

the impression you seem to entertain with respect to our best dish."

And thus a soft answer turned away strife, and led to "a feast instead of a fight."

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT.

How to provide larger sources of remunerative employment for females is one of the most important and difficult social problems of the day. A few general remarks will serve to bring the actual state of the question before our readers. For the present practical purpose, the subject will be much simplified by first referring to the two largest departments of female occupation—Manufactures and Domestic Service.

In many parts of the kingdom, special branches of manufacture give employment to most of the surplus female population. In Lancashire there are 120,000 young women employed in the cotton manufacture alone. In Dundee the whole population, in 1851, was 79,000, of which 43,500 were females; and of these above 11,000 were employed in the linen manufacture alone, or more than a fourth of the whole females of all ages in the town. At Coventry in the ribbon trade; at Nottingham in the lace trade; in Bedfordshire in the straw-plait manufacture; and so with other districts, ample employment is found for female hands. The extent of this employment is regulated by the laws of supply and demand, and the ordinary principles which regulate manufacture and trade.

The same laws of supply and demand regulate the extent of employment in domestic service. There is no risk of this market for female labour being overstocked. The difficulty of finding good servants is a matter of constant complaint. Even if every family in this country were supplied, there is ample room in the British Colonies for any number of female domestics. Besides the immediate advantage of high wages, the prospect of marriage and comfortable settlement is much better there than at home. From every one of the British Colonies the reports agree that female servants are in demand, so much so that shiploads of young girls from the Irish workhouses have been rapidly absorbed among the colonists. Well-trained English girls would be preferred if they could be obtained, and we therefore point out, in passing, a truly useful field for benevolent exertion—the training of young girls, whether in workhouses or in private institutions, in all branches of common domestic labour. There are more nursery governesses, ladies' maids, housekeepers, and upper domestic servants than required, but there is a constant and increasing demand for working servants, and no young woman who is steady and industrious, and who has obtained some previous training, need find difficulty in obtaining a comfortable home and regular employment.

We may, therefore, dismiss from view these two great departments of female occupation—manufactures and domestic service. The greatest pressure and real difficulty remains, in regard to females of somewhat higher grades in the social scale. The

following are the chief modes of occupation at present available:—

1. Professional employment; including authors, artists, teachers, and governesses. There is certainly not much scope for increased employment in this direction. The prizes are few, the blanks many; and the miserably small remuneration of the majority thus employed proves that professional occupation is overstocked. Without very superior talents, or personal advantages, or special patronage, a life of penury and dependence must be the lot of most who look to professional employment. Delusive ideas of "gentility" urge multitudes thus to seek occupation, who might otherwise obtain positions of comfort and independence.

2. Business employment, including assistants and saleswomen in shops. For young persons who are healthy, active, with good manners, and bringing good recommendations, there is seldom much difficulty in getting this kind of employment; but the competition is keen among those with inferior qualifications. With present prejudices and present usages, however, the work of retail shops being chiefly performed by men, there is not large scope for increased female occupation in business. The larger share in retail trade, taken by women in France and other countries, proves that the objections to their employment in this country are unfounded. But this is an improvement that can only be gradually introduced, through the influence of public opinion, and by the secession of "men-milliners" to more creditable and manly occupations.

3. Needlework of various kinds. In private life, the needle is the symbol of female industry and thrift, of comfort and elegance. It is far otherwise in social economy as an instrument of trade and gain. "Distressed needlewomen" are words proverbial of toil and poverty. This is true, whether of plain or of fancy work. Every department of work in which the needle is the chief tool is overstocked. The use of sewing machines will render needlework a still more precarious mode of subsistence.

4. Special branches of industrial labour. Besides the great manufactures of the country, there are many branches both of useful and ornamental art and manufacture, employing numerous hands. Of this kind are bookfolding and stitching, artificial flower making, ornamental paper work, and many others. Changes of fashion, and varieties of taste, may give rise to increased demand for certain kinds of work from time to time; but there is certainly not room for additional hands, to any large extent, in the regularly established branches of manual industry—at least, not beyond the extra number required to meet the extension of trade with the enlarging population.

Other branches of female industry at present available are too insignificant to be taken into account. Everywhere the pressure of overstocked occupations is indicated by the hardships, the poverty, and worse calamities, in which numbers are immersed. Hence the importance of endeavouring to open up new fields of female employment. We shall soon return to this subject.

"Ah, Hugh, the sight of a home face! The dear old times!"

Which old times, we may remark, she had not at all loved in passing; but now, because they were gone and distant, and the present so widely different, their hard features, distasteful near at hand, were softened by a halo of remembrance.

"And how did you like Paris, Mildred?"

"Oh, very well; it was tiresome enough sometimes. I am glad to be settled at home."

She spoke with a wearied air; the *ennui* of fashion seemed already to envelope her in its poisoned robe.

"You have a fine house here, my sister," said Hugh, after a pause. "How beautiful is the arrangement of colours in this room!"

It was panelled in rose damask, relieved with dull silvered mouldings.

"A fancy of mine," said Mildred. "But tell me, Hugh—you know I have a deep interest in matters matrimonial—tell me something about Agatha."

"There is hope of a softening," he said; "Mrs. Carnaby seems inclined to bate terms somewhat; and we have a staunch ally in Sir Lancett Pyke, the magnate of the family."

"We were glad to read of your appointment to the — hospital; that's a stepping-stone to fortune, Hugh."

"Yes; if I am allowed to work my way on, and am not required, being an insignificant frog, to inflate myself as large as an ox," he replied.

"Your appearance ought to be suitable to your connexions, Hugh," said his sister. At which he laughed, and answered, "Certainly!" in a manner slightly disconcerting.

"Where do you intend to live?"

"That's one of the points at issue between Mrs. Carnaby and me. I cannot afford the expense of a fashionable residence, and she says that a daughter of hers shall live in no other. I have not got over that difficulty yet," he said, with rather a sad smile. "They have yielded the carriage question at present."

Here entered Mr. Euston Ferrol: Mildred stopped short abruptly.

"Were you reading poetry?" he asked, in an insinuating yet disagreeable tone. "Pray do not let me interrupt you." She answered nothing, by word or look.

