

The Innocents

A company was at once formed and operations begun. A large area of land was purchased and divided up into lots. The streets were generously wide. Each lot was big enough to contain a small cottage and garden. The new city was graded into sections, suitable to the wages of the residents. There were houses of five rooms for the smaller families and larger houses for those with growing families. The Edison concrete mould was used, so that homes were erected quickly and at a very small cost. The lowest rental was five dollars per month, so that in ten years the man owned his home and the Company got a fair rate of interest on its money. These houses were all two-storey high, modest, clean and comfortable. There was no crowding, and excellent arrangements were made for ventilation. At the outset the Company planted trees along the sidewalks and gave each resident the necessary seeds for his garden. The city paid a number of gardeners to instruct the unlearned and to keep a general supervision over all garden lots. Prizes were offered yearly for the best kept gardens and an annual exhibition was held, when flowers were shown and rewards were made. There was great rivalry among the residents on these yearly occasions. Laws to govern the city were very carefully made. The loafer or shirker was severely penalized. He became the drone in the hive and was quickly held up to scorn and ridicule by his fellows. In the course of time a council was formed from among the residents for the government of the city. It was surprising what talent was discovered. All these people needed was a fair opportunity, and they shortly manifested the keenest interest and ability in the management of their own affairs. Then there came the matter of