



WAITING.

## CHARACTER SKETCHES IN SYDNEY.

By HARRY FURNISS.

**S**YDNEY on a Saturday night is a good deal like many another city; most of its aspects are squalid and far from pleasing. In "Paddy's Market" we see gathered together a crowd which would not be out of place in the East-end of London, although, on the whole, the Sydney crowd is less noisy and less good-tempered. Brawls are not frequent, but there is little of breezy good nature about these people. If they are enjoying themselves, they do not exhibit many outward signs of their gaiety. In this market the Jew cheap clothes sellers keep up the resemblance to the East-end, adhering to that seductively aggressive manner which stamps their kind all the world over. Stalls with cheap lithographs, music, china and fancy goods, are ranged side by side with the stands of venders of sweetstuffs, fruit and vegetables, fried potatoes and poultry, the last, which are "alive, alive!" adding to the confusion of sounds with their unmelodious cries. Outside the market, about the street corners, it is interesting to watch the groups around the street preachers, who hold forth in the lurid glare of a flaring oil lamp. The discussion on theology which

takes place afterwards would be amusing but for the seriousness of its subject—the opinions are so free and various, and the arguments so highly coloured. As a contrast, there are



OUTSIDE PADDY'S MARKET.

the larger groups of people congregated in the courts leading out of the chief streets of the city, where betting and gambling are freely carried on as a regular thing. Here you find tradesmen, clerks, and scores of nondescripts of the lower orders, together with a fair sprinkling of larrikins, and the conduct of these crowds is, as may be imagined, far from edifying.

In any Sydney crowd the larrikin is always conspicuous, and no description of this city has ever been attempted without including the larrikin. It is difficult to speak of this social ex-crescence without being harsh. Most people unfamiliar with Australia are apt to suppose that the larrikin is merely the Antipodean "'Arry." This is not so at all. 'Arry is sublimely innocent of criminal instincts; he is generally a hard-working tradesman—a coster for choice—and his ambition is to marry his "donah" and achieve a decent ideal of domestic felicity. The familiar "coster" songs are, as a rule,

true to nature, and depict the London 'Arry with fidelity. It is true that the larrikin has his prototype in other countries.



SYDNEY LARRIKINS.

but in European and American cities he is merely a representative of the criminal classes, and, as such, he is held in subjection by the police. In Sydney he is a "chartered libertine," and suffers little molestation from the law, though he freely molests law-abiding citizens. Individually, he is a low, loafing sneak and a thorough coward. Collectively,

the "Glebe push," the "Rock push," the "Argyle Cut push" and other gangs are the terrors of the streets after dark. The larrikin has nothing manly about him. He is a sharp, active, horsey-looking, vicious cad; he very rarely does any work, but mostly lives upon the lowest means possible—by the vice of others. The "larrikinnesses" are melancholy creatures. One wonders what their mothers could have been. About their outward appearance there is some resemblance to "'Arriet" of Cockaigne. They affect large hats and feathers and gaudy colours, and their ways are "loud." But poor



SATURDAY NIGHT.



SUNDAY MORNING.



STREET GAMBLING.



THE YOUTHFUL LARRIKIN.

'Arriet, with all her vulgarity and sometimes rowdy ways, has a sturdy virtue and independence which are altogether admirable ; and she is invariably a hard-working girl, and often thrifty, except in the matter of feathers. The larrikiness sometimes works ; often she lives by bullying her parents and compelling them to support her and her low companions. Many of these creatures of both sexes are very young, and a glance at any of them shows clearly the immature criminal,

and also, alas ! that for such there can be no future but that of social pests and vermin. This feature is the darkest blot upon Australian society, and upon Sydney in particular. It is strange that, with an immense body of clerical and lay workers in every branch of mission work, this evil should be so rampant and unchecked. Yet it is said that, in times past, the state of things in this particular was much worse ; this seems, to a stranger, barely credible.



PADDY'S MARKET.