"Clouds already," thought Hugh, and then diverged into a lover-like reflection upon the wild improbability that he should ever speak to Agatha and be met with a sullen countenance; or that there could exist any subject on which they would not have the fullest mutual sympathy. We may here state that the glamour of this delusion survived his marriage about three months.

But the train of thought into which he had fallen made him such dull company, that he shortly took his leave, and carried his sweet mirage of feeling out into the congenial moonlight.

"Your family are exceedingly early in paying their devoirs," said her husband, standing on the hearth-rug. He had been chafed up-stairs, and neither felt nor looked amiable.

"I was very glad to see Hugh," she remarked simply, hardly noting the manner of Euston's speech, for her thoughts were otherwise engaged.

"Of course; and I have no doubt but he was also charmed to see *you*." The implied reflection on her brother's disinterestedness she would not notice.

"I suppose he has the family mania for living beyond his means," continued her husband. "He had better not count on help from me under any circumstances. If there be one thing I despise more than another, it is the meanness of a false appearance."

She knew that he was ill-humoured, and wisely refrained from reply; but by and by, when he seemed rather ashamed of the ebullition, she repaid him with a manner most repellent. He fell asleep on the sofa after tea; Mildred looked abroad upon the silver glory flooding all the heavens, and, with a shrug of her shoulders, pronounced it "dismal;" tried to read a book, but could not fix her attention. Gazing at the fire was her final resource. She saw a variety of things there, as do all idlers. Thus passed her first evening in her splendid home.

And from such evenings she rushed into the dissipation of fashion. Perpetual excitement might fill the void in her nature. But throughout that vast Hall of Eblis, called "the gay world," she found beneath every robe the burning heart; and her own was no exception. What matter, so long as the robe was jewelled?

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT.

II. EDUCATED WORKWOMEN.

"SHALL women work or not in other than domestic employments?" This question being now summarily answered by the imperious, "They must!" words need not be wasted, nor elaborate arguments urged, in opposition to ascertained facts.

At present, about three-fourths of our single women, two-thirds of our widowed, and one-seventh of our married women, are thrown upon their own resources for a livelihood, besides those who assist in the occupations of their male relatives. It is no less well known that there is an increasing surplus of nearly a million of women in the country over the other sex, who, unless as emigrants, have thus no chance of being married. To insist, therefore, that these women should employ themselves exclusively in home duties, would be as wise as to expect bread to be made from stones; for unless homes are provided for them, the performance of such duties becomes simply impossible, however great may be the anxiety and eager the wish to find an opportunity of so doing. These facts are briefly stated, that the reader may know how this matter really stands, as facts are one thing and vague assertions another. Unless these homeless ones are permitted to work in other occupations than household, they must either be handed over to charity, or they must starve. Work, however, they will soon find, now when the public acknowledges the difficulty of their position, and casts

away that sentimental tinsel with which the subject has been too often overlaid.

Another grave fact bearing on the employment of women, is the excess of luxury—an excess which makes the household expenses so far beyond what they used to be in the olden times. A man, with all the will in the world, cannot now maintain the female members of his family in a style commensurate with what he considers his own or their position in society. It has even been hinted that he finds his better half at times a burthen almost too heavy for his purse to bear, with her immeasurable yards of silk, velvet, lace, and embroidery. Then matters become worse, when little sons must have their rich tunics and feathers, and little daughters an equal amount of finery and ornamentation; and how, then, is it to be expected that any portion of income can be left to bestow on aunts or cousins?—those tiresome creatures! Of course, out of £400 or £500 per annum, no one looks for generosity; consequently, aunts and poor cousins are now-a-days launched on the troubled waters of society without rudder or oars, to drift as best they may towards some haven of shelter, long sought for, and alas! seldom found.

Again, when the young daughters grow tall, and blossom into womanhood, what are *they* to do, should husbands not be forthcoming? On the supposition that their father's income dies with him, which is frequently the case, and that no provision has been made for them, they in turn become the homeless "poor cousins," unacknowledged, it may be, by the wealthier branches of their house; and so on it goes. We shall not ask the reader to tread the weary circle, but remind him that, as the greater ever includes the lesser, so, many minor facts, to which allusion shall be made hereafter, must of necessity be involved in the twin statements just made; namely, the greater number of women, and the difficulty men find, in the middle ranks of life, of securing a provision for the female members of their families.

It is this difficulty, felt almost universally in the class mentioned, that is giving rise to various new plans and projects; or rather, it should be said, by returning to simpler and less complex social arrangements. Our ancestresses worked more than women of the like rank do now, neither were they ashamed to be known as workers. Indeed, they had an honest pride in being considered good bakers, good brewers, good spinners, and sometimes weavers. Machinery has changed the working men, and in like manner altered the need of women's working in manifold ways, too varied to enumerate; therefore, it stands to reason that women must be provided with different kinds of occupation if they are to work at all.

Exertions are now being made by many of the able and kind-hearted of both sexes to ameliorate this evil of non-occupation—an evil which daily augments—and to find out new sources of employment for women, alike demanded by the exigencies and changes of the times.

So much has been said about the miseries and hardships of governesses, that we shall only allude to that fact in connection with improved prospects. Numbers who swell the list of daily or yearly

teachers in private will doubtless, with the anticipated new openings for remunerative labour, gladly avail themselves of becoming mistresses of public schools, as is now contemplated, by raising the salaries, in order to obtain the services of better educated women than those who at present act in these capacities. In a brief space of time training schools, workshops, and other fields of labour will be in full operation for the instruction of girls; other branches of arts and of manufactures will likewise be added as the sphere of labour widens. It is to be hoped that when the employment of women becomes more general, which, from the efforts now being made, appears to be likely, and girls are made to understand at an early age that upon the work of their head and hands depends much of their future welfare, we shall no longer hear, as at present, of their deficiency in habits of order or of patience, more than of their want of skill.

It is possible that days may come when all of us shall be enabled to enjoy a greater leisure than now, a greater exemption from toil, which shall admit of more attention to higher interests than is to be attained at present, when it may be said that the rich are underworked, and the poor are overworked. Meanwhile, it is certain that if some classes of women suffer through overwork, ill-paid work, and want of work, there are those of other classes who suffer, though in another way, from the indolence and *ennui* engendered by doing no work at all. Women thus fall short of the measure and proportion of bodily and mental strength allotted them by nature.

