse, Dr. Lankester observed that he hoped it would be printed and circulated, in order that all might study it, and have the opportunity of profiting by it. He regretted to see how little the laws of sanitation were observed, the deficiency being remarkable among the rich as well as the poor, in the mansions at the West-end as well as in the back streets of low neighbourhoods; and especially was this the case with that most essential condition of health—fresh air, the lack of which no other supplies could compensate for. He, too, advocated the power of inspecting work-rooms, in order to ascertain if they could be occupied without injury to health.

At the close of the meeting, any employers who might happen to be present, were requested to remain after the rest of the company had dispersed, in order to consult whether any arrangements could be made for the purpose of promoting a better state of health among their workpeople.

HOME MADE SEA WATER.—Inland residents returning from a seaside trip, often miss sensibly the refreshing salt water dip to which they have grown accustomed, and may therefore be glad of the hint that under such circumstances an extract of sea-salt recently introduced by Mr. Tidman will really afford in some measure a substitute.

LXVI.—OPEN COUNCIL.

(As these pages are intended for general discussion, the Editors do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed.)

To the Editors of the English Woman's Journal.

LADIES,

The readers of your JOURNAL for March, were, as it seemed to me, under great obligations to your French correspondent for her sensible satisfactory paper on the doings in Paris at that time; but another correspondent, "S. P.," is of a different opinion, and raises objections to some of the remarks in that paper, which objections ought certainly, for the credit of the JOURNAL, to be replied to in their turn, and, with your permission, I will take that duty on myself.

I have not had the opportunity, unfortunately, of acquiring any knowledge of political economy, but I well remember that at the time when ladies were wearing hundreds of yards of ribbon to save the people of Coventry from starvation, a gentleman wrote to the *Times*, assuring the ladies that the wearing of ribbon for the public good, was altogether a mistake; and stating it as a maxim in political economy that no one benefits the community by what he consumes, but by what he does not consume. And, certainly, if luxury and boundless extravagance were conducive to the general prosperity, France should be, at this moment, the most prosperous country under the sun, whereas, it is well known that the very reverse is the truth, and that nowhere in Europe is the duration of human life cut so short by an habitually deficient supply of the common necessities of life. I read, last winter, a paragraph copied from some periodical, and headed, "What Imperialism has done for France," in which the writer described the state of things in Paris as heart-rending. Amongst other symptoms of acute distress he mentioned the fact that numbers of elderly ladies were begging their bread in the streets; and, as if to confirm what had been said before, a statement appeared in the *Times*, a few weeks ago, of the frightful increase of lunacy in that ill-regulated country,—the number of insane having increased, in a very few years, from 12,000 to 60,000. And a very natural result too; for what can be so likely to have driven poor creatures to madness as present, actual misery, aggravated by the incessant, helpless, hopeless dread of something worse still to come, and very rapidly approaching? I wish some of us knew something of political economy, for, as it is, we are in the predicament of the blind leading the blind; but, by the light of reason alone, without any help from science, one may surely venture to say that the dressing of dolls (or of Countesses de Mornay) must needs be a very unprofitable investment for the vital energies and the material resources of a country. I am much afraid that these pretty ladies are habitually guilty of that "social crime," known amongst the initiated as "unproductive consumption." And as for the money that is scattered about, who knows where it falls, or if the sufferers from the cotton dearth really get a farthing of it? "S. P." has an objection to almsgiving; but then, there is a time for everything. What would have been thought of this great nation if it had left its Lancashire operatives to die of hunger while theoretical men were looking into space for some good excuse for paying them wages? The two cases are, of course, exactly similar. The cold-blooded apathy and cruelty of the upper classes in France during this sad crisis, have been frequently commented on. "S. P." is evidently no reader of newspapers, or she would hardly have volunteered her advocacy in so notoriously bad a cause.

I will only add, in conclusion, that when she talks of your correspondent's

remarks as "sneers at the aristocracy," she expresses herself very unfairly. "E. J." saw what she considered to be wrong, and she blamed it accordingly in a candid, straightforward way, and in so doing, she did well, for to defend what is wrong is as much against Christian charity as to attack what is right. But the great want of all is the want of accurate knowledge, which makes good abilities and good intentions of little value. I wish ladies who have leisure would think of it, and enrich themselves for the general good. On this point, at least, there would be no controversy.

I am, Ladies,

Your obedient Servant,

A. S.

18th May.

HOME AND TRAINING INSTITUTION FOR NURSES.

7, DUKE STREET, BATH, June 25th, 1863.

