

THE CHILDREN OF ALGIERS.

(Concluded.)

In Algeria we saw several schools of boys, especially for the Arabs, where they are taught trades, such as carpentering, tailoring, etc., and learn to till the land. Schools for girls there are also, but the so-called better-class Moors would not dream of sending their girls. One school of girls we visited interested us very much; it was kept by a lady, to instruct Arab girls and women in Algerian embroidery. As we entered the school-room, we heard such a chatter going on and much laughter. More fun than work, it seemed; but we were mistaken. Those nimble little fingers worked with a machine-like precision and quickness which showed what a wise training could do for indolent natures. Madame Benahon told us she taught the girls while they were very young, and when they married was able to give them work in their own homes. As she spoke, one of these married women, a girl of thirteen, came with some embroidered scarves, which some of our party bought on the spot, and so delighted the worker that she began to dance with joy, and threw off her burmous mantle and face-cloth in her excitement.

We went to the market one morning, and having bought some fruits, and not wishing to return to our hotel, were wondering how to get our basket home, when a Scotch friend said: 'You may trust any one of those lads to carry you anything; they will not touch it, but will guard it carefully; but if, on the other hand, they can steal when no responsibility is resting on them, they will.' We trusted the boys and found they never cheated us; so with all their faults they have virtues.

If, however, you are buying from a Moor or Arab, he will be sure to ask you quite double what he expects to get, and it is amusing, as well as sad, to see the horrified expression on these boys' faces as they hear you decline such 'wonderful bargains;' but in the end they will come down to your price, and then be quite gracious and insist—if it is in the bazaars—on you drinking coffee at their expense.

Later on we went up-country, and saw the Kabyle 'at home.' The house, which was a mere hut with an earthen floor, was divided into two compartments by a mud wall, in which an opening was made for a doorway. There were no chairs and no bedsteads in either room, but some shockingly dirty cushions and mats, which were made quite as much use of by the farm-stock, pigs, hens, etc., as by the family. The family consisted of the husband, wife, several boys, and one little baby three weeks old. We asked to see the baby, and were told she was out in care of the father, who was tilling some ground a short distance away, while the baby was lying on the bare ground in the shadow of a prickly-pear hedge. We never saw such a funny little baby—she was apparently rolled up in any old bits of soiled linen or cloths that were to be found. Only the face was visible, with its bright, bead-like eyes, podgy little nose, and tiny mouth.

There was no shepherd's dog guarding the child as she lay, but a few storks were walking about picking up worms, or anything they could find to their mind, while the Kabyle farmer guided his oxen. We asked if the storks would harm the child. 'Oh, no!' was the answer; 'storks never did anyone harm.'

Afterwards we frequently saw storks which had made their nests on the roofs of huts and houses; and the dwellers beneath would feed the birds to prevent their going elsewhere. There is an exact representation in the picture, which was sketched on the spot, of the position in which we saw some storks on a house-roof on our way to Hippone; as also of some Arabs sitting down to rest instead of hurrying to fill their pitchers.

We also visited the Kabyles, and were most hospitably received, and invited to partake of their favorite dish, 'Kous Kous.' This dish consists of semolino 'granulated by a peculiar process,' which is one of the accomplishments of the Arab and Kabyle women; but not a very nice process you will think, when I will tell you that it is often prepared by chewing! The pulp is then placed in a perforated dish, and cooked by the steam of an under-dish containing meat, water, vegetables and aromatic herbs, which are afterwards eaten with it. When the mother of the household heard our refusal to partake of this, to us, questionable luxury, she was furious; and as she was a strong, powerful woman, very different in physique to her Moorish sisters, one of our party was thankful to appease the rising wrath by a gift.

The Kabyle children on the mountains are quite untaught in everything but agricul-

WHAT TO DO.

BY MARY FERGUSON.

MY DEAR GIRLS: It may very probably be that many of you, who are not already engaged in some regular business, are looking forward to becoming so engaged, and are thinking, wondering, planning "what to do."

In these days nearly all avenues are open to the strong of heart and the steady of purpose. Women can become what they will if they bring to the task the requisite ability, thoroughness and singleness of purpose.