To work well and to work willingly, women must regard work, not as a hard necessity or as a temporary pursuit, easily to be followed and as easily departed from, but as one which cannot fail to be of advantage to them in every condition of life. It were a great gain to the cause of the employment of women, were it accepted as a truth that, to bring up women properly to be single, is also to bring them up best fitted for marriage.

As to any moral objections urged against women working more than we have been accustomed to see them do, we consider them as futile as those urged under the apprehension that work is calculated to injure their refinement, or destroy their sympathies. An assurance of independence and a cheerful activity are, on the contrary, more likely to keep both lively; as we are every day made painfully aware that poverty, and its natural attendant, discontent, rapidly encourage rudeness and harden all good feeling. The sad effects of destitution or idleness upon the more numerous and less educated classes of women are too well known to require comment.

It has been suggested that provision by life insurance should be made by fathers for their daughters. However admirable such a plan of providing for the unmarried may be, or however likely to attain a greater popularity than it has yet reached, few fathers, it is apprehended, will be very ready to realize as a fact that their daughters shall prove exceptions to the rest of the sex. Were it at once accepted as a principle that every individual of the community at large ought to work, either with

head or hands, in some fashion or other, since religion and morality, as well as physical law, require work as a duty, obstacles would disappear. And were it likewise accepted as a truth that thus to work is honourable in either sex, whilst idleness is a reproach, the dread of loss of caste could no longer be held up as a bugbear, but, like other phantoms, it would recede as approached, or vanish when the attempt was made to grapple with it.

It may be somewhat wounding to male vanity to hint at another small fact, a fact, nevertheless, as real, and leading likewise to as much unhappiness as the others just quoted. We mean the fact that marriage is too often regarded as "a refuge for the destitute;" that hundreds of women marry simply, and without disguise, for an establishment, the happy husband being merely a something that *must* be accepted along with the house and furniture. The results of such bargain-making are obvious, and require no illustrations from us. Had women a sufficiency assured them, they would marry from higher motives and purer feelings, and thus many elements of discord would be forever banished from the domestic sphere.

Having thus reached the culminating point, that it were well for women to work, we reserve for another paper some of the proposed kinds of employment suggested.

"OLD GIB."

WHAT can be more beautiful and striking than the prospect before us as we approach the stern old rock of Gibraltar this fine summer morning, homeward-bound from the East! At first the lofty lands over our steamer's prow look like threatening clouds of some impending tempest; and towering above them, darker and more threatening than the rest, stands the grim and silent sentinel of the Mediterranean. "Old Gib," as our soldiers and sailors familiarly call him, is silent, luckily for ourselves and all others within cannon-shot range; for, were the sleeping monster roused, his bellows would waken up fearful echoes far into the lands of the Moor and the Spaniard, and from its hundreds of mouths would be belched forth flames, destruction, and death.

As we draw nearer "the gut," or strait, things assume a more defined shape; the hills and the lowlands are verdure-clad, and dotted here and there with white spots which represent towns, villages, or country houses. On the African side, the distance only enables us to see the lofty land looming through the haze of heat, and what we see of Gibraltar from this side has nothing enticing. Rising abruptly from the water's edge, the well-laved rocks that girt its base glitter like brilliants in the sun, but above it seems barren desolation, and apparently, save for the sea gull or the cormorant, untenable and uninhabitable. On the very summit of the rock there is, however, something that looks like a broomstick with a rag on the top of it. A telescope deciphers that rag to be "the flag that has braved, for a thousand years, the battle and the breeze."

As we approach Europa Point, the aspect of affairs changes for the better momentarily. A sensible lighthouse, with a body-guard of batteries, gives us some faint conception of what may be expected on closer intimacy. And we pass so close to this point that we can distinctly hear the English voices of some little boys, (the children of the soldiers in garrison,) who, bare-headed and with trowsers tucked up to the knees, are lolling over the bastion and angling for any sport that may be lured by their bait. I am positive I could pitch a ship's biscuit right amongst these young disciples of Walton.

Rounding Europa Point, the strength and the beauty of the place bursts as if by magic upon us; and when we anchor, which we do, rather outside most of the shipping, which floats further down the bay, apart from the unexpected appearances of a really pretty-looking town, with charming villas and gardens, houses scattered here and there and clothing the abrupt sides of the hill from the water's edge to the very summit, we become for the first time aware that the apparently solid rock is but an impregnable hornet's nest, bristling from top to bottom with cannon, and prepared at any given moment to salute a foe, from any quarter, with such an iron shower as never yet a fleet encountered. Yes, depend upon it, if ever Gibraltar be lost, it will be the work of traitors within; and this was once nearly the case, through the harshness and inefficiency of one of the governors.

The formalities of the Quarantine Office having been satisfactorily completed, we will, if you please, jump into one of the boats alongside, and, having landed, make acquaintance with the "salamanders and scorpions," (as those born on the Rock are called,) and see what can be seen in the brief space permitted us to remain. We have no sooner set foot ashore than we are beset, tormented, hustled, and stupified by "touters," clamorous and laudatory on behalf of their various employers. "Club House Hotel? fine large rooms!" "No, sir, Griffiths' best in Gibraltar—*table d'hôte*, sir, cheap!" "Dumoulin's French Hotel—excellent beeftek." "Fonda d'Europa—cheap and airy!" "Parker's Hotel, Calle Real!" "Hi, sir, you; ho, you officesar—my card, sir; you keep him, my card!" Amidst the contending parties, we are conveyed, *sans ceremonie*, into the very heart of the town, till, overcome with heat and fatigue, we flee for refuge into the first hotel we chance to pass. Lolling here by a window that commands a splendid prospect of the bay, a welcome puff of cool breeze from the Atlantic, and a glass of India pale ale, restore us to something like comfort and enjoyment. It is too hot, however, to venture out sight-seeing yet, so we sit and muse, and call to mind as much of the Rock's history as makes the heart of any Briton throb proudly, and foreigners unwillingly confess that Britannia rules the waves.