LADIES,

I believe no apology is necessary on my part for addressing you in behalf of this Institution, as I understand you were mainly the originators of it, by suggesting to the inhabitants of Bath the necessity of an Institution of this nature for the benefit of their city. I thought from your connexion with the Association in Langham Place, you might be able to recommend us some more candidates for probation. Our monthly nurse, Miss Smith, who applied to us through your office, has proved so truly valuable, that I should be glad to have two or three more like her, and I would immediately send them to be trained at Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital. Miss Smith named to me an Institution in London for providing women with needle-work, conducted by a Miss Barlee; she feels sure I should hear of many likely women there to whom a Home like ours would prove the greatest boon. She heard of many most destitute cases, though highly respectable, applying there for assistance and employment; these are the persons we want to reach. I am quite resolved to take none of our nurses from the domestic servant class; they, if good for anything, can always command good wages and comfortable homes; it is those who find it so hard to help themselves, that I am anxiously trying to benefit. If you could kindly help us, either by recommending women personally known to yourselves, or would procure me Miss Barlee's address, I should feel greatly obliged. If you have not seen our first year's Report, I shall have great pleasure in forwarding you one, and you will see how well the good seed you have sown has taken root.

Perhaps Miss S—— has already sent it.

Believe me to remain, Ladies,

Yours very faithfully,

C. HUTCHINSON.

[Miss Barlee's address is 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square.

We are always being applied to for more nurses than we can find. If any of our readers know of *good* ones needing employment, we should be glad if they would send them to Langham Place.—ED.]

EXTRACT FROM A LADY EMIGRANT'S LETTER.

QUEENSLAND, Feb. 10th, 1863.

"You will know by this time how fortunate we have all been in our new country, and how much we have to be thankful for. We could not possibly have anticipated such success; and our relations will be rather surprised when they hear how very very different everything has turned out from what they anticipated. It is a great relief to feel that our brother is so well

placed; he wrote to me in great spirits, and enjoyed the thought of his future duties much. I know he will be well off as regards personal comforts—rich squatters or farmers live so well here, it is astonishing the amount of money they can spend. I will give you an account of Mr. R——'s style of living, and then you can judge for yourself. In the first place his is a one-storied house—of course with verandah built all round—and contains about a dozen rooms, most of them large and well furnished, for this climate; but of course we have no carpets in the bed-rooms, nor in any other room. The drawing and dining-rooms are covered with very nice oilcloth. The bedsteads are all made of iron, without curtains. As for the eating part of the business, I am tired to death of it, there seems to be no end of the meals; we have breakfast about half past eight o'clock, several kinds of hot meats, eggs, &c. At twelve, I have a glass of port wine and biscuit; at two, there is lunch, hot, and quite as substantial as our dinners are at home, always pudding or tarts, wine and beer. At seven o'clock we dine, and a very sumptuous repast it is, I can assure you. Several kinds of wine—indeed there is abundance of everything, and all good of its kind. Tea is brought into the drawing-room about nine, and one of the gentlemen pours it out and hands it round. Mr. R—— is a very hospitable, open-hearted man, and his house is generally full of visitors; he employs many young men on his station, of course, and they themselves, with Mr. and Mrs. R——, their little daughter and myself, fill a good sized table. The first evening I dined here, eleven sat down, all gentlemen except two, and as all were strangers to me you may imagine I did not feel very comfortable. Mr. R—— is in possession of four large sheep stations. I like the children very much; they are certainly colonial, that is, forward, premature men and women, but they are honest, loving, and tractable, so I do not find them much trouble. You see I am most fortunate. There are five little children; the eldest is eight; there is a darling baby about six months old. There is no end of servants—five women, and I don't know how many men; a man cook and boy in the kitchen. I am to learn to ride on horseback. My sister K—— is going into as nice a family, I believe, and N——, you know, is well settled, so we are all disposed of, and I trust shall give satisfaction in our several situations. I know Mrs. R—— likes me, she has as much as told me so. There is a very good opening for a school at a town called Warwick, so many pupils are promised. A school-room is *lent* for a time to any lady who would venture to commence teaching there; it is a nice little town, very healthy, and prettily situated. If I had known of this before engaging with Mr. R——, I should most certainly have tried my fortune there.

I am so glad B—— has decided to leave England, for I feel she will do so much better here: governesses are treated so differently from what they are at home—by the superior class; of course there are disagreeable, vulgar people as at home, with whom it would be impossible to live. I think this climate would suit you; it is warm in summer certainly, but the heat is never so oppressive as it is at home, and the winter on the downs is quite cold enough, I suppose. I think the general appearance of this country would disappoint you, though of course it depends entirely on the district. You would be astonished to find how much the colonists think of dress; people, ladies in particular, are far more extensively got up than they are at home."

X. Y. Z. FUND.

LADIES,

The reception of the proposal for raising Annuities for Governesses chiefly through their own subscriptions, has not equalled the expectations which may have been formed by those who know the conditions of governess-life, and can understand the alleviation in their prospects which might be

secured by a combination similar to those so general in men's trades and professions.