I know of a lady who after a full and thorough course of study became the most trusted physician within a large circuit, compelling by the thoroughness of her knowledge, her skill and ability the respect of some masculine practitioners, who yielded it reluctantly. She drove about the

a small beginning become a successful florist. Those who have an aptitude for nursing can find noble service in relieving and caring for the suffering. There are now, I think, in all large cities, training schools wherein one can become a skilful and efficient nurse, and be able when qualified to command good wages.

If a girl cooks with great success there is plenty of work in an eating world for the appliance of her vocation. There are those who are handy with their scissors and their needles, and there are "born teachers," and, as with everything else, those who are not born but made.

Teachers have great opportunities for usefulness and helpfulness, for teaching is one of the highest and most important of offices; it is the moulding and training and developing of the minds and characters of human beings.

And there are artists and writers, saleswomen and book-keepers, telegraphers and type-writers, fowl raisers, silk-worm cultivators and farmers—the list is as long as that of the real or fictitious needs and wants that the world knows.

I believe that for the majority of women the chief place of her work and service is to be found in the home. From the home is borne into the world its atmosphere and influence by every member of the home circle. Children there receive the training and the stimulus which render them capable of blessing the world, or the contrary; and daily every member takes with him (or her) into their work and associations the results of the influence about the hearthstone beside which they find rest or unrest, truth or untruth, strength or discouragement. There should be a feeling of consecration attached to all the duties that tend to render the home a beneficent centre, a centre whose inspiration is pure, true and unobscured; the place in which children should grow up into strong, helpful, pure and noble men and women.

Remember it is not so much what we do as how we do it, the spirit and manner in which we do it, that signifies. We may dignify any work in which we may engage, but the work, no matter what it may be, cannot dignify us. Whatever your inclinations may impel, or your circumstances compel you to do, one is not (and often this is fortunate) always free to make a choice—do it bravely, worthily, respecting yourselves and respecting your work. Any work that is necessary is to be respected.

Learn your duties well, perform them faithfully. Keep your consciences clear, your hands clean and busy, your hearts pure and upright, your lives instinct with true womanliness, your eyes clear in the discernment of truth and goodness, raised toward the source of Truth and Good, and no work can degrade, nor any position dishonor you.—*Christian at Work.*

CHOLERA statistics are enforcing temperance doctrine in Italy. It has been proved again, as so often before, that persons habitually given to excess in alcoholic drinks are more exposed than others to the cholera. The number of cases at Spezia, Naples, Marseilles, etc., has always been greater in the days following the fetes, and among the habitues of the drink shops. This is so evident that at Naples and Genoa the closing of the drink shops has been ordered by the authorities at eight o'clock p. m., to the great satisfaction of the population generally. In the environs of Naples the closing of the drink shops has been ordered on Thursdays and Sundays, in order to avoid the consequences of the excesses known under the name of "ottobrate." So says *Le Temoin*, the "Echo des vallées caudois."

INDEED, if there had been any better thing and more profitable to man's salvation than suffering, surely Christ would have showed it by work and example.—*Thomas a Kempis.*



STORKS IN ALGIERS.

ture. Once or twice a year, perhaps, the boys may, with their fathers, go to the nearest town to sell their produce, and then are taken to a 'mosque,' the Arab church. We could tell you much more about these people if we had space, but we must leave the rest, hoping that some day some one among our little readers may feel it in his heart to go and teach these poor Mohammedan children of a Saviour whose love will brighten their lives and homes, and teach them that girls and boys are equally precious in his sight.—*Early Days.*

LIFE will soon be done. Be not weary or disheartened. What are a few years of toil in prospect of the eternal rest?—*Bonar.*

country far and near, night or day, as her services were required. You will, many of you, with quaking hearts realize that the successful occupancy of such a position requires not only physical strength and endurance, but strong nerves and dauntless courage. Were these attributes brought into use in all the circumstances of life, however, they would aid in the better solution and rendering of many of its problems.

In choosing and deciding what to do any strong inclination or especial "gift," accompanied by perseverance and a clear judgment, should receive due consideration; a marked ability would seem to be an indication not lightly or causelessly to be set aside.

A girl who evinces a special ability for the cultivation of flowers might from even