On July 24th, 1704, during the War of Succession, Gibraltar was captured by Sir George Rooke, who, unexpectedly attacking it, found only eighty men garrisoning the place; and these, we are told, instead of offering any resistance, fell down upon their knees before shrines and relics which then abounded

him in at night, and in the morning he was gone."

"Then you must reap the fruits of your negligence. Mr. Piper has proved by two witnesses that he bought and paid for him fairly, and under these circumstances I cannot order it to be restored to you. I am sorry for you; but the case is dismissed."

The discomfited Pettitoes could scarcely credit the evidence of their senses when they heard this decision. They had expected a triumph, and had summoned their friends and their whole squad of newsboys to witness it; and now they had to submit to an ignominious defeat. Dejected and chap-fallen, they returned home.

When the parties came out of court, the squad of newsboys lagged behind the rest, and among them Charley Batter might have been observed particularly active; and, while evidently chuckling at some secret design, he was losing no time in communicating it to the rest. That it was received with a genuine relish by them all, was manifest; for a few moments they laughed and capered, and rubbed their hands with glee, and then, with a general shout, started off at a run and vanished round the corner.

Mr. Piper, elated with his triumph, on leaving court had turned in with his friends into the "Cat and Bagpipes," to commemorate his success with a libation. The ale being good, and the company agreeable, he stayed there with his friends till the evening was far advanced. About shut-shop time he turned his face homewards; but lo! on coming within sight of his shop-door, he saw at once that the bold Highlander, who should have stood sentinel there, and on whose account he had been rejoicing so late, had vanished. He rushed into the shop, and demanded of his old dame what had become of him.

The good dame, who was rather slow of motion and hard of hearing, did not even know that the treasure was gone. She gave a rather incoherent account of a mob of boys, who about dusk had come shouting round the door while she served six of them with a screw of tobacco a-piece, after which they all ran away shouting. That was all she knew.

By some mysterious process or other, the very next morning the bold Highlander stood mounted at his old post at Pettitoes' door, just as usual, with the exception that he was now chained and padlocked round the loins, and couldn't by any possibility wander any more.

Of course, there was a second citation before the magistrate, and the case had to be tried again; only now, instead of Pettitoes *versus* Piper, it was Piper *versus* Pettitoes. The magistrate, on this second occasion, decided precisely as he had done on the first. Pettitoes had only got the property he had bought and paid for, and he, the magistrate, could not order him to surrender to another what was undoubtedly his own.

It was now Dan Piper's turn to retire discomfited and dejected, and he found his way home this time without turning into the "Cat and Bagpipes." Dan threatened all manner of vengeance against the thief, if he should ever catch him, and against

the man who sold the figure to him in the first instance, and who had unaccountably disappeared from the neighbourhood. These threats, however, so far as we could learn, were never executed, and Dan had to put up with his loss. The bold Highlander remained with the Pettitoes, and did them good service for many a long year. He was the pet of the newsboys, who were never weary of their good offices towards him; and Charley in particular kept him in a state of high polish, and seemed to regard him with peculiar affection.

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT.

NO. III.

In a former article on this subject, we promised to lay before our readers a few of the proposed plans for enabling women to gain an honourable livelihood and certainty of provision, rather than to be compelled, as at present, to accept a species of alms from relatives, (alms in some cases grudgingly bestowed,) or to receive, in old age, gifts of charity from benevolent institutions. The mental suffering endured by refined and sensitive persons from this cruel compulsion of necessity need not be dwelt upon.

The proposed employments may be classed under different heads. For the sake, however, of a clear understanding as to the varied occupations suggested, we shall in the first instance restrict ourselves to one department, namely—the "Industrial;" under which term we include those branches of trade, of art, or of commerce, supposed to be suitable for educated workwomen, and of a sufficiently remunerative character; reserving for another paper those fields of labour where women are required in connection with reformatories, prisons, workhouses, and hospitals. We likewise pass over educational institutions and schools of trainings; for however important these are, not being able to embrace all at once, we must leave them to be treated of specially.

The dignity of ladyhood may, we fear, deem it an infringement, when it hears itself spoken of with traffic, trade, shops, and counting-houses—words not to be mentioned to "ears polite;" but it cannot be helped, the hour has struck on the great clock of time when such innovations are called for and must be tolerated. Custom has a marvellous power, and when familiar with certain phrases, such as the "industrial position of women," "educated female labour," "lady superintendent," "lady inspectress," and the like, will become accepted just as readily as are now the terms of milliner, governess, matron, or housekeeper.

To find new employments for either sex is a matter of difficulty, and can be achieved only as new inventions make their way, and supersede old modes of action. We must, therefore, make up our minds to be content with some of the known and accepted employments, until, in the process of improvement and enterprise, others may emerge from the ever-producing brains of genius.

Women, here and there, already occupy positions of trust and management in different departments of labour; and what is now desired by those anxious

to diminish the numbers of unemployed gentlewomen is, that those offices may be multiplied and extended all over the country.

Some writers go the length of affirming that the long indifference shown by the public mind to the sufferings and destitution of women, almost amounts to a national sin. Until now, when the subject can no longer be kept in abeyance with safety to society, little has been done beyond the exclusion of women from mines, and the limiting of the hours of labour in factories. Both excellent statutes! but laws only referring to the lower classes, while it is the women of the classes above these who now demand consideration.

Happily the attention of statesmen and influential men, as well as the press, has now been directed to this serious state of matters as regards the wants and necessities of unprovided-for women. The society for promoting their employment (in connection with the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science) has the Earl of Shaftesbury for its president, and for its vice-presidents the Bishops of London and of Oxford, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., and the Vice-Chancellor Sir William Page Wood. The object of this society is to endeavour to find employment suitable for women; and classes will shortly be opened for their instruction in book-keeping, law-engrossing, and other branches of business; thus practically to ascertain the capacity of women for some of the occupations hitherto closed against them, and to encourage their better and more complete education. It is likewise hoped that the pupils may be able to compete for certificates at the half-yearly examinations of the Society of Arts. A writer on the subject of work for educated women, expressed his opinion that he saw "no reason why the wives and daughters of commercial men should not act as book-keepers;" and neither do we. In fact, many women do keep the books in the shops of tradesmen, especially in the shops of bakers and of butchers, and a good amount of attention is requisite for the correct performance of that task. We never knew of any objections being raised against women thus earning their living, simply because it is a common thing to do; and were it equally common for the daughters of merchants to keep their fathers' or relatives' books, no one would express the least surprise at seeing women thus employed.

