

LIFE IN ENGLAND.—The following is taken from a little pamphlet, printed for private distribution, by the Rev. Isaac Taylor, of St. Matthias, Bethnal-Green (England), giving a description of the condition of his parish, which he describes as the headquarters of the Spitalfields silk trade:—

“The great difficulty which confronts us is the dead level of excessive poverty. A skilful workman, making costly velvets or rich silks, and laboring from twelve to sixteen hours a day, will only earn on an average about 12s. a week. There are many who do not earn above 7s. or 8s., and the labor required to gain these miserable wages is great and excessive. To make a single inch of velvet the shuttle has to be thrown 180 times, 180 times the treadles have to be worked, 60 times the wire has to be inserted, 60 times to be withdrawn, 60 times the knife has to be guided along the whole breadth of the work, and 60 times the pressure of the chest has to be exerted on a heavy beam, which is used to compress the work. Six hundred distinct operations are thus required to make one single inch of velvet, the average payment for which is 1d. The women, whose strength does not enable them to move so heavy a beam with the chest, are employed in making velveteens, chenille, silk and cotton trimmings, and bead trimmings. They earn about one-third the wages of the men. For fancy braid the payment is ½d. a yard. Even at these starvation wages work is very scarce; the men are often for weeks together out of employ, or, as it is termed by a wretched mockery, ‘at play.’ Parents frequently find it quite impossible to send their children to school, even when they have clothes and shoes in which to go. The poor little creatures have to be retained at home to earn a few miserable pence by means of some of the numerous ‘children’s trades’ which unhappily flourish in Bethnal-green. Among these trades the foremost perhaps is the manufacture of lucifer-boxes. For this work the payment is 2½d. per gross, or thirty-two boxes for ½d., out of which sum the little laborers have to find their own paste. The other day I took upon my knees a little girl who is employed in this manner. She told me she was four years old. The mother said the child had earned her own living ever since she was three years of age. This infant now makes several hundred boxes every day of her life, and her earnings suffice to pay the rent of the miserable room which the family inhabits. The poor little woman, as might be expected, is grave and sad beyond her years. She has none of a child’s vivacity. She does not seem to know what play means. Her whole thoughts are centred in the eternal round of lucifer-box making, in which her whole life is passed. She has never been beyond the dingy street in which she was born. She has never so much as seen a tree, a daisy, or a blade of grass. A poor sickly little thing, and yet a sweet, obedient child, the deadly pallor of her face proclaiming unmistakably that she will soon be mercifully taken away to a better world, where at last the little weary fingers will be at rest. And this is only one case out of scores and hundreds. The mortality among young children is something frightful. I do not know anything more terrible than the statements which one continually hears. It is a common thing for a mother to say that she has buried six or eight and reared one or two. This mortality among the children is chiefly owing to the deadly overcrowding and to insufficiency of food and clothing. Last summer we found a family of eight children living with their father and mother in a room some ten feet square, and almost in a state of starvation. All the children had the smallpox out upon them; they had had no medical care or nursing; the only medicament that had been used was a little oil rubbed on their faces; this the father said he had heard was good for the smallpox. The man was engaged meanwhile in the delicate work of making white chenille, to be sold in the fashionable West-End shops. Hardly a family in the parish possesses more than a single room, in which all the members live, and work, and sleep. For this one room from 3s. to 4s. weekly is commonly paid out of the scanty earnings, leaving a sum quite insufficient to provide the most necessary food. Last week my colleague went into a room where the father lay seriously ill, and asked the wife some questions about the nourishment she was giving him. ‘I will show you, sir, what we have,’ was the reply. She opened a cupboard door. One slice of dry bread lay carefully treasured on the shelf, all that was left for the support of the sick man and the whole family, and not a halfpenny did they possess wherewith to procure more. I believe I am under the mark when I affirm that not one family in twenty has a blanket of their own, and not more than one in twelve has a sheet.”

WHAT the Press says of GODEY. Taken at random from some thousands of similar notices:—

It is a model magazine.—*Tribune*, Manitonwoc.
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It is acknowledged to be the leading lady’s magazine in America.—*Enterprise*, China, N. Y.

When we compare this work with one of the lower priced ladies’ magazines, we are struck with wonder with the difference, Godey being worth three of the others.—*Courier*, Madison.

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The ladies’ favorite for 36 years. No magazine has been able to compete with it; none attempt it.—*Plain Dealer*, Owatonna.

POSTAGE on the Lady’s Book, according to the late law passed last winter:—

Section 36.—Postage on Godey’s Lady’s Book, 24 cents a year, payable yearly, semi-yearly, or quarterly in advance, at the Post-office where the Book is received.

News-dealers may receive their packages at the same rates, that is, 2 cents for each copy of the magazine, and may pay separately for each package as received.

PHILADELPHIA AGENCY.

Mrs. Hale is not the Fashion Editress. Address “Fashion Editress, care L. A. Godey, Philadelphia.”

No order attended to unless the cash accompanies it.

All persons requiring answers by mail must send a post-office stamp; and for all articles that are to be sent by mail, stamps must be sent to pay return postage.

Be particular, when writing, to mention the town, county, and State you reside in. Nothing can be made out of post-marks.

Miss B. B. C.—Sent box by Adams’s express April 17th.

Mrs. S. A. H.—Sent pattern 18th.

S. E. O.—Sent pattern 18th.

Miss C. T.—Sent pattern 18th.

Mrs. S. F. F.—Sent pattern 18th.

J. H. J.—Sent pattern 20th.

M. G. A.—Sent pattern 23d.

Mrs. O. B.—Sent pattern and needles 24th.

L. D. G.—Sent pattern 24th.

Miss M. E. M.—Sent silk mantle by Adams’s express 26th.

G. A. H.—Sent lead comb 26th.

C. McC.—Sent lead comb 27th.

Mrs. M. E. T.—Sent articles by Adams’s express 27th.

Miss M. H. B.—Sent bonnet and hat by Adams’s express 27th.

Mrs. W. C. H.—Sent lead comb 29th.

Miss E. A.—Sent lead comb 29th.

Mrs. E. L. J.—Sent dress pattern by Adams’s express 29th.

A. H.—Sent lead comb, May 1st.

Mrs. J. R. B.—Sent pattenus 1st.

P. A. G.—Sent pattenus 1st.

Mrs. A. B.—Sent pattenus 1st.

Mrs. E. T. A.—Sent bonnet by Adams’s express 1st.

Mrs. E. N. S.—Sent articles by Adams’s express 1st.

Mrs. E. A.—Sent pattenus 2d.

J. B. L.—Sent shells by Adams’s express 3d.

Mrs. A. V. DuB.—Sent bonnet by Adams’s express 3d.

Mrs. L. G. K.—Sent bonnet by Adams’s express 4th.

Mrs. E. A. P.—Sent slippers 6th.

Mrs. A. M. R.—Sent pattenus 6th.

Miss K. M.—Sent curls by express 7th.

B. W. P.—Sent box by express 8th.

Miss S. G.—Sent lace by express 11th.