May not this failure be attributed to the *anonymous* introduction, and *vague* character of the scheme? Some one, believed in, we may conclude, by the Editors of the *ENGLISH WOMAN'S JOURNAL*, and by the Secretary of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution—neither of whom are, however pledged to the proceedings—has propounded as object for subscriptions, the benefit of the great mass of subscribers. In a work simply benevolent, people who are themselves so, are ready to trust without inquiry as to who undertakes, or what are the ways and means; and we will conclude so in the present case as to *Honorary* subscribers, which I imagine all, or nearly all, at present to be—yet to those who have submitted to have their names printed and published, and are so far made vouchers for the scheme, it is due that the originator and advocate be equally proclaimed. But for the class who have been invited to join for their own benefit, the demand is not of courtesy, but of course and necessity. With them it is a contract, a bargain, and they must know with whom they are dealing, the terms, and the probabilities of execution, as do the members of any other benefit club. And be it remembered, that upon the general accession of governess subscribers, the establishment of the scheme depends: they are the very heart of the matter, the source and promise of existence. Honorary subscribers are fluctuating, and can never be reckoned upon in sufficient numbers at so small a payment for the support of such an association, though their subscriptions are a welcome aid, and their influence in extending the knowledge of the object of the Society very important.

It will not do to wait for the accumulation of funds before determining their exact application. The plan itself, and the names bound to carry it out, must win the contributors.

It was replied to some correspondent that it might take ten years to establish the Association,—good—and that period agrees well with that named for eligibility of election. The first thing then, I conceive, is, for a Committee to engage that at the expiration of the tenth year the position and prospects of the Society shall be made known, and every governess-subscriber for the whole time past have the option of receiving back the amount of her subscription, or continuing a member for the chance of Annuity.

This option I should be disposed to offer at the end of ten years' subscription henceforward, should, as I would trust, the Society be ultimately established: it is about equivalent to the permission to those insuring in the Governesses' Benevolent Institution to receive back former payments when unable to continue. It should be imperative on those looking forward to possible avail of the benefit, to enter as governess-subscribers.

Regarding the X.Y.Z. as a desirable and practicable plan, the calculations should be sober, and a professional actuary deduce the capabilities.

That "*all* the governesses, and all their employers should unite" can never be expected. I fear it is too much to assume all the governesses, and look for as many employers and miscellaneous people as will make good the deficiencies of the class—but see what could be done for so much. And I should say, let the principle be that all share in what is subscribed—(the above suggestion would secure against any being losers up to ten years.) One lottery element is taken away in proposed election by seniority of subscription. Let us not have it in few prizes and many blanks—let not maintenance, but aid be thought of. Far be it from me to say that £25 or £20 ought to be regarded as maintenance for an educated woman; but I say that in a Mutual Benefit Society more good is done by dividing into two or three portions to as many more candidates. In many cases it would be just what a poor, but not destitute lady needs to make up appearances; in others, of

absolute poverty, it would just afford that security for lodgings, &c., which would disembarass relatives and well-wishers from the fear of having their poor friend altogether on their hands if they allowed the claim by doing anything.

With one more remark I conclude. It must be a mistake the proposing that paying £5 in a lump shall be equivalent to ten years' subscription of 5s., for it is contrary to the principle of the affair, and would open the way to all manner of dissension and jobbing. A.E.

LXVII.—PASSING EVENTS.

THE case of Mary Ann Walkley, the Regent Street dressmaker, has been kept before the public by articles and letters in most of the influential journals.

ON the 1st July, Mr. Ewart's Weights and Measures Bill, the object of which is the introduction into this country of the decimal and metrical system of weights and measures, long since adopted in France, was read for the second time. As there seems thus to be an imminent probability of a change in the law on this important subject, the opponents of the system have been stirred up to a vigorous opposition, and a correspondent of the *Times* has been particularly earnest in urging, in a series of letters to that journal, the superiority of duodecimal over decimal numeration. The feminine mind is so often naturally deficient in powers of calculation, and education usually is so little directed towards improving such powers by cultivation, that women must be specially concerned in any determination which shall affect arithmetical differences.

A SUBSCRIPTION was recently set on foot in Paris by M. Odillon Barrot for the benefit of Rosalie Doise, who, having been condemned to death last year for parricide, though innocent, pleaded "guilty" to the charge, rather than undergo the horrors of a French prison; and was only saved from the guillotine by the timely confession of the real murderer, who has since been tried and executed. The amount realized does not amount to a very large sum, but it has sufficed to purchase a small cottage, worth from 80*l.* to 100*l.*, and an annuity of about 14*l.*

THE fate of the poor missing child, Elizabeth Hunter, for whose recovery a reward of 100*l.* has long been vainly offered, is now no longer a mystery. Her remains have been discovered in a nursery-ground at Islington, and evidence points out too plainly that she must have been the victim of an atrocious crime. Many a mother who reads this terrible story will tremble to trust her little girl in the street; and it is sad indeed, that in these days—days of enlightenment and Christianity, as we often fondly call them—a fate like this should have been possible to a child of such tender years.

ANOTHER unfortunate woman has fallen a victim to the present cruel and irrational taste for dangerous amusements: a second "female Blondin" having paid a terrible penalty, this time of life itself, for the fool-hardiness of her exploits. By the breaking of a rotten rope at the Astor Park, Birmingham, a poor creature, the mother of six children, and within one month of becoming a mother again, was precipitated from a height of thirty feet, falling, a crushed and mangled corpse, at the very feet of her husband. Renewed efforts are being made to induce the Legislature to interfere, and forbid for the future any exhibitions which may lead to the recurrence of such catastrophes.