It is likewise suggested that they be made eligible to undertake offices of trust and management, such as saleswomen, overseers of shops and warehouses in which girls are employed, cashiers, managers of departments in factories, having the superintendence of girls, sellers of goods on commission, and other similar occupations. It may here be remarked that any woman entering on a situation of industry, beyond the precincts of her family, will thus, in process of time, find herself in the company of women of her own rank.

The working of the electric telegraph is another source of emolument now opened up to women; and as their first introduction to that widely extending branch of labour is interesting, we shall, for the satisfaction of our readers, give a rapid sketch of it.

About six years ago Mr. Ricardo, M.P., the then chairman of the Electric and International Telegraph Company, heard of a young girl, the daughter of one of the railway station-masters, who had for three years carried on, day by day, the whole of the electric telegraph business for her father, and that, too, with great intelligence and correctness. The idea of training and employing women as clerks for the Telegraph Company then suggested itself; it was proposed to the committee, and the proposition was warmly seconded by General Wyld, who has proved a most untiring friend to the cause. Opposition was at first shown; but the experiment was permitted to proceed, and Mrs. Craig, the present intelligent matron, was appointed to instruct, in her own room, eight pupils on two instruments. With what tact, perseverance, and success Mrs. Craig and her pupils worked, may be gathered from the fact that at Founder's Court alone upwards of ninety young women are now in active employment, the whole of the actual working of the instruments having fallen into their hands. The committee are now perfectly satisfied that the girls are not only more teachable, more attentive, and quicker-eyed than the men clerks formerly employed, but have also pronounced them to be more trustworthy, more easily managed, and, we may add, satisfied with lower wages.

The result of the experiment has been so satisfactory, that about thirty more women are now employed at the branch offices, namely, eight at Charing Cross, two at Fleet Street, two at Knightsbridge, etc.; and doubtless they will soon fill posts in all the branch offices of England.

The instrumental clerks earn from eight to eighteen shillings per week, and the superintending clerks from twenty to thirty shillings. Now, if we place one pound per week against *nothing*, these wages are good. Six weeks is considered the average time for learning the fluctuations of the needle, after which period payment for service commences, nor is any fee required for instruction. If at the end of two months the pupil cannot conquer the movement of the hands, she is dismissed as incompetent to master the art. The young girls now working at Lothbury are chiefly the daughters of small tradesmen; but several are the children of Government clerks—Somerset House or Treasury men—while three or four are the daughters of clergymen.

Other companies, the Magnetic, and the London District Telegraph Companies (the offices of which are in Threadneedle Street), are following the steps of the International, and have already engaged a number of hands, who are now being instructed; but the honour and the credit of the movement is due to the Electric and International Company. The success which has followed this practical and liberal attempt to afford employment for women, may induce others who have it in their power, materially to assist this praiseworthy object.

The employment of women as clerks in telegraph offices being an accomplished fact, there seems no just cause why they should not become clerks elsewhere. As, in too many instances, we take

offence at *names* rather than things, should ladies have a distaste for the appellation of clerks, let those thus officiating be called assistants, if they like that term better. In positions where intelligence is wanted rather than strength, numberless avenues might be opened up, so that women could again become workers as they once were, before the absurd and pernicious ideas about "gentility" took possession of their minds, to the exclusion of common sense. In the progress of civilization, every day opens up new departments of employment for educated men, and the world of labour is surely wide enough to admit women likewise to some of these occupations.

The plan proposed by Mr. Sykes, of Huddersfield, and to be brought before Parliament, of having Government savings banks added to every post-office in the kingdom where money orders are granted—the number of which offices is 1500—will give employment to a large amount of labour in the way of accountants or clerks. And, if the report be true that the scheme has been approved of by the post-office authorities, there can be little doubt that it will be carried through Parliament, and put into execution shortly afterwards, thus affording a good livelihood to perhaps more than a thousand women, should these new offices be given to them, as is suggested.

In some places, the master or clerk of the post-office may be able to act in both capacities; but where the business of the post-office is extensive, new hands would be required, and there duly trained women might be accepted and no man needs suffer inconvenience or be displaced. Subordinate positions in post-offices are also named as suitable to the habits of women, as well as ticket-givers at railway stations, where mere boys are frequently employed, greatly, we think, to their detriment. It is not judicious to put very young persons in the way of temptation, where money is passing continually through their hands, and it would be better for the morals of the young were they not thus prematurely pushed into the world of business. Many are the sad tales of frauds and embezzlements committed in such situations by mere boys. Where women have been employed in offices of trust, it is rarely, if ever, that they have betrayed the confidence reposed in them. Speaking of post-offices brings to remembrance that, some years since, long before the question of work for women had attracted public attention, we saw two women acting in what seemed a novel capacity, namely, as letter-carriers. The occupation apparently agreed with them, for they looked healthy and active; and, being in a small country town, their rounds would not be over-fatiguing. On wet days they wore water-proof capes, similar to those worn by policemen.

It may not be generally known that, although in London much opposition exists against women acquiring certain kinds of trade (such as watchmaking, for example), in other places in England women are thus employed, and to a great extent; indeed, they have a monopoly of one special branch of that trade. In one large factory in Christchurch, not more than two or three men are employed, and

these merely to do the rougher part of the work. As many as 500 women have been employed at a time in this factory; but of course their numbers vary according to the demand. It is pleasant to know that a great many of these women work at home, as there exist serious objections to the employment of women in factories. A good workwoman can earn about sixteen shillings per week—"a good thing for her family," said the foreman, who was showing a lady over the manufactory. The men in that locality are perfectly satisfied that women should so work, proving the truth of what we remarked about custom and usage. Some of the women live as far distant as twenty or thirty miles from the town of Christchurch, though they have been originally trained in the factory. The mistress said to the visitor, "Our girls get very fond of the work, and they like to feel that they are helping their families." The special branch of watchmaking in which they are employed is in the manufacture of what is called the "chain," which is used in most watches and in all chronometers. The overseer attached great importance to this part of the work; as, said he, "the prosperity of England depends on her navy, the lives of seamen on the chronometer, and the accuracy of the chronometer on its chain: and chains are made in no other place in England except in Christchurch and its neighbourhood." We notice these facts simply to show that prejudices may exist in one part of the country that are quite unknown in another. The workers at Christchurch manufactory could not be made to comprehend why women should not help to make watches; moreover, it was affirmed that the fingers of the girls were more suited to the delicacy of the manipulation required. This species of employment is not quoted as one for educated or higher class women, unless on the supposition that, could capital be forthcoming, a few women of business habits might have an establishment of their own for the teaching and the employment of girls in this branch of manufacture.

