

## CLEARING AWAY THE SNOW.

IN our city the law is, in case of a fall of snow, that the foot pavement must be cleared by ten o'clock in the forenoon. This duty falls not to the scavenger or the authorities, but to those who live in the houses along the streets. Each has to clean, or get cleaned, opposite his own dwelling. Hence, when there has been a fall of snow during the night, you will see the people themselves, or their servants, or persons employed by them, busy with shovel and broom, freeing the pavement from the snow.

The pavement must be cleared also opposite public buildings, as churches, banks, museums, schools, &c., even though no persons live in them. Those who have the charge of them are held responsible, and, if they neglect their duty, they will be called to account, and fined as well as others. For, I must not forget to tell you that there is a penalty in the shape of a fine for not having the snow cleared away. The authorities take care that there shall be no excuse from want of knowledge of duty, for, not only do they advertise in the newspapers during winter what must be done, and that those who neglect will be fined; but the police, in their various beats, when they see that the snow is not being cleared away, make a call, and give a friendly warning. There are privileges enjoyed by all as citizens, and so they have duties which they are required to perform, and this is one.

Many, I daresay, would find it more convenient to leave it to the authorities. It would save themselves from some trouble. And then, if the pavement opposite their own dwellings were not cleared, it would give them the opportunity of putting the blame off themselves upon others. As it is, it comes to be their own duty, and if neglected, their own blame.

It would be a good thing if personal responsibility could be brought home as fully in other matters. Evils exist, and

are allowed to remain, by throwing off the sense of the duty of removing them, and putting it upon others. There are, no doubt, many things which those in authority could do to make society better than it is, and the authorities ought to do these things; but that does not free each individual from *his* duty. He should keep his own pavement clean—should set himself to put away the evil which falls to himself to remove.

Take the drink evil. It is quite right to say, "Let us get laws against the drink and the drink traffic." But as the evil exists, and continues all the time we are seeking the help of law, we must do something more than try to get the law passed? We ought to sweep clean opposite our own door. If each one would do that, there would be less need for law. Many go for law who do not go for personal abstinence. They would have the *authorities* to blame, when the blame rests upon *themselves*. They say, "Why don't the magistrates put down, as far as they can, and punish as fully, for breaking the law about drink, as they do about other things?" Those who speak thus might perhaps find it good to carry their complaint a little further, and let the magistrates hear it. But, besides that, they say, "Why don't parliament do this and the other thing?" just as a man might say, "Why don't the authorities clear the pavements of snow?" It might come to be the rule for the authorities to clear away the snow from the pavements, but no legislation can relieve any one from the duty of putting the drink away from himself and from his home—of taking this stumbling-block, so far as he is concerned, out of his brother's way, even when he thinks that the drink is not likely to do himself any harm, or may imagine it does him good.

God has given to every one, young and old a place in society, with influence and