Printing is another occupation supposed to be fitted for women. A skilful compositor assured us that he would undertake to teach the art of printing, in a very brief space of time, to any one who would offer herself as a pupil. It has just come to our knowledge that a lady has established a printing-press, and has six young girls as scholars or apprentices. We saw a specimen of the printing, which, for the short trial yet made, seemed very nicely executed. It is called the "Victoria" Printing Press.

When it is estimated that in England 30,000 men are employed to sell ribbons, laces, and other articles of millinery, while our streets are crowded with poverty-stricken women, the endeavour to give bread to some of these destitute ones cannot, in the mean time, be considered hasty, even were it to induce men to forsake trades of so feminine a nature and seek others where strength might be more in demand and the occupation more in accordance with their manliness. Anyhow, it does not seem consistent with the principles of justice, that so much sorrow, suffering, and privation should fall to the share of the weaker sex.

looking like any other cable, but when it is suddenly used, and a strain put on it, so as to tighten it, the cockroaches come swarming out of the interstices of the cable, thus escaping sudden death by squeezing. He has seen them fall out of the cable into the water, swim to the shore, and then climb up in readiness to get back into the ship at the first opportunity.

Passing onwards in the docks, we came to the magnificent ship "The Persia," beautifully smart and handsome-looking, taking in her cargo for Auckland. A number of new square deal boxes were being hoisted in, and these contained paper going out, possibly to receive type-marks, and to return to us printed all over with Australian news, and wished-for tidings of absent friends. A ripple on the quiet water told us something was moving in the docks; and on hearing the "ye hoy" of the sailors, we found a beautiful barque, "The Royal Bride," coming into dock from Columbo. Her anchor was rusty, her sides weather-beaten, and her decks crowded with hardy seamen; and in these men we saw in perfection what I call the "seaman's eye." It is more or less to be noticed in all those who have been at sea. It consists of a beautiful, clear, sharp, and wide-awake expression, which is more easily recognised than described; it is the result of the eye being always under training to look for objects at a distance—to peer through the darkness of the night—to look aloft at the rigging, and to detect quickly what is wrong; it is the eye of quick observation and decisive action. These sailors, just arrived from sea, exhibited the "seaman's eye" to great perfection. After a few days ashore, they will partially lose it; if they remain long in the service, they will never quite lose it, for I have remarked it in many old seamen at Greenwich Hospital.

Passing out of the London Docks, we arrived at the St. Katherine's Docks, and witnessed the unloading of a vessel which had arrived with a cargo of wine. We peeped into the cavern-like entrance to the far-famed wine-vaults, whence issued an odour as of ten thousand half-washed wine decanters placed to our nose at the same time. We read a notice that "No lucifer-matches, fuses, tinder-boxes, pipes, or cigars, were allowed on the premises."

Passing the sharp-eyed custom-house officer at the dock-gate, and finding ourselves in Ratcliff Highway, we noted what we saw in this curious street, of which we may have something to say another time.

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT.

NO. IV.

It is universally acknowledged that women are best fitted by nature for deeds of mercy and charity, for offices of consolation or of tender care; consequently, they have been thus employed, in greater or lesser numbers, in such labours of love. To smooth the pillow of the aged, to calm the fretfulness of childhood, to comfort the sorrowful and aid the weak—these and kindred acts have ever been the special province of women.

To make use of their services in a more systematic way in such avocations, and to widen the circle for their sympathetic efforts, is now being urged as a measure of vital importance to society at large, as well as to the individuals directly benefited; while those to be thus employed are to receive in return a certain remuneration for the performance of these duties.

Before entering into detail as to the proposed methods by which women can thus earn their living in avocations congenial and in harmony with their dispositions, a few words must be said for the better understanding of the subject. Objections may be raised by charitably inclined persons against having paid labourers for such work, on the ground that there are already many benevolent women who are willing to give up their time for these and similar purposes, in connection with almsgiving and public institutions for the sick in mind or in body.

There are, doubtless, numbers of pious women willing to perform these christian duties gladly, without fee or reward, who have *riches at their command* and time likewise; but these are often physically or mentally unfitted for such arduous and continuous work, in consequence of their habits of luxurious ease, that cannot be put off or on like a piece of dress. Women nurtured from childhood to be waited on, and whose every wish is promptly granted, are from their position incapacitated for the performance of continuous and tiring tasks, such as occur in attendance on the sick, the infirm, the ignorant, or the vicious; therefore, however much many women thus situated might wish to perform these acts of charity, it is found that, without long trial and indomitable perseverance, their efforts after a time cease, and their tasks are given over to others trained and fitted for the occupation.

There are likewise other kind-hearted Christians, equally willing to devote their time and energies to the poor, had they the means of living; and it is for this class of workers that remuneration is proposed. Nor ought this necessity to detract from the value of their services. A clergyman has the means of living secured to him; so have city missionaries and scripture readers, overseers of schools or hospitals, and no one thinks the less of them or of their laborious duties, from the fact that their services are paid for. It is nowhere asserted that only rich men should be preachers and teachers of the poor or healers of the sick: in all cases the labourer is worthy of his hire, and we see no reason why women should form an exception to this general rule.

Women who can *amuse the public* are frequently overpaid, while those who might aid the public by raising the morals of the ignorant and debased are not paid at all. Hitherto, their services in many instances have been civilly declined, but now a wiser spirit is abroad; far-seeing philanthropists are of opinion that the influence of *refined women* is urgently needed in various departments of our social system. This fact being accepted by the majority of thinking men, we shall classify, under the following heads, the proposed spheres of action where the presence and services of women are most

required:—Reformatories—hospitals—prisons—workhouses—factories—educational institutions.

It is long since Miss Carpenter (who is a most competent authority in all that regards the management of reformatories) expressed her opinion that the supervision of the young girls by educated women would be of immense value in preventing many from relapsing into sin by returning to their evil ways after leaving the reformatory. In speaking of female prisoners, it is stated that the *percentage* is nearly one half; of juvenile female prisoners under seventeen, between one fifth and one sixth; but the *per-centage of re-commitments of juvenile female prisoners is greater by one half* than that of males.

This statistical fact seems to indicate that young girls are generally much less prone to crime than boys of the same age, but that their tendency to it rapidly increases with their years, and that, when once embarked in a criminal career, they become more hardened than the other sex. The latter painful fact, equally true, can easily be accounted for, were we to go back to first principles or causes. But this would lead us away from our special object, which is to prove the need of women's aid, and the propriety of their being employed in the rescue of the young from the numberless snares laid to entrap ignorant and unbefriended girls of the poorer classes of society. Men, however good and earnest, cannot do all that is required, either in the pulpit or in the schoolroom, where young girls are to be taught and encouraged to walk in the paths of virtue and soberness. The efforts to prevent the young from entering on a criminal career must be made by older and better educated members of their own sex.

For this purpose, appeals have frequently been made by those who were themselves active and zealous workers in this field of labour; and scarcely a day passes without our seeing, in almost all the leading journals and newspapers, constant reference made to the subject of having women workers in all our public charitable institutions. This want seems so universally felt, that there can be no difficulty in the proposed plans being carried out, whenever women come forward who are fitted by previous habits and training for the respective offices, whether as matrons, teachers, or daily visitors and superintendents.

A proposition is being made by some christian men, that an order of deaconesses should be formed among members of the Church of England, somewhat similar to the protestant institution at Kaiserswerth and on the Rhine (a small town near Düsseldorf), founded about thirty years since by the pastor Flüdner. The service tendered by the deaconesses is gratuitous, with the exception of a small salary for dress, and in old age or sickness they find an asylum at the parent establishment. In rich England, the deaconesses who could not afford gratuitous services should be maintained.

"The good done," says a recent writer on this system, "by the occupation afforded for women of the upper as well as the lower classes is incalculable, taking the mind from dwelling perniciously on self, and giving healthy food to soul and body."

In Berlin there is a similar society, presided over by a lady of rank, and such institutions are encouraged by the king of Prussia. In 1853 the number of deaconesses was 116, employed in twenty-three hospitals.

A penitentiary, a lunatic asylum, an orphan house, an infant school, and a normal school, in which deaconesses are trained to educate children, are but portions of the work prompted by love and carried on by private benevolence at the institution at Kaiserswerth. We hope speedily to see similar institutions springing up in England, whence may be drafted efficient workwomen for the many departments of a charitable character where they are daily more and more needed. What appears very desirable at present is "free labour in a free home," for educated women who have no domestic ties. Many years ago, an account of these Lutheran deaconesses was written by Miss Nightingale, and we believe a practical illustration of their system can be seen at Dalston, under the German Protestant deaconesses.

Of hospitals we need scarcely speak, so much having been of late written on the training of a superior class of women to act as nurses. And on this point every one is agreed. There does not, perhaps, exist a single family in all England who have not, at some period or another, felt the want of an efficient, judicious, and worthy nurse. No greater boon could be bestowed on society at large than a corps of thoroughly trained gentlewomen, to take up a position between the physician and the common working nurse—a tender band of refined women, who could take the place of relatives, when relatives, from other duties or from inexperience, could render no aid. When a patient is convalescent, almost as much if not more careful and delicate tending is requisite; and then, such companions or watchers would prove invaluable in many a household, and gladly would their services be remunerated. To say that paid labour in this form detracts from the value of the services given, is absurdly foolish. Were the fit persons found for these and similar vocations, and properly trained by practice to exercise calmness, patience, and cheerfulness, besides the needful knowledge of remedial measures, their services could not be too highly valued or too highly paid. Good housekeepers are not grudging their wages; and wherefore should those who might minister to the comfort of a family—a still more arduous task, and by more self-denying labour—not be equally rewarded according to the kind of works performed?

We now come to prisons and their inmates—another field in which women are found useful. Many improvements have taken place in the government of these sorrowful abodes, where are congregated offenders of all possible degrees of crime—criminals expert and hardened in vice, with those of fewer years and lighter sins, men and women alike. Since our prison gates were first opened to Mrs. Fry and other energetic and benevolent ladies, visitors have not been wanting within the darkened cell; and, doubtless, to some of the solitary and repentant inmates their cheering looks

and kind words have brought light, hope, and consolation. In this direction, as in reformatories, much may be done by women for women.

It is stated by Mrs. Jameson, that an Act of Parliament ordered the appointment of matrons and female officers in all our prisons; but no provision has been made for their proper training, nor are the qualifications at all defined. This *want of training* meets us at every turn, and seems at present the grand difficulty in the way of those who otherwise are ready for work; and to this need special attention is now directed by the promoters of the Society for the Employment of Women. In some instances, we are informed that even in this department superior women have been introduced. Mrs. Jameson, in her letter to Lord John Russell, says: "The female prison at Brixton, containing, when I saw it, upwards of six hundred convicts, is managed entirely by a lady superintendent, her deputy, and forty matrons. There is, of course, a staff of chaplains and medical officers, but the government and discipline are carried out by trained women. The intermediate prison at Fulham, into which the reformed convicts are drafted before their release, and in which they must pass the last two years of their imprisonment, is in the same manner under the control of an intelligent lady, assisted by a deputy and nine matrons. These innovations, which may appear extraordinary to many 'practical' men, have been organized and carried out by Colonel Jebb."

We find it mentioned in the report on the condition of prisons in Piedmont, addressed to the Minister of the Interior, that those prisons which are served by women are the best ordered, the most cleanly, and in all respects the best regulated in the country. To this is added the testimony of the minister himself. We also read of a prison which is actually governed *chiefly* by women, and these women, as well as the men engaged in its superintendence, are responsible only to the government, and are not merely subordinates, as are the female officers in our prisons.

The experiment tried at Neudorf for three years had so completely succeeded, that eleven other prisons were about being organized on the same plan. Its origin, like many of our best working institutions, was very simple. It sprang from the humane efforts made by two ladies to found a reformatory for women. They sent to France for two sisters who understood such tasks, and after a time government noticed this infant institution; it was recognised and officially enlarged, and organized as a prison as well as a penitentiary, the original plan being strictly adhered to, and the same management retained. There were twelve women, assisted by three chaplains, a surgeon, and a physician. None of the men resided in the house, but visited it daily. The soldiers and police officers, who had been sent in the first instance as guards and gaolers, had been dismissed. The dignity, good sense, patience, and tenderness of this female board of management were extraordinary; for the performance of such duties long training had been bestowed—five years at least. There, men and women acted in concert. In

all the regulations, religious and sanitary, there was mutual aid, mutual respect, and interchange of experience; but the women workers were subordinate only to the chief civil and ecclesiastical authority.

If foreign women are capable of such judicious management, is there any impediment in the way of English women following their example? We have likewise the testimony of Lord Carlisle in favour of the action of women in prisons and reformatories; and Captain Crofton, who organized the new system of secondary punishment and prison discipline in Ireland, has made great use of female officials, and has allowed that he could not have succeeded without them.

These facts prove the advantage of such systems as combine the services of both men and women; and where proper and careful training has been gone through by those who presented themselves for the difficult duties, their efficiency has been undeniable, and the results gratifying alike to the unfortunate ones requiring their tender supervision, and to the gentle ministrants themselves.

If the theory be correct which attributes to man the power of invention, and to woman the power of administration in a greater degree, the faculty cannot assuredly be better employed than in the special offices we are at present advocating as pre-eminently within the sphere of women's work. Were the higher attributes of humanity permitted greater sway, and female influence recognised in its loftiest aspirations, and not impeded and thwarted as it is by the corrupt and connived-at evil customs of our social life, every class would gain an increase of pupils, and government would be saved a portion of the immense sums annually spent in its efforts to reclaim or to punish our debased and criminal population. Were the counsels of wise and honourable women taken more into account in the process of social reformation, and their admonitions more respected, vice would not so unblushingly stalk over the length and breadth of the land. In the case even of men and boys who require care, the aid of women, when made available, has proved efficacious and valuable.

One important branch of our subject, namely, the improvement of our workhouse system, has been for years past zealously advocated and brought before the public by the untiring efforts and persevering energy of Miss Louisa Twining, whose paper, read at the Meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, drew attention to many evils encountered by the inmates of these cheerless homes—evils that might without difficulty be averted. One of the remedies proposed is to raise the salaries of the matrons, and to obtain superior and intelligent women to act in concert with the overseers and guardians of the poor; to employ women, likewise, in the administering of out-door relief, as is done in Paris, where women attend entirely to the administration of relief at the Bureau de Bienfaisance. And why, asks Miss Twining, "should they not here in England do just as well for visiting the sick and poor in their own homes? It would, in fact, be merely the extension of district visitors' work, and a co-operation between them and

the parish authorities for their mutual benefit." Mrs. Jameson—from whom we have quoted, and to whose admirable essay or lecture on communion of labour we refer those of our readers who feel interested in this question of "women's work"—gives it as her opinion that "if ever the combination of female with masculine supervision were imperatively needed, it is in an English parish workhouse."

Our limits will not permit us in the present article to extend our remarks, or give the details we could have wished, in this proposed field of employment for superior women—women who, actuated by the highest motives, would exert themselves to the utmost to raise the condition of our suffering poor, to alleviate their miseries, and soften their hardships—workers to whom remuneration would be the means of living, not the object for which they lived. We may return to this subject, in connection with industrial and training schools for girls. Decent mothers, we are told, when even compelled to go to the workhouse for a short season of hardship dur-

ing the winter, have implored that their young daughters should be placed elsewhere, "to be saved from the inevitable ruin that awaits them in the able-bodied ward of the union." This fact speaks volumes. The advantage of introducing such an influence as is proposed is already seen in a decided change for the better where the presence of ladies is permitted, while courtesy and civility have taken the place of coarseness and rudeness. The sick and the dying have been tended with more care, because an interest was shown in them by their kind visitors. The benevolent and enlightened philanthropist, as well as christian, cannot fail to perceive the assistance that might be given by educated women in the carrying out so many difficult tasks. When a bishop, in addressing a meeting of the Workhouse Visiting Society, gave it as his experience that "prisons had the greater advantage over workhouses in their superior officers, quiet and orderly management, etc.," it must be surely time to inquire how reform can be best effected in this direction.

REFERENCE MAP OF SICILY.



1. Monreale.

2. Castellamare.

3. Calatafimi.

4. Salemi.

5. Alcamo.

LEADING EVENTS IN SICILIAN HISTORY DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY.

1806. The French invade Naples. King Ferdinand takes refuge in Sicily. Joseph Bonaparte made king of Naples.
 1809. Joseph Bonaparte made king of Spain, and Joachim Murat set up by Napoleon as king of Naples.
 1811. Lord William Bentinck at Palermo as Envoy Extraordinary and Military Commander.
 1812. A constitution promulgated. Feudal privileges surrendered by the Sicilian nobles. Treachery of Ferdinand and his queen Carolina.

1815. Murat expelled by the Austrians, and Ferdinand restored.
 1816. Ferdinand proclaimed "King of the Two Sicilies." The constitution abolished.
 1818. Popish Concordat for the Two Sicilies.
 1820. Revolution at Naples. Brief restoration of the constitution. Unsuccessful attempt in Sicily to separate from Naples.
 1821. Austrians aid Ferdinand in restoring despotic rule.
 1825. Death of Ferdinand I, and accession of Francis I.
 1830. Accession of Ferdinand II.
 1848. Insurrection in Sicily. Bombardment of Palermo.
 1859. Death of Ferdinand II, (Bomba). Accession of Francis II.
 1816—1860. The kingdom of the Two Sicilies the worst governed and most cruelly oppressed nation in Europe.